Heatroke

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mad melissa

The country's top female rocker talks about love, politics and her revealing new album

By Stephen R. Underwood, Contributor

ho is Melissa Etheridge? It's clear from listening to her new album, *Breakdown*, that even she is trying to answer that question.

Returning to the concert circuit after a three-year absence, Etheridge is exposing, perhaps, the most personal side of her life yet. Her tour hits the Valley Dec. 11 with a show at ASU's Gammage Auditorium.

The CD, which is enhanced by among other things—a video interview, scrolling graphics and a multi-media exhibition of Etheridge's new look, is the latest installment of what this Grammy Award-winning artist calls her personal "journey".

It's a journey no doubt sparkling yet tempered with professional success, a high-profile marriage to film producer Julie Cypher, the challenges of being a mother, the challenges of being a good gay role model to the mainstream public, and the continuing search for her individual truth.

Listen to the track, "My Lover," and imagine yourself in this situation: No one can saturate/No one manipulates/Like my lover; The sensuality/It's immortality/My lover.

And ladies, does this sentiment from the song "Mama I'm Strange" sound familiar?: I was only five/ They fed me so much jive/They said just have a ball/Just be a Barbie doll... (Maybe no stranger than the singer announcing her homosexuality at President Clinton's 1992 inaugural party.)

In the CD video, Etheridge explains that she needed a break from the public, and the public—she thinks—needed a break from her. Life in the fast lane, it seems, had taken its toll and the singer needed time for some personal

scheduled through Dec. 18. Her concert at ASU has not yet sold out. But it probably will.

Even a reviewer for the sometimes stoic New York Times praised the singer's Big Apple performance there last month: "Like her exemplar, Bruce Springsteen, Ms. Etheridge writes big songs about little people . . . Greeting 'the community' at the Garden, she implied loyalty to her lesbian fans, who treasure her as a rare mainstream performer who is openly gay . . . The clear bond Ms. Etheridge feels with the gay audience does not strictly define her, because she was and is a rocker first, testifying that music itself can free emotion and grant personal

Etheridge recently took some time from her hectic tour to talk about love, politics and her new album.

HS: I understand that women like to throw bras to you at your concerts as, perhaps, tokens of affection. Has that happened on this tour?

ME: It happened more like '94, '95, '96, when it was just insane at these big shows that I did. This show, I've only had one in Philadelphia. This show is a little more subdued. It's in theaters. It's a little more intimate, so, it's not like a crazy, drinkin', rockin' thing all night long. But we'll do that the next time I come back.

HS: Have you ever kept one of these tokens of affection?

ME: Oh, no. God, no. My crew gets extra points if they can get them before they hit the stage.

"The crazy man, Rev. Fred Phelps, decided to come out and picket my high school reunion—all ten of them show up with these horrible signs. He made the news for a minute."

peristroika.

Hence the title, *Breakdown*—a process which she describes as getting her personal house in order. But if she needed to be away, her fans, cable's VH1 and the venues she will perform at seem ready to have her back. At this writing, devotees have sold out every concert performed, as well as 14 of the 40 concerts Etheridge has

HS: You went home to Kansas during the summer to attend your 20th high school reunion. What was that like?

ME: It was a couple of

things. It was actually kind of hard work, 'cause everybody wanted a picture with me. But then again, I got to see some people I hadn't seen in years. They were just wonderful, and it was nice to sit and talk to them. Also, the crazy man, Rev. Fred Phelps, decided to come out and picket my high school reunion—which, you know, all ten of them show up with these horrible

signs. He made the news for a minute. That was kind of hideous.

HS: Normally, he likes to show up with posters of men in compromising posi-

ME: Well, that's what he did. I was like, "What?" My home town has an Army base there, so the reunion was on the Army base. He couldn't picket on the base. So he picketed the entrance to the Army base. The signs said, "God Hates Faggots," with these horrible drawings and everything. And then, it's "God Hates the Army", and "God Hates America". And then they had one sign that said, "Dyke Etheridge", or something. It was weird. I don't know what he was thinking.

HS: In August, you narrated the Lifetime channel documentary Beyond Chance, a series of extraordinary autobiographical coincidences. Is there a "beyond chance" story about you?

ME: Rolling Stone—when they were doing their television reviews of the fall season— one page was on the new shows on cable. It said, "Lifetime has a new show narrated by Melissa Etheridge. It's incredible stories of 'beyond chance'." And they said, "In the first installment, girl grows up in Kansas, wants to be a rock star, steals Lou Diamond Phillip's wife, gets her pregnant." I thought it was very funny. But of course, that's what I kind of think of my whole life. Twenty years ago, if anyone said this is what was going to happen, people would say, "impossible." But it did.

HS: If an autobiography were to be done on you next year, what would you like people to know about you most?

ME: Well, I think [I'd want them to

know] how much the truth has been powerful. And how every time I chose to take that road, that wonderful things have happened and the world opened up. I would like that to be inspirational, 'cause I really believe in it.

HS: What would you like them not to remember?

ME: The haircuts I had in 1988 [laughs]. That would be nice to not have come back and bite me in the butt.

HS: You've been on vacation for the last three years. Has it really been one?

ME: You know, it was. It was just me, my kids and Julie, and everyday waking up knowing where I was. I worked—I made this album, and did the television show. And sang "Ave Maria" at a wedding . . . Oh, God, I know. I told my friends, "Of all the songs in the world, you want me to sing that one?"

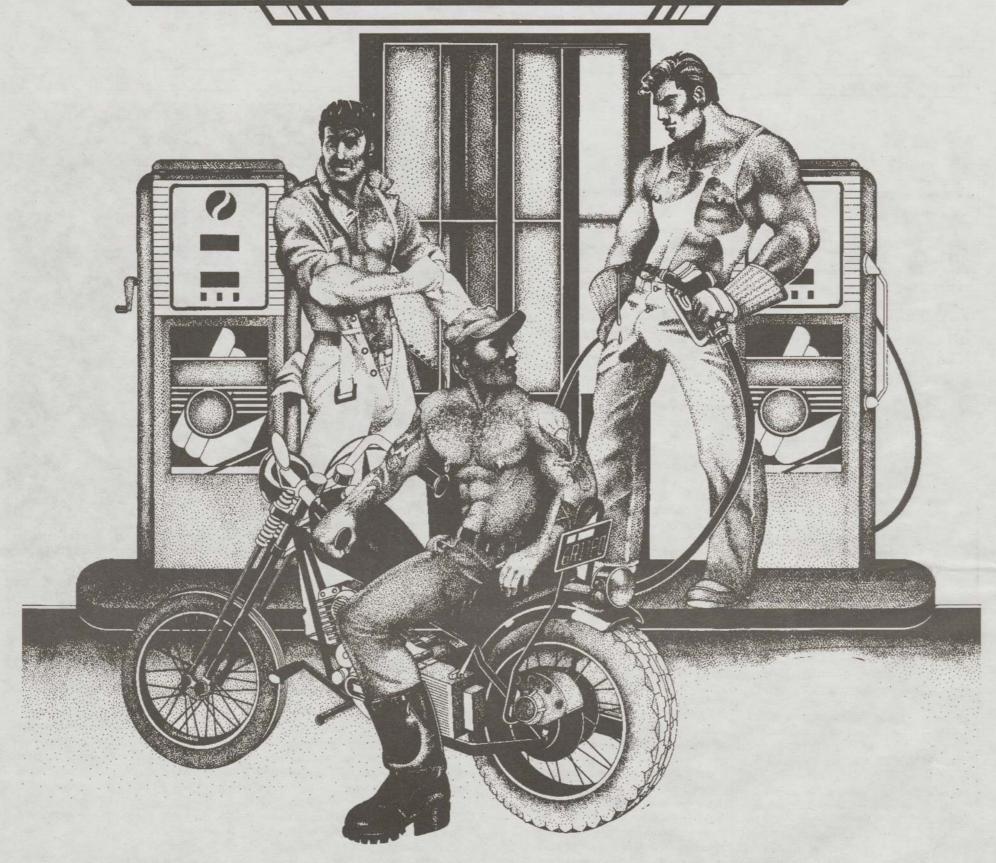
HS: Tell us about the title track of this new album, Breakdown.

ME: That was a time in my life when I first left Kansas and I left this unhealthy relationship—I don't know anybody who has a healthy relationship when they're twenty—but I left everything behind to go to California. I visited that time again in the song, and that's sort of trying to break away from that, and how this person would call me up from miles and miles away, and it would just pull me back into that, pull me back down. I was like, "Why am I so susceptible to this? Why do I keep falling back into this black hole?" I remember writing this song one day, of it coming to me. And even though that was so long ago, that

See "Etheridge," page 14

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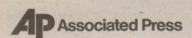
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Horowitz:

San Francisco will have a runoff election for mayor on December 14. The non-partisan race is between incumbent Mayor Willie Brown and Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano.

Ammiano entered the mayoral race less than three weeks before the general election on Nov. 2 as a write-in candidate. With a campaign budget of only \$25,000, he caused a stunning upset, coming in second—ahead of former Mayor Frank Jordan and 12 other contenders. Ammiano received 25.1 percent of the vote, effectively limiting Brown to 38.8 percent and forcing the runoff, since Brown failed to win a majority.

Brown has always been a tremendous advocate for gay and lesbian equality. He has received national recognition for his efforts, including a 1997 award from the Arizona 'Human Rights Fund. His billboard-size banner in the Castro District reads, "Re-elect Willie Brown, the most pro-gay mayor in America."

As a straight African-American, Brown has traditionally courted and won votes from racial minorities and gays and lesbians. This election, however, stacks up differently. Brown's challenge is not from the conservative right, but from an openly gay, liberal political activist.

Since both candidates are pro-gay, the gay and lesbian vote becomes important in a different way than usual. Normally, one pro-gay candidate—if there is even one—would court the gay vote by encouraging gay people to get out and vote. In this election, the candidates are fighting over the gay vote, which both consider extremely important.

In addition, gay and lesbian people must decide which candidate to support. Gay and lesbian issues should not figure significantly into the race, because both candidates are saying the right things. The San Francisco race for mayor has some of the characteristics of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

One significant difference is that one of the candidates for mayor is openly gay. Remarkably, Ammiano served as an openly gay schoolteacher until he was elected president of the city's board of education in 1990. He won a seat on the Board of Supervisors in 1994 and was re-elected in 1998 with

Just because he's openly gay

more votes than any other candidate earning him the office of president.

As a supervisor, Ammiano played an invaluable role in San Francisco's landmark domestic partnership law requiring businesses contracting with the city to provide the same benefits to same gender couples as heterosexual employees received. On all issues regarding the gay and lesbian community, Brown and Ammiano have been allies.

So how does a gay person vote? Everything else being equal, we vote for the gay candidate, of course.

As a middle-class-almost-member-of-the-establishmentwhite-male, I have a problem with voting based on sexual orientation, even if it is for the gay candidate.

I didn't support Steve May's first election bid because he was running for State Senate against Democrat Chris Cummiskey, whose political agenda I found much easier to support.

Being openly gay was not a good enough reason to support or vote for Steve. But it is a good enough reason to support Tom Ammiano.

When two candidates have equivalently acceptable positions on issues important to me, I want the gay candidate elected. The late gay San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk holds a monumental place in our movement's history. Milk recognized the perils of being an openly gay public figure and contemplated his potential assassination on video prior to his murder by antigay Supervisor Dan White. He also noted the importance of having openly gay elected officials.

Milk said, "It is not enough to have friends represent us, no matter how good those friends may be. We must give people the chance to judge us by our own leaders and our own legislators."

The spate of openly gay elected officials across the country does our community proud on a daily basis. If Ammiano wins on December 14, he will become the first openly gay mayor of a major U.S. city. Tempe's Mayor Giuliano didn't win his election just because he's openly gay.

But Tom Ammiano should.

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

Editors:

I feel compelled to respond to David Horowitz' column (Issue # 78, Nov. 4 - 17, 1999) which accused me of being more like fellow Representative Karen Johnson than is accurate. Mr. Horowitz stated in his column that I voted with Mrs. Johnson 70% of the time.

Yes, I voted with Mrs. Johnson 70% of the time. But so did gay Democrat Ken Cheuvront and celebrated progressive Republican Susan Gerard. The fact is, most of the bills we vote on are non-controversial. If one were to factor out the bills with more than 50 out of a possible 60 "yes" votes, my voting record with Mrs. Johnson would be a mere 50%. Cheuvront and Gerard have similar records. Believe it or not, Mrs. Johnson isn't always wrong. In fact, I would argue that she is probably right about half the time. Further, if you were to examine my voting record for statistical correlation with other representatives, you would find my record to be the most correlated with Mrs. Gerard of all 60 representatives, and not at all correlated with Mrs.

Unlike some of my Republican colleagues, I am a traditional conservative who wants less government and more liberty—I am not a right-wing wacko hellbent on imposing my religious beliefs on innocent citizens through theocratic tyranny.

Please let your readers rest assured that I am my own man. . . an independent, progressive, thoughtful Republican who happens to be gay—and will continue to fight for better, smaller government.

Steve May R- District 26

Editors:

I am Michael Bradley, the bartender over at Apollo's who was the honored guest for the "Picking on Michael" auction and benefit show held Oct. 22. The following is a public Thank You addressed to the Apollo's staff and patrons, written by my lover, Jack McGuire:

Dear Friends:

Wishing each and every one of our newfound family members a glorious season, I am now able to express my gratitude of Thanksgiving this year. As many of us now know, something as small and insignificant as a piece of wood used for picking one's teeth can kill a person if swallowed. I witnessed the repercussions when the man of my life—whom many of you have probably known much longer than I—experienced this unfortunate accident.

I love Michael and was so touched to know that he has such kind and sincere people as his extended friends and family. I cannot begin to explain my feelings of despair a few weeks ago. But once Michael was in recovery and the doctor explained the surgery and the extent of damage the toothpick caused (approx. seven to ten ft. of his upper intestine removed and more than 50 perforations repaired), I saw the love and concern of people I barely knew who came out to help in numerous ways, including offering rides to work with less than an hour's notice.

I feel a great indebtedness to so many people. The "Picking on Michael" auction & benefit show at Apollo's on Oct. 22 was proof of what a community can do for one of their own. God bless each and every one of you special people out there in this New Year. (note: I got Michael a Waterpic for Christmas this year—shhh, don't tell him!)

Before I close, a word of caution: please be conscientious this year after pulling yourself away from the Holiday dinner table. Brush and floss—don't pick! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Jack & Michael Phoenix

Editors:

I disagree with the view presented in "Gagged" (Horowitz, Issue # 79, Nov. 18 — Dec. 2, 1999) that it is a mistake for

persons associated with the Matthew Shepard case not to discuss it with the media. I also disagree with the opinion that "we deserve our symbol and our martyr."

The media play a factor in Matthew Shepard's senseless murder as do many other factors. Typical portrayals of the gay community within the media are often biased, narrow-minded and downright ignorant, causing sensationalism that leads to limited perceptions and, in some cases, assaults and brutalities (enter the "gay panic" argument-hmm, I wonder where they got the perception that being gay is something so shameful and feared that acts of violence are triggered?). The media portrayals of the events surrounding the death of Matthew Shepard contained more than their fair share of sensationalism, perpetuating myths and stereotypes.

Yes, Matthew Shepard and the circumstances surrounding his death will be remembered for a long time. But it is time to let the man rest and his family and friends be. Using him as a martyr and symbol is hiding from our own personal responsibilities in the quest for equal status and legislation against further atrocities. As [Mr. Horowitz has] said before, it is up to each of us as individuals to come out, be proud, be ourselves and take action. If we make our own identities known, we can be seen for who we are: a living being, not a stereotype. Matthew unfortunately no longer has the ability to change things in our society. But we do. Don't rely on the use of his name and the story of his loss of life to do so. The use of your own name and your own life is so much more powerful.

Carolyn Fuller Phoenix



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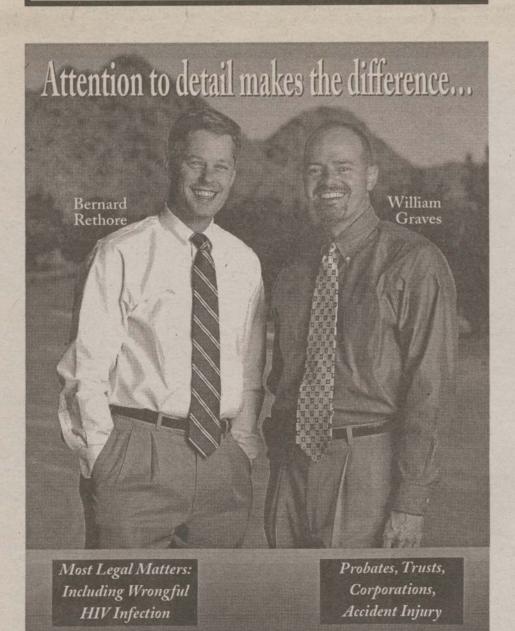
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Deb Price -

Gay Rights in the Promised Land



IERUSALEM — Inside the ancient, walled Old City here, a magnificent gold dome glitters over the rock where biblical patriarch Abraham proved his faith by preparing to sacrifice his son. Part of the land called holy by Judaism, Christianity and Islam is frozen in time. But most of the young state of Israel feels

very much alive, bursting with promise even for its gay citizens.

Just a five-minute cab ride from the Dome of the Rock is a thriving pedestrian mall named after Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the Israeli pioneer who turned Hebrew back into a living language. Strolling along the modern shopping strip seems like being in Boston, Copenhagen or countless other Western cities, except for the knots of machine-gun-toting teen-age soldiers keeping this Mideastern nation's uneasy peace.

For a half-century, the world's Jews-

persecuted for thousands of years-have had Israel as a refuge. Now, at 7 Ben Yehuda Street, in a bright and cheery suite up three flights of stairs from the busy pedestrian mall, Jerusalem's gay men and lesbians are finding a true shelter-a place where they can begin to feel free to be themselves.

