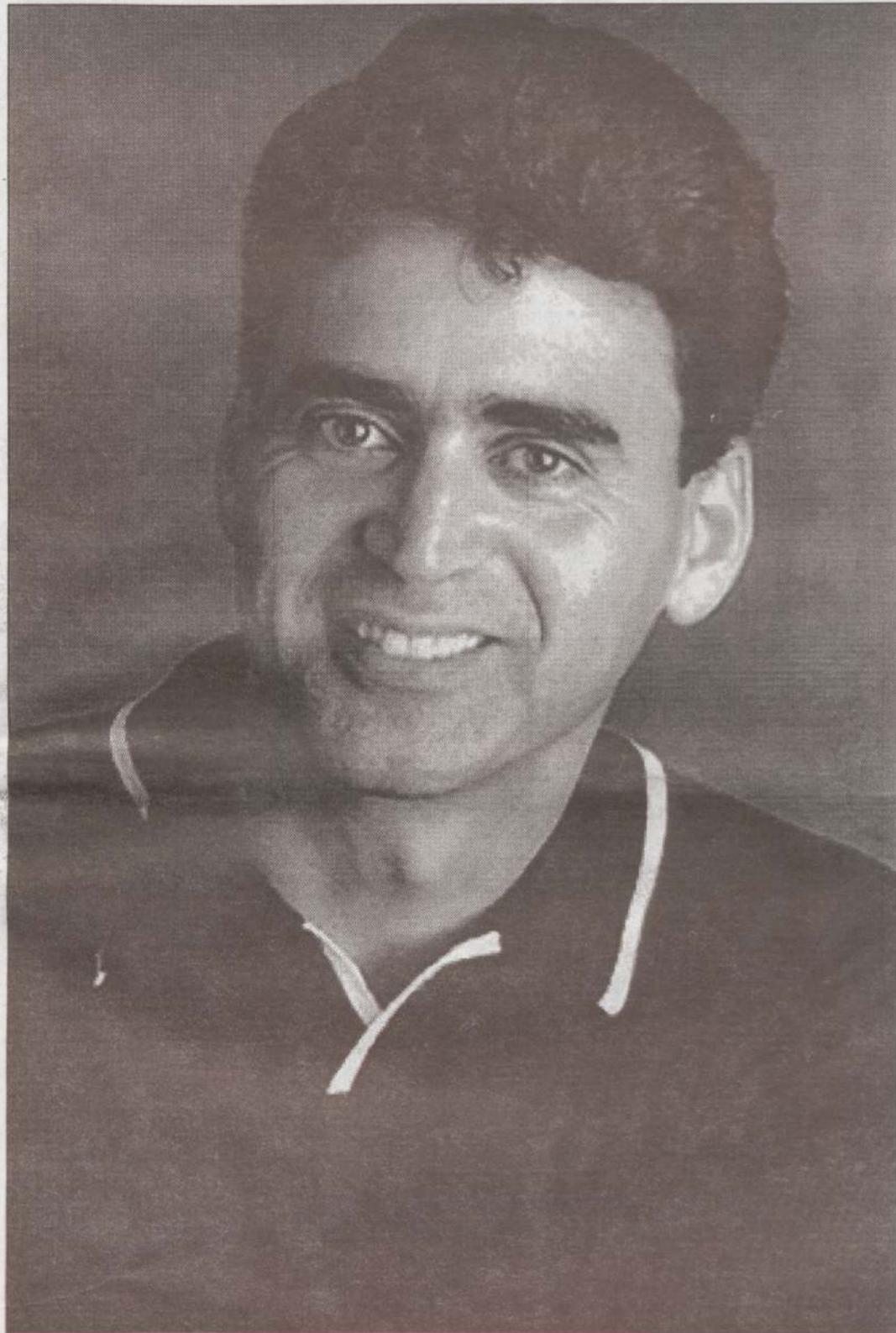


HeatStroke

Volume 8, No. 98

Phoenix, Arizona

August 10—23, 2000



Left of Center

Michael Alvear's columns take HeatStroke readers to Gomorrah and back

By Dennis Scott-Bush, Contributor

It's a picturesque scene. A well-built, bare-chested man sits at his computer while looking out the window into the backyard. Then fingers begin to strike keys, forming words, sentences and paragraphs on the monitor screen.

A whirlwind of witty, caustic commentary sweeps away the idyllic imagery and Michael Alvear is, once again, *Slouching Through Gomorrah*. Alvear's regular opinion column by that name appears in numerous gay and lesbian newspapers nationwide, including *HeatStroke*.

"I'm a bigot's dream," Alvear declared during a recent conversation. Born in Miami and raised for the most part in Ecuador, he is Latino, Jewish and gay. Family meals with his parents, two sisters

and older brother were discussions of politics and current events accompanied by food. That cultural fruit salad—so to speak—has given him a unique perspective on the world and a willingness to voice that point of view.

Alvear feels "obliged to not be boring" and, with statements like, "We need to put the pro back in promiscuity," he doesn't have to make up positions or sharpen his edge just to be controversial. Ask him for a comment on a particular topic and, like all good opinion writers, he delivers.

"Drag is boring. As a culture, we are so attracted to drivel that drag is what draws us in. It's just guys who can't sing. The gay community has so much more talent than that. We

See "New Columnist," page 17

How Big a Tent?

Gay issues were addressed in Philly despite the GOP's anti-gay platform

By Rex Wockner, Contributor

PHILADELPHIA—It was a kinder, gentler, more inclusive Republican National Convention—so polished that more than one commentator called it an "infomercial." In the media tents, everyone professed to be bored.

Did the GOP reach out to gays? Well, yes and no.

On the one hand, the party platform denounces gay rights, gay Boy Scouts, gay marriage and gay adoption. However, much of that language was inserted by hardline right-wingers after moderates had

succeeded in removing it with George W. Bush's blessing.

On the other hand, Bush and the GOP alienated some right-wingers by sending the GOP's only openly gay congressman, Rep. Jim Kolbe of Arizona, to the convention podium in prime time to speak on trade issues.

Several Texas delegates were so offended that they took off their cowboy hats, placed them over their hearts, bowed their heads and prayed.

"We were praying for Kolbe, for this nation, for Governor Bush," said Ernest Murry of San

Marcos, Tex. "We made a firm stand in this party as far as lifestyles."

Fundamentalist Christian spokesman Pat Robertson refused to denounce Kolbe's appearance, however.

"We want to help gay people and encourage them to succeed," he said. "And so here's a man who succeeded as a congressman and ... I'm for free trade so I suppose that his message will resonate with the convention. Am I going to stand there with a placard to say keep him off the program? No way. It's just one of

those things. This is a decision of the Bush campaign. They don't want anybody in the Democratic

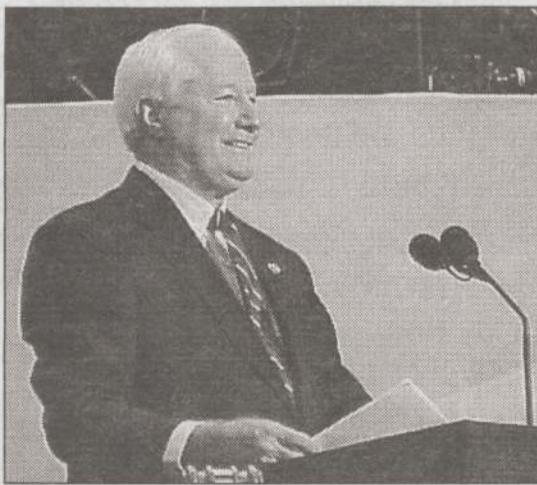
added: "This is a political party, not a church. ... Arizona Rep. Jim Kolbe, who is homosexual,

gave an excellent speech on the GOP's trade efforts. It would be fruitless for conservative Christians to turn a deaf ear to his words simply because we disagree with his sexual predilection."

Earlier in the day at a gay reception, Kolbe joked to a throng of reporters: "I never knew there was such

an interest in trade by the media. ... I think it sends a real message of inclusiveness that Governor

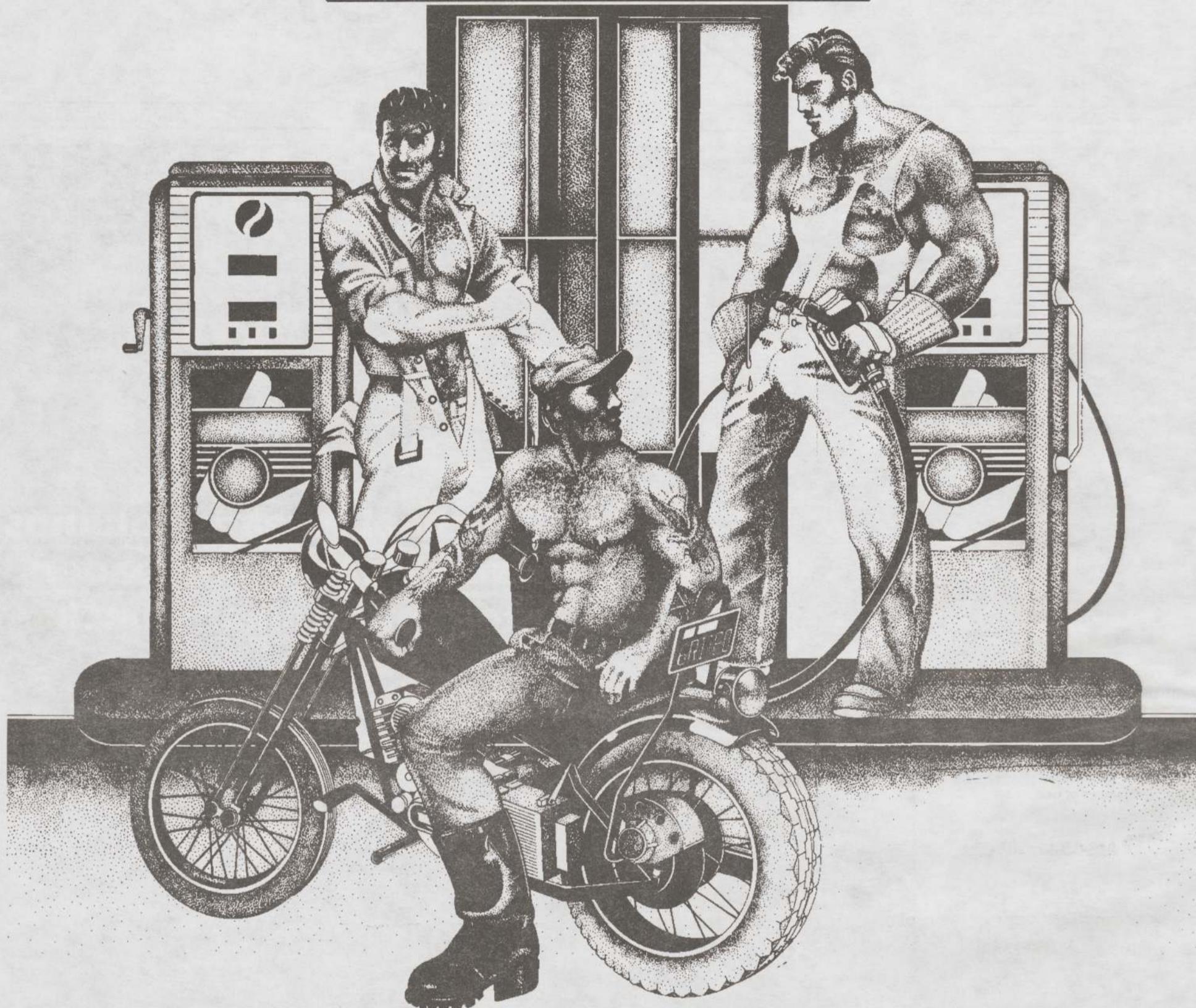
See "Convention" page 15



Arizona Congressional Rep. Jim Kolbe's speech at the Republican convention covered trade issues.

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Editors:

We don't know what Jesus thought about homosexuals (*Slouching Through Gomorrah*, Michael Alvear, issue # 97) but we know what he thought about transsexuals—that would be eunuchs—and he did speak on that (which almost no minister will comment on). In Matthew 19:11 he recommends acceptance: "If you can accept, accept it."

And some scholars would say that Jesus did mention homosexuality in this same passage. The question put to him was on marriage and the duty of producing children. He replies by listing three forms of "eunuchs", i.e., males who do not produce children (and bear in mind, homosexuals were not a separate class then like they are now). He said, "there are eunuchs born so in the womb (homosexuals), eunuchs made so by men (true eunuchs/castrates), and eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven (celibates for religious reasons). If you can accept it, accept it."

He prefaces this by commenting that "this commentary is not for everyone, but for those who are able to receive it." He is not commanding acceptance, he is saying it is okay to accept it.

Eunuchs, I might add, had all their male genitalia removed and therefore did not sleep with women (their sexual habits were the same as today's homosexuals). Therefore, it is notable that Jesus did not take this opportunity to give, instead, a rant on the promiscuity of eunuchs, as he might have done (eunuchs were not even allowed in synagogue, and that is why Jesus prefaced his comments as he did).

I personally think Jesus was arrested because of his homosexuality, and it is all there in the story. One wonders why it was put there, unless the writers wanted us to know (but had to gloss it over). The boy who lay with his head upon Jesus' chest (and they are reclining, I might add, in the Roman fashion) is not named, but later scholars have assumed it was John. Later that night when Jesus was arrested, this boy appears again in the narrative, clad only in a loincloth (everyone else was, presumably, dressed since attention is called to that) which the soldiers snatched from him so that he fled naked into the night (Mark 14: 51 - 52).

And since when does one beat a rabbi if he is taken into custody? He was not yet tried. Well, it was customary to rough up a queer, even as it is today.

And what news did Judas have to sell that required the temple elders to haul out of bed in the middle of the night, on a Passover, no less? It was against Jewish law for all of this to occur on Passover, and it was Passover, because they had eaten the meal already. Well, a sex crime must be seen to immediately, if you are to catch them in the act and because Jewish law requires witnesses.

The meal had been held at the house of Judas' father (Passover is held at the home of the father, and Jesus had none). So Judas surely expected to be favored. Instead, the guest (boy) of Jesus lay across him and moaned throughout the meal. That this irritated Judas is revealed by the earlier argument he picked with Jesus over the woman "wasting" the costly oil on Jesus' feet. Also, it would appear that Jesus knew Judas was going to out him, when he stated that he would be betrayed. And when the apostles gasped, "Who?", he replied, "By him who dips his bread after me," testing Judas. And Judas promptly responded. Jesus then told him to go and do what he must. Then he told the others that they would soon all betray him, knowing none of them would want to be known as apostles to a boy molester, and this is what happened. At the cross, only John, his "beloved" (how plainly can they state his status?), was present. Judas betrayed him with a tender kiss on the mouth, and then killed himself. Is this not the action of a lover rejected? And it is all there for us to read.

Romans subsequently labeled Jesus a pervert, I might add.

So absolutely I think Jesus was gay. But for the doubters, there is more. A fragment of the original book of Mark (the oldest gospel) was discovered in the '50s,

wherein it stated that after Jesus raised a particularly beautiful boy from the dead, they retired (together) to the boy's bed-chamber and lay together for three days. It was this discovery that caused the rumors of Jesus' homosexuality. Until then, no one dared to point out what is rather obvious in our own traditional tale.

Bud Larsen
Phoenix

Editors:

Thank you, [Michael Alvear], for some very delightful thoughts concerning Jesus and your thoughts about his ethnicity, sexual orientation and lifestyle. I laughed as you confirmed the absurdity of our attempts to put God/Jesus in a box. Ownership of God as only mine and those like me has been the basic problem in the whole attitude of exclusivism and hatred.

To allow God out of the box in our lives is a very scary proposition. It allows that others are also God's creation and that God is truly as diverse in creation as the diversity we see all around us.

Knowing that God in Jesus empowered everyone he touched and spoke with authority that gives us a new, fresh view of God, should help us to turn around and assist the person who needs God's touch.

Proverbs tells us that "a cheerful heart is good medicine." Thank you for a grand dose of cheerfulness.

Rev. Patrick Stout
Community Church of Hope
Phoenix

Editors:

This letter is in response to Gary Grodeman and his request of the community to cower padlock into removing a controversial link from the bar's Web site (Letters, issue # 97).

I am appalled and disgusted with his irrational logic, that his answer to HIV prevention is asking padlock to "remove the link to this horrible site, and also write APAZ, asking them to suspend Project Lifeguard fund raisers at the Padlock until they remove the link on their web site."

Gary Grodeman is confused, uneducated, and his requests are counter productive. The fund-raiser he is suggesting we suspend is actually a "Feeding Frenzy" (not a fund-raiser at all, but an HIV education workshop to be held at the bar on August 18th). I hardly believe the answer to removing a controversial link from padlock's Web site is suspending HIV education in the bar. If Gary were more rational a member of our community, he would use the time he has spent DRAWING ATTENTION to the Web link in question (which I won't even name), and volunteer his time helping us put on events in bars that promote HIV awareness and prevention. It sounds to me that his beef is really with padlock specifically, and not with barebacking at all. Or perhaps he's a recovering barebacker himself, recently diagnosed HIV+ and going through the initial anger stage. There is counseling for that at APAZ and Project Lifeguard both.

Furthermore, Gary should realize that Project Lifeguard is not an "Act Up" group, and their mission is not to aggressively offend people by throwing condoms at them as they drive off to bathhouses and bookstores (where Gary should actually take his ranting and raving, if he is really motivated). If I'm not mistaken, the HIV virus is not transmittable through e-mails, Web sites, or web links.

The idea of HIV prevention is through education and the use of personal discretion. Actively attacking a bar, their Web site, and the planning of future HIV prevention events paints an ugly picture for Mr. Grodeman and his success in this community.

Like it or not, barebacking is a personal choice between two consenting, educated individuals. Although I, myself, actively promote HIV prevention in the bars, I believe concretely that the ultimate decision and responsibility is the individual's.

Is Gary suggesting, too, that we should condemn every gay couple who has grown monogamous and now engages in bareback lovemaking?

Is he suggesting, too, that we should condemn every HIV positive person from entering padlock and other gay bars because they have crossed paths with the virus through barebacking?

Well, through Gary's rationality, we might as well stop going home for the holidays because every one of here today is a product of the two most important barebackers we know—our mothers and our fathers.

Gary, you go on with your big bad self and your tyrade if you really are misled to believe padlock is promoting barebacking in the bar. In the meantime, I'll continue to enjoy padlock's site, its links, and my mission to promote and respect HIV prevention, an individual's responsibility, and ultimately personal choice.

Richard Black
padlock drummerboy 2000
Project Lifeguard Volunteer
Former Queen of Safer Sex 1999, AKA
Celia Putty

Editors:
I am following Mr. Grodeman's advice—as written in HeatStroke July 27, to express my opinion on this, the latest gay-related issue of controversy. That is, if you can classify barebacking as a "gay-only" practice. Clearly, it is not.

I think Mr. Gage replied appropriately. I remember when the gay community did not want to be pegged as the only cause of HIV. And yet here I begin to read how it is now the community's responsibility to halt any practice which may contribute to its spread. There is a bigger, global picture out there in which the spread of infection can not and will not cease simply by boycotting a local bar in Phoenix. The statement that the Padlock "promotes" or "lures" the feeble into such practice is ludicrous and overzealous. After all, aren't we really talking about nothing more than an electronic link on a Webpage? Padlock's position that it believes in freedom of expression and education stands alone as honest and valid. Why should we ask or expect any public facility to censor those of varying points of view who would wish to partake. Remember when gay people only asked for a little tolerance and acceptance of our differences from the "straight" world? Can we not expect the same from each other?

I did look into [the Padlock] site, as well as the link to BarebackJack.com. (I assume that many have done the same.) I can see no liability there, as the site clearly addresses the matter of Padlock's own content, as well as warning patrons that the bar does not necessarily condone the content of other site links offered for education or enjoyment. The BarebackJack site goes way beyond that to warn patrons of the nature of its content and stops you at every step as well. I also could not help but notice the many links it offers to safe sex or prevention-related sites, again, with the concept of addressing fears, concerns or questions

Americans maintain their right to freedom of choice, freedom of expression and the right of access to education. Additionally, America has a great tool known as the "disclaimer". It exists for a reason, and in this case, it is present, visible, accurate and appropriate on all Websites concerned. One might note it is also present in other forms such as cigarette advertisements, alcoholic beverage labels, and over the counter medications which are also known health risks. Should we then boycott places where these items can be found because we choose not to partake?? May clearer minds prevail.

Drew C. Walker
Phoenix

We welcome our readers' letters. Please include your full name and address. We will, however, print only your city and will withhold your name upon request.

Deb Price

Military leaders' change on anti-gay harrassment a significant step



A subtle but profound shift in military leaders' attitudes about gay soldiers is clearly under way.

While still in its infancy, this welcome shift demonstrates the kind of level-headed thinking that ultimately will lead the top brass to support calls to lift the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on gay Americans serving openly.

It's far too early to declare that the resentment and bitterness that many commanders felt over being forced to accept the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" compromise have finally disappeared.