The 8-month-old Jerusalem Open House is a historic leap toward creating a sense of community within an extremely closeted gay population. Ironically, though gay Israelis lag decades behind their American counterparts in both openness and social acceptance, they are far, far ahead of us in terms of legal rights:

In 1988, the Knesset-Israel's parliament-legalized sodomy. Since then, anti-gay job discrimination has been outlawed, including in the military. And the partners of gay government workers get spousal pension benefits. Despite Israel's religious roots, the vocal opposition of the most conservative religious politicians has not been enough to block enactment of basic gay rights.

"All this legal achievement didn't reach ground level," laments Hagai El-Ad, 30, former head of Hebrew University's gay student group. "When you look at the (United) States, you see the wonderful social support organizations. You really get a sense of a community, which is fighting to change things. We don't have that in Israel to a great extent. That's the tragedy of our legal

Israel is a tiny country that can feel even smaller to its 6 million citizens because they're fractured into a multi-

tude of close-knit cultural subgroups everything from Orthodox Russianspeaking Jewish immigrants to Arab Christians. Most gay Israelis are too afraid of being ostracized to take advantage of their legal rights.

Israel's first major gay pride parade wasn't until 1998. That's the year Michal Eden won election to Tel Aviv's city council, making her Israel's first openly gay official. She wants a memorial to homosexuals slain by the Nazis, plans to push for domestic partner registration and hopes one day to serve in the

'But the social change should be our first target now. That's why I ran. I ran very much to be a role model and to be visible. My experience as a lesbian who lost her family made me join the battle," explains Eden, 30, whose parents, secular Arab Israelis, reject her.

Ironically, though gay Israelis lag decades behind their American counterparts in both openness and social acceptance, they are far, far ahead of us in terms of legal rights.

> Open House chairperson Jerry Levinson is proud there's now a visible gay outpost in tradition-bound Jerusalem, where Hassidic Jewish men bake in fur hats on 90-degree days. "Jerusalem is very conservative. This is a city of philosophy, thought, religion. It speaks out from the stone," says the 47year-old psychologist.

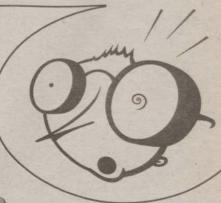
The son of a Holocaust survivor, Levinson emigrated from Rochester, N.Y., because he yearned to be part of Israel's rebirth. Now he's serving as a midwife for the birth of his adopted homeland's gay community.

On the Open House's opening night, he fretted as only a few people trickled in. "Then the trickle became a torrent, and the torrent became a river," he says, recalling that 300 gay Israelis got acquainted in Hebrew, Arabic, English and Russian.

Together, gay Israelis will find strength and their own promised land.

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

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Judy Shepard: Gag of McKinney was his attorneys' idea

CASPER, Wyo. (AP)— The gag order that was part of a plea agreement which saved Aaron McKinney from the death penalty for the beating death of Matthew Shepard was the idea of McKinney's attorneys and not Shepard's parents, Shepard's mother told the Casper Star-Tribune Nov. 26.

"None of the conditions of the sentencing agreement were put forth by Dennis and me," Judy Shepard said.

Billie Ruth Edwards, interim director of the Wyoming chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, has questioned the propriety of prosecutor Cal Rerucha accepting the plea agreement at the Shepards' request.

During a statement read at McKinney's sentencing, Dennis Shepard said, "At no time did Mr. Rerucha make any decision on the outcome of this case without the permission of Judy and me. It was our decision to take this case to trial just as it was our decision to accept the plea bargain."

Allowing the Shepards to dictate what the state of Wyoming does on behalf of its citizens is like "the tail wagging the dog," Ms. Edwards told The Associated Press earlier this month.

Ms. Edwards was joined by the Wyoming Press Association, a newspaper group, and Queer Watch, a gay rights group, in criticizing Rerucha's decision to accept an agreement whereby McKinney gave up his freedom to speak about the case.

Mrs. Shepard said she wishes the critics "would have done a little more research in finding out the truth."

A letter written by McKinney's attorneys to Rerucha on Nov. 4, the day the capital murder trial against McKinney was to enter its sentencing phase, proposed that McKinney waive any future appeals and that he and his attorneys refrain from interviews with the media in exchange for two consecutive life sentences.

Upon reading the comments of Ms.

Edwards and others, Mrs. Shepard said she wondered, "Why in the world does that matter? (McKinney) agreed to it. Even if it was our idea, he agreed to it. He had that choice. He definitely did."

"Why in the world does that matter? (McKinney) agreed to it. Even if it was our idea, he agreed to it. He had that choice. He definitely did."

The day of the jury's verdict, Nov. 3, Mrs. Shepard said she and Dennis learned that the defense team wanted to speak with them. She said she and her husband were skeptical but met with McKinney's attorneys that afternoon. For her, the meeting was difficult.

"Even though, intellectually, you

know they are just doing their job, emotionally you wonder how in the world they can defend him," she said. "Just by association they become as despicable as he is."

When the defense proposed that McKinney would agree not to speak with the press, she thought, "Oh my God, how great is that?"

Defense attorney Jason Tangeman, citing the agreement, declined to comment further about the case.

Rerucha said the Shepards' involvement in the case was what the Legislature

envisioned when it established the Victim's Bill of Rights.

He said Judy Shepard was instrumental in changing his mind about pursuing the case further but the ultimate decision was his.

'The buck stops here," he said.

Denver ordinance allows couples to register their relationships

DENVER (AP)—The Denver City Council adopted a measure Nov. 29 that will allow homosexual and heterosexual couples to register their relationships with the city.

The ordinance, approved by 10 council members in a roll call vote with no votes against, creates a registry in the city clerk's office that "allows certain couples to recognize their relationships."

At a public hearing that preceded the vote, Councilwoman-at-Large Susan Barnes-Gelt called the vote ``an important, if symbolic" step toward broader civil rights for Denver residents.

"What's important about this is a recognition of our humanity," said

District 11 Councilwoman Happy Haynes. "This is about building a community and

"What's important about this is a recognition of our humanity. This is about building a community and about supporting families, whatever they look like."

about supporting families, whatever they look like."

"Now we have an opportunity to walk into the city clerk's office," said

District 6 Councilwoman Susan Casey. "You can do what so many people have wanted to do, and now there's a place."

Couples who register with the city, for a fee, will not gain legal rights or obligations, assistant city attorney John Eckhardt, who drafted the bill, said earlier.

But supporters of the measure have said it is not only symbolic but also practical, providing employers who offer benefits to

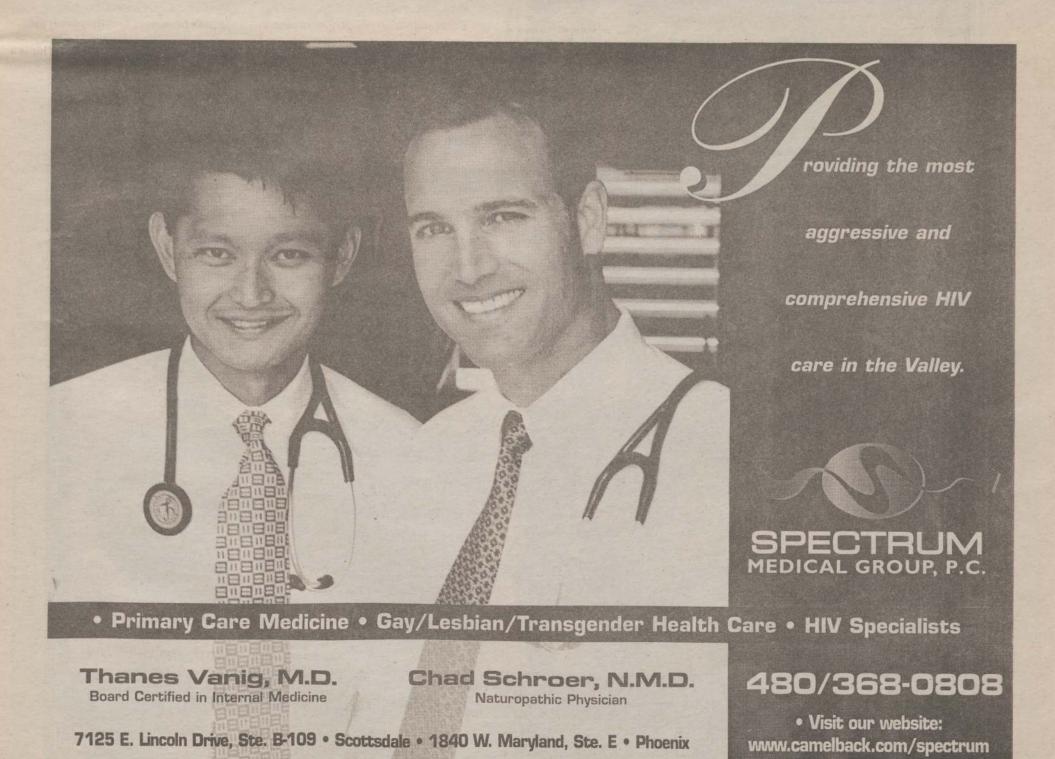
their employees' unmarried partners a resource to check.

Denver extended health benefits to the partners of homosexual city employees in 1996.

"I know we have a lot more to do as a community in terms of custody issues and survivorship, inheritance issues as well as insurance provided by private employers, but I'm thrilled that we're taking a first step that is meaningful," said District 7 Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie.

Some city officials disagree with proponents' argument that the registry provides a practical use.

"Any employer that wants to provide specialized benefits is certainly astute enough to verify that relationship," Eckhardt said.



Pastors say expulsion of gay-supportive churches contradicts Baptists' rebel past

ATLANTA (AP)—By expelling two churches deemed too tolerant of homosexuality, the Georgia Baptist Convention turned its back on a rebel tradition that rejected having a uniform set of beliefs and encouraged dissent, say Georgia pastors who opposed the group's action.

On Nov. 16, the convention voted by margins of almost 10-to-1 to kick out Oakhurst Baptist of Decatur and Virginia-Highland Baptist of Atlanta.

Both churches have allowed homosexuals to have leadership roles, which the convention says violates its constitutional ban on any church that "knowingly takes or has taken any action to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior."

The convention's president says it was important for the group to take a stand as defenders of a rigid moral code. But dissenters say the expulsions ignore Baptist roots in which churches agreed that Jesus was the son of God and savior of man, but left individual congregations lots of elbow room to form their beliefs.

"Our history is one of being dissenters," said the Rev. Chris Graham of Church of the Savior in Roswell. "We were a persecuted minority. Once you become a majority, it tends to change. The persecuted become the persecutors."

Being banned from the Georgia convention doesn't mean the two Atlanta area churches can't worship as Baptists. Simply they're no longer members of a group of 1.3 million Georgia Baptists and 3.400 churches.

The Rev. Bill Ricketts, the Georgia convention's new president, said the two expelled churches have a right to worship as they please. But the convention also has a right not to associate with them, he

said.

"You cannot say a Baptist can believe anything," said Ricketts, pastor of Prince Avenue Baptist Church in Athens.

"I as a pastor am not going to tell a church, 'You have to do this," he said.
"But in order to fellowship with that church and work with that church, there has to be a certain agreement between us."

It was the first time in the Georgia convention's 177 years that it has voted to ban a member church. And some ministers fear similar actions could be taken against other churches that find themselves at odds with the majority—whether they have female pastors or practice speaking in tongues.

"It's always dangerous grounds when one group of Baptists tells another group of Baptists how they should practice their faith," said the Rev. James Lamkin of Northside Drive Baptist Church in Atlanta. "It becomes kind of a frightening regime."

American Baptists trace their roots to colonist Roger Williams, who broke away from the Puritans in 1638 to form a Baptist church in Rhode Island. Unlike other denominations, Baptists rejected any sort of hierarchy with the power to assign ministers to churches and dictate religious beliefs.

"A lot rests on the individual, but also a lot rests on the local congregation as the place where people really hash out what does the Bible mean, how do we live our lives," said Nancy Ammerman, a professor of religious sociology at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut who has written a book on Southern Baptists.

With no formal leadership, Baptists

formed conventions to do things individual churches couldn't, such as fund missionaries and publish Sunday school materials, Ms. Ammerman said.

"If you were willing to put your money in the pot, you could be a member," she said. "That's been the traditional standard."

But the conservative fundamentalists who came to control the Southern Baptist Convention and its component state groups in the 1980s and '90s have been more likely ``to say, `This is how things are going to be,''' Ms. Ammerman said.

"Probably the one issue on which they have the greatest likelihood of getting everyone to agree is homosexuality," she said.

Lamkin and Graham agreed it's unlikely that being expelled will hurt attendance at the Atlanta churches.

The Georgia Baptists Convention suffers more, they said, because it loses diversity and room for disagreement when it shows dissident members the door.

"I'm not certain we are Baptists when we do it," Lamkin said. "We're certainly something. We're a Georgia convention. But I'm not sure we're Baptists."

Bush receives an "F," Gore, a "C" on Lambda's World AIDS Day Report Card

On the eve of World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund released its fourth annual World AIDS Day Report Card, criticizing both leading presidential candidates as "callous and compromising public officials," while praising Cordetta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr., for her AIDS activism in the African-American community.

Vice President Al Gore received a grade of "C," Lambda noted, for "retreating from his strong record on AIDS issues, and siding with pharmaceutical companies out to block South Africa from producing affordable, generic versions of HIV treatments for its citizens."

Lambda gave Republican Texas Gov. George W. Bush failing marks. "Pop quiz for the leading Republican presidential candidate:" the Report Card asks, "What do public health officials overwhelmingly say will curb HIV rates among adolescents? Answer: safer-sex education. But Bush sought to cut funding for health clinics in Texas schools, and if elected, promises to promote so-called 'abstinence education,' funding religious groups to administer those programs."

Among those praised by the report: Cordetta Scott King, who continues to urge the African-American community to pay attention to AIDS and lesbian and gay issues.

The full report card—which is divided into three sections: "Politics, Policy & the Law," "Prevention" and "Treatment Access and Research"—can be found on the Lambda Web site at www.lambdalegal.org



Writer and raconteur Quentin Crisp dead at 90

LONDON (AP)—Quentin Crisp, the eccentric writer, performer and raconteur best-known for his autobiography *The Naked Civil Servant*, died Nov. 21 after collapsing at a private residence. He was 90.

Crisp, who lived principally in New York City for decades, was in his native Britain to begin touring with a one-man show.

He collapsed at a private residence arranged by the Green Room Theater in the northwest England city of Manchester, where he was to begin appearing Monday night, said the theater's press manager, Christopher Hodgson.



He had been found unconscious and was transported to Manchester Royal Infirmary, where he died, authorities

In an interview published the day before his death in *The Times of London*, Crisp outlined his wishes for a funeral.

"No flowers. No candles. No long faces standing around in the rain, starting down into a hole in the ground while someone drones on about how wonderful I was. I'd rather just be shuffled off. Just drop me into one of those black plastic bags and leave me by the trash can," Crisp told the newspaper.

A slight, dandified figure who wore makeup and high-heeled shoes and piled his white hair in bouffant waves on top of his head, Crisp made no secret of the fact that he was gay, calling himself, with characteristic irony, "the stately homo."

Born on Dec. 28, 1908, as Denis Prattin Sutton, south of London, he worked as a commercial artist, part-time prostitute and art school model after leaving school.

He declared his homosexuality in his 20s, "a terrible painted figure prancing the streets," as he put it. "Nothing can describe the hatred and the terror and the trouble that I caused," he told one interviewer.

His tiny room in the upscale London neighborhood of Chelsea became famous, not least for his housekeeping. His joke that "after four years, the dust doesn't get any worse" has found its way into several dictionaries of quotations.

Crisp first stepped into the public arena with his 1968 autobiography, *The Naked Civil Servant*, later adapted for television. It was widely praised and

sold well, but he began to receive anonymous threatening phone calls.

These intensified when the book was made into a film in 1975 with John Hurt as Crisp. By now, he was a cult figure—what he called "the mother superior of homosexuality."

In January 1978, his first one-man show opened in London, to great applause. But he had always wanted to live in America and, three years later, he moved to New York City.

There, he built up a new following, appearing on television, taking his one-man show across the United States, lecturing on cruise ships and appearing in advertisements for Calvin Klein perfume and Levi's jeans.

He also played Elizabeth I in Sally Potter's film of Virginia Woolf's Orlando, and wrote several other books, including How to Become a Virgin and the best-selling New York Diaries.

"The reason I came to America," he said in a 1998 interview with *The Sunday Telegraph*, "is that I need a constantly changing audience, because I say the same thing over and over again."

He avoided the trappings of fame, living in a small room in Manhattan's East Village.

His views remained unorthodox. He enraged gay people, for instance, by saying he regarded homosexuality as an illness.

And in an interview with the Daily News of New York in 1998, he said he "also lost the love of the entire homosexual community when I said that Princess Diana was trash and got what she

"She was Lady Diana before she was Princess Diana, so she knew that royal marriages are never about love," he said.

Calif. Attorney General orders change in ballot measure against gays

SACRAMENTO (AP)—Attorney General Bill Lockyer has ordered the name of a March ballot measure to ban same-sex marriages in California changed from "Definition of Marriage" to "Limit on Marriage."

Lockyer made his ruling, which affects the measure's title on the ballot and in other official election materials, on Nov. 23 in response to a formal complaint by opponents that the original title was misleading.

Lockyer spokesman Nathan Barankin said the change was made to ensure that the initiative was correctly described to the public.

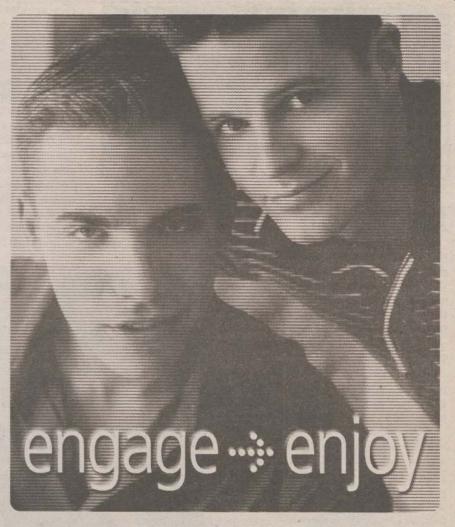
"Our obligation under the law is, in as few words as possible, to accurately protray what the initiative does, not just how the proponents view it," Barankin said. "What's often not understood is that when we issue a title and summary for the circulating petitions, it's like a first draft and those can be changed," he added.