But the way the Pentagon recently unveiled a get-tough policy to stop anti-gay harassment showed that top military leaders are starting to seriously grasp that

"Harassment of any kind violates individual dignity and tears at the fabric of this trust and the cohesion of our Army. It will not be tolerated for any reason."

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki

the real threat to military readiness is anti-gay troublemakers, not gay soldiers. (Under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," gay people may serve as long as they don't reveal their sexual orientation or engage in homosexual conduct.)

"When individual dignity and respect are violated, mutual trust and unit cohesion erode," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki declared at a July 21 news conference at the Pentagon. "Harassment of any kind violates individual dignity and tears at the fabric of this trust and the cohesion of our Army. It will not be tolerated for any reason."

Giving lower-ranking officers their marching orders, Gen. Shinseki added, "Commanders are responsible for the readiness of their units. ... Commanders will ensure that all soldiers are treated with dignity and respect."

The news conference made as much history by who spoke at it as by the actual anti-harassment policy announced. The usual press flak was off in a corner, while a Defense Department undersecretary, an Air Force undersecretary and the Army's top general took turns personally explaining the new rules.

Echoing one another that anti-gay harassment is unacceptable, they vowed to stop it through aggressive training about the rights of gay soldiers, punishment of anti-gay brutes and annual reviews to ensure the policy is understood and followed in all branches of the Armed Forces.

It's taken six years of documented abuses of gay soldiers and the brutal murder last year of an Army private to get to the promised reforms. But Gen. Shinseki's whole-hearted embrace of the dead soldier as a fallen comrade illustrates the powerful attitudinal change going on among the nation's top military leaders—a change that provides good reason to hope the reforms will actually be implemented.

Gen. Shinseki said, "Whatever else Private Winchell may have been, he was one of us. He was a soldier in uniform and a good soldier."

Laudably, Defense Secretary William Cohen immediately approved the anti-harassment recommendations of his advisory panel, set up in March after a

Pentagon survey found widespread anti-gay harassment. The 13-point plan includes:

Overarching principle: A new guiding principle proclaims that respectful treatment of everyone, including gay soldiers, is "essential to good order and discipline."

Accountability: Senior officers who fail to train troops about anti-harassment rules or fail to crack down on violators will be punished.

No Catch-22: Soldiers who report anti-gay harassment are not supposed to have their sexual orientation investigated as a result. Undersecretary Bernard Rostker stressed, "It is immaterial whether a soldier is homosexual or not, if he asks for protection from being harassed. ... The question 'Are you homosexual?' is never in order, ever."

The ambitious goals of the anti-harassment plan were somewhat undermined by the simultaneous release of a report exonerating the commander at the base where Winchell served. Although the Army report claimed that an anti-gay climate did not exist at Fort Campbell, it documented both anti-gay activity and a lack of training about the gay policy there.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is a needlessly discriminatory policy that the military itself will one day want to scrap. Cracking down on harassment is an important first step toward making the military a safe place for openly gay Americans to serve.

HeatStroke

Deb Price of The Detroit News' Washington bureau writes about gay civil rights in this column. Price is co-author with Joyce Murdoch of *And Say Hi to Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out* (Doubleday). Write to Price in care of HeatStroke.

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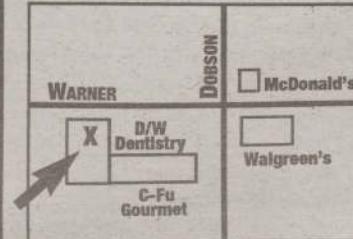
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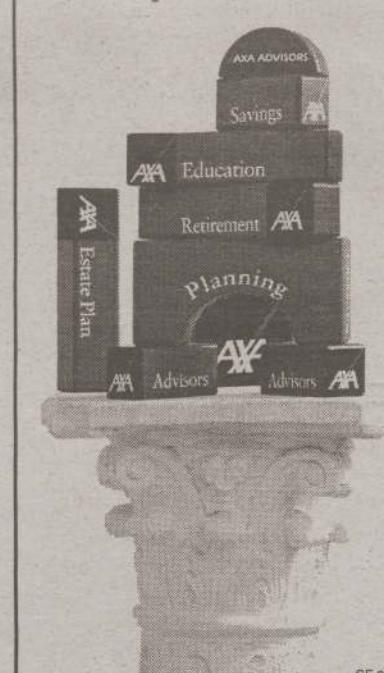
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SLOUCHING THROUGH GOMORRAH

By MICHAEL ALVEAR



Technology is Just Another Word for Freedom

Technology is carving into gay life as if it were marble, chiseling an exit path into America's closets.

Nowhere is this more apparent than the World Wide Web. Like civilization, "coming out" can now be split into two epochs: B.C. (Before Cyberspace) and A.C. (After Cyberspace).

Coming out B.C. meant taking huge emotional and physical risks. Remember your first gay club? How could you ever forget the walk from the car to the bar? Anxiety hath no fury like a closeted walk to the disco ball.

But coming out A.C. changes everything. The web doesn't just allow you to find someone to go to the bar with, it gives you the freedom to skip the bar altogether. The web is changing the status of gay bars as a rite of passage. What started out as a loaded symbol of sexuality is turning into an ordinary place to get loaded.

Unlike bars, sites like Planet Out and Gay.com aren't just about finding other gay people; they're about finding other gay people you have something in common with. Increasingly, these sites are becoming community centers where you can have point-and-click introductions and bricks-and-mortar meetings.

That this is happening in the major metropolitan areas makes it interesting. That it's happening in rural areas makes it

revolutionary.

Cyberspace gives us access to information we're too afraid to get in the real world. How many men reach for *Popular Mechanics* with their hands and the *Advocate* with their eyes? For them, the *Advocate* is too dangerous to pick up, let alone buy. What if a co-worker happened by? But there's nothing dangerous about going on-line.

The Web isn't the only thing helping gay people find each other. So is satellite

Technology is helping re-define the gay community, its coming out process, even its dating and sexual practices.

TV, like DirecTV and PrimeStar. Remember when *Ellen's* coming out episode was blacked out in Birmingham, Alabama by the ABC affiliate? With today's satellite dishes you'd just tune to another city's ABC affiliate.

The same goes for the weekly gay show *In The Life*. Many PBS affiliates won't broadcast it, fearful of the revolting Right (or is it the Right revolting? I always get the two confused). Whatever. Just point the transponder to a PBS station in another market.

Any technology that provides privacy is a technology that helps gay people come out. If you're a gay teen, having a cell phone means you get to talk to people your parents don't approve of. Like your

boyfriend.

Cell phones also help fledgling relationships get off the ground. If you're living in a college dorm filled with straight guys, you probably don't want your boyfriend leaving messages with your nosy roommate. If society

padlocked the closet, Nokia gave us the key.

The ubiquity of those infernal Audix systems in offices across America ("if you know your party's extension...") help gay people breathe a little easier, too. They get rid of every closeted businessman's nightmare: The receptionist who wonders aloud why you only get personal calls from guys.

Technology is helping gay people find each other, but true to form, the first thing we did is figure out how it could get us laid. If we've made Gay.com and Planetout into a swinger's lounge, then we've made America Online into the bathhouse of the Internet. As one friend said about Internet chat rooms, "I can have dick delivered to my door faster than a pizza."

Technology is helping re-define the gay community, its coming out process, even its dating and sexual practices. It's a catalyst for the closeted, a commissary for the community, and a harem for the horny. It does all this by giving us the tools to flourish: Privacy and access.

By loosening society's grip on information it prefers us not to have, technology is becoming a symbol for yet another unspeakable "F" word in the minds of social conservatives: Freedom..



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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Lieberman record good on most GLBT issues

Gore's V.P. mixed on other progressive issues

U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, soon to be the vice presidential running mate for Al Gore's presidential ticket, has voted to end employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and hate violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. But Lieberman also has a decidedly mixed record overall on issues important to the progressive community, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said Aug. 7.

"Senator Lieberman's record is one

"[Lieberman] has a generally good record on issues important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

that bears studying and watching," said NGLTF Executive Director Elizabeth Toledo. "He has a generally good record on issues important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

At the same time, Lieberman, like Clinton and like Gore, has not always proven to be a friend of the progressive community when we needed him."

Lieberman, who is the first member of the Jewish faith to be selected for the national ticket of a major U.S. political party, has taken several public stands that demonstrate support for issues important to GLBT people:

He has co-sponsored the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and this year voted for the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, whose passage in the Senate has put the hate crimes ball in the U.S. House's court.

He has co-sponsored and voted for

civil rights legislation that would prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation.

He also has sponsored and voted in favor of the Ryan White Care Act, has implemented a nondiscrimination policy covering sexual orientation for his office staff and supported ending the ban on gay, lesbian and bisexual people serving openly in the military.

At least two votes prevent Lieberman's record from remaining completely supportive of issues important to GLBT people, however:

He voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act, which granted states the right to refuse recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states.

He voted to prevent people with AIDS from immigrating into the United States.

On other progressive issues, Lieberman offers voters a decidedly mixed bag. For instance, he supported the "welfare reform" overhaul (also supported and signed into law by the Clinton Administration) that resulted in many recipients losing government aid while not having access to adequate job training or child care programs.

Lieberman also is a staunch supporter of taxpayer-funded vouchers for private and religious schools, a move that poses a threat to both teachers and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students who rely on public schools for non-discrimination and anti-harassment policies. On the other hand, Lieberman is a strong proponent of access to reproductive health care.

AZ attorney general asked to investigate Tucson media leak

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The Tucson City Council will ask the state attorney general to investigate a leak to the media about a confidential investigation into a councilwoman's former top aide.

On August 7, the council voted 5-2 to ask for an investigation into the disclosure of a report on John Macko's alleged racist, anti-semitic, sexist and anti-gay comments.

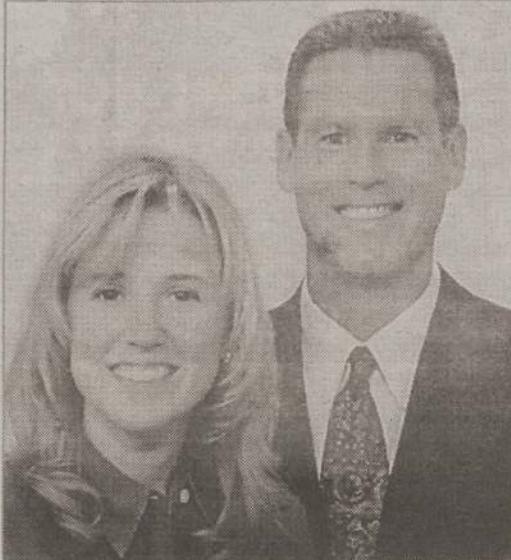
The City Attorney's Office has refused to release the city's Equal Opportunity Office report on the investigation, citing attorney-client privilege, invasion of privacy and potential liability concerns.

Macko, who worked for

Councilwoman Shirley Scott, allegedly referred to Councilmen Steve Leal and Ibarra, City Manager Luis Gutierrez and County Supervisor Raul Grijalva as "the Mexican Mafia"; called developer Don Diamond and his associates "inbred Jews"; and said members of the Pima County-Tucson Women's Commission were "dykes."

Macko denied the accusations and said he intends to file a claim against the city this week. He had worked for Scott since December 1995. Last month, Scott suspended Macko for 30 days without pay, but mounting demands for his firing culminated in his resignation last week.

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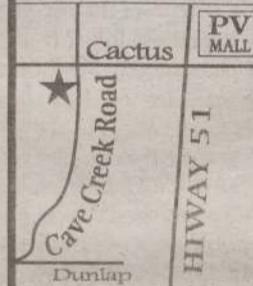
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DJ begins @ 10

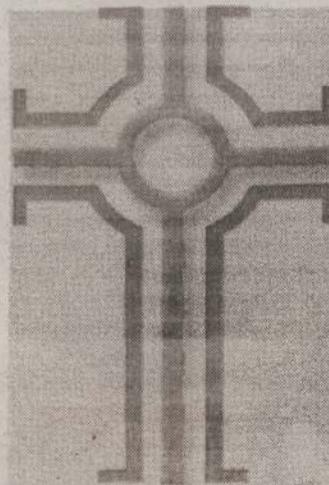
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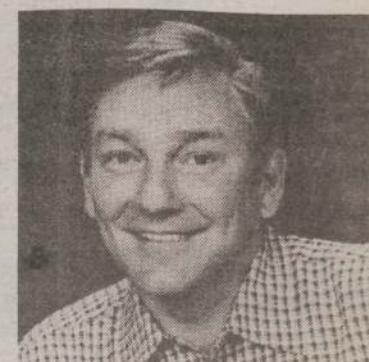


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Take your medicine VIRACEPT is easy to live with. Take it two or three times a day (according to your doctor's instructions) with your normal meals or light snacks.

Every dose. Every day.™ VIRACEPT works. It is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. It is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV.

Plan ahead Learn how your treatment plan helps you fight HIV. Take an active role in designing your treatment plan along with your healthcare provider. Ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist how VIRACEPT can be part of your strategy for long-term management of HIV.

Things you should know about VIRACEPT VIRACEPT is generally well tolerated. People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea. Diarrhea of moderate or severe intensity occurred in about one out of five people in clinical trials.

Some common medications and some HIV-related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. Protease inhibitors, including VIRACEPT, may interact with cholesterol-lowering drugs. Talk to your doctor about any prescription or non-prescription drugs you are

taking. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in the distribution or accumulation of body fat, and increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com. (Refer to the important information on the next page.)

VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

**NOW VIRACEPT MAY BE
TAKEN TWICE A DAY**

*IMS Health National Prescription Audit™ data for PIs and NNRTIs, 01/00-03/00.

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VIRACEPT nelfinavir mesylate

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (Vi-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection
Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is VIRACEPT and how does it work?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

Does VIRACEPT cure HIV or AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should or should not take VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Can VIRACEPT be taken with other medications?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine® (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardiogquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

- Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zorcor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

How should VIRACEPT be taken with other anti-HIV drugs?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

What are the side effects of VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 14-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

How should I take VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight Kg	Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥ 23	≥ 50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

*1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

†1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your Pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic foods or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

How should VIRACEPT be stored?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and stored at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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HRC questions rationale behind Log Cabin Republican's endorsement of Bush

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign on Aug. 7 questioned the logic and reasoning behind the Log Cabin Republican's—a gay Republican group—endorsement of George W. Bush despite his overwhelmingly anti-gay record as governor of Texas and statements as a GOP presidential nominee.

"As a nonpartisan organization, HRC endorses candidates from both major parties with the clear understanding that they

crimination laws as "special treatment of people."

The grisly murder of James Byrd Jr. in Bush's home state of Texas, shocked the nation. Despite pleas by the Byrd family, Bush helped defeat a hate crime bill in Texas, primarily because it provided coverage based on sexual orientation, and has not expressed his support of the hate crime bill that passed the Senate earlier this summer. Again in Texas, Bush supported a law that

"It is admirable that [the Log Cabin Republicans] tried and continue to try to make sincere inroads into the Bush campaign, but those efforts have not resulted in a single affirmative policy position in support of gay and lesbian Americans."

support our issues," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "The Log Cabin endorsement is perplexing because the group is throwing its support behind a candidate who opposes gay and lesbian equality and continues to succumb to the far right. For gay and lesbian Americans, there is no clear rationale or coherent reason to support Bush's candidacy."

In 39 states, it is still legal to fire people because of their sexual orientation. There is a bill in Congress to stop this injustice. But Bush has not indicated his support and referred to nondis-

would have banned gay people from adopting. He would rather see more than 500,000 children nationwide languish in foster care than find loving, secure homes with gay or lesbian parents, saying, "I am against gay adoption. I believe children ought to be adopted in families with a woman and a man who are married."

Bush supports the failed Don't Ask/Don't Tell policy, even though it has led to increased discharges and violence against gay and lesbian service members.

On the issue of AIDS, Bush

has pushed abstinence only education as the way to stop the spread of HIV. He also opposes needle exchange programs that have shown to be effective in reducing the transmission of this deadly disease.

"The Log Cabin Republicans must have had to look extraordinarily hard to see a silver lining in what is unquestionably a dark cloud of a record," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "It is admirable that they tried and continue to try to make sincere inroads into the Bush campaign, but those efforts have not resulted in a single affirmative policy position in support of gay and lesbian Americans."

While his actions have been decidedly anti-gay, his inaction has been equally disturbing. While an earlier draft of the GOP platform deleted some of the anti-gay language, all of it was restored. Indeed, Bush did nothing to publicly call for the removal of the anti-gay rhetoric and policy statements from the GOP platform.

"While Bush won in every single other policy fight involving the platform, curiously, he lost on this one," said Stachelberg. Bush is to be commended for including openly gay Jim Kolbe, the senior Congressman from Arizona as a speaker on trade issues at the GOP convention.

But he has yet to speak out against treatment of Kolbe by some members of the Texas delegation who took off their cowboy hats and bowed their heads when Kolbe came up to the

podium. Another threat from a Bush White House would be almost certain new appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court. He says Justice Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas are the justices he most admires. This is a solid indication that any Justice that Bush appoints to the Supreme Court would be hostile to gay and lesbian equality. If Bush is elected, it could further

tip the balance of the court and set back decades of civil rights advances, including a woman's right to choose, according to HRC.

"The verdict is in. A Bush/Cheney administration has the potential to be very harmful for gays and lesbians," said Stachelberg. "There is not a single reason why a gay and lesbian person should vote for Bush."

Miss Gay Glendale Crowned



Miss Choco-Latte is crowned the 2000 Miss Gay Glendale. The July 29 pageant was held at JC's Fun One Lounge in the West Valley.

APOLLO'S

Daily Specials

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Happy Hour, 10am-8pm,
"Booze & Cruise"
8pm-12am,
Reduced prices on well
drinks, domestic beer
& shot specials

Wednesday
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"Booze & Cruise"
8pm-12am
Reduced prices on well
drinks, domestic beer
& shot specials

Monday
Happy Hour, 8am-8pm,
Beer Bust, 8pm-12 am,
Domestic Beer \$1.75
Draft \$1.25
Free Pool all day

Thursday
Happy Hour, 8am-8pm,
Beer Bust
8pm - 12am

Tuesday
Happy Hour, 8am-8pm,
"Vulgar Vodka" Night
Well Vodka \$2.00

Friday
Extended Happy Hour
8am - 9pm

Saturday
Happy Hour, 8am - 8pm

Upcoming Events

Goddess Revue
Bartlett Bash
Betty's Bedpan Benefit:
The Road to Recovery

Sept. 8th, 9 pm
Sept. 15 - 17th
Sept. 22nd

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11th & 25th, 9 PM

The Goddess REVUE

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No Cover



WALESAY GAYS ARE SICK

Former Polish President Lech Walesa said last week that gays are sick, the state news agency PAP reported.

"I believe those people need medical treatment," he said at a campaign rally in connection with the upcoming presidential election. "Imagine if all people were like that. We wouldn't have any descendants."

He added, "Me, I am still the same man who respects Christian values."

According to press reports, conservative candidates for the Oct. 8 election have seized on anti-gay sentiment in an attempt to rally conservative voters.

A July Demoskop Institute poll found that 55 percent of Poles have a negative opinion of homosexuality, 62 percent oppose gay marriage and 79 percent oppose allowing gays to adopt children. Almost one-third said gays are diseased and need medical care.

Only 12 percent of those polled said they know someone who is gay.

This is not the first time Walesa has been quoted making anti-gay statements. In 1990 when he was head of the Solidarity party and a presidential candidate himself, Walesa promised to "eliminate" homosexuals and drug users from society if he was elected, gay activists claimed.

The activists said Walesa made the comment in April 1990 at Solidarity's convention in Gdansk and that the remark was broadcast on radio and TV.

However, following reports of the alleged incident by this news column, Walesa's then-press secretary, Andrzej Drzycimski, accused activists of inventing the story "to get attention from ... the USA and Western Europe."

"We have looked through the records of the Second Conference of Solidarnosc Trade Union and we have not found anything like that," Drzycimski said. "There were so many foreign journalists at the conference — don't you think they would immediately pick it up if Walesa said something so stupid? ... The Solidarity movement is not declaring for discrimination of any social minority."

At the time, Polish gay activist Ryszard Kisiel, one of the sources for the report, said of Walesa: "He's the stereotypical model of the Catholic Pole. He has a lot of charisma and a lot of influence among the proletariat. ... I'm afraid there's going to be a lot of support for these [anti-gay] ideas."

PLANS TO REPEAL SECTION 28 SCRAPPED

British Prime Minister Tony Blair reportedly will postpone until after next

spring's elections his attempts to repeal the anti-gay law known as Section 28, following the House of Lords' rejection of repeal legislation July 24.

The vote was 270 to 228. The U.K.-wide law prohibits cities from "intentionally promot[ing] homosexuality" or teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" in schools.

The law was repealed locally in Scotland by the newly created Scottish parliament on June 21.

GAY DAY HELD AT TOKYO DISNEYLAND

Some 3,000 homosexuals attended the first Lesbian & Gay Day at Tokyo Disneyland July 30, reported the *Japan Times*.

Many wore red T-shirts with the slogan "July Pride 2000."

The day was organized by gay journalist Shigenobu Umeiki.

"I believe places like Disneyland, which is such a healthy, bright, family-oriented and commercial atmosphere, are the hardest ones for gays to become completely open about themselves," he said. "The event is an attempt to get away from the usual nightclub events into places under the bright sunshine without hiding their sexual identity."

PUBLIC SEX IS OK SOMETIMES

A man arrested for receiving oral sex from another man in a Brisbane, Australia, park got his case dismissed last week after a Magistrates Court ruled that the act did not take place in public since the public could not have seen it.

According to the *Courier-Mail*, Magistrate Elizabeth Hall ruled that, unlike the police, ordinary citizens do not customarily walk around darkened parks shining flashlights on other people.

"The police officers would not have seen the behavior before the torches were switched on," she said. "In my view, there is no case to answer because the prosecution did not produce any evidence to show that any member of the public could have seen it."

COURT STRIKES DOWN U.K. GROUP-SEX BAN

The European Court of Human Rights struck down Britain's ban on male group sex July 31 saying it violated the privacy rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights.

A gay man who was charged under the ban received nearly \$50,000 in damages and costs. He had been convicted of gross indecency in 1996 after police seized a video tape from his home that showed him having sex with four other men.

Leading gay activist Peter Tatchell commented: "This ruling spells the end of the gross-indecency law which was used to convict Oscar Wilde in 1895. ... It is another historic victory on the road to gay equality."

The European Court of Human Rights is the court of final appeal for citizens of

the 41 nations that make up the Council of Europe.

AUSSIE GOVERNMENT OPPOSES INSEMINATION RULING

Australia's government will attempt to override a Federal Court ruling that stuck down the state of Victoria's ban on in-vitro fertilization of single women.

The court said the ban violated federal sex-discrimination law.

But according to Prime Minister John Howard: "This issue involves overwhelmingly ... the right of children in our society to have the reasonable expectation, other things being equal, of the affection and care of both a mother and a father. And in those circumstances, we believe states have the right to legislate to that effect and as a result we propose an amendment to the Sex Discrimination Act to make it plain that legislation similar to the legislation enacted by the state of Victoria would not be struck down by the Sex Discrimination Act."

ILGA MEETS IN ROME

The International Lesbian and Gay Association, a consortium of hundreds of gay organizations from around the globe, staged its annual conference in Rome in conjunction with the recent World Pride Rome 2000 celebration.

According to spokesman Harold Koden, "Since the conference was only for three days, it focused primarily on maximizing ILGA's work in the regions, networking, and furthering its influence in world conferences."

New member groups attended from Latvia, Pakistan, Albania and the Philippines.

Koden said ILGA is "progressing with our efforts for reinstatement as a non-governmental organization in the United Nations."

ILGA lost UN consultative status in the mid-1990s after anti-gay U.S. politicians revealed that not all of ILGA's member groups oppose sexual contact between adults and persons below the world's varying ages of consent, which range from 12 to 21.

The UN demanded that ILGA prove it is pedophile-free, which the association has been unable to do because of the

British Columbia premier becomes first in Canada to attend Gay Pride

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)

British Columbia Premier Ujjal Dosanjh joined what may have been the largest crowds in the history of the Vancouver Gay Pride Parade, Canada's first premier to attend such an event.

"I believe we need to move into the 21st century," said Dosanjh, who joined an estimated 110,000 people at the festivities Sunday.

"This is not about special rights for anyone," Dosanjh said. "This is about equal rights for all British Columbians and all Canadians."

"By parading in this pride parade,

internal politics of some of its hundreds of member organizations.

Koden said finances "are still a constant problem for ILGA."

"Our work is still being done by volunteers and only two staff people who are not paid full-time," he said.

For more information: ilga@ilga.org.

LESBIANS EDITED FROM JAPANESE CARTOON

A lesbian relationship has been removed from the North American version of the Japanese television cartoon series *Sailor Moon*, reported Ottawa, Canada's Capital Xtra!

Optimum Productions, the Ontario company in charge of the English-language version of the show, said it made the change in accord with guidelines of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission.

But a spokesman for the CRTC said the agency has no guidelines on gay content in children's programming.

In the third of *Sailor Moon's* five seasons on Japanese TV the lesbian couple Uranus and Neptune debuted. In the English version of the program, they have been dubbed and edited into cousins.

In addition, another character, Zoicite, has been changed from male to female by Optimum Productions due to broadcasters' fears that viewers would intuit a gay relationship between Zoicite and the character Malachite, *Xtra!* said.

AIRPLANE TARGETS LAURA

The Stop Dr. Laura Vancouver Campaign hired an airplane to fly over the gay-pride parade for two hours Aug. 6. It pulled a banner reading "Shame on BCTV: Intolerance Kills."

"Dr. Laura, who is not a qualified medical doctor at all, says gays are 'biological errors,'" said Colin Brownlee, organizer of the flyover. "That kind of rhetoric gives free reign to homophobes and gay bashers—and it creates the kind of background environment of intolerance that causes gay kids to hate themselves and commit suicide."

Schlessinger also has called gays "abnormal," "aberrant," "deviant," "disordered" and "dysfunctional."

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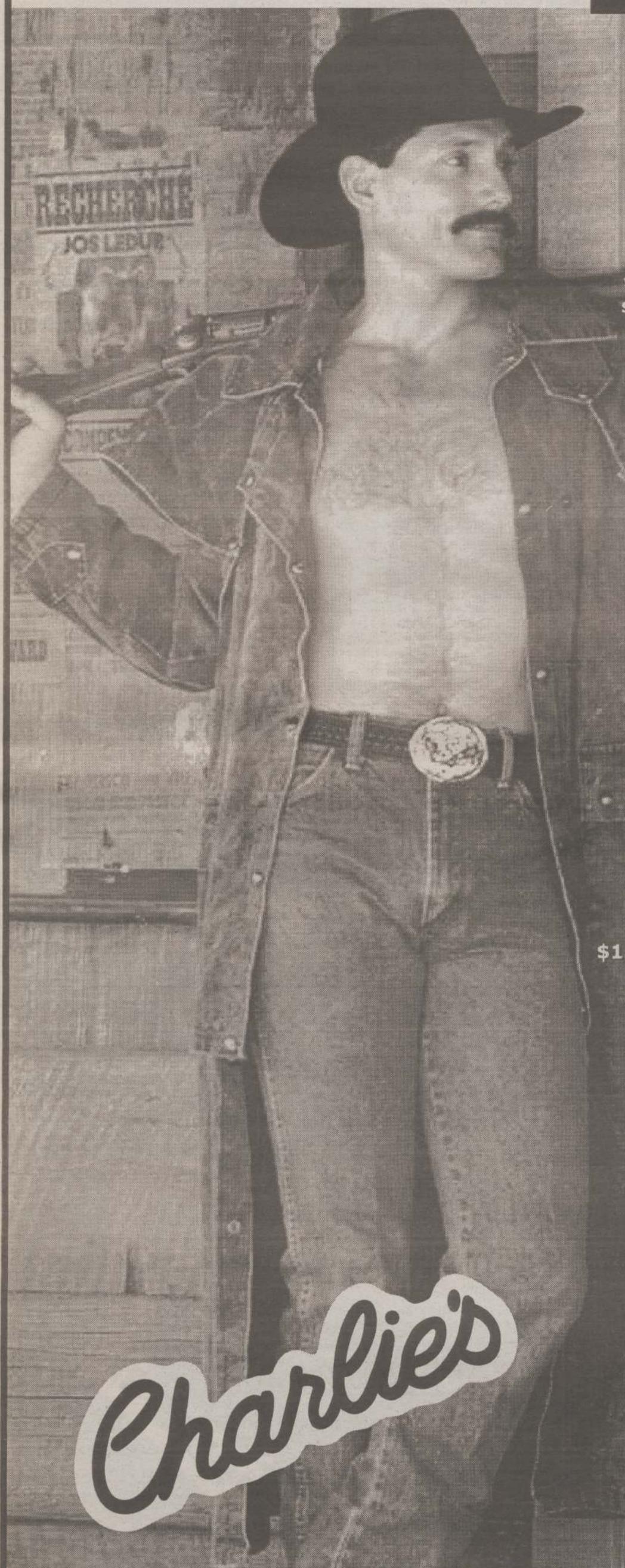
The Central Arizona Community Planning Group (CPG) is a community group that helps decide how HIV funding is spent in Maricopa, Gila and Pinal counties. Using research, data and the experiences of our members, we recommend what populations should be targeted for HIV prevention.

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

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(NIGHTTIME 7pm - 1am)
Half price on anything while wearing
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50¢ glass of Bud or Miller
\$2.00 Long Island Iced Teas all night!

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\$1.00 pitcher or glass of
Bud or Miller draft

(SATURDAY NOON - 7pm)

\$1.50 Well Drinks (Bottled Beer at regular price)
\$2.00 Long Island Iced Teas
\$2.00 pitchers of Bud or Miller

(NIGHTTIME)

Monday - Undie Monday (7pm - 1am)
Half price on anything while
wearing & showing underwear

Tuesday - Bare Chest Night
Half price on anything while shirtless or
wearing a cowboy hat

Wednesday - \$2.50 Long Island Iced Teas

Thursday - 2 for 1 on all drinks,
bottled beer and draft

Friday (7pm - 9pm)
75¢ Well Drinks
75¢ Domestic Bottled Beer

Saturday (7pm - 9pm)
75¢ Well Drinks
75¢ Domestic Bottled Beer

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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.

Scouting for All to protest in Phoenix

PFLAG member Amy Culver is organizing a local protest of the Boy Scouts' discriminatory policies in conjunction with Scouting for All, a national group calling for a nationwide protest on Aug. 21.

The Phoenix protest will be held at 4:00 p.m. on that date at the Grand Canyon Boy Scout Council headquarters, 2969 N. Greenfield in Phoenix. The building is situated just off the northbound on-ramp to the 51 freeway north of Thomas.

For information, call 480/545-2834 or visit www.scoutingforall.org.

Dr. Laura protest set

Despite the efforts of local and nation-

al 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 in the fall.

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.

Phoenix-filmed TV movie airing this month

The Truth About Jane, a Lifetime Original movie about a teenage girl's coming-out process that was shot entirely



Stockard Channing and RuPaul star in *The Truth About Jane*, playing on the cable channel Lifetime this month. Many local queers participated in filming some of the crowd scenes.

in the Valley last February, premiered on the cable channel Aug. 7 and will continue to air throughout the month.

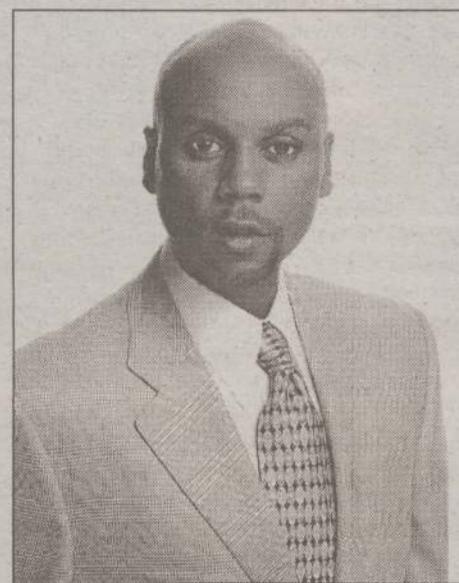
Originally titled *Jane's Coming Out Party*, the film was written and directed

by out lesbian Lee Rose and stars Stockard Channing, RuPaul and James Naughton, along with newcomer Ellen Muth in the title role.

Many Phoenixians took part in the movie by appearing as unpaid extras in a Gay Pride Rally scene that makes up the two-hour movie's finale. Check local TV listings for show times.

ACP Announces Annual Meeting

The Arizona Central Pride Committee has set the ACP annual meeting for Sunday, Aug. 20 at 1:00 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.



The meeting will be held at the Parkway Inn, 8617 Black Canyon Hwy (east side). The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect new board members, to provide an opportunity for the public to

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

meet and give input to current board members, to serve as a kickoff for pride 2001, and to allow the public to see how the largest gay and lesbian event in Arizona is put together.

Jan Rice, board member and volunteer coordinator said, "This meeting is an excellent chance for people who would like to volunteer to meet the board members and see how the organization works, and we always need more volunteers."

The board is also open to input and suggestions from the public; the festival is growing every year, and organizers hope to expand the festival site significantly next year.

The Arizona Central Pride Committee works year-round to create a spectacular festival for Phoenix celebrating the anniversary of the beginning of the gay and lesbian liberation movement, and this annual meeting is your chance to influence—or even become a part of—the celebration.

Cheuvront, Weason collecting pledges through Aug. 24

Gay-friendly AZ State Rep. Christine Weason represents Central Phoenix's District 25 beside out Rep. Ken Cheuvront. Both incumbent Democrats are running for reelection this year as Clean Elections Candidates.

In order to qualify, they must each collect 200 individual contributions of \$5 each from registered voters within their own district. The checks must be accompanied by an official Contributor Form, and must reach the candidates by Thursday, Aug. 25.

If you live in District 25 and would like to help, contact the Arizona Human

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Goings On

Rights Fund at 602/650-0900 and request the proper forms along with more information.

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 Bassoprofund@linkii.com. Rehearsals will begin the following Tuesday, September 5.

Comedy Festival Full of Laughs

The Community Center has set the 7th Annual Comedy Festival *A Night of Comedy* for 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.

Tickets for the Comedy Festival went on sale Tuesday, Aug. 1. 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. Tickets can also be purchased at any of the Hat Club locations located at area Wescor malls. A limited number of tickets will be available at The

Community Center Front Desk and the Obelisk Bookstore.

The show will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. Community members interested in obtaining tickets for the hearing impaired section should contact Civic Plaza Box Office via the TDD Relay Service.

Event coordinator Lyle Miller says, "We had hoped that tickets would be available sooner, but with the closing of Dillards Ticket Outlets, it has created a small snafu with the city securing a new ticket vendor in addition to Civic Plaza." Miller added, "We feel that the agreement made with the City of Phoenix and Tickets.com, will make it easier for our community to obtain tickets, as it adds the option of online ticket purchases."

Miller also indicated that he feels the event will be a sell out this year, as four gay and lesbian publications (*HeatStroke News*, *Echo Magazine*, *The Source* and *Spectrum Weekly*) have come on board to sponsor the event, along with some great area businesses like Movies on Central, Camelwest Tax Service, Phoenix Hilton Suites, and KMS Creative Designs.

Miller concluded, "The community has just been abuzz with chatter about the event, so the committee is working very hard to make this festival the best ever."

The Phoenix Hilton Suites at Thomas and Central is the comedy festival host hotel and is offering a special room rate of \$79/night double occupancy and includes made to order breakfast and evening cocktails. To make your room reservation call 602/222-1111 and ask for the *A Night of Comedy* Comedy Festival rate.

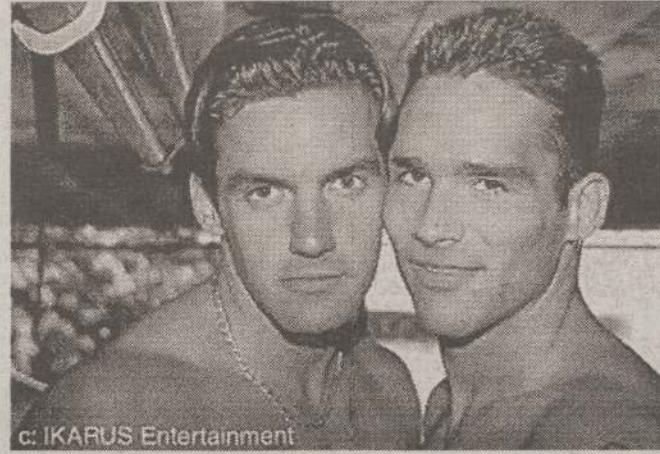
General information regarding the Comedy Festival can be directed to 602/265-7283 or Comedyfest2000@aol.com. Proceeds from the event help to support the programs and services of The

Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

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 set to begin Aug. 18, continuing Aug. 25, Sept. 1 and Sept. 8. Interested applicants must sign up at



c: IKARUS Entertainment

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.

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".

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.

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.

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• KARAOKE with Denise 8PM-???

THURSDAY

• Clogging Lessons for beginners 6:15-7:30PM
• Country Western Dance Lessons 7:30-9:30PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

• Country Western Dance Music 8PM-1AM

SUNDAY

• 70's, 80's & 90's Retro Dance Music 4-8PM
• Dance Lessons with Molly 6-8PM



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Oregon to have anti-gay measure on ballot

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—Oregon is known as a progressive state. It adopted the nation's first bottle deposit law and the first law allowing doctor-assisted suicide. It declared its spectacular Pacific coastline the property of all Oregonians.

So it might seem peculiar that in November, Oregonians are going to vote on a proposed law that critics say targets the state's gay community.

The ballot measure would bar public school teachers from promoting or sanctioning homosexuality in class. No other state has such a law.

The sponsor of the measure, Lon Mabon of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, says many parents are concerned their children are getting the wrong message in sex-education classes. He says teachers "are establishing in young people's minds that homosexuality and bisexuality are acceptable and normal."

Although the measure got enough support to make it onto the November ballot, a spokesman for the Oregon Department of Education said his agency has received no complaints from parents about teachers promoting homosexuality in school.

"It seems like a non-issue," spokesman Larry Austin said. "We hear comments and complaints all the time about class size, school funding and teacher quality. But our phones have been silent on this issue."

The fact that Mabon's measure qualified for a spot on the ballot probably says more about Oregonians' fondness for voting on such initiatives than it does about the state's attitudes on homosexuality.

Since embracing the referendum and initiative process nearly a century ago to adopt laws by a vote of the people, Oregonians have acted on more than 300 ballot measures, more than any other state.

Mabon's anti-gay plan is one of 26 measures that will appear on Oregon's Nov. 7 ballot, making it the state's most crowded ballot since

The Oregon measure states that "the instruction of behavior relating to homosexuality and bisexuality shall not be presented in a public school in a manner which encourages, promotes or sanctions such behaviors."

1914, when there were 29 measures.

"We do love the initiative process in this state," said Gary Malecha, a political science professor at the University of Portland. "I think there's a distrust of politicians, and a feeling that, 'We have to make these decisions ourselves.'"

Seven of this year's Oregon ballot measures were put there by the Legislature. Citizen-sponsored initiatives such as Mabon's require the support of 6 percent of the voters who took part in the last governor's election. In this case, that meant getting 66,000 signatures.

Mabon and members of his alliance also put initiatives on Oregon's 1992 and 1994 ballots that would have outlawed specific civil rights protections for homosexuals. Both measures were rejected by voters, although the 1994 proposition failed by only a narrow margin.

There hasn't been any polling on Mabon's latest measure, so it's unclear whether it will pass. The Oregon PTA has joined gay rights activists in opposing the initiative.

"We are a very tolerant state," Malecha said. "If you look at many of the big companies in Oregon, they have been very progressive in offering health insurance benefits to same-sex partners of their employees."

Several other states will be voting on measures dealing with homosexuality this fall.

Nevada and Nebraska will decide on proposed bans on same-sex

marriages, while voters in Maine will decide whether to approve a gay rights measure.

The Oregon measure states that "the instruction of behavior relating to homosexuality and bisexuality shall not be presented in a public school in a manner which encourages, promotes or sanctions such behaviors."

State funding would be withheld from public schools that violate the law, from kindergartens through doctoral programs and education programs in prisons.

Kathryn Firestone, president of the state's parent-teacher group, says the measure would send a message to gay and lesbian students that there's something wrong with them.

"Whatever their differences may be," she said, "all children deserve respect, tolerance and the right to be safe."

Lynne Cheney says comparisons with Hillary 'silly and irrelevant'

CHICAGO (AP)—Lynne Cheney knew her family life would not be the same when a truck toting a satellite dish and a camera suspended from a pole parked in front of her home in a Dallas suburb soon before George W. Bush chose her husband as his running mate.

Cheney called it "one of my endearing memories" in an Associated Press interview as she sat on a vintage train rumbling through the countryside. With her on the train were more than 100 journalists, a slew of Secret Service agents, dozens of 20-something campaign workers and a mobile satellite dish for film crews.

It's only the beginning for Cheney, a writer, former talk show pundit and well-known conservative crusader against "political correctness" and nontraditional education. She plans to campaign full-time with her husband Dick when he separates from Bush on the campaign trail starting Wednesday.

She's considering doing fund-raisers; party operatives are eager to get her on the circuit to capitalize on her popularity among the party's right wing while Bush courts independents with John McCain at his side.

Her outspokenness, reputation for independence and passionate political views have brought comparisons with Hillary Rodham Clinton, which Cheney says is "silly and irrelevant" and took her by surprise.

Cheney said Democratic attacks on her husband's voting record—he voted against a resolution calling, among other things, for freeing Nelson Mandela from jail and against funding for Head Start—

were "a little dismaying and unpleasant," and amounted to "people distorting the facts to gain political points."

She said her husband's votes had to be viewed in context. "If you look at the votes, many of them were about procedural issues" brought up in a Democratically controlled House.

The scrutiny that began when Bush picked her husband of 35 years has only intensified. The attention is necessary, expected and encouraged—up to a point, said Cheney.

Attracting the interest of swing voters who voted for President Clinton 1992 and 1996 but might not want to vote Democratic this year was the goal of a three-day, four-state train tour that ended in Illinois Sunday.