Critics of the initiative said the original title was inaccurate.

"The original title was just one of many attempts by the Knight campaign to mislead voters," said spokeswoman Tracey Conaty of the "No on Knight Committee," which takes its name from principal author of the measure, state Sen. William "Pete" Knight, R-Palmdale.

Knight's "Protection of Marriage" campaign committee did not respond to a telephone inquiry for comment.

The initiative, which will appear as Proposition 22 on the March 7, 2000, presidential primary ballot, states that "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."



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Transsexual elected to New Zealand Parliament

New Zealanders elected the world's first openly transsexual member of parliament Nov. 27

Georgina Beyer, 42, will represent the nation's conservative Wairarapa region in the southeastern corner of North Island for the Labour party. She beat her nearest opponent, a Conservative, by a vote of 12,693 to 10,189.

A nationally known actor and former prostitute, stripper and drag queen, Beyer is also mayor of Carterton, a town of 7,000 people. She changed her gender in 1984.

"Of course, I'm feeling quite humbled by this event," Beyer said in an interview with Wockner News. "I think it speaks volumes to minorities in the world that you can overcome adversity and achieve and be successful so that you can be a positive contributor to society."

Beyer said no one made an issue of her transsexualism during the campaign except the media.

"They always seize upon it as a novelty and it usually ends up working in my favor when they do that because the angle that they try to take, it doesn't discredit me but it certainly tries to push it out there as an issue as to why people would not vote for me," she said.

"I have always maintained that the gender question is not the issue. It is the ability of the person to be able to do the job. With the experiences I've had in my

life-but also in my local government career-I believed that I was the person that was going to be the best for the constituency."

Beyer says she'll work on gay and lesbian issues with New Zealand's two openly gay mem-

bers of Parliament-Tim Barnett and Chris Carter. Barnett, who represents Christchurch Central, was re-elected Nov.



New Zealand's Georgina Beyer, the world's first transsexual member of parliament.

27. Carter, who will represent the Auckland suburban region of Te Atatu, was re-elected Nov. 27 after having been ousted in the previous parliamentary elec-

"I will certainly be involved with that," Beyer said. "It would be unthinkable that I wouldn't have some involvement with those issues. It won't necessarily be my primary interest. I represent an electorate now so that has to be my priority, but of course I'll be working with any human rights issues that we need to deal

"I also serve as a board member of the New Zealand AIDS Foundation and have worked with the gay/lesbian/transgender community in the past-and I have also portrayed [gay] characters on television and done it successfully-so I'm definitely part of that community and I'm proud of who and what I am, so there's no problems there," she said.

Tatchell threatened

Peter Tatchell, leader of the British gay-activist group OutRage!, received a death threat at his home Nov. 20 on stationery imprinted with the national colors of Zimbabwe.

It read: "Were [sic] out to get you, and stab your filthy queer body to death...DEATH TO ALL HOMOSEXU-ALS. Now run to the Gay police and beg for protection, because your [sic] going to need it."

The letter was mailed from within

On Oct. 30 OutRage! members attempted a citizen's arrest of vocally homophobic Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe in London. They halted his motorcade and Tatchell opened the door of the president's car, grabbed him by the arm and told him he was under arrest. In the moments before police arrived and took Tatchell into custody, he lectured Mugabe on his anti-gay rhetoric.

Mugabe has said: "[Homosexuals are] repugnant to my human conscience ... immoral and repulsive. ... Animals in the jungle are better than these people because at least they know that this is a man or a woman. ... I don't believe they

have any rights at all. [Gay sex is] an abomination."

NSW unequal age of consent

An attempt to equalize the age of consent in the Australian state of New South Wales was defeated by one vote in the Upper House Nov. 18.

Heterosexual and lesbian sex is legal at age 16 while male-male sex is not permitted until age 18.

Morals crusader Elaine Nile dragged herself from her sickbed to cast the decisive vote, said the Sydney Morning Herald.

Turkish cops halt internet orgy

Police in Tripoli, Turkey, broke up a bathhouse gay orgy that was airing live. over the Internet Nov. 17.

Five men were performing in the steam room of the famous Hammam al-Abed baths for Web customers in Beruit and elsewhere, police said.

The performers, the cameraman and the bath owner all were arrested and the facility was closed.

Gay sex is illegal in Turkey; the penalty is up to three years in prison.

Russia drops gays from diseased list

The Russian Health Ministry's new classification of mental and behavior disorders no longer categorizes "homosexual orientation" as a "personality disturbance" or any other kind of problem.

The change was reported to the International Lesbian and Gay Association Nov. 17 by Prof. T.B. Dmitrieva, director of the Serbsky National Research Center for Social and Forensic Psychiatry.

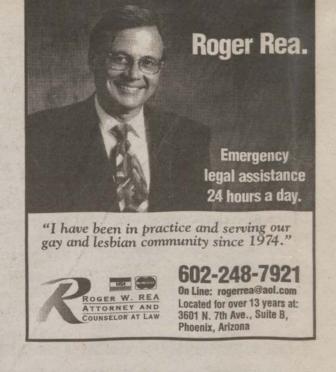
Israeli health minister censors ads

Israeli Health Minister Shlomo Benizri ordered his agency to remove pictures of condoms from its World AIDS Day ad





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"There are citizens from all sectors of society—Jews, Arabs, also religious and secular—that are embarrassed by them [condoms]," Benizri said. "We're not talking here about stupid people in some Third World country."

Gay pageant held in African boonies

South Africa's Miss Gay SA pageant was staged in the civic center of the rural farming town of Nelspruit Nov. 20 in order to "give rural gays a chance," organizers said.

"Our members who live in the sticks are fed up with having to travel to the cities all the time," said activist Markus Buitendach. "The contest will be an annual event and we shall hold it in regional centers to give rural gays a chance. [We chose Nelspruit because it's a] backwater of a bygone era."

Some local residents were not happy. There were eight bomb threats before the contest started.

"Healthy, normal children who might attend the event can be influenced into abnormal behavior," said the Rev. Thinus Taute, head of the local Afrikaner Protestant Church. "All normal people strongly oppose this so-called gay movement as immoral."

Miss Gay Free State, Bernelee Rabeira, was crowned Miss Gay SA. Second place went to Miss Gay Gauteng, Sahara Sheena, and third to Miss Gay Vaal Triangle, Mortisha de Ville.

Canadian prisons allow sex-change

Following settlement of a humanrights complaint, Corrections Canada has authorized inmate Synthia Kavanagh's sex-change surgery and transfer to the British Columbia Correctional Centre for Women.

Kavanagh is serving a life sentence for murder.

Museveni attacks again

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni lashed out at gays again Nov. 23 while speaking to parliament.

Describing how homosexuals are treated in the nation's Ankole region, Museveni said: "These few individuals were either ignored or speared and killed by their parents. They wouldn't just go and wed another man publicly."

On Sept. 27, Museveni called for the arrest of all gays for committing "abominable acts"

"I have told the CID [Criminal Investigations Department] to look for homosexuals, lock them up and charge them," he said. "Even the Holy Bible spells it out clearly that God created Adam and Eve as wife and husband, but not men to marry fellow men."

Uganda's penal code considers gay sex "carnal knowledge of another against the order of nature." The punishment is up to life in prison.

Museveni's comments were denounced by the U.S. State Department on Oct. 15. In a written statement, the agency said: "We would view the arrest and imprisonment of persons based on their sexual orientation as a serious human rights violation, regardless of whether such arrests are sanctioned by Ugandan legislation. Uganda is party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as to international conventions on civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights. Although they do not specifically address sexual orientation, Uganda's participation in these conventions entails a broad commitment to respect the rights of individuals in general. We urge the Ugandan government to ensure that none of its citizens face harassment or detention as a result of their sexual ori"THIS MOVIE IS NOW ON SALE FOR ...

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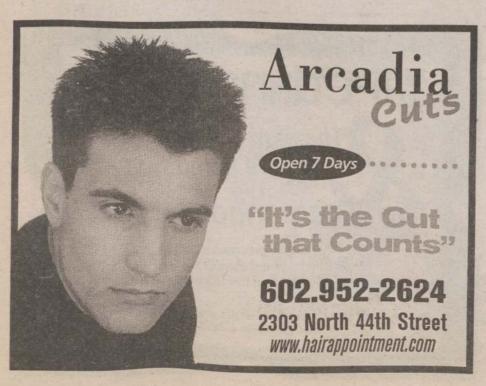
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Goings On

Annual Holiday Home Tour Dec. 4 & 5

The 15th Annual F.Q. Story Historic District Christmas Home Tour & Gift Sale will be held the weekend of Dec. 4 & 5,

Ten restored homes in this queercentric downtown neighborhood will be open for public viewing on Saturday evening from 6 to 9 pm, and then again on Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. The afterdark Saturday tour is unique among Valley home tours, in that it features the participating houses decked out in holiday lights.

The tour includes an arts and crafts fair, Dickens carolers, free trolley rides and refreshments. Tickets for either tour are \$10, with one dollar off for hose who bring a non-perishable food donation. Established in the 1920s by a successful produce grower and businessman, the F.Q. Story District is situated on the southwest corner of McDowell Road and 7th Avenue and extends west to Grand and south to Portland.

The tour entrance is at the intersection of 11th Avenue and Portland, just south of the I-10 freeway. Call 602/258-9282 for information.

Come out for song & cheer with Women in lune

Dec. 5 marks the date of Coming Out for The Holidays, the 1999 winter concert by Arizona Women in Tune. The program will feature traditional holiday choral pieces combined with music by women composers.

"With a title like Coming Out for the

Holidays, our concert promises variety, humor, and offers a real opportunity for our expanded membership to show off their range," said Terry Gunn, first soprano. membership has grown lately, allowing for diverse sectional selections for both alto and soprano members.

The concert will be held at 4 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix, 4027 E. Lincoln Dr. Tickets are available for \$15 by calling Director of Operations Barbara Wodrich, 623/878-5430.

CCH hosting light parade open house

The Community Church of Hope in central Phoenix will host an Open House on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7 pm in conjunction with the annual Phoenix Electric Light Parade. Join parishoners and community members for holiday fun and refreshments at the the church, located right along the parade route at 4400 N. Central

The CCH congregation is also planning two special Christmas Eve services, at 7 and 9 pm on Dec. 24, followed by a midnight Christmas Eve appearance at

GCMC spices up the Holidays Dec. 11 & 12

The Grand Canyon Mens Chorale, the Valley's longtime gay chorus group, has set its annual holiday concert for Saturday, Dec. 11 at 8 pm and Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3 pm. Both performances will be held at the First United Methodist Church at the corner of Missouri and Central Avenues in Phoenix.

This year's extravaganza is entitled Southwest Seasonings and will feature "a spicy mix of holiday songs" under the direction of Dr. Craig Westendorf, the chorale's artistic director.

Tickets are \$15 reserved and \$12 general, available at Obelisk Bookstore, Unique on Central and through chorale members. Call 602/340-7640 for information or visit www.gcmcphx.org.

Vintage records to raise money for Aunt Rita's

Eleven sets of 100 classic disco 12" records in mint condition will be auctioned at eleven different Valley bars by Aunt Rita's Foundation and local entertainer Ms. Markus in December.

A total of 1100 records were donated by a California deejay. They will be raffled in sets of 100 at Apollo's, Cash Inn, Charlie's, Harley's, JC's Fun One, Incognito, Pookie's, The Rose, Studio 43, Trax, and Wink's. Tickets are on sale now for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. the drawings will be held at each bar during the week of Dec. 13 to 18.

Proceeds will help buy gift certificates for 300 AIDS/HIV clients and their families at the following agencies: AIDS Project Arizona, Phoenix Body Positive, Phoenix Shanti Group, and HIV Care Directions. The gift certificates are a program of Aunt Rita's Foundation.

For more information, check with your local bar or call Sharon Drosos at APAZ, 602/253-AIDS.

New Coming Out Group at Center

The Community Center has announced a new support group for adults dealing with issues surrounding sexual orientation and identity. The Coming Out Group for Adults (designed for those aged 22 and older) meets the first and third Thursday of every month

The support group addresses a variety of issues in an open forum discussion/dialogue. Some issues discussed include: Coming Out to Yourself; Coming Out to Friends; Coming out to Family; Coming Out at Work; Spirituality;

Understanding the need adults have for support in the ongoing and often difficult coming-out process, this new group fills a long-standing service void in the community. Group participation is optional and the confidentiality of participants is assured and maintained to the highest

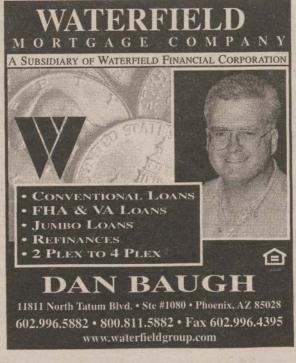
For more information about the Coming Out Group for Adults, contact The Community Center at 602-234-2752. Group meetings are held at The Community Center (24 West Camelback Road, Suite B & C, Phoenix, Arizona).

ACP announces theme, logo design contest

The Arizona Central Pride committee, the organization behind the Valley's annual gay pride festival and parade, is holding a contest for the design of the logo for the next event, scheduled for April 15, 2000.

The theme chosen this year is: "One Heart, One Mind, One Vision-Take Pride, Take Joy, Take Action." Artwork should be submitted to ACP at PO Box 16847, Phoenix AZ, 85011. Entries must be received by Jan. 1 and all entries will















become the property of ACP.

Designs should be submitted as a hard copy and/or in a PC compatible format. The winning logo designer will receive \$100, festival admission for two, and all printed Pride merchandise for two.

The committee is also seeking commitments from all vendors interested in participating in the 2000 festival. Visit the website at www.azpride.org for details.

Squares to host International convention in Jan.

Desert Valley Squares is Arizona's premiere gay and lesbian social square dance club. The organization is a member of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs and is an out and proud founding member of the Grand canyon Square Dance Association.

Every year, Desert Valley Squares hosts "Swing Thru Arizona" and invites square dancers from around the country to visit Phoenix for a weekend packed with fun and dancing. "Swing Thru Arizona" is always held over the MLK weekend, which happens to be the same weekend AGRA hosts its annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo.

This year's convention will be held Jan. 14-17. To join this fun group or to find out more about social square dancing in Phoenix, call 480/990-2562.



The Honeymoon is Over

Remember these headlines from the summer of 1996?

"New drugs will eliminate HIV from the human body!" "HIV infection soon to become a chronic manageable disease."

News of the powerful new class of antivirals called protease inhibitors and their ability— when used in the new antiviral cocktail—to virtually eliminate HIV from the bodies of infected persons spread like wildfire across our nation after the 1996 World AIDS Conference in Vancouver.

Doctors began prescribing these new three-drug combinations as if they would change the face of HIV infection forever. Hundreds of thousands of HIV+ persons have now taken these drugs for more than three years and the sobering results are now pouring in: HIV is here to stay.

Just listen to Dr. Andy Myers, Medical Director of the HIV unit at the Maricopa County Medical Center: "Hospital admissions, bed days, and deaths due to the complications of HIV infection have suddenly risen and are back to pre-1996 numbers. This is attributable to the fact that our honeymoon with the new antiviral therapies has ended for many with advanced HIV infection. All we were able to do is prolong their lives for some period of years."

Yes, sobering words as we come to the close of 20th Century. Even wunderkind David Ho, who announced the advent of the new wonder drugs in 1996, has retracted his proposition that "Eradication of HIV from infected persons will soon be possible."

During the past 18 months at Phoenix Body Positive, almost all clients remained healthy and few died due to AIDS—but last week alone we lost seven clients. Indeed, the death rate in 1999 has slowed to just a 22% decrease as compared to the dramatic decrease of 49% that we saw from 1997 to 1998.

In addition, Dr. Ashley T. Haase of the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis and colleagues reported some very sobering findings Nov. 12 in *Science*, one of the most respected professional journals. They found that HIV can infect resting T cells within a few hours of entry into the

human body, thereby "...gaining sanctuary inside cells that seem to evade the attack of the body's own immune system and also evade the effects of subsequent highly active antiretroviral thera-

py; thus, HIV is able to exploit the environment that it initially finds hostile and finds a way to continue the infection." Furthermore, states Dr. Haase, "These findings add to the evidence that antiviral drugs alone will not be able to eliminate HIV infection, and even vaccine development may be more difficult that ever expected."

So where have we—or rather, where have the drugs and the scientific community—gone wrong?

There are several reasons for the recent turnaround in thinking.

First, the concept of the three-drug antiviral cocktail that was touted as a cure-all in 1996 had not really been tested in long-term studies to determine side effects and efficacy. We have since discovered that the effect on the human body of taking these drugs for years and years is substantial. Many HIV+ persons can no longer tolerate these regimens because of the harsh penalties inflicted on their liver, brain and metabolism due to long-term use. And when they cease using the drugs, the virus reproduces at an alarming rate and wreaks havoc on the body,

leading to serious illness or death.