"It's completely exhilarating," Cheney said near the end of the tour after waving at confetti-strewn rallies and shaking hands with supporters.

Cheney said her role will be to travel with her husband and speak out on education. A former head of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Cheney has written extensively about her opposition to nontraditional teaching methods that push aside drills, memorization and testing in favor of less structured lesson plans.

Cheney and other Republicans—but also some Democrats—favor a return to traditional teaching methods.

Cheney, a former policy adviser on education for Bush's campaign and for the state of Texas, supports the governor's education platform, which calls for testing kids to measure whether they are meeting state-

standards of learning.

Schools that don't measure up would lose federal funds and parents would get federal money that they could use to send kids to private schools.

Opponents of standardized testing say it waters down lessons, turns off students, hampers teachers' creativity and is unfair to some students.

Cheney counters the formula has worked in Texas, where kids' test scores are up. "There's none of this silliness that kids have the ability to learn things themselves," she said.

The spotlight of the campaign has drawn attention to the Cheney family, especially daughter Mary, a 31-year-old from Denver who is gay. Numerous reports in the media have described her work for Coors Brewery in Colorado, building good will for the company within minority groups, including gays and lesbians.

Lynne Cheney says she won't discuss the private lives of either of her daughters—she has another daughter Elizabeth, a lawyer and mother of two.

"But every chance I get I'll also say that they are the most terrific young women I've ever met and I hope everyone else realizes ... what good and decent kids they are," Cheney said.

Now an unpaid special assistant to her father, Mary Cheney is a constant presence in her father's sphere of advisers and strategists.

The two share a passion for fly fishing, a sport that father introduced his daughter to, said Lynne Cheney, who also tried fly fishing. But instead of taking to the sport like Mary, she sent a hook through her husband's earlobe.

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The GOP Convention includes gays despite platform language

Continued from page 1

Bush would select me since I have been a McCain supporter before."

After his convention address, Kolbe commented, "Including somebody like myself who is gay is just one more indication that the party is reaching out to everybody, and that's what it should be doing."

MARY MATALIN

The GOP also sent Republican strategist Mary Matalin of CNN's *Crossfire* program around town with a message of Republican gay inclusiveness.

Following a Log Cabin Republicans/Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund/Human Rights Campaign reception for 300 Republican politicos and gay delegates and activists, Matalin said, "The epiphany for me is that people have some objection to homosexuality. They say it somehow hurts the traditional family. How? I'm advocating what I know to be the conservative philosophy. If you respect the individual, if you're about individual liberties and freedoms and all that stuff, you can't say, 'Except for that group or except for that person.' It's just so unjust and so unfair and so illogical. Illogical and unfairness offend me."

Matalin added that she favors gay marriage "because it's logical."

"You want to reduce promiscuity, you want to enhance stability—duh, marriage, OK?" she said.

Gays have felt unwelcome in the Republican party, Matalin said, because "we shut them out. We turned out our hearts. That can happen no more—that the loud voice of a few suffocates the big voice of the many," she said. "Our gathering here [at this reception] does mark, hopefully permanently, the end of the culture-wars rhetoric."

Several gay-friendly Republicans made stops at gay events during the week. U.S.

Some delegates also did not hesitate to voice support for gays. Sharon Greenhouse of Boca Raton, Fla., said, "Only a few Republicans are right-wing extremists. I am a Republican



GOP strategist and pundit Mary Matalin addressed a convention reception hosted by the Log Cabin Republicans, Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and the Human Rights Campaign.

because of my basic beliefs in the party. I'm a fiscal conservative and a social moderate. Being a Republican is also allowing everyone to come into the party. It's a big tent. I wish more would realize that."

Indeed, there were 19 openly gay delegates this year, up from six in 1996 and two in 1992.

"This convention makes it dramatically clear that we are inside the tent," said Log Cabin spokesman Kevin Ivers.

MARY CHENEY

One gay Republican who's certainly inside is vice-presidential nominee Dick Cheney's daughter Mary.

She attended the convention and appeared on stage with the candidates' families following Bush's acceptance speech the final evening. It was not immediately clear if her life partner, Heather Poe, was present. Mary Cheney declined all requests for interviews.

On the convention's final day, there were a smattering of

gay policy positions, and Cheney is going to look quite mean if he comes out and says: 'Yeah, I support a law that bans my daughter from adopting a child. I don't support a law that would protect my daughter from discrimination,'" Smith said.

HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch added: "Mary Cheney is a bright and articulate woman. She is highly impressive. The issue will be whether she is locked away in a vault in terms of her public-policy positions that are well-known."

Until recently, Cheney worked for the Coors brewery as the head of its gay and lesbian outreach efforts.

"I talked to her," Birch said. "I told her we wanted to be supportive and that I felt that merely directing all inquiries to the campaign was not going to work for very long because this is a radar-jamming moment where with someone with a record like Dick Cheney's, it is remarkable

they are decent. And I simply am not going to talk about their personal lives. And I'm surprised, Cokie, that even you would want to bring it up on this program."

But Mary has declared such a thing, repeatedly. For instance, she told *Girlfriends* magazine, "The reason I came to work here [at Coors] is because I knew several other lesbians who were very happy here."

Strategist Matalin acknowledged Mary Cheney's sexual orientation and told this reporter: "Mary Cheney knows how to speak knowledgeably, reasonably, calmly and confidently on gay issues and [she] has. I hope she does. I don't know what her demands for privacy will be."

THE GRAND DICHOTOMY

Despite the many gay firsts at this year's convention, HRC's Smith said gays still would be unwise to vote for Bush and Cheney.

"The Republican Party is changing slowly but somewhat surely," he said. "But we're definitely concerned about George Bush's anti-gay policy positions that he's articulated as governor

platform."

Following his April meeting with gays, Bush said: "The meeting was a wide-ranging discussion on issues. I'm a better person for the meeting. I enjoyed it. I welcome gay Americans into my campaign."

"I want the Republicans, conservative Republicans, to understand we judge people based upon their heart and soul, that's what the campaign is about," he said. "And while we disagree on gay marriage, for example, we agree on a lot of other issues and it's important for people to hear that. ... These are individuals who've got interesting stories to tell and it's important for the next president to listen to people's real-life stories. These are people from our neighborhoods, people with whom all of us went to school, people who generally care about America, and I appreciate them sharing their stories with me. And I'm mindful that we're all God's children."

In the final analysis, the ongoing assimilation of gays and lesbians into the American mainstream and the many pro-gay positions of the Democratic party clearly have steered the



The family Cheney: despite Lynne Cheney's (far left) televised denial that her daughter is an open lesbian, Mary Cheney (far right) has made no bones about her sexual orientation. She recently left Coors brewing company, where she headed up marketing to the gay community.

able and interesting that he has such a dynamic daughter. She cut her teeth on advocating for gay Americans as consumers.

She's a quasi-public figure. The press will want to write about that."

Dick Cheney's record on gay issues includes supporting the military gay ban and voting against the Hate Crimes Statistics Act in 1988 as a congressman.

George W. Bush is on record opposing job protections for gay people and gay adoption. He scuttled hate-crime legislation in Texas and has vowed to abolish the position of White House liaison to the gay community.

In an interview with journalist Cokie Roberts, Dick Cheney's wife, Lynne, seemingly attempted to shove Mary back in the closet. When Roberts said Mary is an open lesbian, Lynne shot back: "Mary has never declared such a thing. I would like to say that I'm appalled at the media interest in one of my daughters. I have two wonderful daughters. I love them very much. They are bright; they are hard-working;

of Texas and during the primaries. We feel that he obviously would not be a good choice for president. We're going to actively work against him."

HRC's Birch added: "The story for this convention is the grand dichotomy. Here you have a presidential candidate who finally has one meeting with a group of gay Republicans, and

Republican party toward a less-hostile relationship with the gay and lesbian community. The advances this year have been real and tangible."

If the ball keeps bouncing in the same direction—as all indicators suggest—it should not be too terribly long before the Republicans throw in the towel and treat homosexuals the same



Republican candidate for President, George W. Bush, accepts the nomination.

yet there's this restoration of mean-spirited, out-of-date, dinosaur [anti-gay] language in the platform. For an institution that is trying to argue that its edges are softening and that it is a larger, wider tent, it's looking more like a pup tent of exclusion, when you look only at the

as they do racial, ethnic and religious minorities. The signposts were many in Philly that this is exactly where the GOP is headed.

Rep. Connie Morella of Maryland told one gathering, "I'm a supporter of an inclusive Republican party."

U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell of California said, "It is easy to stand up for the principle that government should not discriminate on the basis of orientation."

U.S. Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont said: "I'm from Vermont so I don't really need to say anything more than that. Vermont has said, under our common-benefits provision, that everyone is entitled to the protection of the law that have a lasting relationship and want to enjoy life together."

unconfirmed reports that Mary Cheney will formally join the Cheney campaign staff.

"We understand they [Dick and Mary Cheney] love each other very much," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) spokesman David Smith. "She oftentimes goes on trips with him and they're very close. Both her parents have known that she's gay since the early '90s. She lives with her partner and I understand her and her partner go over to the home quite often, they get along as a family. The parents are comfortable with it and so is she."

"The crux of it is, it's going to focus attention on Bush's anti-

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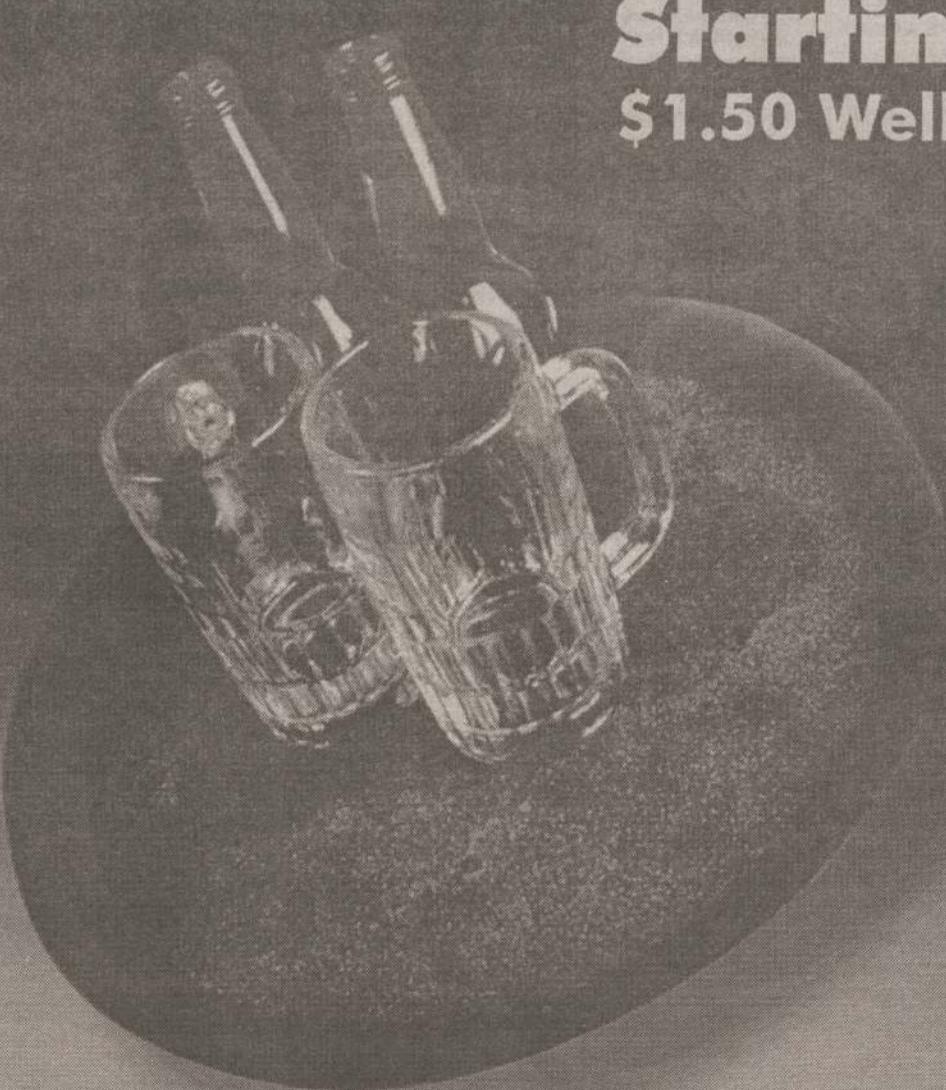
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Michael Alvear— HeatStroke's new columnist is an equal opportunity offender

Continued from page 1

should offer the world more." He characterizes his writing as "masculine" and adds, "I don't write like drag queens speak."

While our sequined brethren may be rallying to hurl mascara brushes at Alvear, other groups are not excluded from his pointed prose. Of circuit parties, he says, "debauchery has been dumbed down." He notes, "I wanna get laid. I want sex. I go out and I want sex. With all the drugs, guys are spending more time trying to get it up or taking people to the ER than they are having sex. People would be surprised at how little sex actually goes on [at and around circuit parties]."

As generous with his money as he is with his barbs, Alvear "gives to all the gay organizations because my thing is that every gay person has an obligation to make our lives—everyone's lives—better." He has said that GLAAD should "shut down" because they "started out as a group fighting for accurate media portrayals of gay people but turned

Alvear has said that GLAAD should "shut down" because they "started out as a group fighting accurate media portrayals of gay people but turned into a sanctimonious band of free-speech censors."

into a sanctimonious band of free-speech censors."

Human Rights Campaign is treated a tad more kindly, though, he quips, "After ten years of giving to them and watching them, I still don't know what they do." He tempers that by acknowledging, "I do know that they talk to congressmen and senators and are a conduit for people in power to know about gay people."

Does he always take the liberal position? He labels himself "left of center," yet, on occasion takes a stance that causes some in the gay community to blanch. He reflects that, while the recent court decision favor-

ing the Boy Scouts is offensive, "if we really believe in freedom, we've got to give people the freedom not to hang around with us."

His brazen chronicles generate a huge response—positive and negative—from the readers of the newspapers who carry his syndicated column. In addition to that bi-weekly lightening rod for public opinion, he has written opinions and features for *Salon*, *Genre* and has even had a piece appear in that august anthology of condensed literature, *Reader's Digest*.

The recent demise of Alvear's six-year relationship was due, in part, to conflicts over the intimate content of his writings. "I'm so personal in my columns," he explains. He recognized the questionable choice of not telling his boyfriend about sharing private incidents with his readers until after they had reached the printer but rationalized, "I never claimed to be intelligent, just entertaining."

Now single and freshly moved to a new apartment in "Atlanta's gay ground zero," Alvear is not looking to date,

the desire to meet a bright man with a wonderful sense of humor and soulful eyes, while our own eyes (soulful or otherwise) were—over the shoulder of our attentive listener—following the swagger of a great ass?

ing the situation is better and they get a big surprise."

While seeming to provide more quotes for the city's narcotics squad than the Georgia capital's tourist board, Alvear is very happy living in Atlanta and

not of it," and feels very alienated from the gay subculture. "It's not a friendly or nurturing community. You have to make your way and build something yourself."

"I love talking about issues," he articulates. And he feels particularly compelled to do so, when viewing our community.

"The established way of thinking is that our identity is more important than our humanity. The bitter twist is that our group has been attacked and discriminated against with the worst kinds of labels and, now, we worship labels. GLBTQ splits us into atoms. It diminishes us. The closer we get to our humanity, the more livable the gay community becomes."

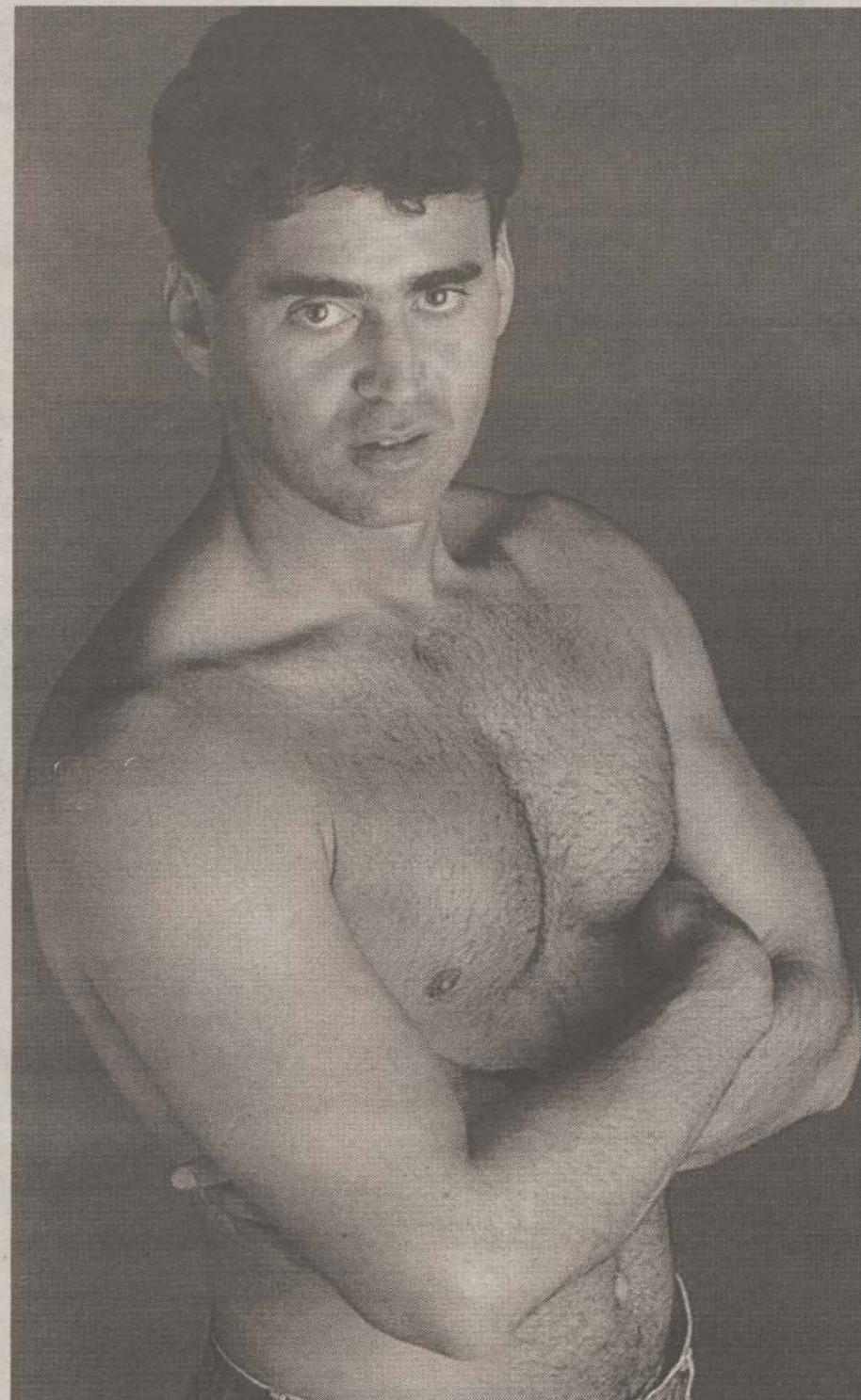
Candor or contentiousness? The balls to offend or just a negative voice braying at our community's organizations and institutions?

Those who come down on the side of candor and balls won't always agree with the thoughts expressed in *Slouching Through Gomorrah* (not to mention those who are sticklers for good posture). But even wary readers may find themselves thoroughly amused and inspired to think about the issues Alvear raises.

Join several thousand other inquisitive Phoenicians every other week, and have a look through his window on the world.



Dennis Scott-Bush is a Phoenix-based writer and public relations consultant whose work has appeared in a variety of publications. We're happy to welcome him as a new contributor to *Heatstroke*.



What's sauce for the goose... In a column Michael Alvear railed against the high concentrations of nearly naked men found in gay publications. To accompany the piece, he sent along this self portrait. Alvear recognizes the irony: gay men, he says, "are visual creatures who can't see past the physical and I am a member of that club."

"Atlanta has, pound for pound and inch by inch, the best looking guys in the country," Alvear comments (without intending to sound like a chubby chaser or size queen). "Atlanta also has a drug scene in the gay community that is overwrought—just out of control. People who move here from Miami and think the drugs are bad there come to Atlanta think-

takes great pleasure in returning home after traveling around the country.

His mind and mouth get ample exercise through his writing. For his body, Alvear takes karate. "I was picked on so much as a boy and I live with that pain even now because I didn't defend myself in those situations." As an adult, his sense is that he is "in this world but

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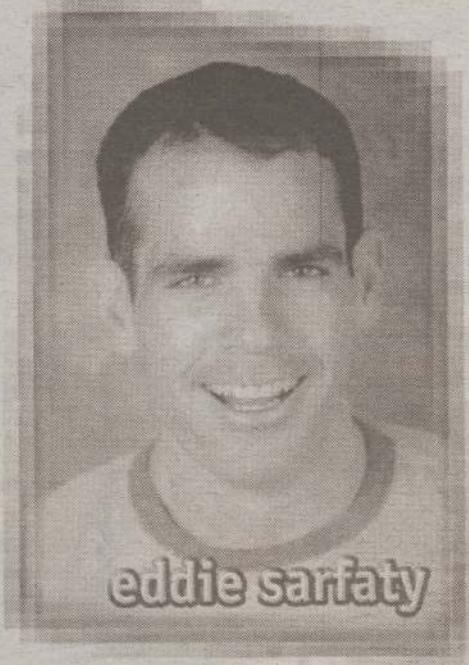


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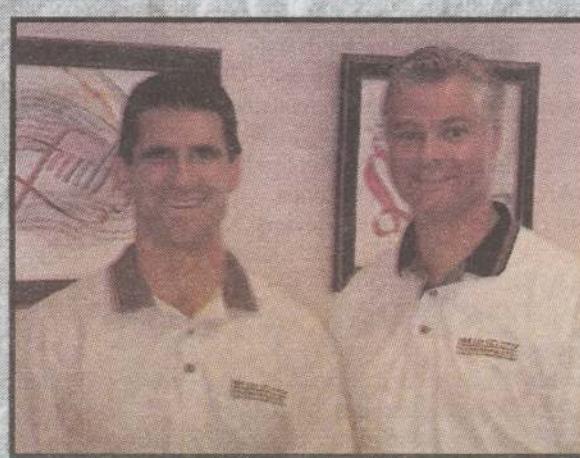
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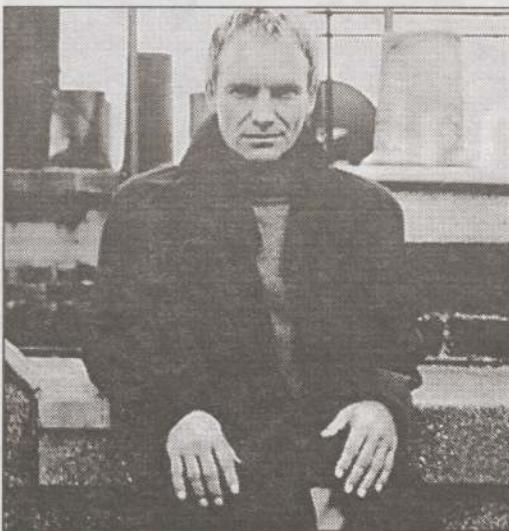


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Get stung Aug. 22

No doubt the secret of Sting's career longevity is his willingness to experiment with so broad an array of musical styles, including his latest Indian-influenced recordings.

See and hear what the monikered megastar is up to in the current millennium when his tour stops in Phoenix for a performance at Desert Sky Pavilion on Aug. 22. The 7:30 p.m. show will feature Jonny Lang and tickets are selling for \$27.50 - \$91.40. Call Ticketmaster or the Desert Sky Box Office.

Life's a Cabaret for ex-Miss America

In 1998 she toured the country in a tiara as an outspoken AIDS-awareness advocate. Former Miss America Kate Shindle has since traded in her sash for a pair of fishnet stockings to star as sassy Sally Bowles in the touring production of the hit musical *Cabaret*, coming to ASU's Gammage Auditorium Sept. 5 - 10.

Other shows to be featured in the 2000-01 season of the Tempe venue's popular Broadway Series include *Ragtime* opening Oct. 31 and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, opening Dec. 5.

Come Spring, the season continues with *Fosse* opening May 1, *Fiddler on the Roof* opening May 22, and *Cinderella*, opening June 26.

For tickets to *Cabaret* or season tickets to all the shows in the series, call 480/965-3434.



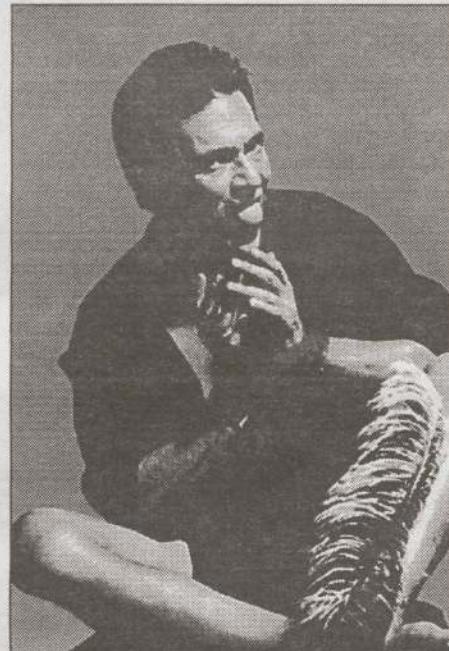
Period drama continues through Aug. 19 at Herberger

In Mixed Company is perhaps best known as the troupe that brought comedies like *Deporting the Divas* and *The Food Chain* to the Valley. But IMCO has weightier issues in mind as it wraps its sixth season with Doug Wright's provocative drama, *Quills*, now playing at the Herberger Center in downtown Phoenix.

Set in a French asylum in 1807, the award-winning play is gruesome, sexually explicit, witty and daring as well as confrontational. Wright imagines the Marquis de Sade's confinement as a combative test of wills between the captive and his holier-than-thou captors. In an attempt to stifle de Sade's erotic and anti-establishment writings, his jailers first remove his quills and ink. When de Sade finds other ways to express his opinions, the representatives of church and state must resort to more drastic means of keeping him quiet. In the process, the moralists end up debasing themselves.

Quills, directed by Kevin Kerrigan, stars John Sankovich, David Jones, Dwayne Hartford, Debra K. Stevens,

Dion Johnson and Angelica Frost. It runs Thursday - Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m. through Aug. 19, with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and available by calling 602/252-8497.



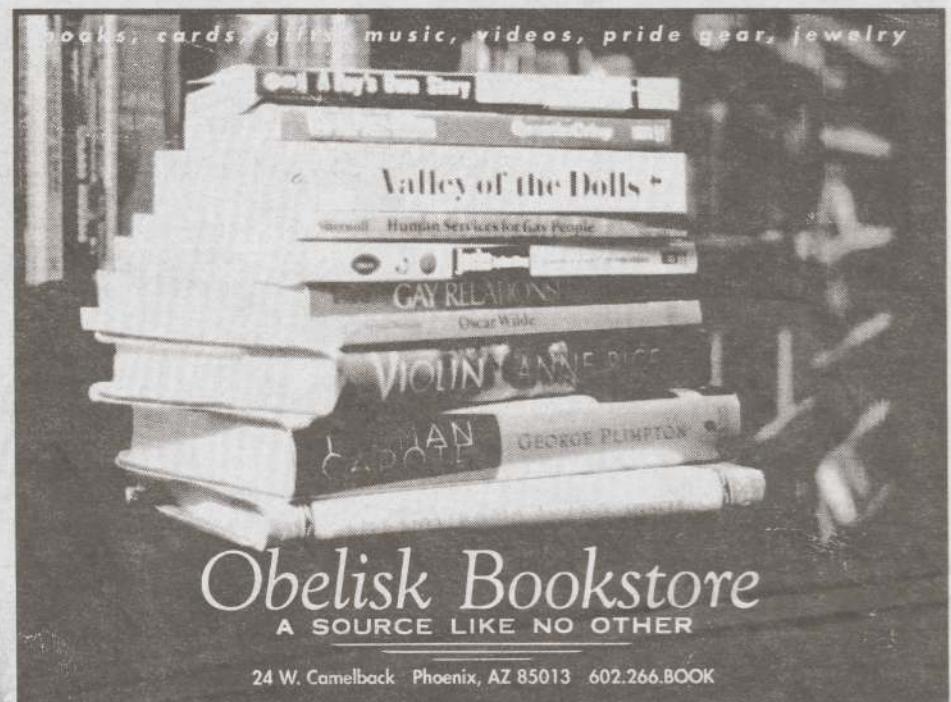
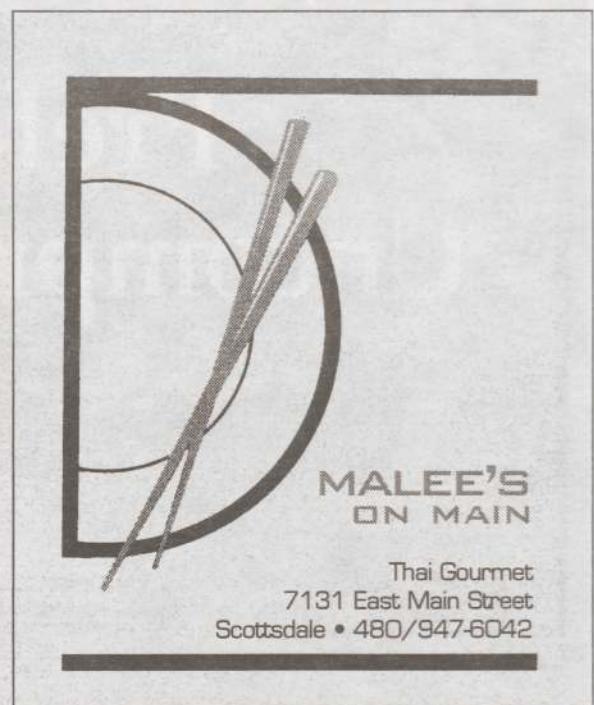
PT festival wraps with a Snap

Phoenix Theatre's 3rd Annual New Works Festival will wind down on Aug. 11 and 12 with staged readings of a new play by festival director Richard Warren.

Snap is a contemporary exploration of friendships, relationships and the need to belong. The readings will be presented both nights at 7:30 p.m. in the Phoenix Theatre's Little Theatre, under the direc-

tion of Daniel Schay.

The New Works program offers theatergoers a chance to check out a new play as it progresses to the production stage, and to offer input into the creative process via post-show Q&A sessions with the writer, director and actors. A \$5 donation is requested. Call 602/254-2151 for information.



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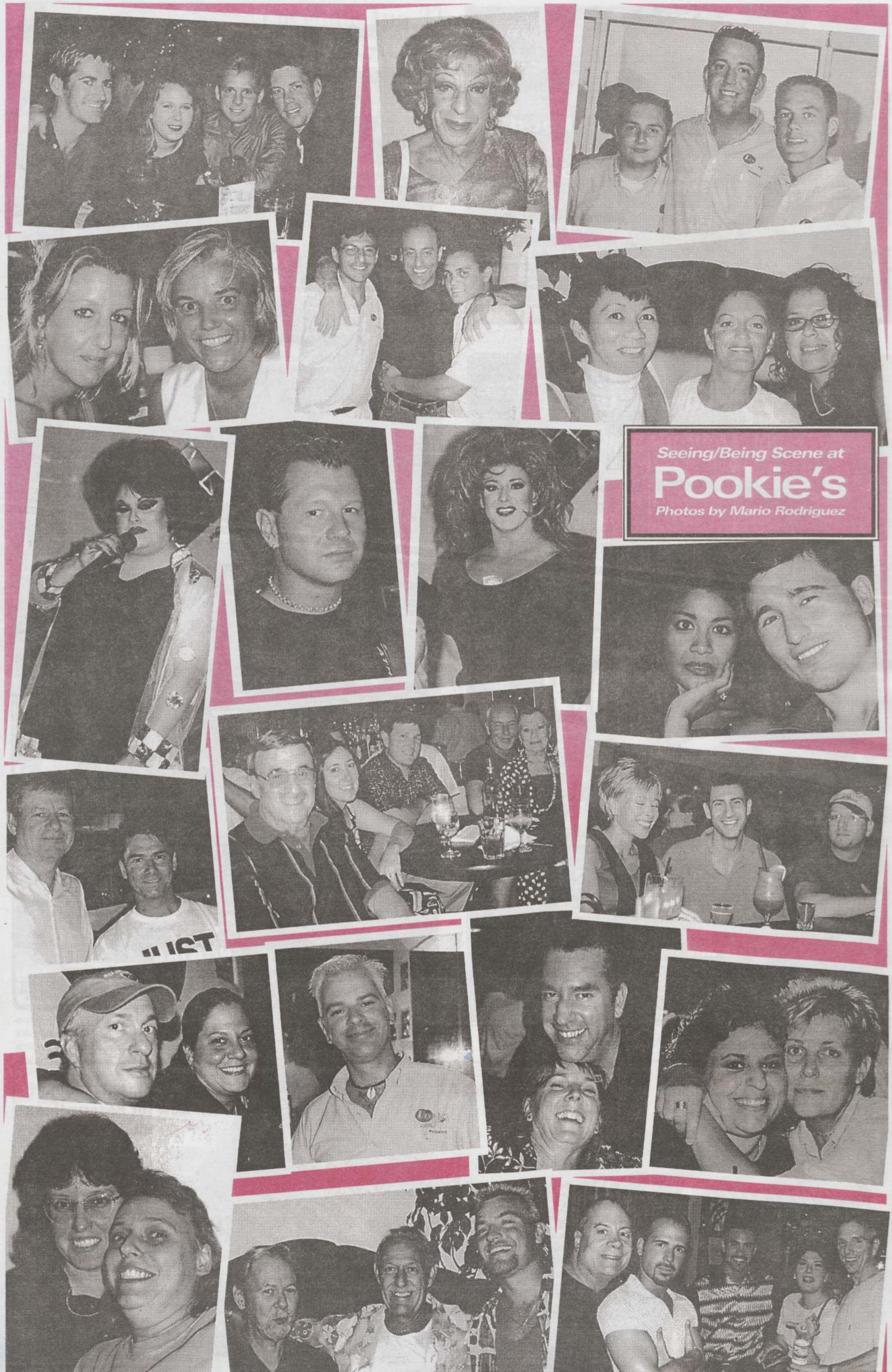
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Seeing/Being Scene at
Pookie's
Photos by Mario Rodriguez

Horowitz: A Campaign Analysis

When George W. Bush picked Dick Cheney as his running mate, I was slightly relieved. Bush had a number of options that would have given his campaign a huge advantage. I was sure he would choose someone from the more moderate element of the Republican party, or a woman like Elizabeth Dole, or a veteran like John McCain.

Instead, the heir apparent to the Bush political dynasty and financial fortune chose a right winger to balance his laughable "compassionate conservatism."

Cheney's voting record should horrify liberals, moderates and fair-minded conservatives alike. Cheney's allegiances lie with the tobacco industry, the Christian right and the National Rifle Association. Despite a rise in Bush's polling numbers since the Cheney selection, the choice brings good news.

Eight years ago, when Bush's father ran against Bill Clinton, polls showed the elder Bush with a commanding lead that included a ninety-one percent approval rating after the Gulf War.

Those of us fighting the political battle for gay rights were appropriately mortified at the prospect of another four years of the Reagan-Bush-Quayle economic and civil rights debacle.

This election year's polling numbers are truly baffling. Bush, who has no

national leadership experience and has proven himself less than bright on issues of national and international concern, maintains a double-digit lead among likely voters. Many consider Cheney a good pick to bolster Bush's policy and experience shortcomings, but the conservative shift did little to help the Republicans in 1992.

Cheney's voting record should horrify liberals, moderates and fair-minded conservatives alike. Cheney's allegiances lie with the tobacco industry, the Christian right and the National Rifle Association.

The 2000 Republican platform appears remarkably similar to 1992's document. There are no changes in philosophy regarding gun control, education, abortion or homosexuality. It's like Bush is driving his father's Oldsmobile.

There were two events that began to give me hope in 1992. The first was a

speech Clinton made to the GLBT community in Los Angeles. He spoke clearly and decisively in favor of equal rights when no other national candidate would do so. I got out my tissues and my checkbook. The second event was Pat Buchanan's speech to the Republican National convention. Buchanan spoke coldly and mercilessly against Clinton's stands on immigration, AIDS funding, abortion and civil rights for gay people. The American people saw the side of the Republican party that panders to the religious right.

We have seen the same thing in the slide Bush made to the right in order to defeat Senator McCain during primary season, and in his choice of Cheney as a running mate.

Arizonans are all too familiar with the likes of Jeff Guscott, Barbara Blewster and Karen Johnson. In these times of economic prosperity and relative world peace, it's likely the American electorate will be turned off by the religious fundamentalist viewpoints currently espoused

by the Bush campaign.

Vice-president Gore, however, must step up to the plate dramatically as well. Gore's choice of Joe Lieberman for vice president is a smart move to morally distance himself from Clinton by aligning with a devout Orthodox Jew. Some experts say the move is dangerous because there is a percentage of the population that will vote against the ticket simply because Lieberman is Jewish. My sense is that those folks were going to vote for Bush anyway.

Lieberman is the most moderate of the four men who will headline the presidential race. His politics appeal to independents and moderate Republicans who respect his integrity and constancy. Even though Gore's vice-presidential choice is sound, we don't vote for vice president. This election will require Gore to emerge from the campaign funk that currently finds him trailing Bush.

Gore will have to inspire a nation the way Clinton did eight years ago. Although he's commonly viewed as flat and uninspiring, Gore's speech at the 1992 Democratic convention was dramatic and compelling. He must rise to the occasion again in a few weeks when the Democrats meet in Los Angeles.

Our future depends on it.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and activist. He can be reached through *HeatStroke*, or by e-mail at DashingDav@aol.com.

teaching the gay boys how to grab their crotches), it also tries to make the audience weep for the terrible changes gays and lesbians are put through to lead a so-called normal life.

The movie would have been more successful without clichéd dialogue and predictable story twists. But the characters' tears and the film's attempts at poignant moments just don't flow with the overall sarcastic theme of the film.

Still, the movie has charm, thanks mainly to Moriarty, RuPaul and Lyonne. The movie marks the directorial debut of Jamie Babbit, who has directed several short films.

But I'm a Cheerleader is distributed by Lions Gate Film. It is rated R for mature subjects and sexual situations. The running time is 84 minutes.

2000 Mr. Drummer Aug. 11-13

The 2000 Southwest Drummer Regional Contest will take place at Padlock in Phoenix the weekend of Aug. 11-13.

The event kicks off with a Meet-n-Greet Basket Auction at 9:00 p.m. on Friday night, followed by the Mr. Drummer and Drummerboy contests on Saturday night, beginning at 9:00 p.m.

Join the contestants and winners on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. for a Victory Brunch,

then check out the Black & Blue Blackout Party at 9:00 p.m. Sunday evening. There's no cover charge for these events and spectators are encouraged, especially for the contest on Saturday night which includes the infamous "Fantasy" category.

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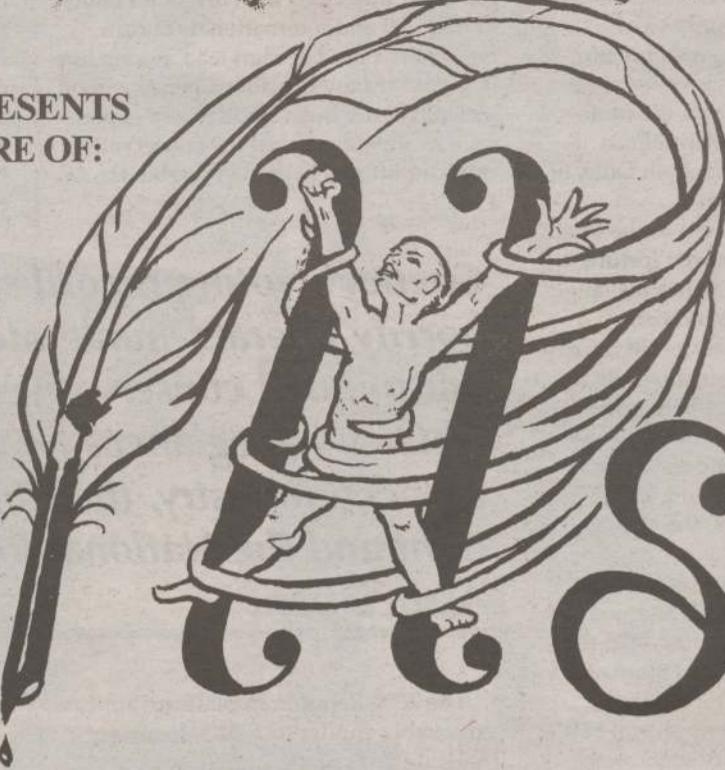
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Naked Curiosity

By Dennis Scott-Bush

When (and where) it's not cheating

Naked: meaning unadorned and visible. Curiosity: as in inquisitiveness, as well as what killed the cat.

The most stimulating storms of curiosity often come to me while I'm naked. An overwhelming barrage of who, what, where and why while in the shower. The unexpected when or how, as I lie in bed. *Naked Curiosity* is as natural as a morning erection and as hard to ignore as a child kicking the back of your seat at the movies.

My gym has been the scene of many curious moments lately. It would certainly be classified as a "straight gym," since nearly all the members fail to trigger my gaydar. That's not to say that they're unfriendly.

On the contrary, I have pleasant nodding and pointing relationships with Orange Shirt Guy, Bicep Boy, Defecation Dude (who emits tumultuous, child-birth-like groans and multi-octave squeals before emerging, dripping with sweat, from the bathroom stall), Very Dark Nipple Man and his friend, Scar Butt. There are still others with whom I have actual conversations.

I climb toward the never-peaking summit of the StairMaster while watching *Divorce Court* on the TV suspended in front of me. From the balcony above the main gym floor, I survey the activities of the grunting, perspiring men and women below.