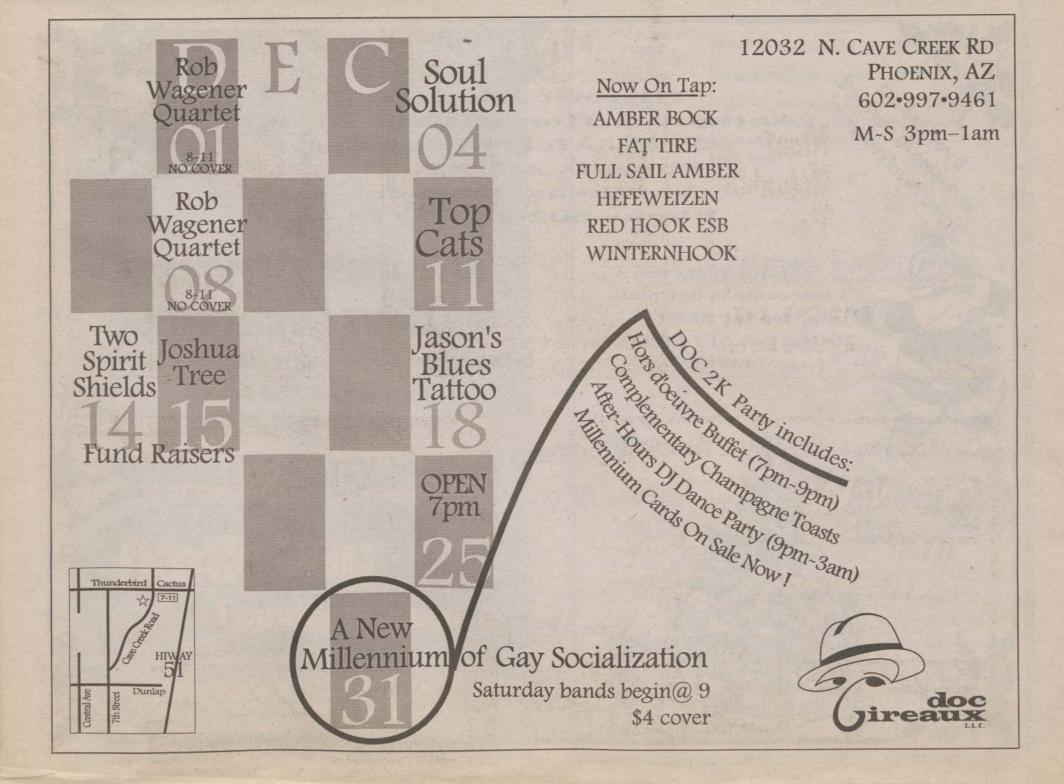
Second, we now know that the virus is very, very wily and eventually evades the protections afforded by the new drugs. In many ways, HIV is similar to animals and humans—it seeks to ensure the continuation of its species through reproduction and adaptation (mutation) and it does an excellent job of this, resulting in its being able to develop resistance to our current antiviral weapons.

Finally, much blame rests on the medical profession. Our doctors and other healers were quick to prescribe these complicated pill-taking regimens without educating us-their patients-about side effects and how to reduce their severity. Their lack of emphasis on patient education never gave us the opportunity to learn about how resistance to medications develops and how to avoid this endgame. Nor did they provide us with the tools for managing our lives AND taking 30 or 40 very toxic pills day after daywhile they and the pharmaceutical companies profited from our

Well, there is new research looking at drugs that are more tolerable and vaccines that may stem the course of the disease. But we have now learned that it is back to the drawing boards for all of us.

It is my sincere hope that those of you that have supported this cause and AIDS service organizations will continue to do so into the new millennium. We cannot do it without you.





nristmas Tree Angel

Neale C. Knight draws on personal experience to raise cancer funds

By John Thomas Lotardo, Contributor

Neale Knight is more than a local gay artist-she is also a local angel. And she is doing something special with her talents this holiday season.

A Phoenix resident, Knight has put together a wonderful line of original holiday greeting cards with a portion of the proceeds going to charity. The holiday cards are just part of an entire line of stationary notecards and

collectibles she has cre-

Knight does not consider herself anything special, though those who have seen her work disagree. Asked how it all got started, she says she started the company in order to give back to

the community. Specifically, Knight began this labor of love to support breast cancer research. In 1996, she was diagnosed with the disease and began a grueling regimen of surgery and chemother-

The diagnosis came right after Knight decided to move to Arizona to be with her then-girlfriend, who had family here. Unfortunately, the

relationship did not withstand the stress of surviving breast cancer. The sad thing about it, Knight says, is that her partner "could not see me surviving this." Knight's perspective was entirely the opposite. Receiving the news about the diagnosis, her first reaction was, "So what do I do now?"

Knight explains that she intended to do whatever she could to beat the cancer. And beat it she did.

A Vietnam Veteran, she has always realized her drive to "be all she can be." She says that she never was one of those "rocking chair" types and never would



N. C. Knight unveils one of her designs at a local fund-raiser for breast cancer.

look back at her life and think of all the opportunities she missed. "No would've, could've, should've for me", she

declares. In fact, she is a frequent speaker for local events and fundraisers.

Encouraged by a friend who saw some

sketches of trees Knight had made, the artist was at first a little reluctant to jump into the greeting card business. She had been drawing trees for years. "These (drawings) are just things I do." But when she realized the fundraising good she could do, she set out to make the company a reality.

The company, N. C. Knight, is man-

aged solely by Knight. She was able to create the company and get it going in only a few short months. But she has always been a "multitasker". For example, she has worked a letter

just "doesn't come up in professional circles. I am not in. I am out. But it just never is an issue."

Although she is not very demonstrative, she sometimes surprises herself. Like last year when she participated in the Veteran's Day Parade.

While watching the parade, Knight saw the gay veterans group approach. When they reached where she was seated, she got up and joined them on the parade route. She said that was totally unexpected and she was elated to be there to represent the gays and lesbians who served.

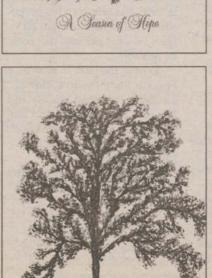
Knight says the meaning/inspiration for the use of the trees in her work is quite simple. She considers trees a symbol of life in people's lives. Trees have always been a very important part of Knight's life. Originally from the East Coast, she

> explains that trees help a person to see the seasons as part of the circle of life. "Delicate though strong, giving through adversity, changing yet enduring—the tree is a parallel to the seasons of our lives."

> She incorporates the seasons into her cards. For example, one of the holiday card designs has four trees on the cover with each representing a particular season. There are three different holiday designs.

The cards with envelopes are available in boxes of 8 for \$10.

There are also Limited Edition Autographed Single cards for \$5 each. She is hoping to have them available in such stores as Obelisk Bookstore and Unique on Central in Central Phoenix. For more information about her work and purchasing the cards, please write P.O. Box 16133 Phoenix, Arizona 85014, or call 602/207-





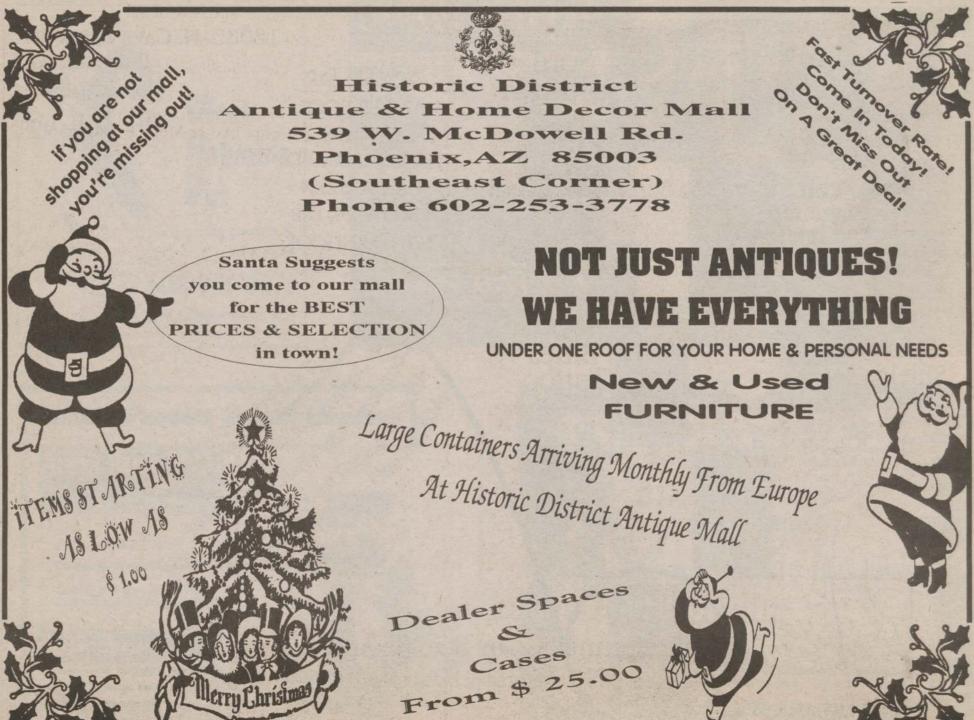
carrier with the Postal Service at the same time she was employed as a nurse.

A Season of Living

Knight adamantly dismisses the notion that

being a lesbian has had any negative impact on her new endeavors. She says it







F.Q. Story 15th Annual Christmas Home Tour & Gift Sale

Saturday, December 4th, 1999 6 pm to 9 pm Sunday, December 5th, 1999 11 am to 5 pm 11th Avenue & Portland

Tour 10 historic homes decorated for the holidays, arts & crafts fair, Dickens carolers, free trolley rides, refreshments, and more.

Tickets are \$10 for either tour, \$1 off with nonperishable food donation. Call 258-9282 for more information



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OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK

Tues.—Sat, 4pm to 1am Sun, 3:30pm to 1am

> Happy Hour Tuesday-Friday 4–7pm

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Dart leagues at the Cash.

Now on Tuesdays: Join Molly for beginner two-step lessons from 8-10pm.

Wednesday: Hump Day: remember Happy Hour

starts at 4pm! Don't miss Karaoke with Denise & Dee, 7pm-?.

Thursday: Clogging lessons for beginners,

6:15-7:30. Country Western Dance Lessons with Geri 7:30-9:30pm. Our DJ, Molly, spins every Thursday,

Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

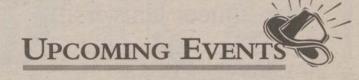
Friday: Country Western Music with DJ Molly

Saturday: Country Western Music with DJ Molly

Sunday: Open at 3:30pm. Come on down for our Sunday afternoon Tea Dance!

A Grand Master Molly Event, from

6pm until?



Now on Sundays:
Don't miss Cash
Inn's regular
Sunday afternoon
Tea Dance with our
DJ Molly, starts at
6pm.

Friday, Dec. 3:
A special performance by Cash Innfavorite, Diamond Fire, the music starts at 9pm; cover.





Friday, Dec. 24:
Cash Inn's customer appreciation Christmas party 4-8pm;
lots of food, lots of fun!
We close at 8pm
Christmas Eve; we open
Christmas Day at 6pm.

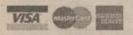


Saturday, December 4 MJS MARKUS & FRIENDS

Ring in the Holidays with these Valley Divas; show starts at 9pm

Saturday, December 18 JC'S 9TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW

Don't miss our New Year's Eve Bash-Watch this space for details!



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'Spiritless" - A serious look at religions around the world and how homosexuals are regarded by them. The good. The bad. The ugly

Successful Gay Living" - Is there a formula? Can't we buy it out of a catalog? Tips for dating, living, and loving

QU are classes offered by Project Q for gay/bi men 18-27. Call 602.253.2437 if interested. Project Q is a program of AIDS Project Arizona.

Melissa Etheridge comes to Phoenix

Continued from page 1

struggle still exists in my personal relationships. I can still slip and just go into someone's stuff, you know?

HS: That leads me into my question about the song "My Lover". You seem to hit the nail on the head about some relationships, and how we all can sometimes allow our love interests to have so much power over us.

ME: We give them that power. That's what that's all about. I chose each word to have double meanings. "No one manipulates"-you know, all the meaning that that word can have. "No one reveals me, no one conceals me"- there's just all the power we give our partners.

HS: So through your songwriting or through your personal experience, have you been able to find a balance?

ME: Yeah, absolutely. Well, there's always a lot to learn. There's always the journey. Even though it's been a long-term relationship [for me], you can tell by this album that there is ups and downs, and work and compromise, and pain and all that. That's life. There's no such thing as happily ever after.

But it makes great writing material ... Absolutely.

HS: And you wrote the song "Scarecrow" because of your feelings about the murder of Matthew Shepard.

ME: [his death] really knocked me out. I never thought of writing this song. It just seeped out of me. It kept coming out of me. I would write things down, and write things down. [I was] trying to find a place to be okay with it, to go on, a place of forgiveness and understanding; a place to put my anger and my hatred. What could possibly rise above this?—how to make some good out of this loss of life. I went 'round and 'round. And in my being a mother and raising children, I really can see and understand and truly believe that what we put into our children comes out of them. And that the only way to stop the cycle of hate is to reach parents, and stop child abuse, and stop the trips we put on our children in the first five years of life.

HS: George W. Bush, who wants to be president, says that children are best raised in a family with a married man and a married woman, and lawmakers in the Texas Legislature tried to outlaw gay adoption there this year. Being a mother yourself, what do you say to people like them who equate gays raising children to child abuse?

ME: Find me-just scour this earthand find me one child who was harmed by the gay parents. It's hard to make sense on their level, because good parenting doesn't mean that there's a man and a woman in the house. Good parenting means love, that there's love in the house, that there's selfesteem and there's a place for growth and learning and cherishing a child. And respecting them. [The anti-gay lawmakers] seem to miss out on all that.

HS: It has been reported that you plan to do fund-raising for the Democratic Party. Are you concerned that Bush may win the White House, and the country shift back to the political right again?

ME: I am concerned, that's why I'm out making noise for the Democratic Party, that even though we have our own battles with them, the alternative is hideous. At least, here's a party that acknowledges our existence and our place in the world. It's a whole year we've got to change [public apathy about the election], and I believe the world is going to catch on about George Bush. I just believe that he can't hide for much longer. Yes, he's raised a thousand, million, trillion dollars. But the truth is going to catch up with him.

HS: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an organization you were once associated with, plans to protest the Texas

Gay Rodeo Association during its round-up in Austin. They claim that the rodeo abuses animals, even though TGRA is a charity that operates the rodeo, in part, to raise money for people living with AIDS. Do you think we can find a middle ground here?

ME: You know what, I actually had a falling out with PETA myself. I did the one thing for them back in 1994, and then quickly discovered that I could not support the radical agenda that they had. I don't know if you can find a middle ground with PETA. If we all bent the way that PETA wants us to bend to, I think that's impossible. I'm sorry, I'm going to wear leather. I'm a rock 'n' roll artist and I'm going to wear leather! If testing on animals would have saved the friends I've lost or the father I lost, I'm going to do it.

HS: Even though the gay and lesbian community has made momentous strides in our own culture, we still have these pockets of gender bias between both the men and the women. Some gay people won't have anything to do with people of a different gender. Is there a song in the wings that might address this issue?

ME: No, I haven't thought about it that specifically. But I know when I come into contact with that sort of radicalness, it just makes me sad, because I believe that people are missing out on a lot. But I think that their own pain and their own experience, and where that comes from, is so large that they have to get over something personal before they can reach out. That's their own journey-they're missing out on a lot.

HS: The millennium hoopla. Are you tickled or tired of it?

ME: Yep, pretty tired of it. We're just going to go to our country house we have with friends and family, and just let it blow over. I want to be as far away from a stage as I can possibly be.

HS: You've said that you know you're a commodity for the music business. That's not particularly liberating, is it?

ME: Well, it depends on how you look at it. As an artist, no. As a businesswoman who wants to have security for her children and family for the rest of my life, yes. That's the music business, and that's were I kinda have to come from.

HS: What's the most important thing you've learned about "the business"?

ME: To never get caught up in the moment, whatever that moment might bewhether you're on top of the earth or the bottom, because it always changes. And it always goes into something else. You should never judge everything by that moment.

HS: Do you two-step?

ME: Oh, Julie taught me to two-step, of course she did!

HS: To what song?

ME: k.d. lang's . . . oh, I can't remember. It was from the Torch and Twang album. Oh, man! It was a k.d. lang sons I'll remember it, but I can't remember it

HS: Do you plan to do some two-stepping on your tour? You could probably walk into Billy Bob's Texas in Fort Worth, the planet's largest country and western "family facility", and part the crowd like the Red Sea.

ME: My God, Fort Worth of all places, the tightest notch in the Bible belt. I just go straight for those places [laughs]. You know, it's interesting being a celebrity. Everybody knows me, but they all know that I'm gay, too. Sometimes they see me with my partner or my family—people who probably think they've never met a gay person. It's true, I could go into the depths of familyvalue-ville, and could walk through it and come out the other side and people go, "Oh, she was nice. Maybe they're not so bad after all."

So, I have to be real careful, I think, because I feel like I have some gift in that way and have some responsibility. It's kinda



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Jeannine Pacheco "Inside Out""How To Succeed In Business...""West Side Story"

Steve Anderson, Bass

Tony Castellanos

"Pageant""Love Valour Compassion""A Christmas Carol"

Michelle Gardner "The Waiting Room""West Side Story""How To Succeed...

Melissa LaFrance

"A Little Night Music""Master Class""Putting It Together"

James Zanelli

"Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" Eugene Onegin"

Hollie Woods, Hostess

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"Swinging On A Star" "Five Guys Named Moe" "How To Succeed In Business..." "A Christmas Carol"

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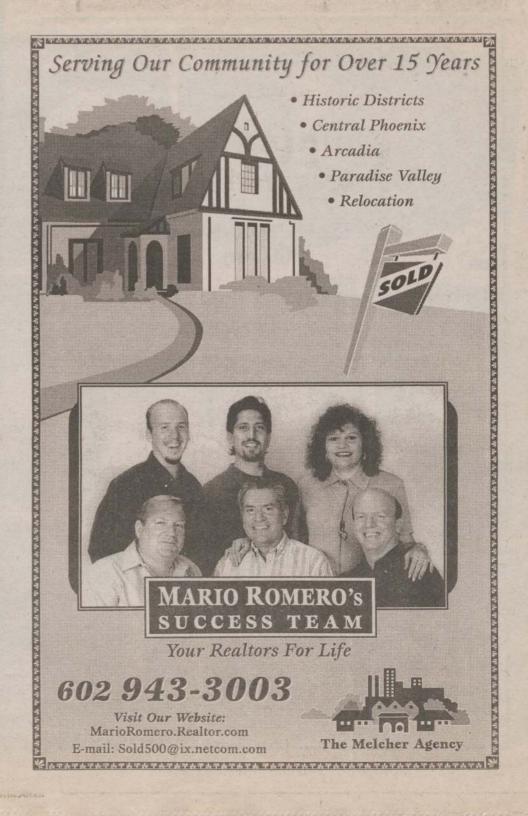
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Arizona Women In Tune presents

Coming Out for the Holidays

Sunday, December 5, 1999 4:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix, 4027 East Lincoln Drive

Tickets: \$15.00 General Admission

Tickets available at Obelisk Bookstore and at the door.





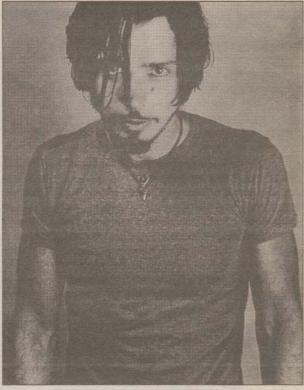
Arizona Women In Tune is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

EUPHORIC CHRIS CORNELL COMING TO UNION HALL

In the early '90s, Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell offered the only visible proof that grunge rock and onstage sensuality weren't mutually exclusive. Then Cornell launched a solo career after his band split up in 1997 and the critics only wanted to talk about his haircut.

This year they're talking about his music. On the eclectic *Euphoria Morning*, a shorn Cornell demonstrates his musical maturity with mellower tunes & lyrics and a broader vocal range than the hard-rock constraints of Soundgarden permitted. The

Soundgarden permitted. The best part? He's still a major hottie.



Cornell will perform with his backup band at downtown's Union Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7:30. Tickets are \$23.50 and available through Dillard's outlets.

Local Diva draws weekly following to Pookie's

Phoenix singer Jo
Watson is more than just
another pretty package.
The pop/R&B songstress is
as talented at she is attractive, and gay and lesbian
fans of live music are making her weekly appearances in Pookie's lounge
the Place to Be on hump
night.

Pop in at 4540 N. 7th
Street, Wednesdays from 7
- 10 pm and enjoy
Watson's Gospel-trained
voice as she takes on classic disco, memorable
Motown and the latest
from Whitney and Mariah.
With plenty of stage presence, a solid back-up duo
and infectious humor, she's
carving a niche for herself
in the Phoenix lounge
scene—one week at a time.

Evil magic melted by true love...

Center Dance Ensemble will present the fairy tale *The Snow Queen* to Arizona audiences at the Herberger

The Snow Queen is the icy tale of an evil queen who bewitches a young man with her beauty and entices him to

join her in her loveless palace. His lover, Greta, begins a long

and arduous search to find him only to discover him frozen in ice in the queen's castle. Only her love can break the spell. Numerous special effects will charm dance enthusiasts

Numerous special effects will charm dance enthusiasts and children of all ages. Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased through Dillard's or by calling the Herberger Box Office at 602/252-8497.



Get in the un-Christmas mood at Alwun House Dec. 11

Artlab 16 in association with Alwun House will present the Valley's 14th annual "bad Christmas pageant" entitled, *Snowballs in Hell II* at Alwun House on Dec. 11 beginning at 8 pm.

It's expected to be an evening of stories, performances and music guaranteed to trash the "most greedy and sickeningly commercial holiday of the year."

Performers include lack Evans, Steve

Gompf, Joyce Levin, Daryl Scarer, Jeff Falk, Randall Becker, Redbird Largo, Michele Delgado, Lew Alquist, Diptheria Taproot, Annie Lopez and The New York City Art Junkies.

Admission is \$5 and proceeds will benefit Alwun House and Andre House for the homeless. Alwun House is located at 1204 E. Roosevelt.

Tomlin's intelligent comedy comes to Tempe

Stage, TV and screen star Lily Tomlin will bring her Tony Award winning, one-woman Broadway show, The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe to ASU's Gammage Auditorium for two shows, Dec. 9 & 10, at 8 pm.

Tomlin's longtime collaborator, Jane Wagner, penned the script that became a best-seller after it was released in book form. Tickets to the show are \$15 - \$45 and are available by calling 480/965-3434.



Eye-opening British comedy at Planet Earth

Mark Ravenhill's 1996 drama Shopping and Fucking runs Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 11 at the Planet Earth Theatre in Phoenix under the direction of recent ASU grad Ron May.

The play is a provocative and brutal look at love, consumerism and sex in the '90s that was originally set in the druggie, sexually fluid world of London's underground club culture.

The adults-only dark comedy

includes brief nudity and sexual situations, including some heavy-duty male/male encounters and sexual violence. The young cast features Benjamin Monrad, Jason Deppen, Julie Devante, Greg London and Jason J. Grunner.

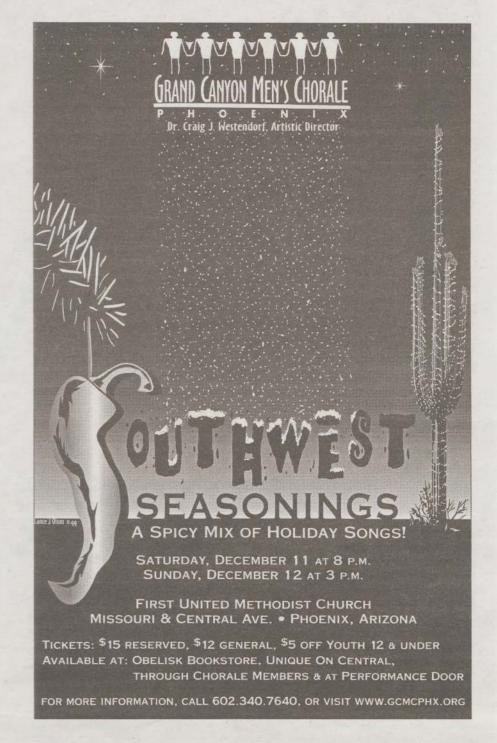
Tickets are \$16 and the show runs Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 pm through Dec. 11. Call the Herberger Box Office at 602/252-8497 for reservations.

Funny Pair to play at PlayWright's

For one weekend only, critically acclaimed comedians Nancy Parana and Jackie Masel will be bringing O.D.'d on Ginko Biloba to Phoenix. They're calling the new act "the most intoxicating twowoman show since The Kathy & Mo Show."

This special event will be held at PlayWright's Theatre, 1121 N. First Street in downtown Phoenix, Dec. 16 - 19. The Subterranean Jazz Trio will perform at 7:30 and the comedy will begin at 8 pm.

Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Call 602/277-6225 to order.



Outonfilm

Tumbleweeds

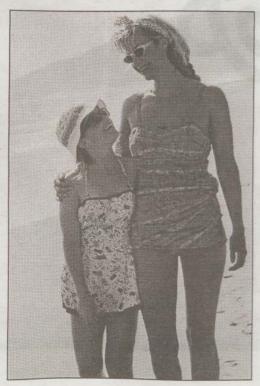
This pleasant mother/daughter sliceof-life dramedy was a big hit at Sundance last year, due mainly to its strong lead performances from Brit stage veteran Janet McTeer and preteen actor Kimberly J. Brown.

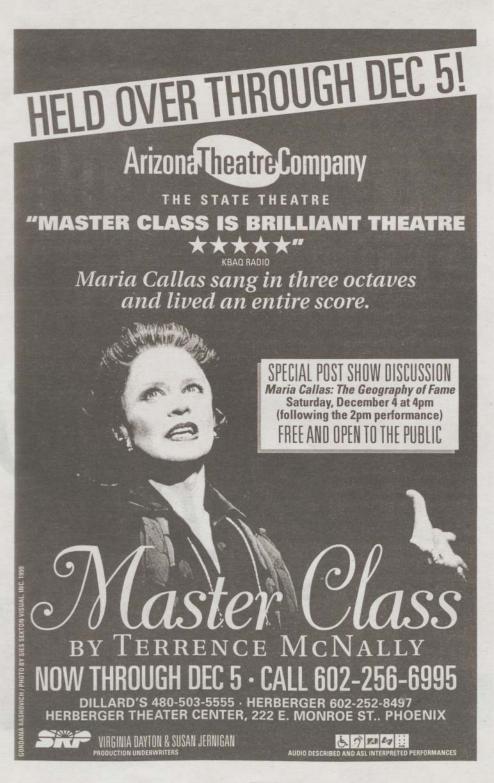
Fine Line inked a release deal with indie writer/director Gavin O'Connor (he costars as well) and is putting *Tumbleweeds* into a cineplex near you just in time for the holidays—even though it's basically a low budget version of Hollywood's own Susan Sarandon/Natalie Portman vehicle, *Anywhere But Here*, also based on a true story and also currently in wide

If you block out comparisons to the Sarandon pic and squint through the story's inherent cliches (mom's scattered, immature, and attracted to first-class losers. Her 12-yr-old daughter is, by contrast, wise beyond her years and able to see that they don't need a man around to achieve familial bliss), then *Tumbleweeds* makes for a warm—and often quite funny—look at parent/child relationships in its own right.

A couple of glaring implausibilities—like how the duo drive cross country without ever coming near an interstate—are distracting, but not bothersome enough to ruin the mood O'Connor establishes early with quick pacing, plenty of humor and an ear for real-sounding dialog.

Tumbleweeds isn't perfect, but it is engaging, emotionally sound, and full of believable performances. It's an enjoyable date movie for this holiday season, and especially worth viewing with mom.





- Friday Dec. 3rd Mr. Charlies Contest
- Saturday Dec. 4th Women In Tune
- Sunday Dec. 5th Paul Reed, Pre-candidate for Mr. AGRA 2001 show at 8pm.
- Monday Dec. 6th Spend the Evening with Movies on Central as they bartend in their Underwear
- Tuesday Dec. 7th Christmas with Nick Tarr
- Wednesday Dec. 8th Christmas Is a Drag
- Thursday Dec. 9th The wonderful talents of the Grand Canyon Mens Choral They bartend 8pm to 10pm and then it is Showtime
- Friday Dec. 10th The Men of Charlies present the competition for the MAN OF THE YEAR

- Saturday Dec. 11th It is a Native American Christmas
- Sunday Dec. 12th AGRA Christmas - 2nd Annual Greg Olson... - Bud Lite Rodeo Show - 8pm
- Monday Dec. 13th Christmas around Joshua Tree
- Tuesday Dec. 14th Arizona Central Pride Night
- Wednesday Dec. 15th America West and Southwest Airlines -Fly through Christmas (or cruise)
- Thursday Dec. 16th Its a Blizzard - The Snow Falls on Charlie's
- Friday Dec. 17th Country Hospitality with the Desert Valley Squares
- Saturday Dec. 18th Charlies' Rhythm Express - "Move to the Grove"
- Sunday Dec. 19th Teddy Bear Christmas - Bring a Teddy Bear and put a smile on someone's face
- Monday Dec. 20th Underwear Night with Project Lifeguard - Show OFF your Christmas underwear
- Tuesday Dec. 21st Feliz Navidad - with Jude and Friends
- Wednesday Dec. 22nd Charlie's Employee Christmas Show - We get all dressed up, and are some of the best lookin' uh ...women you ever saw! along with Photographs on SANTA'S Lap!
- Thursday Dec. 23rd Church of Hope Celebration
- riday Dec. 24th Our Candle Light Sing-a-Long-hosted by Woody
- Saturday Dec. 25th MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! We open at 6pm

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Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out



"I have no problem with my sexuality. I have a problem getting laid."

—Comedy writer and Hollywood Squares star Bruce Vilanch writing in the Nov. 9 Advocate.

"I'm still not crazy about the word gay, because I think it conjures up a certain stereotypical image. I like the idea that so many younger people today are using other terms, like queer. I took some heat from a lot of people when I did an interview and said I don't like to use the word gay. I said, 'Yes, I've slept with men, and I do sleep with men, but I don't use the word gay.' A lot of people accused me of being afraid and being in the closet, but they missed the point of what I was trying to say. So now I just say I'm gay, even if I don't like the term. It's easier."

—Pianist Michael Feinstein to the Advocate, Nov. 9.

"In the '30s, the Nazi campaign against homosexuals was very tightly directed toward gay men. Lesbians, if they were found out, did face some severe consequences. But the only ones who wore pink triangles and were sent to the camps were gay men. So let's not take our politics and invent a past that matches that."

—Historian David Bianco, author of the Q Syndicate's Past Out column, to the Dallas Voice, Oct. 29. Bianco's new book, Gay Essentials: Facts for Your Queer Brain, is a compilation of his columns.

"Who am I to tell someone they can or cannot serve their country? I couldn't care less if the person next to me is gay as long as he gets the job done."

—Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura to Playboy magazine, November issue.

"If unwanted sexual advances were an excuse to murder people, there wouldn't be a straight man left alive in America."

—Syndicated columnist Dan Savage on ABC's Politically Incorrect, Oct. 28.

"I have been hit on by gay guys, not that frequently because I'm not that good looking. But I did experience what I would call a panic. ... This was years ago when we were first starting out as comics in New York, and a guy — I did a set — and a guy came up to me after and was like: 'Hey, great set. I want to talk to you.' And I was so stupid, I didn't realize. 'Hey you want to go somewhere?' 'Sure, come on.' About half hour into it, I realized, 'I'm on a date.' And I panicked."

—Politically Incorrect host Bill Maher on the Oct. 28 broadcast.

"Thank god I'm gay. Otherwise the world wouldn't have gotten to experience [my mother] Betty. And Betty wouldn't have gotten to experience Betty."

—Ellen DeGeneres at the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner Oct. 9 in Washington, D.C.

"It took me almost five years of living in America to come to the sad conclusion that the whole Western idea of a gay movement is totally bankrupt at this point. My idea of being queer is totally different from singing in the gay chorus or marching down Fifth Avenue in a crowd of thousands of topless cartoonlike clones. If I grew up in today's Chelsea, I would probably end up being a hardcore gay-basher in order to protest and attack this scary world of the unified look, unified morality, and lifestyle. We need more Andrew Cunanans, more queer terrorists, more 'faggot-individual-

ists' like Ginsberg, queer literary outlaws like Burroughs, more bad-ass fags to prove that the pioneering gay spirit of rebellion isn't yet entirely smothered by the Great American Consumerism. Or is it?"

—Yaroslav Mogutin, the first Russian granted asylum in the U.S. due to anti-gay persecution in his homeland, to the national gay magazine *The Guide*, November issue.

"I write about love between people of the same sex without any prejudice attached to it. I simply explore it as if it were normal. It's normal in The Tale of the Body Thief that Lestat loves David Talbot. It's normal to write about his love for Gretchen, the woman he runs into. It would be abnormal for me to make one more important than the other. And I think that's something embraced by gay readers. They probably like to have a breather in their fiction from the more passionate discussions of prejudice, persecution and self-loathing. There's none of that in my work. Instead people are making alliances based on the heart."

—Author Anne Rice to the Montreal publication *Hour*, Nov. 4.

"I'm not guilty of murder. I'm guilty of obeying the laws of the creator. You obey a government of man until there is a conflict. Then you obey a higher law. So many people claim to be Christians and complain about all these things their religion says are a sin, but they're not willing to do anything about it. They don't have the guts."

—Benjamin Matthew Williams—who shot a gay couple to death in their bed in Happy Valley, Calif., in July—to the Sacramento Bee, Nov. 5.

"I don't mind the homosexuality, I understand it. ... Nevertheless, goddamn, I don't think you glorify it on public television [on All In The Family] even more than you glorify whores. We all know we have weaknesses. But, goddamn it, what do you think that does to kids? You know what happened to the Greeks! Homosexuality destroyed them. Sure, Aristotle was a homo. We all know that so was Socrates. ... You know what happened to the Romans? The last six Roman emperors were fags. Neither in a public way. You know what happened to the popes? They [had sex with] the nuns, that's been goin' on for years, centuries. But the Catholic Church went to hell, three or four centuries ago. It was homosexual, and it had to be cleaned out. That's what's happened to Britain, it happened earlier to France. Let's look at the strong societies. The Russians. Goddamn, they root 'em out. They don't let 'em around at all. I don't know what they do with them. Look at this country. You think the Russians allow dope? Homosexuality, dope, immorality are the enemies of strong societies. That's why the communists and left-wingers are clinging to one another. They're trying to destroy us. I know Moynihan will disagree with this, Mitchell will, and Garment will. But, goddamn, we have to stand up to this. ... The upper class in San Francisco is that way. The Bohemian Grove [an elite, secrecyfilled gathering outside San Francisco], which I attend from time to time, it is the most faggy goddamned thing you could ever imagine with that San Francisco crowd. I can't shake hands with anybody from San Francisco.'

> —From newly released tapes of President Richard Nixon's conversations with his advisors.

"There's a rumor going round that I outed George Michael—he's a grown man, I'm not responsible for what he does. I think he's a great singer, I think he's a great artist—and if I've been bitchy about him, I'm sorry. I often open my mouth before I think."

—Singer Boy George at quoted by Yahoo! News, Nov. 6.

"I am unashamed, unembarrassed, and proud to work with you."

—Republican U.S. Presidential candidate John McCain in a Nov. 8 meeting with the gay group Log Cabin Republicans.

"The first thing I would do differently than Ellen [DeGeneres did on her TV show] is I would make sure my writers wrote funny for me. I also wouldn't give a rat's ass what the gay community told me was right or wrong to say, which is something that I've always done anyway as a stand-up. I've never been a conformist."

—Actress/singer/comedian Lea DeLaria to Miami's *The Weekly* News, Oct. 28.

"To be a homosexual in 1999 is to stand on the curb during the New York gay pride parade and feel your eyes water, faster than you can stop them, as row after row of openly homosexual police officers march by, in full uniform. Behind them, supporting them, the NYPD marching band: this from a police force whose members, some of them, had been known to turn their backs on their homosexual colleagues in earlier marches. To be a homosexual in 1999 is also to watch as, later in the same parade, a flatbed truck rolls past bearing a banner proclaiming 'WWW.RENTBOY.COM.' On the platform, a dozen or more dancing hustlers wear only biker shorts or briefs. In due course they liberate themselves from their clothing altogether. They cover their crotches with their hands but offer generous glimpses of the goods. Later, some of them are told by on-duty police officers to leave or face arrest."

> —Jonathan Rauch writing in the Oct. 31 Los Angeles Times.