I'm amused by the posing of some of the muscle junkies. I remind myself that my partner prefers that I not speak to them. Not out of jealousy or territoriality (though both are, in moderation, part of his skill set). He's concerned that my comments will get me "beat down"—to use his phrase.

I'm not masochistic. I seek no beating. I seek only truth and beauty and freedom. If, as it's written, the truth shall set you free, why do the obsessively-flexing-at-their-reflection men to whom I remark, "I'll bet you need a mirror to masturbate," seem no more free?

Just the other day I found myself in

unless you can smell the pussy."

For straight men and lesbians, that may be the ruling that sticks, in a manner of speaking.

But where does that leave those of us whose noses respond to the scent of a different genus of genitalia? My friend Tom left no room for equivocation when he declared, "It's not cheating if it's on the internet." All those men concerned about the morality of their one-handed typing will surely shout, "Yahoo!" Will you Yahoo, too?

Until recently, my screen name had the word "red" (for my hair) and the letter "d" (my nickname or, more accurately, my nick-initial). Occasionally, people would send me instant messages asking if I had red hair or to inquire whether I was—as my name seemed to indicate—ready.

One particular time, I was in the midst of sending a friend an e-mail when an instant message appeared on my screen asking, "You a redhead guy? You live in Phoenix?"

"Yes and yes," I replied, dutifully. "I'm a hot guy in North PHX," his next message announced, followed by: "I want you to come over and pee in my back yard in four specific places, while I watch through the miniblinds in my kitchen and masturbate."

With my naked curiosity roused, I typed, "This is a joke, right?"

"I'm serious," my pee-pee peeking correspondent assured me. "I have a six-foot high privacy wall, so no one can see you but me and I'll be in the kitchen." His messages came with increasing speed. "C'mon. Do it!"

Who was I to judge this man's fetishes? Hadn't I been aroused by the sight of my partner urinating with spectacular force on a Northern California hiking trail, years ago? "Why four places in your yard?" I probed.

"Are we going to play Sigmund Freud or are you going to come pee in my yard?" he inquired, with a not-unnoticed squirt of impatience.

"I'm just curious," I retorted. "And besides, I don't really have to go to the bathroom."

Just the other day I found myself in



the middle of conversation between Very Dark Nipple Man and Scar Butt, simply by virtue of having my locker 'twixt theirs.

Scar Butt had just purchased a computer and signed up for an online service. He expressed concern that his wife would be "doing stuff (slight word change, there) she ain't got no business doing."

Very Dark Nipple Man confessed that he'd had cybersex a few times—late at night, after his family was asleep—and that he liked it. So, I asked, "Do you think sex with a person on the computer is the same as cheating?" Very Dark Nipple Man shot back, "It ain't cheating

"Never mind. I just made a mess all over the keyboard," was his comeback.

A cybersex success or merely an empty-bladdered washout? No female nether regions were sniffed and it only happened on the internet. So I'm covered, either way.

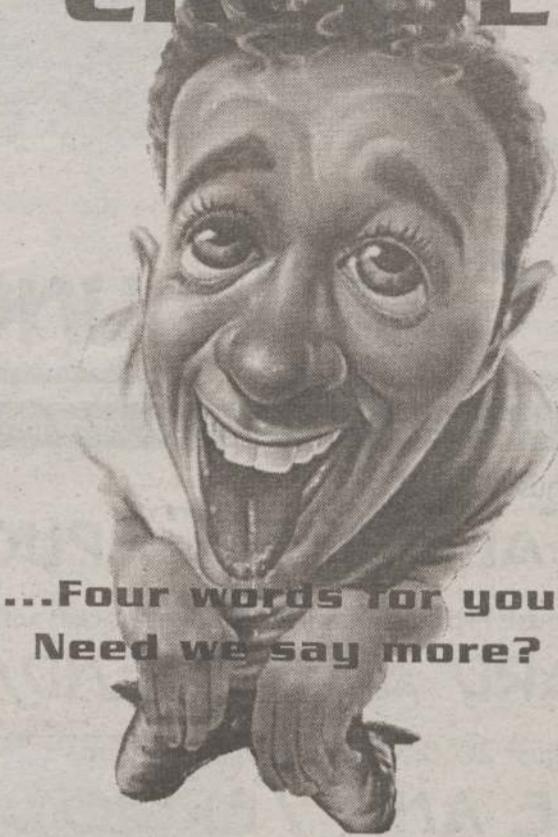
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Dennis Scott-Bush is a writer and public relations consultant. His work has appeared in a variety of publications throughout the country. E-mail may be directed to phxwordsmith@home.com.



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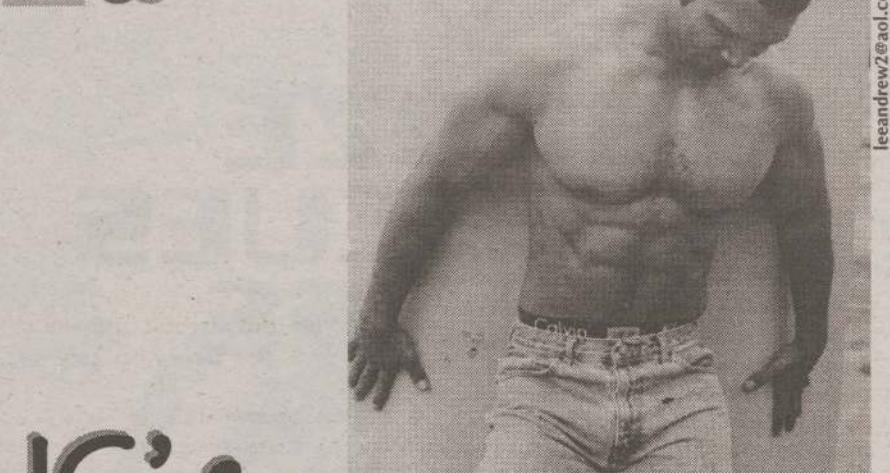
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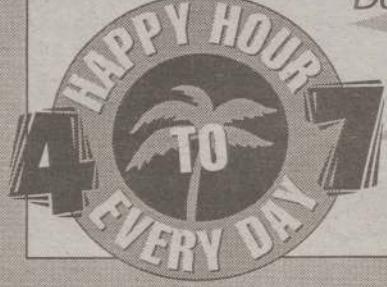
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Q S C O P E

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES:

Kids are lucky for you in mid-August, and acting like a teenager is even luckier. It's time you loosened the reins in your life and experienced some true joy. You've been living in the shadow of your opposite sign, Libra, lately and acting a little too compromising. It's time to rediscover the virtues of selfishness. Sneak out at night with a Scorpio.

TAURUS:

Jupiter and Saturn in your money house bode well for a freelance project you've been developing. Make a decision about where to focus your career energy during late summer and early fall and stick to it, baby! Get back in touch with your unwavering bullish nature. A Virgo wants you to take charge.

GEMINI:

The full moon on August 15 falls in your travel sector, so if you can get outta town, for goodness sakes, go! You could find yourself revealing the depths of your passion to a Libra. Lead with your heart and follow with your snappy comebacks. In fact, skip the latter altogether, at least while you're having sex!

CANCER:

You may feel a little skittish during this full-moon week (it peaks on the 15th). Allow yourself your moods, and be aware that they make you more human and more sensual. Veer away from the temptation to judge someone close to you too harshly. A Capricorn offers you rare insight.

LEO:

Pay attention to the changes that occur in a romantic relationship during mid-August. Open up and admit what you've been dreaming about. Your desires need to be articulated before they can be fulfilled. Another Leo speaks your language.

VIRGO:

You may rediscover your love of SM during mid-August. The full moon brings out the servant in you. Don't fight Mother Nature—or your own instincts. Say goodbye to the old repressed you and hello to the happy whore you knew you could become. A Sag is thrilled but not surprised by this transformation.

LIBRA:

The full moon joins innovative and controversial Uranus in your house of cre-

ativity on August 15. If you've been wondering whether to send a bizarre idea out into the world, now's the time. Walk away from someone who reminds you of a sadistic ex. Walk into the arms of an Aquarius who wants to be your friend as well as your lover.

SCORPIO:

It's a passionate time in your life, and it may be hard for you to express all the joy and angst that's arising. The full moon falls in your home sector on August 15, so make sure all is well in *su casa*. A Gemini can help you to work out an issue that's been plaguing you since childhood. It's about time, slowpoke!

SAGITTARIUS:

You need to treat yourself better, darling. This cycle is all about forgiving yourself. When you can do that, everybody else will forgive you too! Dealing with old pain helps you to prevent a repetition of said angst. An Aries helps you to find your long lost courage.

CAPRICORN:

Saturn (your ruler) and Jupiter are both hanging out in your house of health and body, which means that you can finally work through a sensitive physical issue. The full moon on August 15 could bring you lots more money, honey. Invest it in a business that represents passion and success for you. A Pisces can help you grab the brass ring.

AQUARIUS:

When you stop being such a know-it-all, you become more popular, beloved, and a helluva lot more respected for what you do know. Be emotionally generous for once! Stop talking and start hugging. A Cancer needs some loving... from you, you idiot!

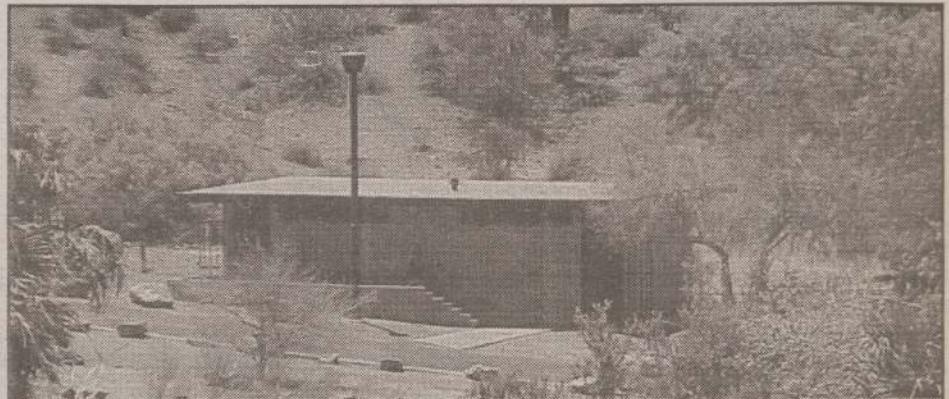
PISCES:

Pluto goes direct in your career house on August 20, and with this good news comes an epiphany about how to make your day job into your dream job. Vow to put your unconscious abilities to good use in a more ritualized way. Light some loving candles with an Aries.

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.

LIBRA:

The full moon joins innovative and controversial Uranus in your house of cre-



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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"Self-esteem isn't built by wearing buttless chaps at an all-gay event straight people won't attend. It's bringing a male date to the company picnic. Pride isn't forged because you sit in the back of a convertible wearing a dress. It's earned when you don't let go of your boyfriend's hand, even when you see straight people coming. Self-respect doesn't come because you flash your tits to a drunk crowd. It comes from telling that nice lady sitting next to you on the plane the real reason why some young man hasn't snatched you up yet."

—Columnist Michael Alvear,
Houston Voice, June 23.

"I sat through last Saturday's Pride march, and the only word that comes to mind is this: yawn. I've seen C-SPAN broadcasts that were more entertaining and energized. The parade was small, well organized for that type of affair, and chock full of family values and corporate advertising."

—Jeff Epperly, editor of the Boston gay newspaper *Bay Windows*, in a June 15 editorial.

"When my husband was in prison and I wasn't getting any presents for Christmas, it was the gay community that gathered around me and saw that. They gave me beautiful bathrobes with my initials on; they gave beautiful leopard hangers and leopard shoe bags. And I had the most awesome Christmas I've ever had. They'd write to me, and I'd write back to them, and we would talk about our animals, and they would name all their dogs Tammy Faye. It was so cute! I still write all these guys! They cared about me more than the Christians cared about me, and that says something to me right there."

—Former televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker Messner to the *Advocate*, July 18.

"RuPaul is so cute when he dresses up. But what makes me so mad is that he looks better in those gowns than I do!"

—Former televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker Messner to the *Advocate*, July 18.

"I'm having assimilation anxiety. How can I keep doing this subcultural comic strip in a world where there's no more subculture? ... I don't want to be one of those people who gets, like, stuck in their outmoded politics. I really don't want to sound like this shiny old leftover."

—Dykes To Watch Out For cartoonist Alison Bechdel to the *Advocate*, July 18.

"Recently, we have received a great deal of feedback—some positive, mostly negative—regarding our advertising on the 'Dr. Laura Schlessinger' radio program. Most of the negative feedback has been from the gay and lesbian community, which finds many of Dr. Laura's comments concerning sexual orientation to be highly offensive and prejudicial. GEICO is and has been an insurer for everyone. To reach all audiences, we advertise in a wide range of media. We do not endorse the views expressed by the personalities on whose shows we advertise, but we do monitor

the results of these advertising efforts closely, and we take seriously the feedback we receive from our policyholders and the listening and viewing public. Having analyzed these factors, we have decided we will not continue our advertising on the 'Dr. Laura' radio program effective July 1. GEICO is an equal opportunity employer and does not condone discrimination of any type directed toward any minority."

—Statement from the Geico car insurance company, July 6.

"On Wednesday, July 5th, I was shocked to learn that the Episcopal Church, of which I'm a member and in which I was married, does not have an official national church policy allowing ministers to officiate at same sex unions or ordain openly gay people. Allowing each Diocese to determine whether or not to ordain gays and lesbians or bless same gender couples on a local level, rather than making a church wide decision, I feel is tantamount to accepting and supporting discrimination. Based on this indecision of the Episcopal Church, to fully accept all persons into the Christian faith, I must in good conscience cancel my performance at the Episcopal Church General convention."

—Statement from singer Judy Collins, July 7.

"I came out [in 1992] and it was like, nothing. Nothing happened. It was fine. I think everybody knew anyway, but I felt good being able to talk about it and not be afraid."

—The B-52's Keith Strickland to Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, June 22.

"I get passed over now because I wasn't famous first [before I] came out. For someone to lie about it for years and years, get famous, get the accolades, get the money, get the record contract, get the television show, get the movies, and then they come out—I'm thrilled. But it's very painful then to watch the gay community—the gay press—canonize them."

—Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer to Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, June 22.



Cartoonist Alison Bechdel

"I've fought really hard against that [the label gay writer], you know? I don't want to be in that section of the book store ... because then the understanding is if you're not gay you would have no interest in this."

—David Sedaris to Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, June 22.

"All the best-looking men are gay."

—Novelist Jackie Collins to *Genre* magazine, August issue.

"[I want to become] the Artist Formerly Known as a Lesbian."

—Ellen DeGeneres on being overly identified with her sexuality, to the *Chicago Tribune*, July 12.

"If I had enough money to never work again, I'd probably just work with kids and animals and eat salads at the Four Seasons, fly in a private jet maybe to an island that I owned, have a bunch of dancers that would dance for me whenever I demanded, and play Boggle. That's what I'd do."

—Ellen DeGeneres to the *Chicago Tribune*, July 12.

"What a man believes upon grossly insufficient evidence," Bertrand Russell wrote, "is an index to his desires—desires of which he himself is often unconscious." The Vatican's current obsession with homosexuality suggests that something interesting might be going on. Are some of the Catholic church's most powerful cardinals struggling with their sexuality? Could the Pope himself be gay?"

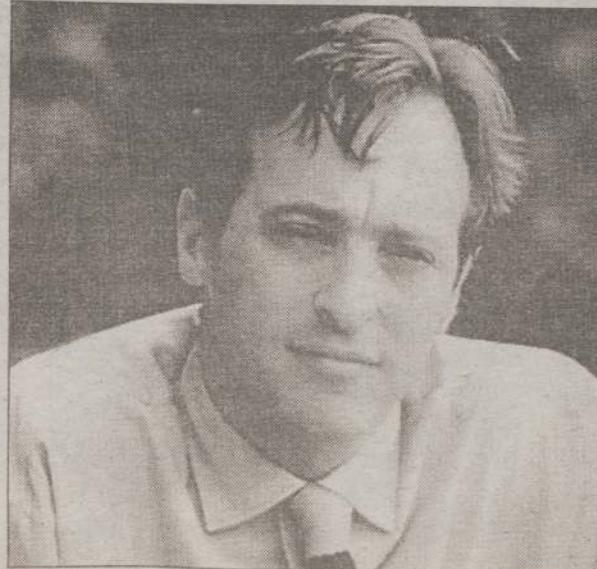
—George Monbiot writing in Britain's *The Guardian*, July 13.



Singer Judy Collins



Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer



Author David Sedaris

"The claim that homosexuality is 'unnatural' ... Perhaps the Pope is suggesting that it lies beyond the scope of 'normal' human behaviour. If so, this has uncomfortable implications for an association of old men who wear dresses, hear voices and practise ritual cannibalism. ... Self-enforced celibacy ... is all but unknown among other animal species. If any sexual behaviour is out of tune with the natural world, it is surely that of the priesthood."

—George Monbiot writing in Britain's *The Guardian*, July 13.

"Real estate appreciation, for all intents and purposes, is an irreversible trend. The best we can hope for is a plateau. Sorry, kids, but an earthquake isn't going to bring back those \$300 Victorian apartments remembered so fondly by longtime residents. San Francisco, for all its diversity and opportunity, is over. If there were an earthquake, I'm certain of one thing. Four competing Internet startups would emerge, selling e-shovels. It's gotten that sick."

—Syndicated gay-press columnist Kirk Read in a mid-July filing.

"I want to focus on nice humor. Everything is so sarcastic now and mean-spirited and kind of bitter and jaded. ... It's got to swing the other way. Listen, if bell-bottoms can come back in, then nice humor can come back."

—Ellen DeGeneres to *USA Today*, July 21.

"[At last year's Castro Street Pink Party] I remember two men on top of a bus stop booth completely naked in front of hundreds. They were both gross but that didn't stop the crowd from going wild when one of the guys bent over and took a huge dildo up his ass. That was nothing compared to when they started fucking for all to see. The guy doing the fucking came in about two seconds. He pulled his limp dick out and removed a condom full of jizz. 'Safe Sex!' he screamed at the crowd while raising the used condom. The crowd cheered in unison. The guy suddenly twirled the condom in the air threatening to fling it. The cheering turned into panicked screams as everyone scrambled to avoid being hit by the loaded condom. To everyone's horror, it was flung and a fucking stampede took place as if acid were pouring. Thankfully, I was at a safe distance. It's rumored that it landed on an unsuspecting guy's back."

—Columnist Paulo Murillo writing in Los Angeles' *fab!*, July 21.

"I don't see stopthepope.com, do you?"

—Dr. Laura Schlessinger to the *New York Times*, April 24.

"Coming out in the past ten to fifteen years has been considerably eased by the mainstream culture's speedy incorporation of gay life (*Will and Grace*, Andrew Sullivan, Vermont). As a result, gay men in this generation are mostly indifferent to the faux tragedy and flamboyant exoticism of camp, and to old-time gay icons like Judy Garland. We have fetishized a flamboyant normalcy, exemplified by the frat-boy chic of Bruce Weber's sly homoerotic ad campaigns for Abercrombie & Fitch. Young gay men today just want to be regular guys—with better-than-average bodies."

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

Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Queer Road Trip, Part One: Albuquerque, NM to Lawrence, Kan.

If you've ever driven across the middle of the United States, you probably know that the impression you glean from the interstates—a blur of prairies and corn fields—bears little resemblance to the quirky and abundantly entertaining landscape you encounter if you stick with local roads. Sure, the journey will take you longer, but in some cases the drive itself can be just as rewarding as actually getting wherever you're going.

Consider, for example, the trip from Albuquerque, N.M., up through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and across the great plains of Kansas—stick with lesser-known roads and you'll encounter dozens of intriguing historic sites and frozen-in-time communities still abundant with road-side burger stands, neon-snaked motel marquees, art deco movie theaters, and kitschy museums. A few spots along the way even have gay-friendly inns and bars, but these are definitely the exception rather than the rule.

The itinerary detailed in this column covers the drive from Albuquerque to Lawrence, Kan.—nearly to Kansas City, which is where part two of this road trip will be described in the next column. You can manage this trip easily in four nights, but a full week will give you more time to appreciate the sights and scenery (spend the extra nights in New Mexico, perhaps adding a night each in Taos, Cimarron, and/or Clayton).

Opportunities for hiking, photography, and visiting old forts and ranches abound. Opportunities for hanging out in gay bars and coffeehouses or staying at queer-friendly inns are limited mostly to the beginning and end of this first leg of the journey—this trip is considerably more fun for a couple or group of friends than for singles hoping to hook up along the way.

Beginning in Albuquerque, consider spending the night at Hacienda Antigua, a homey, historic, and gay-friendly B&B in the northwest side of town. Rates are moderate; if on a budget, stick to one of the budget chain motels along Central Avenue (the old Route 66). A number of these places are flop houses, but the Luxury Inn is safe, clean, and has a nice

little indoor pool—it is not, however, particularly luxurious.

I never consider a visit to Albuquerque complete without strolling along Central Avenue and ducking into the myriad home-furnishings stores, second-hand bookshops, and gay-popular cafes of the Nob Hill District, which is anchored by the University of New Mexico.