"With homosexuals in the government, lesbians popping up in beer commercials, members of boy bands coming out with the support of the tabloids and even the Tories accepting gays in their ranks, homosexuality is fast becoming, well, normal."

—Commentator Gareth McClean

—Commentator Gareth McClean in Edinburgh's *The Scotsman*, Oct. 29.

"We are ... aware that NGL can never hope to force AOL to do anything. What we can do, is be a very public and fairly costly thorn in its corporate toe. If AOL wants to permanently devote some of its PR budget to damage control in response to the efforts of NGL and others, that's its decision to make. If AOL wants to deal with stockholder questions and press conferences at its next annual meeting, that's fine too. If AOL executives want drag queens and street hustlers demonstrating in front of their nice suburban homes in Fairfax and Prince William Counties in Virginia, that can be arranged with a few phone calls. We're in this for the long

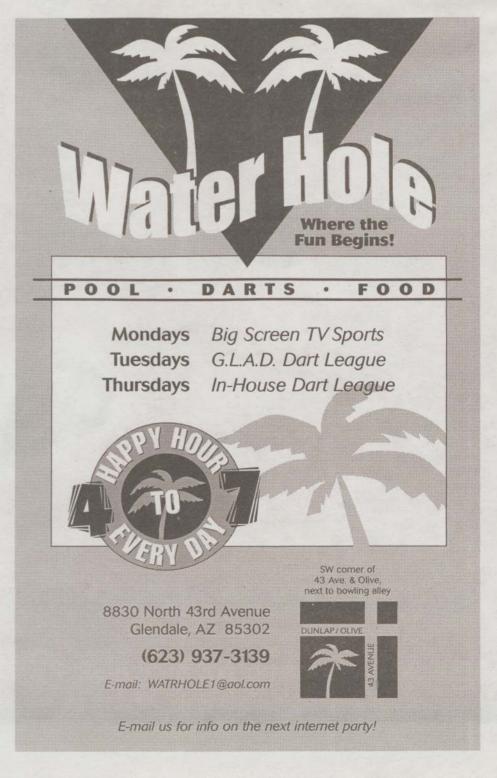
—An Oct. 28 press release from NationalGayLobby.org, which charges that America Online singles out gay users' online personal profiles for enforcement of the obscenity provisions of its Terms of Service.

"In Canada, where church attendance has plummeted in recent years (from 60 percent weekly attendance in 1957, to about 30 percent today), acceptance of gay men and lesbians has grown rapidly, whereas in the US, where church attendance and belief in God remains robust, tolerance lags."

—Montreal "social philosopher" Sean Saraq writing in the Oct. 21 issue of Toronto's Xtra!.

"Affluent queers will push for just enough social change to cover their own asses, and that will do the rest of us about as much good as any other charity fuck. Real activism is a much more arduous, risky, time-consuming, and (dare I say it?) democratic process."

—Columnist Pat Califia in the November issue of *Out* magazine.



Gift Shopping with Your Gay-Friendly Retailers

Make it easy on yourself. From Fido to Aunt Frieda, there's something for everyone on your holiday shopping list, right here on

You'll being doing your community a favor by using the gay and gay-friendly businesses that support HeatStroke, and you'll be doing your newspaper a favor by mentioning to the staff where you got the idea.

he fastest way to a person's heart isn't through their stomach—it's through their pet. For the perfect dog or cat (or ferret?) accessory, remember to visit Petland in the East Valley's venerable Fiesta Mall. The recently remodeled store-located downstairs, near the southeast entrance—has gift ideas for any man or woman's best friend, from the everyday to the exotic. Call 480/844-2920 for store hours.

When it's time to get Rover all cleaned up for that seasonal party, call Most Valuable Pet at 602/955-3471 and schedule a beauty treatment. The salon, situated near 44th Street and Indian School in east Phoenix, also carries an ample line of pet supplies and specialty grooming products.

Whether you're sprucing up your own house for a holiday dinner or trying to warm the heart of an auntie who has everything, an arrangement from the creative folks at Community Florist should do the trick. Their shop is located on Central Ave. just south of Camelback, and their drivers cover a wide delivery area for your convenience. Call 602/266-6648 to place your order.

So you thought Diana Ross was The

SHOP in Scottsdale's tony Fashion Square sets a standard in upscale men's wear. For the truly special guy in your life, consider a sweater—they start at \$95—or, wrap up a bottle of the designer's new signature fragrance, available only at Hugo's namesake outlets. You'll find the store on the upper floor of the year-old span that connects the "old" part of Fashion Square to the newer, Nordstrom section. Call 480/970-3393 for Hugo's holiday hours.

For either the latest or most classic in queer books, tapes, CDs, rainbow paraphernalia and more, you can't beat Phoenix's only gay and lesbian bookstore, Obelisk: The Bookstore at 24 W. Camelback in central Phoenix. It's a great place to head if you know what you want, and not a bad place to browse if you're only looking for ideas. Call 602/266-BOOK for information.

Speaking of browsing, there's nothing more fun than searching out that certain something for the collector in your life, and there's no better place to start looking than at the Historic District Antique Mall. It's on the southeast corner of McDowell and 7th Ave. in Phoenix. The old, the new and the in-between are represented in the huge store's dozens of booths and cases. The place carries such a wide variety of goods, we can only recommend you look for yourself, and block a significant portion of your day for doing so. The antique mall's number is 602/253-

For your favorite landscape enthusiast, a new homeowner, or that person for whom home decor is a never-ending project, visit The Garden Walk, a new store in Tempe that carries all sorts of yard, patio and garden accessories. You'll get a spate of gift ideas just from stopping by, and you'll get a coupon for 15% off your purchases on page 7 of this newspaper. Call 480/423-9740. The store's address is 2240 N. Scottsdale Rd.

Last on the list (as well as in our layout) are the gay-friendly purveyors of adult erotica, The Adult Shoppe and Book Cellar, both with multiple Phoenix locations and a complete array of grownup videos, magazines, novelties and toys for your shopping pleasure. Put a holiday smile on that special someone's face with a suitably naughty gift this year. Call 602/275-0015 for the Book Cellar's hours and locations. Dial 602/253-7126 for The Adult Shoppe.

Women Out on Disc

Looking for something different in the music department for that hard-to-shop-for lesbian (or gay guy)?

Here are a few off the path suggestions for that person on your list who loves Melissa and k.d. but already owns all their stuff. These indie-label discs might require some tracking down, but all three are worth the effort:

Robin Greenspan-Gardener of Eden; Bum's Rush Records.

Greenspan is best known as a standup comic (Out There in Hollywood) and actress, but the Los Angeles resident has a strong musical background as well. Catch audio clips from her debut CD and obtain ordering information at members.aol.com/ BumRecords/Greenspan.html.

Gaye Adegbalola—Bitter Sweet

Blues; Alligator Records. Southern flavored rock, country rythms, R&B and traditional blues flesh out this imaginative solo CD from one of the original Uppity Blues Women. A native South African, Adegbalola balances her original tracks



by putting her own spin on tunes by writers as diverse as Keb' Mo', Nina Simone, Ma Rainey and Smokey Robinson. Call 800/344-5609 or visit www.alligaor.com.

Sara Church-Against All Odds; ECCO Records. Church's songwriting is compared to Stevie Nicks, Janis Joplin, Sheryl Crow and Van Morrison. The Oklahoma-based singer will bring her acoustically based sound to the Valley for a series of appearances starting Dec. 8 at Virgin Records at 7 pm. She'll sing at Scottsdale's Blue Note Cafe Dec. 9 at 10 pm. Dec. 11 she'll play Fiddler's Dream, a North Phoenix coffehouse, at 9 pm. Then head to Higher Ground coffeehouse and bar

in Tempe for an 11 pm show, winding up her local tour at the Border's at 4553 E. Cactus on Dec. 15 at 7:30 pm. Pick up her CD at any of the above shows and she'll likely personalize it for you. For info, visit www.sarachurch.com.



Diving legend and gay icon Greg Louganis on his new dog book, his health and his latest stage gig playing a nun

By Bradley David, Contributor

n 1995 Greg Louganis stunned the world with his candid autobiography, Breaking the Surface, in which he openly discussed his sexuality and HIV status for the first time.

While the book, written with the assistance of gay author Eric Marcus, shot to Number 1 on the New York Times Bestseller List, few would've expected Louganis to come out with another book just four years later.

His latest literary effort, however, is less about himself and more about his beloved canine companions. In For the Life of Your Dog: A Complete Guide to Having a Dog in Your Life, From Adoption and Birth Through Sickness and Death (Pocket Books), Louganis offers expert advice on every-

ADU

LISTE

came about.

"I had stayed in touch with my editor from Breaking the Surface, Mitchell Ivers, and he has a Wire-hair Fox Terrier named Finnegan," he says.

"Whenever we talked, we'd always come back to the dogs-just behavioral things and health issues. He'd ask me questions-what I thought of Finnegan's doing this or that—and if I didn't have an answer, I'd try to research it as best I could, get back to him, and try and give him the best information that I could. So one evening, we were talking about Finnegan doing something and he said, 'You know what, you ought to write a

Louganis has been a life-long dog lover and about ten years ago began breeding dogs and showing them in com-

> petitions. He currently has three dogs that he keeps as pets, including a black-and-white Jack Russell Terrier named Nipper, who travels with

> "She goes everywhere with me," says Louganis. "She's actually on the cover [of the book]. She's the little one in my lap. Right now there are three dogs that live with me on a regular basis, but I co-own a number of other show dogs.

He says he first became interested in dog shows in 1989 when he acquired a Great Dane named Freeway.

"I fell in love with his mother-that's the reason why I felt that I had to have this dogbecause his mother Dolly was just so sweet and so wonderful and reminded me of my first Great Dane, Maile," he says.

"So I got Freeway and they said that he was a show-marked Harlequin Great Dane, so I started showing him and I learned the standard of Great Danes."

In 1995, Louganis decided to let other people show his dogs. He had lived a fairly quiet life since competing in his last

Olympic Games in 1988, but with the release of his much-publicized autobiography, he began to be mobbed by fans at dog shows.

"After Breaking the Surface, I tried to go to shows and people weren't letting me get to the ring-they all wanted pictures and autographs," he says. "My focus needed to be on the dogs and I wasn't being allowed that, so now I'm content with just doing the training."

Response to the new book, now out in paperback, has been very positive, Louganis says.

"I have so many friends that were just waiting for the paperback because they wanted to buy the book in bulk and give it out as a part of their puppy packet," he says. "It's funny, because friends of mine who breed dogs and who I've learned a lot from-whenever we had litter puppies and we'd be placing the pups, we'd always be giving the new owners ream after ream of handouts and articles and papers and all sorts of things we wanted them to know as new puppy owners. So the response has been, 'This is great! Now all we have to do is hand them the book and say, "Here, read this," because everything's there in one place."

Louganis wrote the book with the help of Betsy Sikora Siino, who has authored more than a dozen books about

pet care. In Breaking the Surface, Louganis described his difficulties in reading and writing due to dyslexia.

"That's why for both books, I didn't want any pretense that I'm a writer," he says. "When I worked with Eric Marcus, we had something ridiculous like 78 hours of taped interviews, and then with the canine care book, Betsy would tape as well as take notes."

Asked if he is feeling well these days, Louganis says, "I don't think I'd be doing a musical, singing and dancing in

Hollywood, Florida if I weren't."

He says the new drug combinations have been helpful to him, and recently he became a spokesperson for Hoffmann-La Roche Pharmaceuticals.

"I've been doing a media tour, talking about the difficulties of adherence," he says. "The company has a program offering easy ways of transporting your medications and things like that, because some of the drug combinations are rather complicated and people are forgetting to take their medicine or not taking it prop-

Louganis says he is enjoying the Florida run of Nunsense, which may be extended beyond its scheduled December 5th close date. Decked out in nun drag, he plays a character named Sister Robert

"It's an ensemble piece with five equally important characters," he says. There is talk of taking the show to Los Angeles, which Louganis says would be fine with him. That would enable him to sleep in his own bed (he lives in Malibu on a bluff overlooking the Pacific), be near his boyfriend—the E! Entertainment channel's news anchor Steve Kmetko, and most importantly, spend time with those he calls his protectors and closest friends:

For the Life of Your Dog: a Complete Guide to Having a Dog in Your Life, from Adoption and Birth through and Health

By Greg Louganis and Betsy Sikora Siino; Pocket Books;\$14

Written with award-winning animal writer Betsy Sikora Siino, For the Life of Your Dog proves that Greg Louganis is not just a pretty face, a flawless physical specimen, and the greatest diver who ever lived. He is also an authority on dogs, having spent over a decade breeding, training, and showing his canine friends. In this comprehensive volume, Louganis shares his insights into choosing a dog, basic care, training, exercise, nutrition, and the stages of a dog's life.

The book is filled with adorable photos of his dogs, many with Louganis posing alongside them. The preface, entitled "The Dogs In My Life," features photos and mini-biographies of his four-legged family members, past and present. He currently has three dogs that live with him permanently: Nipper, a Jack Russell Terrier; Speedo, a



Bouvier des Flandres; and Mikey, a Border Terrier. Also pictured are a number of additional show dogs-mostly Harlequin Great Danes—which he co-owns with other breeders.

Whether you are a Louganis fan or just a dog owner who wants to learn as much as possible about your pet, you will thoroughly enjoy this informative homage to man's best friend. The book would also make an excellent Christmas gift for dog-loving friends and family members.

grieving the loss of a treasured pet. In a recent phone interview from

thing from potty training puppies to

Hollywood, Florida, where he is currently starring in an all-male production of the musical comedy Nunsense, Louganis explained how the idea for the new book

Variety on Video

Some of the summer's most been released on video just in time for the shopping season,

including the hilarious South Park: Bigger! Longer! Uncut! and Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me.

It's easy to locate big boxoffice hits, but if blockbusters aren't your thing, or you're afraid the film buff on your list already has a home copy of his/her favorite mainstream flick. then locate something less obvious

and more collectible. Tucson's Culture Q Connection offers a wide range of videos aimed specifically at

discriminating gay and lesbian consumers. To start, they offer plenty of queer-themed television movies, like last year's Change of Heart starring Jean Smart and the award-winning

Breaking the Surface with Mario Lopez as Greg Louganis.

The gay owned and operated company also stocks dozens of more obscure titles and queer film festival fair, like Hell Bent, The Versace Murder, Broadway Damage and Never Look Back. Many of these films went straight to video and some never found big screen distributors,

making them harder to view and more fun to collect

CQC has of late branched into the production end of the business-among the video flicks it co-produced in 1999 is Heatwave Hellions, an eye-popping, soft-core peek at a sextet of Phoenix & Tucson-area hustlers and college boy nudists. It makes a fun gift and should prove a sure conversation-starter for your holiday party.

For a catalog or ordering info, call 888/542-5421. The CQC website is at www.cultureqconnection.com.

Calendars for the Boys

Photographer Jeff Palmer has two calendars out for the year 2000 featuring his inimitable black and white nude male imagery. His Passion 2000 Calendar features couples and celebrates the sensuality of men with men.

The Year 2000 AIDS Benefit Calendar features Palmer's famed solo and couple shots. It's the 11th edition of his annual fund-

raising effort-sadly, 2000 will be the last year he'll produce the calendar, which has raised more than \$450,000 for HIV/AIDS organizations.



Both calendars are \$14.95 each plus \$4 shipping and available from Jeff Palmer Originals, PO Box 230034, Encinitas, CA 92023. Order one or both for the boy who loves boys and let him "make a statement" on the office wall for the next 12

Palmer's fans and gay photography collectors will also be interested to learn that he's released his first book, Sensual Men, published in Germany and now available in America. The book sells for \$29.95-a packaged, signed and numbered special edition is available for \$145. Contact the artist's studio at 760/744-8360 to order, or visit www.jeffpalmer.com.

Also on the sexy calendar front, InteractiveMale, a leading gay phone introduction service in the Phoenix area, is putting out a 2000 calendar featuring the hunky models familiar to readers from the company's ads. Proceeds from sales are going to support The Community Center right here in the Valley.

The calendar sells for \$10, \$8 of which goes to the Center. It will be available for your holiday shopping at the Center, 24 W. Camelback in Phoenix.

More **Great Gift** Books

Here's a holiday sampling of several newly out queer titles that are sure to satisfy the readers on your shopping list:

Fiction For Men:

The Book of Lies; Felice Picano; Alyson; \$24.95 The prolific Picano's latest effort is among his very best. This polished novel—set a decade or so into the future-is a page-turning mystery, a witty academic satire and an honest paean to the great queer writers of the latter half of this century (many of whom the author-a founding member of the famed Violet Quill Club-counts as friends and colleagues). Picano's handling of the surprise ending is especially flawless. Gay fiction fans will adore it and mystery aficionados of all stripes will appreciate the literary dexterity of one of our master writers.

The Coming of the Night; John Rechy; Grove

Press; \$24 Rechy returns to his earlier and oft-imitated form (City of Night, Numbers) with this explicit, stirring evocation of an age of sexual abandon in pre-AIDS Los Angeles. Set over the course of a sizzling summer night in 1981, The Coming of the Night finds a score of sexually propelled gay characters mixing and melding via Rechy's well developed sense of drama. The novel is not always fluid but is, nevertheless, an entertaining and provocative look at a significant era from the pen of a gay-lit pioneer. The leatherman or queer academician on your list will no doubt love it.

Two Gentlemen Sharing; William Corlett; Alyson; \$12.95 This new paperback reprint of Corlett's 1997 novel set in the modern English countryside makes a fine

gift for gay fiction lovers sharing Anglophiles. It's also a nice "airplane read" for travelers heading to and from hol-

> Hardball; T. Hitman: Alyson; \$12.95 Present-day

access to X-

iday festivi-

ties.

rated visuals is made easier daily by the Internet. Two decades of videos and VCRs have made porn rental or purchase ultra consumer friendly. So erotic gay novels like this one have largely become a thing of the past. Too bad.

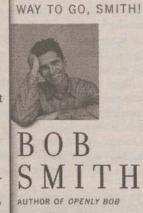
Hardball is a great example of writing-forarousal at its page-turning best. Pick up this lusty baseball story for the gay jock on your list, or the guy who claims he subscribes to Advocate Men for the stories. He'll thank you

Nonfiction for men:

Way to go, Smith!; Bob Smith; William Morrow; \$24 In this new memoir, the veteran stand up comic and author of Growing Up Gay and the Lambda-winning Openly Bob ruminates on everything from the recent breakup of his long term relationship to his bittersweet

childhood in a working-class suburb of Buffalo. Nearly 40 but still boyish, Smith's pat-

ter is introspective yet unapologeticoften self deprecating yet always insightful. In short, he's the perfect gay everyman. The book's eight essays are packed with Smith's wicked quips and wry observations. It's an ideal present for bitchy queens and gay brothers alike.



When Love Lasts Forever: Male Couples Celebrate Commitment; Edited by Merle James Yost; Pilgrim Press Profiled in the last issue of HeatStroke, this slick anthology features the stories of 14 long term male couples. The first-person accounts and wonderful photographs enhance the tome's coffee table appeal. Buy it for the guys on your list who've been together longest, or the newlyweds who are hoping to get there. As a bonus, have your gift copies personalized by the author when he

visits Phoenix's Obelisk Bookstore on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 2 - 4 pm. Call 602/266-BOOK for information.





publish the hottest women's fiction ever and it bills itself "the raunchiest imprint in the UK." Stuff the stockings of the uninhibited dykes in your life with these titles and see if they don't agree.



32 years of essays, features and stories that appeared the U.S.'s senior national queer periodical, Witness to Revolution lends a fascinating chronological perspective to the AIDS crisis, the quest for equal rights, and the gestation, birth and development of what we now so easily call The Community. As striking as the content itself is the consistent quality of the reportage. Activists and armchair authorities will treasure the thick paper-

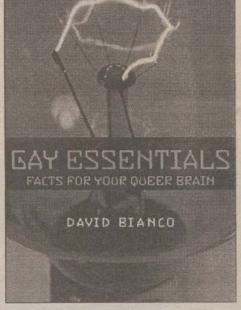
Alyson; \$16:95 Culled from

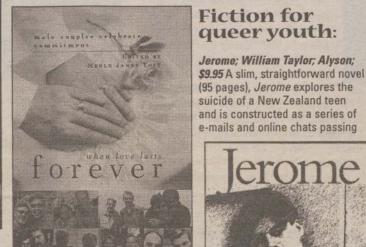
back volume for years to come.

Friends & Family: True Stories of Gay America's Straight Allies; Dan Woog; Alyson; \$13.95

Frequently uplifting, sometimes tearjerking and always inspiring, the stories Woog tells in this paperback volume represent unconditional love at its purest. They're the stories of dozens of hetero indi-







Nice Girls Don't Wear Cha-Cha Heels: Camp

Lines from Classic Films; Leigh Rutledge; Alyson; \$10.95 The dovenne of queer encyclopedic collections (The Gay Book of Lists) tackles the silver screen with this assemblage of



memorable movie quotes. With chapters devoted to "Mothers", "Bette" and "Classic Camp," it's a queer film buff's delight. The undersized, paperback format makes the collection a perfect stocking stuffer and ideal reading material for the throne room.

Fiction for women:

Faults; Terri de la Peña; Alyson; \$11.95 This beautifully crafted novel speaks through many female characters-sisters, mothers, aunts, lovers, some lesbian and some hetero-to honor and examine family bonds among Latinas in Los Angeles. It's poetic, well plotted and the characters are richly drawn. Give Faults to the lesbian on your list who enjoys a thoughtful read and a contemporary exploration of Latin relationships and culture.

Big Deal by Helen Sandler / Millennium Fever by Julia Wood / Sweet Violet by Ruby Vise; all from Sapphire; \$9.95 each These three entries in the lesbian erotic fiction market are part of a new division of Virgin Publishing. Sapphire's goal is to



between the two best friends the title character has left behind. A nice stocking-stuffer for the

young queer or budding writer on your list, it's a fresh coming-out tale for a technologically connected generation.

william taylor

Nonfiction for everybody:

Pictures and Passions: A History of Homosexuality in the Visual Arts; James M. Saslow; Viking; \$39.95 This comprehensive, informative study looks at gay and lesbian artistic expression in all visual media, from the earliest days of man through the modern age. The handsome, hardcover volume

is chockful of illustrations, and Saslow's witty style is immediately reader-friendly-whether you're a curious browser or learned scholar. Pictures and Passions is a great gift for the creative queer in your circle, or for anyone who's pondered homosexuality's part in history.

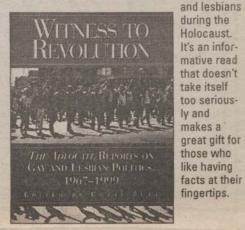
Witness to Revolution: The Advocate Reports on Gay and Lesbian Politics, 1967 - 1999; Edited by Chris Bull;



viduals selflessly standing up against religious, societal and legal prejudices on behalf of gay loved ones-unfortunately, in several cases it's in their memories. Your parents and siblings needn't be card-carrying PFLAGers to appreciate this excellent collection, and the gay men and lesbians on your list will enjoy reading it, too.

Gay Essentials: Facts for Your Queer Brain; David Bianco; Alyson; \$12.95 Bianco pens a nationally syndicated

history column, Past Out, for the Q Syndicate. This collection includes the best essays from his column and several new ones, covering everything from the origin of the phrase "A friend of Dorothy's" to what happened to gays



during the Holocaust. It's an informative read that doesn't take itself too seriously and makes a great gift for those who like having facts at their fingertips.



Deep-Inside Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Luscious Latina Gets Lesbian Love

Salma Hayek and Jeanne Tripplehorn (who played Sharon Stone's bisexual ex in Basic Instinct) have signed on for some lesbian action in Time Code 2000, the hot new flick from Leaving Las Vegas director Mike Figgis.



Salma Hayek will star in the lesbian themed *Time Code* 2000, directed by Mike Figgis.

The movie will break a lot of the standard Hollywood rules, and not just in the sexuality department. Figgis is going to shoot the 90-minute film in one uninterrupted take on four hand-held video cameras, recording separate actions simultaneously. The result will be shown as a four-way split-screen picture.

If that doesn't sound difficult enough, the actors aren't going to be able to rely on the cleverly crafted dialogue of a highly paid Hollywood screenwriter; they will have to improvise the entire film twice, with the director deciding which takes to use for the final version.

That's all very interesting, of course, but here's the juicy part: Hayek (who plays an actress) and Tripplehorn (portraying a gangster) are gonna lock lips in an earth-shattering kiss in a scene that is muy caliente. The thriller plot centers on a woman who re-invents herself after murdering an abusive boyfriend.

Time Code 2000, whose cast also includes Holly Hunter and Jeffrey star Steven Weber, wraps production next month.

A Feyer Frasier?

Word on the street is that Frasier star Kelsey Grammer is jealous of all the attention the gay roomie sitcom Will & Grace is getting, so he's planning to give his own hit (albeit aging) show a boost by introducing a gay male character. (As if it really needed more queer content!)

The new storyline would have Frasier's friendship with the gay man develop to the point where his own sexuality is questioned. But the NBC suits will only allow such a plot if they can snag an awesome actor for Frasier's new playmate

(think Rupert Everett).

Still, don't hold your breath. While Grammer might be getting bored portraying the Seattle radio host straight, NBC doesn't usually fix what ain't broke—and the show has never had a problem bringing home the Emmys.

A Star Is Resurrected

Romeo thought Liza Minnelli had a firm principle about not performing material made famous by her late, great mama. Well, apparently that's changed—and just in time for her latest comeback.

Taking a page from Natalie Cole's how-to-get-a-Grammy manual, Liza is doing more than just singing one of her mother's songs in her new stage show, Minnelli on Minnelli; she's doing it as a duet.

Using the same technology that allowed Natalie Cole to join her long-departed dad, Nat King Cole, in an "Unforgettable" performance, Liza teams up with none other than Judy

Garland to sing "Look for the Silver Lining," from the MGM musical Till the Clouds Roll By.

You can catch Liza's show at the Palace Theater in New York all this

Who's Gus's Next Guy?

Queer director Gus Van Sant, who's directed such pics as My Own Private Idaho and Good Will Hunting, is in talks to helm the feature film Finding Forester, starring sexy senior Sean Connery.

The plot deals with the friendship between a teenage black scholar-slash-athlete and a reclusive white novelist (Connery doing the Salinger thing) who discovers the young man's writings are as powerful as his own and takes him on as

Van Sant is known for his predilection for using cute, young, rising male actors in his films (Matt Dillon, River and Joaquin Phoenix, Keanu, Damon and Affleck), so we can't wait to see who else gets to star in this one.

Jodie Balks at Naughty Clarice

Don't hold your breath waiting for odie Foster to reprise her Academy Award-winning role as Clarice Starling in the upcoming sequel to Silence of the

If an interview in a recent issue of W is to be believed, it's far from certain that the single mom will take on the role in Hannibal, already in the works. In the Thomas Harris book on which the sequel is based, Clarice engages in sex acts and cannibalism with Hannibal Lechter; Foster says she's not interested in portraying a Clarice with negative attributes that didn't exist in the first movie.

Then again, this could all be part of some very savvy negotiations—in the same interview, she mentions that the role could be her biggest payday yet. The official word is that Foster will not make a decesion regarding her involvement in the project until she reads the screenplay



Jodie Foster is reportedly reluctant to play Clarice in *Hannibal*—the sequel to *Silence of the Lambs*.

adaption, which Schindler's List scribe Steve Zaillian is currently getting up to snuff.

Cruise Likes Risky Business

Box office champ Tom Cruise gave studio executives at Paramount a little scare recently when they viewed footage for the upcoming sequel to Mission: Impossible.

They thought they had convinced the Cruise to use a stunt double for a sequence in the film where his character climbs 1,500 feet of sheer rock. But the überstar, who is also one of the film's producers, insisted on doing the dangerous deed himself.

Maybe he felt he needed to earn his mega-million salary (actually, Cruise traded in his usual fee of \$20 million a picture for 30 percent of the gross on this project).

At one point during the sequence, which was shot on location in Utah, Cruise lost his footing and was hanging by only his hands. Fortunately, the star was tethered to an emergency wire and was able to regain his

footing and complete the stunt. All parties are said to be pleased with the footage.

While the plot of the film is still topsecret, it's rumored to involve a race to track down a lethal virus about to be unleashed upon the world. The production of Mission: Impossible 2 itself has been plagued with various sorts of trouble and is running 43 days behind schedule. The film was originally scheduled for release during the holidays, but Paramount now says it will hit the theaters next summer.

Sondheim Blesses Same-Sex 'Marry

Left Coast showtune queens are flocking to the 70-seat Celebration Theater in

Hollywood to check out the guyguy version of Marry Me a Little, featuring classic tunes by musical genius Stephen Sondheim.

A note in the show's program states: "Permission to change gender for the production of Marry Me a Little has been made with the author's prior and express written consent." Marry was originally written for a guy and a girl; the show uses Sondheim tunes (excerpted from shows like Sweeney Todd and Anyone Can Whistle) to tell the story of two lonely Manhattenites who live in the same apartment building and pine for romance.

Sondheim is keeping mum on why he gave the theater, which mounts mostly gay-themed plays, permission to make both characters male. While the original version of Marry ended with the two characters never meeting, this version has a more hopeful vibethe two characters briefly cross

paths on the elevator.

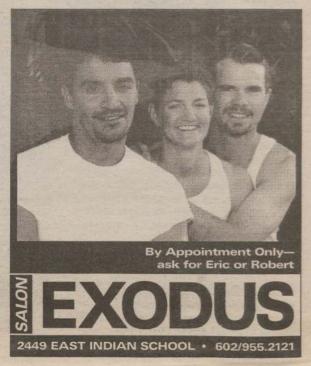
No word on if they were going up-or, um, going down.

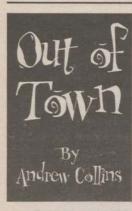
Romeo San Vicente wants to use Liza's way-back machine to do a duet with James Dean. You can reach Romeo in care of this publication or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.













Florida Accommodations on a Budget

Tropical Florida abounds with bargains and economically priced accommodations, so it may seem that a column about finding inexpensive digs in Florida is hardly needed. But gay and lesbian travelers planning a vacation in any of the state's popular centers for queer tourism should keep a few specific factors in

First, Florida tends to be hot among gay party-goers and bons vivants—the types who want not only sultry weather and sunshine but also proximity to clubs, access to clothing-optional resorts, and opportunities to shop and dine. If you're simply looking for an isolated, low-keyed romantic getaway with nary a fellow gay reveler in sight, you might have a nicer time in the Virgin Islands, Hawaii, Playa del Carmen, or any number of other dramatically scenic but less built-up places.

The demand for desirably located gayoriented hotels and resorts is fairly high in Florida, especially during the winter months, so discovering cheap lodgings within a walk or short drive of lively clubs and restaurants can be tough.

Many of the state's least expensive motels and inns are a long way from the gay action. Many value-oriented lodgings also draw hordes of young kids, and while there's nothing inherently wrong

Wherever you're headed, consider Florida's top-notch gay-friendly reservation service, Florida Hotel Network, which represents affordable hotel and guesthouse accommodations from the Panhandle to Key West, plus many short-term rentals.

with gays and straight families vacationing together (it might actually do the world a lot of good if this happened more often), many same-sex couples seek out queer-friendly, adult-oriented hotels to ensure a more relaxing getaway.

Hot beds of gay tourism include the ever-fabulous Deco District of South Beach, the Historic District of Key West, and the laid-back beachfront of Fort Lauderdale.

areas it's rather easy to find fair-priced gay-frequented inns and resorts, even in high season. In Tampa, you've got Gram's Place B&B, an informal low-keyed retreat with rooms of varying sizes and configuthree-story Ruskin House is filled with mostly Victorian antiques—it's ideal for a

A great and economical choice if you're seeking nightlife and beach proximity is the Suncoast Resort Hotel, a 120room gay/lesbian-exclusive property with its own restaurants, bars, meeting facilities, pool, and tennis courts-it's in the southern end of St. Petersburg, extremely close to the bridges that lead to the sandy stretches along the Gulf of Mexico.

Cost-effective merriment can also be found a few hours inland in the heart of Orlando, at the Parliament House, an unapologetically raunchy, multi-bar sexplex with nightlife, dining, a big pool, and a two-story L-shape motel-it's something akin to a Motel 6 crossed with a bathhouse. Even if you're not seeking a wild adventure, the place is clean, fairly safe, and dirt-cheap.

In the more southerly climes of the state, Fort Lauderdale has truly blossomed in recent years into a premier gay and lesbian destination. Here it's hard to find a better-maintained gay-male budget choice than Edun House, a small complex with a heated pool, exercise room, and contemporary guest rooms (with VCRs); guests are encouraged to dress (or undress) according to their own level of

Just a block in from the oceanfront, the King Henry Arms has very simple motelstyle rooms, but the friendly hosts have created an unpretentious and friendly hangout with the minimum of what's needed for a ideal vacation: a great location, a pool and sundeck, and a social

atmosphere.

Some tourists use Fort Lauderdale as a base to partake of the frenetic scene in South Beach, an hour or so away. But this traditionally queer-popular southern end of Miami Beach has a number of dependable, well-priced hotels of its own.

Under joint management, the Beachcomber, Bayliss, and all-suite Nassau hotels represent an outstanding value;

the spacious rooms, mostly with hardwood floors and stylish fixtures, are near shopping and dining. You'll find even lower rates at the Park Washington Resort, which consists of four historic hotels; together they overlook a fabulous (and clothing-optional) pool and patio on trendy Washington Avenue and cater to a predominantly young and fun-loving clientele.

The cheapest way to experience South

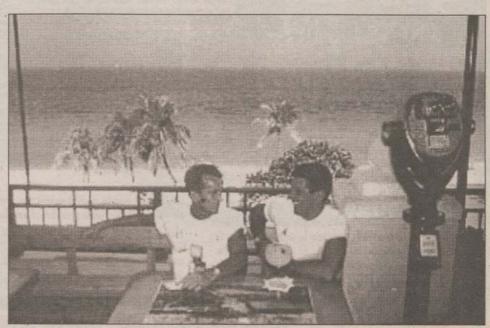
Beach is to stay at the Clay Hotel-Miami Beach International Hostel, a converted historic hotel whose private rooms and dorm units have satellite TV, refrigerators, and basic but pleasant enough furnish-

Dangling of the tip of Florida—just 85 miles from Cuba-Key West has seen booms and busts throughout its history but is presently experiencing a huge resurgence in gay tourism.

gains to be had. The weather is no hotter, in many cases, than in the rest of the country, and at least you'll be near the beach or by a swimming pool.

In Orlando, Disney's now internationally famous Gay Day is held each year the first week in June.

If you worry that you may long for the company of fellow revelers in summer, keep in mind that many gays and lesbians who actually live in Florida plan their in-



Some of Fort Lauderdale's least expensive gay-friendly accommodations are within a short distance of the city's sparkling oceanfront.

In the heart of town, right on Duval Street, consider the art deco Pegasus International Hotel, whose rooms are fairly standard, but there's a nice-size pool and the management is very gay-friendly.

Also very close to bars, the gay-popular Tropical Inn is one of the best deals around—a delightfully renovated conch house whose units have new furnishings, clean and modern baths, and central air. Next door are a pair of cottages (each able to sleep four) that share a hot tub and secluded redbrick patio.

Another smart choice is the Mangrove House, in the historic Old Town neighborhood. This striking small yellow

Bahamian house has thin white columns and a perfectly restored tin roof; it's an elegant, low-key allmale getaway, an ideal retreat for couples. Guests can mingle around the large pool, hot tub, and lounge chairs.

Wherever you're headed, consider Florida's topnotch gay-friendly reservation service, Florida Hotel Network, which represents affordable hotel and guesthouse accommodations from the Panhandle to Key West, plus many shortterm rentals.

One last bit of advice: Remember the off-season. It may seem odd to break for Key West or Fort Lauderdale in summer, but you won't believe the barstate vacations during the height of the off

What could be smarter than vacationing here in July alongside a bunch of residents of Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, and Miami-play your cards right, and you might make a friend willing to host you during your next visit. This, of course, is the cheapest and often the most enjoyable way to see Florida.