Scarving down a breakfast burrito at the retro-hip Frontier restaurant is a must, as is sipping latte and noshing on peanut-butter pie at the super-friendly (and sometimes cruisy) Double Rainbow coffeehouse. There are a few gay bars along Central, including the sceney Pulse disco and the Ranch for fans of country-western. Both draw a mix of women and men.

The following day presents a very short trip northeast to Santa Fe. Make it interesting by forgoing I-25 and instead taking Route 14, the historic Turquoise Trail. In addition to passing around the backside of the stunning Sandia Mountains (you can drive up to the crest), this meandering route passes through mysterious ghost towns and former turquoise-mining villages.

Be sure to stop in the once-deserted mining town of Madrid (pronounced *Mah-drid* in these parts), now a haven of hippies and artists and the home of Primitiva, one of the most amazing home-furnishings shops in the Southwest.

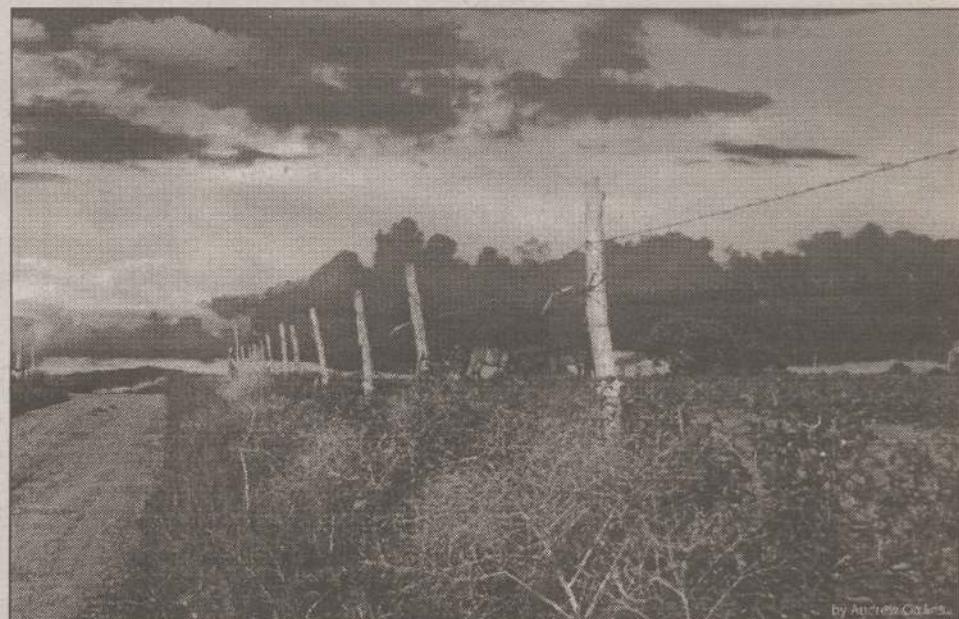
Santa Fe lies just another half-hour north. Although you've only driven 75 miles to this point, spend a night in this progressive city famous for its adobe architecture, world-class art galleries, and 400-year-old downtown Plaza.

There are several excellent gay/lesbian-friendly B&Bs, the Turquoise Bear, Triangle Inn, Four Kachinas, and El Farolito among my favorites. Paramount is a sophisticated mixed gay/straight club for dancing and cocktails, and one of the dozens of exceptional eateries in Santa Fe. My two favorites are Geronimo for contemporary Southwestern fare (when money is no object), and Paul's for more moderately priced but still highly creative regional American and Continental cuisine.

From Santa Fe you'll drive through the stunning mountain scenery of New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains, following a combination of state and U.S. highways a couple hours to Taos. Consider traveling by way of the "High Road," a dramatic but slightly complicated route that any Santa Fe innkeeper can advise you on. Next, you'll cut over the mountains to the east, another hour or so, via U.S. 64 to reach the rustic old trading post of Cimarron.

Plan to spend a little time sightseeing in Taos, which also abounds with great little cafes and New Mexican restaurants.

Once in Cimarron, consider stopping for dinner at the historic St. James Hotel, where outlaw Jesse James once stayed. Then continue the drive another 40 miles east to Raton, a colorful old mining and railroad town under the dramatic mountain pass on the old Santa Fe Trail. Here



Santa Fe and northern New Mexico provide travelers with countless photo ops, especially at sunset.

you'll find numerous chain motels, including a new and clean Holiday Inn Express—it's a good base for your second night.

The next day you should dedicate simply to making it as fast as possible to Dodge City, which is a long and mostly flat five- to six-hour drive without stops. However, you can make things more appealing by leaving Raton by way of Highway 72, which passes over the windswept table-like Johnson Mesa, yielding amazing views of both the northeastern New Mexican and southeastern Coloradoan grasslands.

Make a quick detour to Capulin Volcano National Monument, the summit of which you can drive up to (you can also hike a short way down into the vent of this extinct volcano). A few miles south you rejoin U.S. 64 and continue through sleepy Clayton, where you can have lunch at the 19th-century Eklund Hotel. From here it's about 200 more miles along U.S. 64 to Dodge City, much of the journey following the path of the old Atchison-Topeka-Santa Fe railroad and also the Cimarron Cut-Off stretch of the Old Santa Fe Trail.

Personally, I find Dodge City to be an awful place—flat, dusty, provincial, and extremely conservative—not a good place to be conspicuous about your sexual orientation. Nevertheless, it's a bounty of Wild West history, and because it contains numerous motels and fast-food restaurants, it's a decent place to camp for a night.

Grab a room at the Best Western Silver Spur Lodge (one of the better chains), and get out of Dodge as fast as you can in the morning. Well, first you might poke your head inside the Boot Hill Museum, an unabashedly touristy examination of the town's Wild West heritage, with re-created shops, exhibits on the Old Santa Fe Trail, and gunfights and stagecoach rides staged throughout the day (in summer).

The drive onward to Lawrence is another doozy—nearly six hours without stops—but it does pass through a number

of attractive, historic communities with regal courthouse squares, quirky history museums, and nostalgic lunch counters and ice-cream shops that look like *Leave it to Beaver* set pieces.

I particularly like little Kinsley, home of the well-maintained Edwards County Historical Society Museum, which documents life on the frontier. Out front you'll see an enormous sign announcing that you're now 1,561 miles from both New York and San Francisco—exactly halfway across the United States (central Kansas is, in fact, the geographical center of the United States).

Spend your final night on this leg of the trip in the hilly, green college community of Lawrence, which is just 45 minutes west of Kansas City. Here you'll find great museums at the University of Kansas (KU, or as local family refers to it, Gay U, because of the unusually high number of lesbians and gays who make up the student body).

The nearby downtown bustles with used-music and book shops, and you can mingle with cute collegiate types at Java Break coffeehouse or later in the evening at the mixed gay/straight bar Teller's, both of which also serve very good food.

Check in to the historic Eldridge Hotel, which offers among the more atmospheric accommodations in the state—it dates to the 1920s and anchors downtown. And although the clientele is predominantly straight (lots of parents of KU students), nobody will bat an eyelash if you stroll in with a same-sex partner—or perhaps one of those friendly and outgoing KU students you're bound to meet during your visit.



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 in 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

Not So Big Easy Does It



When last seen, he was in the grips of feverish desire for a kid about half his age. Ever seen a rabid skunk? It was something akin to that. Maybe not as pleasant.

Your friends are all geared up for marathon rounds of boozy, sobbing neediness of the sort you usually subject them to after romantic train wrecks...



For some reason though, this time, you don't feel like any of that. Your friends are a little miffed.



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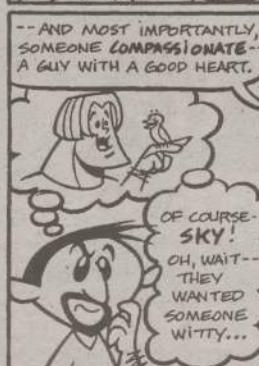
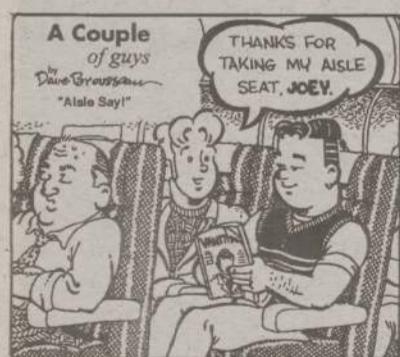
You drive to the airport. Leave the car in long-term parking. Pay cash for a ticket to New Orleans.



Everything's a bit of a blur. You've boarded the plane. "What the f--- am I doing?" You ask yourself, while noticing a very hot guy walking down the aisle..



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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Deep Inside Hollywood

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

IT'S A REMATCH FOR HUNTER AND ANDERSON

Academy Award winner Holly Hunter is in negotiations to portray buff babe Billie Jean King in a made-for-television movie about the butch tennis player. *Battle of the Sexes* will focus on King's victorious 1972 match against male tennis pro Bobby Riggs.

In an upset, King won and was credited with bringing respect and attention to the sport of women's tennis, paving the way for the likes of Venus and Serena Williams. King, a 20-time Wimbledon champ, is often cited as one of the most influential female athletes of all time.

Battle of the Sexes will reunite petite powerhouse Hunter with dyke director Jane Anderson, who worked with her on the 1993 HBO film *The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom*.

A November start date is planned for the tele-flick, which will air on ABC in early 2001.

DAVIDSON DRAFTED FOR THE WNBA

In *Living Color* alum Tommy Davidson will star as a Dennis Rodman-like bad boy who—after being banned for life from the NBA for his misconduct—pretends to be a woman and plays for the WNBA in the cross-dressing comedy *Juwanna Mann*.

The \$12 million Warner Brothers film rolls before cameras this month with a cast that includes Wayans sista Kim Wayans, Kevin Pollak, and Vivica A. Fox.

CELLULAR CALLS FOR DEVLIN

Tinseltown twosome Dean Devlin and his partner Roland Emmerich are swapping jobs... sort of.

Writer-slash-producer Devlin will make his feature-directing debut on *Cellular*. Roland Emmerich, who counts *Independence Day* and *Godzilla* among his credits, will produce the action-packed thriller.

The plot centers on a man who gets a random call on a cell phone from a woman who claims she has been kidnapped. Having no idea where she is, the man must rescue her while struggling to not lose the delicate cell phone signal when his battery expires.

Sony will most likely produce the picture, which is currently undergoing script rewrites.

SPACEY CHECKS INTO MENTAL INSTITUTION

Two-time Oscar winner Kevin Spacey is going to be committed—to the lead in the upcoming dark comedy *K-Pax*, based on Gene Brewer's 1995 novel.



Holly Hunter will portray tennis legend Billie Jean King in the upcoming TV movie *Battle of the Sexes*.



Latino leading man Clifton Collins will take on the role of a gay assassin in *Traffic*.

Killers, portrays a gay assassin with a coke habit in the new big-screen thriller *Traffic*, from *Erin Brockovich* director Steven Soderbergh.

Traffic is a no-holds barred look at the high-stakes business behind the drug trade. Michael Douglas and his soon-to-be-missus Catherine Zeta-Jones star in the flick, currently scheduled for release this December.

Monty Canawati.

Skye will play Hollywood starlet Virginia Rappe, whose alleged rape with a coke bottle by silent film star Fatty Arbuckle (who was later acquitted of the crime) led to her untimely demise in 1921.

Canawati worked with renown drag queens Alexis Arquette, Mink Stole, and Holly Woodlawn in his last independent outing, 1999's *Citizens of Perpetual Indulgence*. No word yet on when *Babylon* will be coming to a theater near you.

CORNWELL FINDS NEW HOME AT SONY

Best-selling dyke scribe Patricia Cornwell may have found a new home for Virginia medical examiner character Kay Scarpetta, the main character of several mysteries, including *From Potter's Field* and *The Body Farm*.

Sony Pictures is this close to snapping up the film rights to the 11 books in which Scarpetta appears, hoping to create a female franchise for the studio. The deal, rumored to be worth more than \$5 million up front, will give Sony a five-year option on the existing Scarpetta novels, as well as the rights to any new books Cornwell writes during that time frame.

Hollywood insiders think that the scope of Cornwell's Sony deal surpasses those made by her male colleagues (such as Tom Clancy and Dean Koontz). In the past, top actresses such as Demi Moore and Kristin Scott Thomas have expressed interest in portraying the female sleuth on the big screen. No word yet if Scarpetta's brilliant lesbian FBI agent niece Lucy will also make the transition to movies.

Romeo San Vicente is way more caliente than Clifton Collins. You can reach Romeo in care of this publication or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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

Dear Cowboy,

My boyfriend and I have been going out for almost two years and I love and hate him at the same time. We get along well for the most part, we spend almost every night together, and we are committed to our relationship in many ways, even though we still live separately.

The main problem is his cheating. I knew he was a big flirt from the minute we met, and I thought for a long time that flirting was as far as it went. I have found out in the past few months that he has been meeting guys on the Internet for quickies, as well as on the telephone chat lines.

I decided not to confront him about it, because I don't want us to break up.

Instead, I have started having a few quickies of my own. I think it's only fair, and besides, two men really aren't meant to be monogamous. But sometimes I get so angry that I just want to break it off. What do you think?

Signed, Not Getting Jealous,
Getting Even

Dear Even,

Whoa, there! You start your letter right off by saying that you love and hate your pard at the exact same time. Not possible, buddy. Ever heard of the term, "co-dependent"? If you can't sort out what it means in your life with this cowboy, I suggest you get yourself a counselor who can help.

In the meanwhile, it's time you 'fessed up to what's really going on between you and your mister, and that is that neither of you boys has a clue as to what your commitment to one another is all about, and what each of you expects from the other.

There's nothing wrong with open relationships, so long as both parties are in complete compliance that outside-the-relationship sex is part of the deal, and there's no jealousy on either side.

But just deciding that your dual "cheating" is okay 'cause males aren't made that way is plum crazy. Our current president would probably agree with

your logic, but I don't.

Sit your man down and have it out, for better or worse. Be honest. Tell him

what you've been doing, and that you know all about his own secret trail rides. Ask him if an open relationship is what he wants, then ask yourself if you are sexually and emotionally able to handle it. Don't beat yourself up if the answer is "no" to both questions—just

accept the fact that you aren't working for each other at this point in your lives.

And stop hating him, for Pete's sake. You'll feel a whole lot nicer towards yourself when you manage that.

Ever heard of the term, "co-dependent"? If you can't sort out what it means in your life with this cowboy, I suggest you get yourself a counselor who can help.

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Arizona AIDS Information Line
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Phoenix 602/234-1654

41. **Flex**
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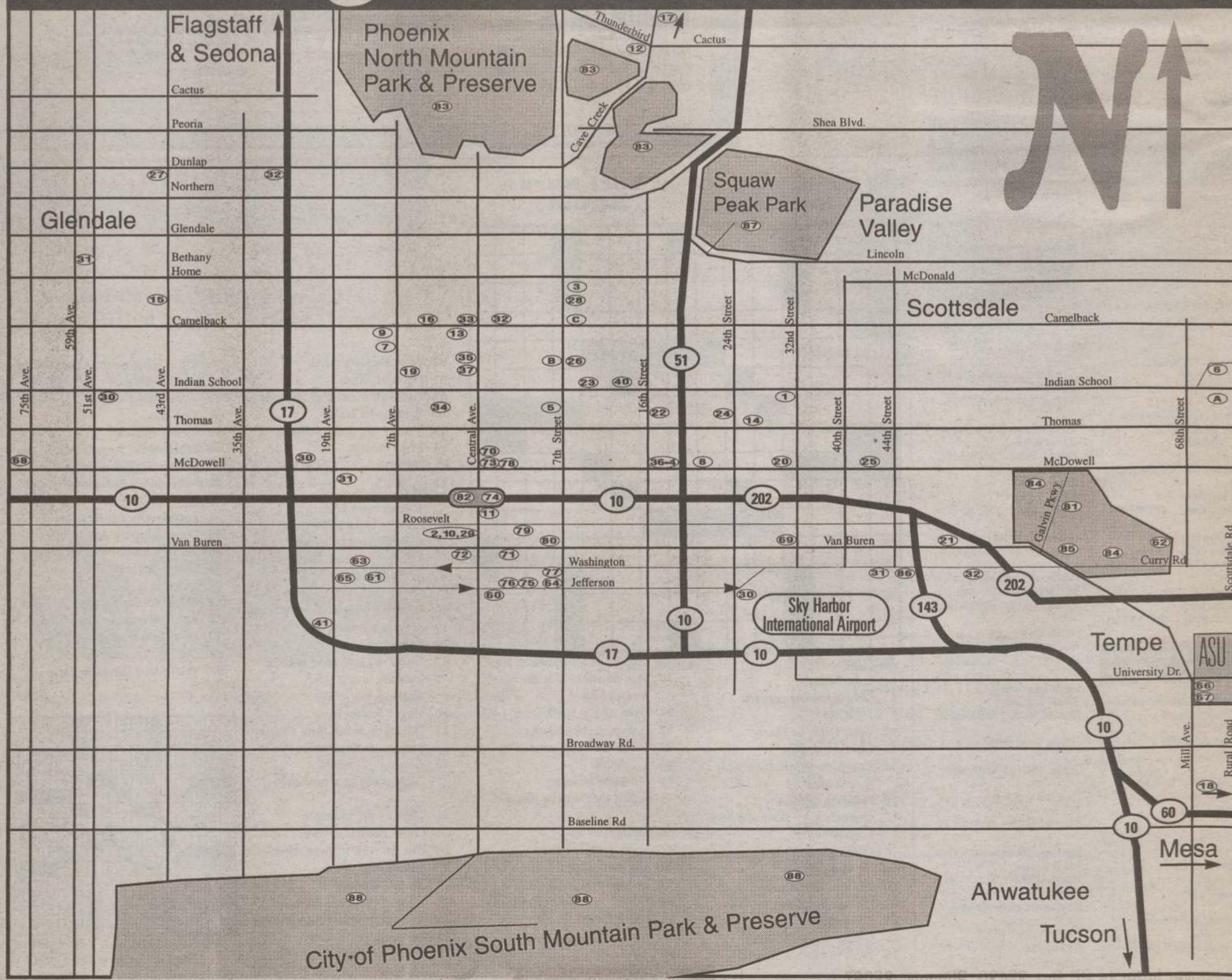
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62. AZ Historical Society Museum 1300 N. College Tempe 480/929-0292	75. Phoenix Civic Plaza 225 E. Adams St. Phoenix 602/262-6225
63. AZ Mining & Mineral Museum 1502 W. Washington Phoenix 602/255-3791	76. Phoenix Symphony Hall 225 E. Adams Phoenix 602/262-6225
64. AZ Science Center 600 E. Washington Phoenix 602/716-2000	77. Phoenix Museum of History 105 N. 5th Street Phoenix 602/253-2734

Outdoors

81. Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 480/941-1217
82. Margaret T. Hance Park
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 602/534-2406
83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/262-6696
84. Papago Park
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 602/256-3220
85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 602/273-1431
86. Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/495-0900
87. Squaw Peak Park
2701 E SquawPeak Dr
Phoenix 602/262-6696
88. South Mountain Park
10919 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/495-0222

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Individual and non-profit ads are \$10 (plus .5% tax) for up to 30 words; each additional word costs 25¢. Shared housing solicitations are considered individual ads; real estate sales or rentals are subject to business ad prices.

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Ads placed by businesses are \$15 (plus .5% tax) for up to 30 words; each additional word costs 50¢.

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

This is 10-point type. **This is 15-point bold.**

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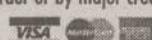
Mail your ads to HeatStroke Classifieds, PO Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ 85067. Fax your ad to 602/294-9695. E-mail your ad to either alkalphx@aol.com or reidhead@idt.net. (Please type "Classified Ad" in the subject line.)

DEADLINES—

Classified ads must be received no later than one week (Thursday) before the next HeatStroke street date. **Next deadline: 8/17**

ALL CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE—

Payment must be provided at the time the ad is placed. Payment may be made by check, money order or by major credit card (Visa, MasterCard or AMEX).



Announcements

Investors Wanted— Fox Inc. 2000, a private corporation registered with the Arizona Corporation Commission, is preparing to open the largest gay bar in Arizona. It will consist of four dance floors, high tech lighting and located in downtown Phoenix. Planned cost is \$500,000 with \$245,000 from private investors; 51% ownership to Fox Inc. and 49% to all investors. Minimum investment is \$100. All investors receive quarterly dividends, free admission to the club, great drink prices, and their pictures displayed as owners within the club. All investments may be bought back after one year of the opening. This is your chance to be an owner, a VIP and make some money off of supporting your community. For more info, please contact: 623-772-1375 or foxsalerno@hotmail.com.

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@linkii.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 ernie@azpride.org or P.O. Box 16847 Phoenix, AZ 85011-6847.

Now Hiring Male Massage Attendants—great hours/great pay. Please call 480/9690038.

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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.

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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

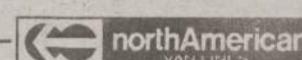
Give Yourself a Break—Spend a relaxing weekend in the heart of Warm Sands, Palm Springs' gay ghetto. Call for reservations at Bacchanal, an intimate, clothing-optional resort for men. Luxurious accommodations, courtesy kitchens, heated pool and spa. 800/806-9059; www.Bacchanal.net

Services

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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



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TIPS FOR GETTING TIMBER



Sex Advice for Gay Men

By Woody Miller, Contributor

Hey Woody!

I have this love-hate thing with anal sex. It turns me on but at the same time it grosses me out.

I'm not sure what to call myself. I've never been bottomed so I'm not a bottom, but I rarely top guys, even though I want to, because I get squeamish. The IDEA of being inside a guy turns me on but when I start putting my large, prized possession into that rabbit hole of fecal sludge it makes me droop like a week-old party balloon.

I've completed the act before (and liked it) but I don't try very often. One whiff of what I'm pumping and my gonads start shrieking "I'm melting". And I don't even want to go into what the rubber looks like after I'm done.

How can I get over this and give my sex partners what they want and me what I need.

— Top-less in America

Dear Topless:

You bring up a taboo subject in the gay world—the fact that there's some ugly realities to beautiful sex. Nobody ever talks about the messiness inherent with anal sex. And that's a shame because "Where in the world am I putting my Thing?" is more of a common reaction than you think. We're kind of in a cultural denial about it, so I'm glad you brought it up.

In some ways porn contributes to the jolt many of us receive when we play "hide the salami." There's a reason why Jeff Stryker's movies don't come with Scratch-N-Sniff cards. You'll never see Jeff pull out of a pounding with a gooberish wad of brown mucus sludged all over his tool like a glaze in a walnut apple cake. So if you watch a lot of porn (and who doesn't?) you get an artificial insemination of just what anal sex is all about. Namely that it's clean, wholesome fun the whole family can play.

The first thing you need to do is quit putting pressure on yourself. What you're feeling is completely normal. Nobody ever pinched a loaf in the toilet and waxed romantically about the full-bodied bouquet. It's natural that you'd have some misgivings. Penetration is not the only road to sexual satisfaction, so give yourself a break.

Second, it's important you have several good penetration experiences in a row to give you the momentum to crack the inner top trapped inside you. Here's how: The next time you're in bed with a guy who wants you to ride him like a lawn mower tell him you will—the next time you meet. Be honest. Tell him that you're a clean freak and need to make sure he's clean all the way to his ears. If he's an experienced lawn mower he'll understand it's douche time and he'll do some spring cleaning

(like Stryker's buddies).

When you get together again it'll be time to cut some grass. When the moment of truth arrives, the important thing is to get him to guide you. Place his hand on your cock to signal that you want him to pilot even though it's your plane. Right now, you're too squeamish to be doing anything down there with fingers and homing devices—it'll just make you concentrate on the wrong things. Instead, let him be in total control and just submerge yourself in the feeling.

By doing this several times (well, maybe not on the same night!) you'll begin to desensitize yourself to that part of penetration that turns you off so that you can concentrate on the part that turns you on.

Hey, Woody!

I have a really embarrassing problem. I'll get all hot and hard, ready to enter my partner but then I start fumbling with the condom, get all self-conscious, and well, it's hard to put on and I start losing it and then I just kinda say screw it, let's just jerk off. What am I doing wrong?

—Where the rubber meets the road less travelled.

Dear Rubber-Road:

If I had a dime for every hard-on that shrivelled through my condom-wrapped fingers, I could pay the Clinton Legal Defense Fund out of petty cash.

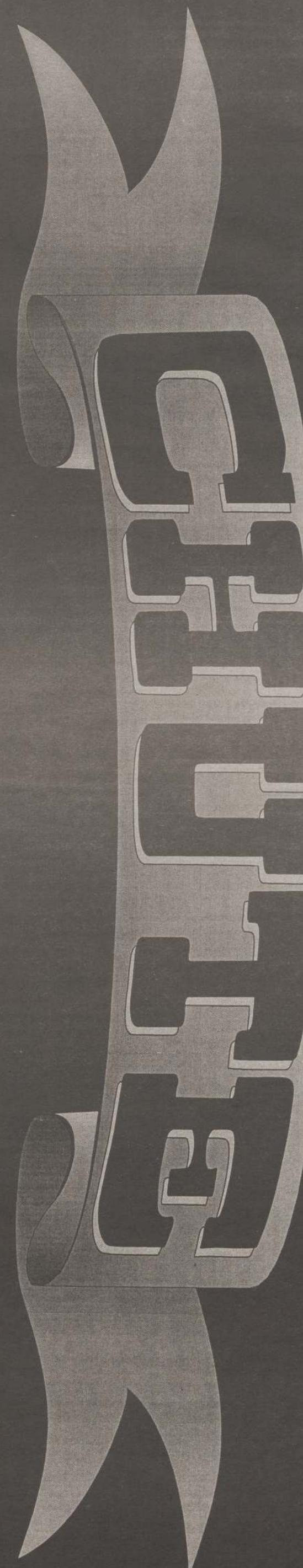
There's two ways to overcome the "sensation cessation" caused by clumsy hands. The first involves practicing while you're alone. Just keep doing it till you get the hang of it. But Method # 2 is by far the most effective in my opinion. I call the technique "delegating dick duty." Simply put, it's your partner's job to put it on.

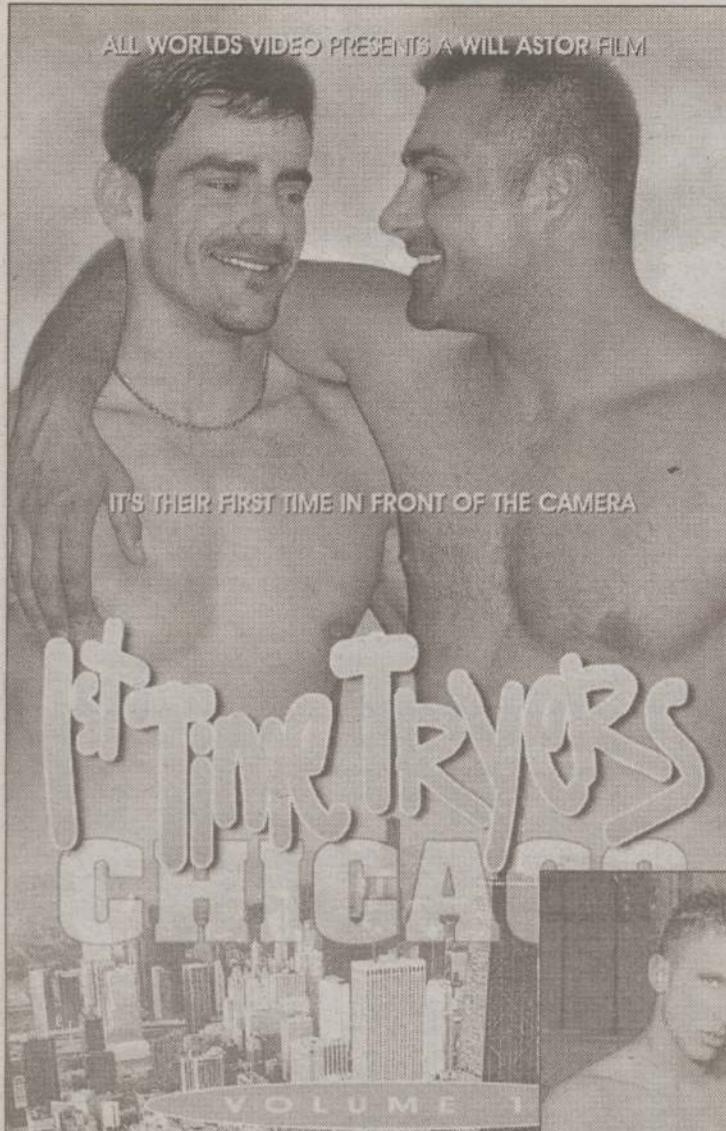
I first learned it from a great lay who got tired of hearing the announcers yell "fumble!" everytime I scrambled for yardage. Basically, when we're getting ready to rumble he takes the condom out and does the honors. What I learned from him was not just that putting on a condom can be hot foreplay, but that the way he put it on was much quicker, eliminating any "down" time (pun intended).

Here's what he does: Instead of laying the condom on my head and forcing the thing to unroll down, he takes his two index fingers and sort of lifts and separates the condom as he rolls it down the shaft. This stretches out the condom without getting my skin caught in it. Thank God for impatient, but clever bottoms. Now go find one.

Need Wood? E-mail Woody at kneadwood@aol.com. A gay psychologist and a board certified MD with a large gay practice advise the author on medical matters. The author keeps his own counsel on matters of common sense.

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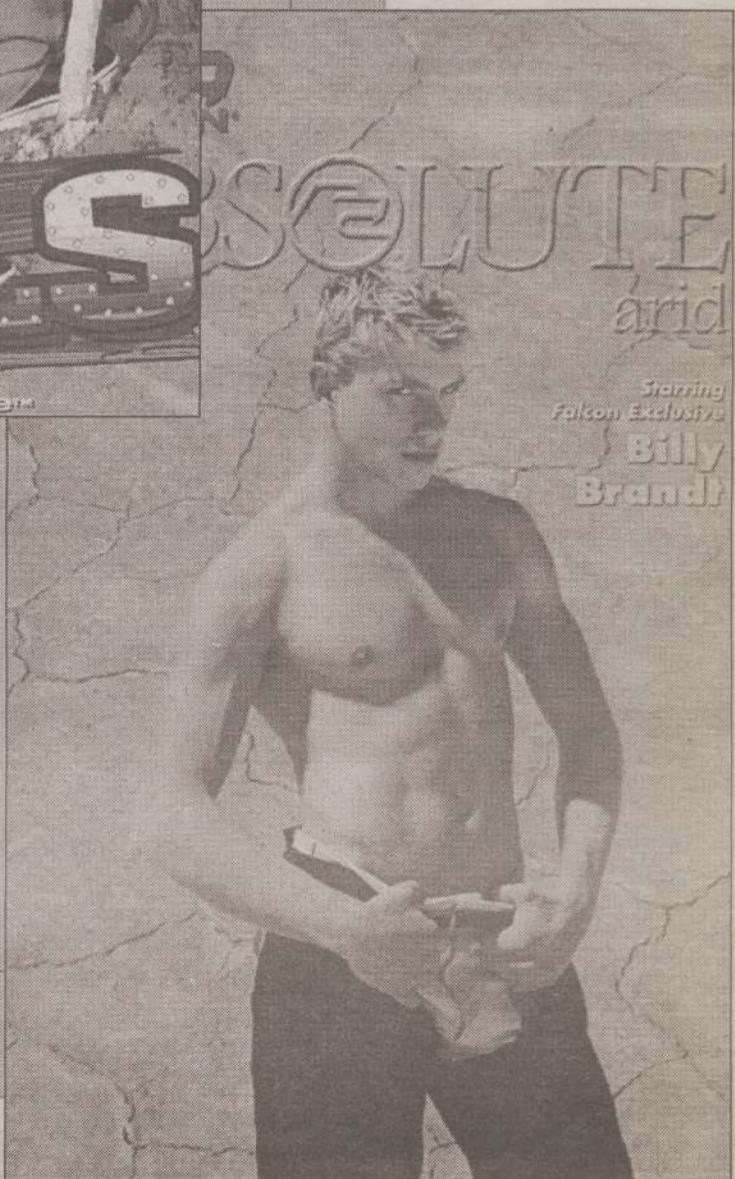
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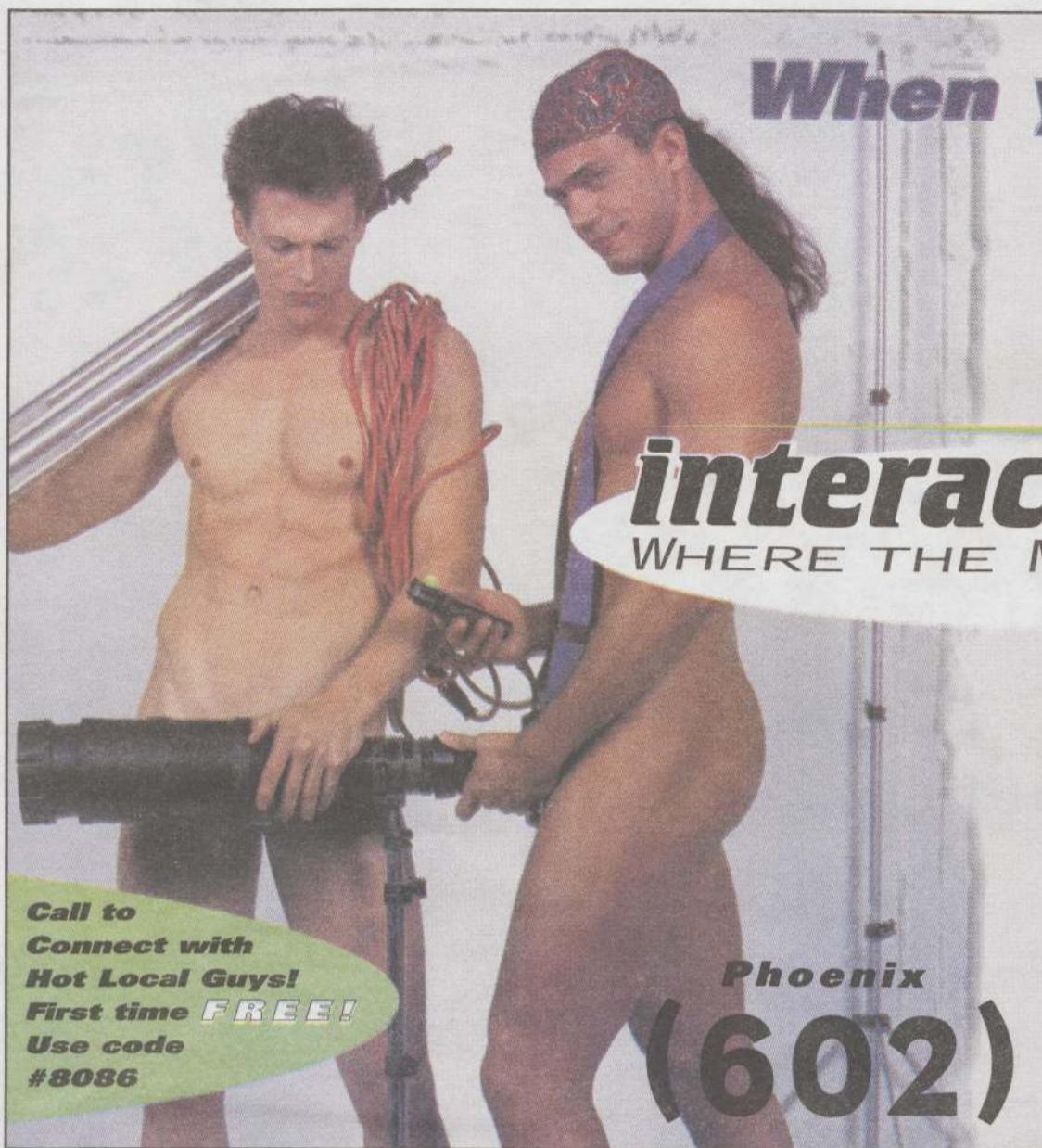
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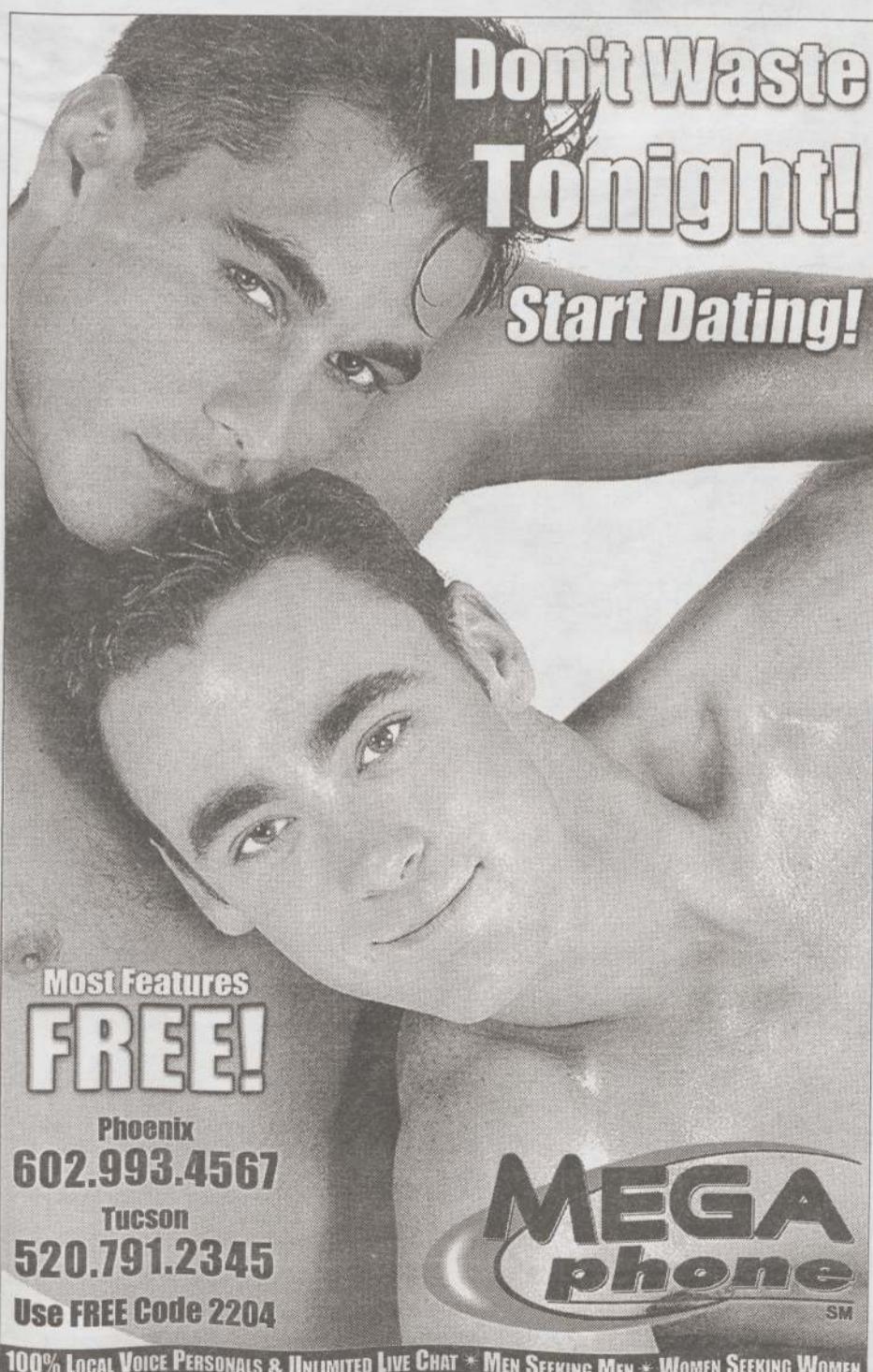
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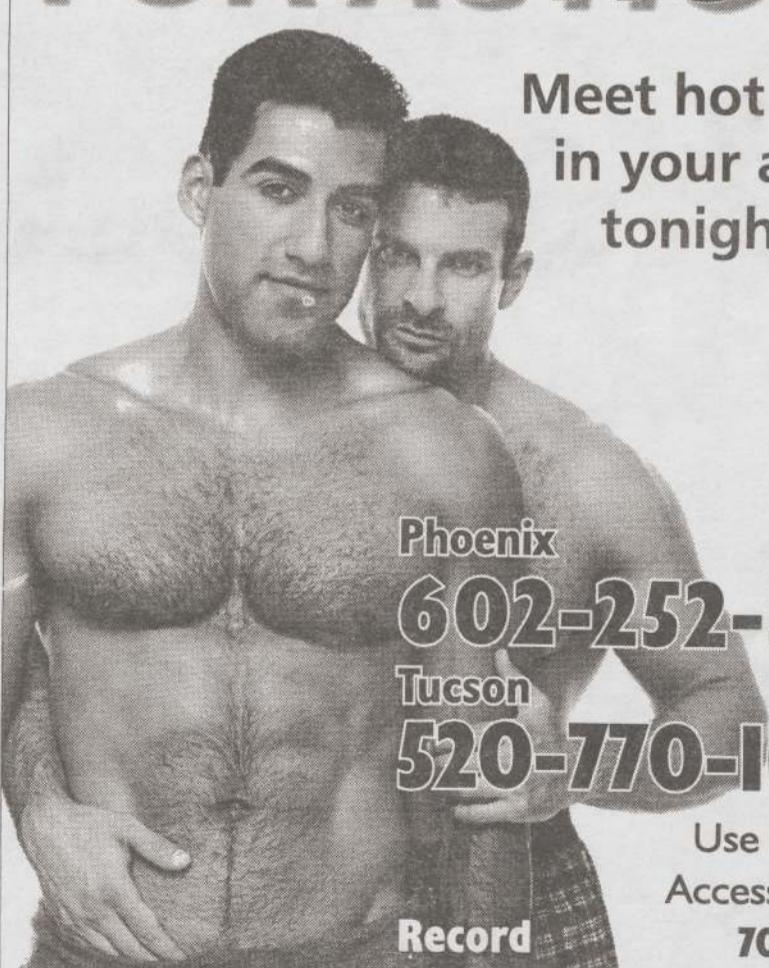
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