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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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

Dear Cowboy,

Earlier this year, I got an ingrown hair near the base of my penis from shaving down there. It caused a big pimple that swelled into a very noticeable red blotch every few days, then it would kind of go away, then it would swell up again. Finally, after about two months, it went away altogether.

I'm very sexually active, and I met and played with several fun guys during the time I had this blemish. My question is, do you think it is necessary to explain to a trick what something like that is, if I knew it was completely harmless and in no way contagious?

I figured I would say something if anyone asked, but nobody asked even though I'm sure they noticed it. How do you bring something like that up? It's Signed, Back to Normal

Dear Normal,

You blew it. As mature and sexually active cowboys and gals, it is our responsibility to be honest in every way about our bodies when we are climbing between the bunkhouse sheets with someone else. This goes for everything from our STD/HIV status right on down to any bizarre birthmarks or pimples.

You should have told every single one of your temporary riding partners about the pimple as soon as it was about touh, come up. A "red blotch" could mean lots of worrisome things—they probably all wondered what it was, but were too

uncomfortable to ask. These cowboys might still be thinking back on it and fretting over their contact with you.

Sure it's embarrassing, but you need to do it to ease their minds. Try something like, "Heck of a place for an ingrown hair, pretty embarrassing, huh?" and clearly point it out while you say that. And next time you have an ingrown hair anywhere for two months, tell your doc about it.

Dear Cowboy,

I wanted to write and let you know that someone out here read your advice and it worked.

I'm a single, good looking guy with a lot going for me, but I am shy and can never seem to meet any cute, available men. I attended a big gay event a few weeks ago and it seemed like, once again, all the guys there were either already attached or were not my type. Then I remembered something I read in your answer to another guy.

Instead of complaining or leaving, I forgot about husband-hunting, picked out another person who was there alone and

just started talking. She is a lesbian, several years older than me, but I didn't care. It turned out we both love obscure movies and horses. We talked and talked and really hit it off.

Since then, we have been to the movies several times, we went to see a play, we went on a trail ride, and she has invited me to have Thanksgiving dinner at her house with a whole bunch of gay people.

I have still not met "Mister Right" through her or anything like that, but she's constantly introducing me to people, so who knows? Whatever happens, I just wanted you to know that I took your advice and I'm glad I did. I've decided to drop my expectations and I have a whole group of new friends because of it. Thanks.

Signed, A Reader in Tucson

Dear Tucson,

Thank you, pardner! It was great to hear your story and great to hear from the southern part of the state, too. Hope your Turkey Day was everything you didn't expect, and more.

HeatStroke's Funny Page

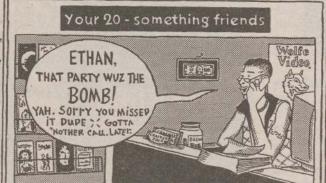
The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel





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A Place Called Home 3431 W. Thunderbird #13-403 Phoenix 85023 602/942-1572

Arizona AIDS Information Line 24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C Phoenix 85013 602/234-2752

Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance 6523 N. 14th St., #112 Phoenix 85014 602/279-4805

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HIV Care Directions 1366 E. Thomas#105 Phoenix 85014 602/264-2273

Native American Community Health Center 3008 N. 3rd Street, Suite 302 Phoenix 85012 602/279-5262

Joshua Tree Feeding Program P.O. Box 7056 Phoenix 85011 602/264-0223

Maricopa County Health Dept. 1825 E. Roosevelt Phoenix 85006 602/506-6900

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Phx. Body Positive 4021 N. 30th St. #2 Phoenix 85016 602/955-4673

Phx. Shanti Group 2020 W. Indian School Rd.#53 Phoenix 85015 602/279-0008

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Wellness Center 1840 W. Maryland, Suite E Phoenix 85016 602/864-0710

Political Action & Education

American Civil Liberties Union P.O. Box 17148 Phoenix 85011 602/650-1967

Arizona Central Pride P.O. Box 16847 Phoenix 85011 602/279-1771

Arizona Human Rights Fund Phoenix 85002 602/650-0900

Arizonans for Fairness P.O. Box 34766 Phoenix 85067 602/265-7283

AZ Democratic Party Gay & Lesbian Caucus 2005 N. Central #180 Phoenix 85004 602/257-9136

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness P.O. Box 60881

Phoenix 85082 602/351-3080 Log Cabin Republicans P.O. Box 60994 Phoenix 85082 602/428-3596

Maricopa Cty. Libertarian Party

Phoenix 85001 602/248-8425

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Arizona Nude Dudes www.aznudedudes.org andes@swlink.net

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546 E. Osbom, #22 Phoenix 85012 602/285-0970

PO Box 83072 Phoenix 85029 www.psn.net/~damour_

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America, Phoenix 602/864-6092; pglbva@aol.com

Gay Lesbian Yavapai Alliance PO Box 3241 Prescott, AZ 86302-6558 520/541-6558

Girth and Mirth of AZ P.O. Box 16605 Phoenix 85011 480/655-8229

The Leatherlords 602/2549651

Lesbian & Gay Alanon 2622 N. 16th Street Phoenix 85006 602/548-0936

Lesbian & Gay Overeaters Anon. 480/607-7640; cave4bear@hotmail.com

Los Amigos del Sol (IADS) PO Box 27335 Phoenix 85061 602/997-2411

Parents & Friends of Lesbians P.O. Box 7625 Phoenix 85011 602/843-1404

Prime Timers of Phoenix 602/993-8337 www.primetimers.org/phoenix

Project LifeGuard Project Q TRIBE 1427 M/ 3rd Street, Suite 120 Phoenix 85004 602/254-3233

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Unitarian Universalist Congreg. 1027 E. Lincoln Dr. Paradise Valley 85283 602/840-8400

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AZ Women in Tune PO Box 37855 Phoenix 85069 623/878-5430

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

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

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

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

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PO Box 44422 Phoenix 85064 602/246-9643 Spartan Wrestling Club-

matthims@aol.com

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Apollo's	602/277-9373
Cash Inn	602/244-9943
Charlie's	602/265-0224
Doc Gireaux	
JC's Fun One Lounge	
Nu-Towne Saloon	
The Water Hole	

Out-of-Town

Bacchanal (Palm Springs)----800/806-9059 Desert Paradise (Palm Springs)800/342-7635

Pet Services

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

Realtors

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

Restaurants

-----602/277-2121

Retail

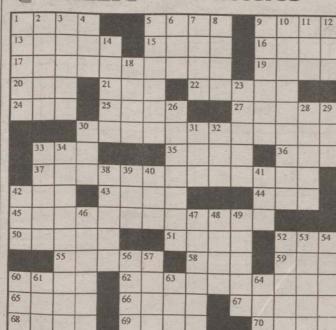
BestWay Carpet & Floors-----602/631-6925 BOSS Hugo Boss SHOP-----480/970-3393 The Garden Walk-----480/926-4794 Historic District Antique Mall---602/253-3778 Obelisk, The Bookstore------602/266-BOOK

Spiritual Groups

Gentle Shepherd MCC------602/864-6404

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

"Converting the Heteros"



ACROSS Place for a stud

Upholstery uglifiers 5 They're over cpls.

13 Exams on sexual technique? 15 1952 Olympics site where Dick Button won gold

16 Decorated man, maybe 17 Friend of Dorothy on the rifle range?

19 Keep _ (persevere) 20 Pigged out

21 Mulder or Scully: Abbr.

25 Steel-band instrument

22 Furry fellows 24 With 55-Across, openly gay composer of Miss Julie

27 The Phantom Menace alien Jar-Jar

30 Own an Elton John mask? 33 "Two Little Girls" singer DiFranco

35 Rob ___ (Scotch manhattans) 36 Kit __ (candy bar) 37 - Solve this crossword puzzle?

42 Blow in a comic book 43 Went down 44 Takes too much, for short

45 Resembling a lesbian super-

50 "You'll Never Walk __" (song from Carousel)

51 Time between birthdays 52 Where to find San Francisco and Key West

55 See 24-Across

58 Inc., in England 59 Gardner of Show Boat

60 She sang "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" with Elton 62 Performs in the style of

Liberace? 65 Youngest brother on Party of

Five

66 Montreal baseballer 67 Bert's long-time companion

68 Word processor command

69 Neck and neck 70 Jodie Foster's alma mater

DOWN

Bryan

Airport which services

Provincetown **Emulate William Jennings**

Howled at the moon Two-time U.S. Open winner Ernie Discover by digging with the

Suffix with sex Naval Academy freshman

In need of Ben-Gay Streisand's Funny Girl costar

10 Prepares to skinny-dip 11 More than bi-

12 Boozer 14 Window covering

18 Fairy-tale monster 23 Immeasurably vast hole

26 Cosmetics queen? 28 Discontinued Chrysler models

29 Get hard

30 Do-it-yourselfer's purchase 31 "Don't ___ step further!"

32 Atlas Shrugged author Rand

33 Score ___ (get points) 34 Greenwich Village resident, e.g.

38 AIDS: Profile of an Epidemic

narrator Ed 39 Wander aimlessly

40 The Brady Bunch actress _ B. Davis 41 Exclamation after explosive

sex 42 Tiger Woods' org. 46 Apply holy oil to

47 Have faith in 48 Michael Jackson played with his in Ben

49 Do-__ situation (crucial emergency)

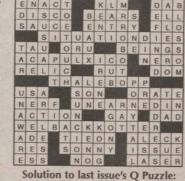
cum laude 53 To no ___ (useless)

54 Prostitute, to a john 56 Fencer's thruster 57 1,065, to Caesar

Some boxing wins, briefly

61 Sands of __ Jima (classic WWII film)

63 Very hairy swinger 64 Take a whack at



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Edibles

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

ibations

- 1. Ain't Nobody's Bizness 3031 E. Indian School Phoenix 602/224-9977
- 2. Amsterdam 718 North Central Ave. Phoenix 602/258-6122
- 3. Apollo's 5749 N. 7th Street Phoenix 602/277-9373
- 4. Boot Camp 3702 N. 7th St. Phoenix • 602/212-9888
- 5. BS 7125 5th Avenue Scottsdale 480/945-9028
- 6. The Bunkhouse 4428 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix 602/200-9154
- 7. Cash Inn 2140 E. McDowell Phoenix 602/244-9943
- 8. Charlie's 727 W. Camelback Phoenix 602/265-0224
- 9. Crowbar 702 N. Central Ave. Phoenix 602/258-8343
- 10. Cruisin' Central 1011 N.Central Ave. Phoenix 602/253-3376

- 11. Doc Gireaux 12032 N. Cave Creek Phoenix 602/997-9461
- 12. Harley's Club 155 Harley's Too! 155 / 125 W. Camelback Phoenix 602/274-8505
- 13. JC's Fun One 5542 N. 43rd Ave. Glendale 623/939-0528
- 14. Johnny Mc's 138 W. Camelback Phoenix 602/266-0875
- 15. Marlys' 15615 Cave Creek Phoenix 602/867-2463
- 16. Millennium 2001 3300 S. Price Rd. Tempe 602/756-2445
- 17. Nasty's Sports Bar 3108 E. McDowell Phoenix 602/267-8707
- 18. NuTowne 5002 E. Van Buren Phoenix 602/267-9959
- 19. Paco Paco 3045 N. 16th St. Phoenix 602/263-8424
- 20. Padlock 998 E. Indian School Phoenix 602/266-5640
- 21. The Park 3002 N. 24th Street Phoenix 602/957-6055
- 22. Roscoe's on 7th 4531 N. 7th St. Phoenix 602/285-0833
- 23. The Rose 4301 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix 602/265-3233

- 24. Scandals 4132 E. McDowell Phoenix 602/275-3509
- 25. Studio 43 4343 N. 7th Ave Phoenix 602/230-2515
- 26. 307 Lounge 222 E. Roosevelt Phoenix 602/252-0001
- 27. TRAX 1724 E. McDowell Phoenix 602/254-0231
- 28. Waterhole 8830 N. 43rd Ave Glendale 623/937-3139
- 29. Wink's 5707 N. 7th St. Phoenix 602/265-9002

Staples

- 30. The Adult Shoppe 111 S. 24th Street Phoenix 306-1130 2345 W. Holly St. Phoenix 602/253-7126
- 31. The Barn Adult Shop 5021 W Indian School Phoenix 623/245-3008
- 32. Book Cellar 4029 E. Washington Phoenix 602/275-0015 (other Valley locations)
- 33. Castle Boutique 5501 E. Washington Phoenix 602/231-9837 (other Valley locations)
- 34. Obelisk Books 24 West Camelback Phoenix 602/266-Book

- 35. Movies on Central 4700 N. Central,#121 Phoenix 602/274-0994
- 36. Tuff Stuff 1714 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix 602/254-9651

Tubs

- 40. Chute 1440 E. Indian School Phoenix 602/234-1654
- 41. Flex 1517 S. Black Canyon Phoenix 602/271-9011

Culture

- 60. America West Arena 201 E. Jefferson Phoenix 602/379-7800
- 61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum 1101 W. Washington Phoenix 602/255-2110
- 62. AZ Historical Society Museum 1300 N. College Tempe 480/929-0292
- 63. AZ Mining & Mineral Museum 1502 W. Washington Phoenix 602/255-3791
- 64. AZ Science Center 600 E. Washington Phoenix 602/716-2000
- 65. AZ State Capitol Museum 1700 W. Washington Phoenix 602/542-4675

- 66. ASU Art Museum Nelson Fine Arts Center Mill Ave. & 10th Street Tempe 480/965-2787
- 67. ASU Gammage Center Apache & Mill Ave. Tempe 480/965-3434
- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky Pavillion 2121 N. 83rd Ave. Phoenix 623/254-7499
- 9. Celebrity Theater 440 N. 32nd Street Phoenix 602/267-9373
- 70. Heard Museum 22 E. Monte Vista Phoenix 602/252-8848
- 71. Herberger Theater 222 E. Monroe Phoenix 602/254-7399
- 72. Orpheum Theatre 203 W. Adams Phoenix 602/262-7272
- 73. Phoenix Art Museum 1624 N. Central Ave. Phoenix 602/257-1222
- 74. Phoenix Central Library 1221 N. Central Ave. Phoenix 602/262-4636
- Phoenix 602/262-4636 75. Phoenix Civic Plaza
- 225 E. Adams St. Phoenix 602/262-6225 76. Phoenix Symphony Hall 225 E. Adams
- Phoenix 602/262-6225
 77. Phoenix Museum of Histor
- 77. Phoenix Museum of History 105 N. 5th Street Phoenix 602/253-2734
- 78. Phoenix Theatre 100 E. McDowell Phoenix 602/254-2151

- Planet Earth Multi-Cultural Theatre 909 N. 3rd Street Phoenix 602/241-1821
- 30. Union Hall 512 E. Van Buren Phoenix 602/253-7100

Outdoors

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

Finding it in Phoenix Flagstaff | Phoenix & Sedona North Mountain (83) Park & Preserve (B3) (83) Dunlap 33 Squaw Northern Paradise Peak Park Glendale (B7) Valley Glendale Bethany Home McDonald 3 (13) Scottsdale (29) (33) 14 34 Camelback Camelback 12 32nd 6 25) 35 (51) A 22 23 (5) Indian School 20 40 5 Indian School Sist 4 (17) 19 21 Thomas 40th 30 McDo

McDo

McDo

McDo 17 McDowell 7 24 10/26) 10 10 2=9 Van Buren 72 71 84 Washington Curry 7675 64 60 65 61 202 Sky Harbor International Airport (143) (10) Tempe (17) 60 Mesa Ahwatukee City of Phoenix South Mountain Park & Preserve Tucson

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES: As the Sun, new moon and Pluto all stir up your sense of adventure, take some extra chances. Suddenly you are awake as you've never been before. Do something with all this new mental and physical energy. Don't release your chi with just anybody—unless it's a very tantric kind of Leo.

TAURUS: Venus, your sensual ruler, moves into your house of love on December 6, so try to be more receptive to what's being offered out there. You can be more open and more choosy at the same time, darling. Get involved-with an Aries, perhapsbut don't forget to give your dark side its due.

GEMINI: Go forward in a humble, hard-working way with your career plans, but know that a whole lot is out of your control right now. Don't push your luck; let it come to you. Concentrate on your love life, as the new moon triggers a deeper awareness of your passions. Share your erotic epiphanies with a Pisces.

CANCER: The moon in your house of love the weekend of December 10 should bring you all the attention you could possibly want. But move slowly, my dear. Best thing is to throw yourself into a creative frenzy and don't leave home till you've got something fierce. Then share it with a special

LEO: This could be a time when dreams come true, but not in the ways you've planned. Repeat this mantra: "I can't control another person's actions." What you can do, sweetheart, is take loving care of your body on a daily (or at least weekly) basis while Mars is opposite your sign (through early January). An Aquarius has some good ideas about this.

VIRGO: You have a lot of tricks up your sleeve right now, and you don't have to reveal the cards you're holding to anybody. In fact, while lucky Jupiter is retrograde in your partnership house, you'd do better to wait before making any firm commitments. Play hard to get, especially where a Capricorn is concerned.

LIBRA: You are at the peak of your creative powers, and that makes you quite attractive. But please, dear, avoid that fatal flaw vanity. Don't worry about how you look; go out and have fun during this festive season. Let a Taurus show you how it's

SCORPIO: Indulge in some unadulterated sensual pleasure in the days ahead, dear Scorp. Experiment with all sorts of ways to prolong the ecstasy. Spend your time enjoying what you have now, and by the "new millennium" you'll have much more. A love affair with a Gemini is agonizing and fabulous.

SAGITTARIUS: This is your time in the Sun, so enjoy it. You may be getting strange inspirations and odd invitations from out-of-this-world people. Don't try to make sense of it all just yet. Instead, say "yes!" to whatever comes. Be the magician you truly are, and do your first trick for a Taurus.

CAPRICORN: Your heart is running faster than your head these days. Don't worry, everything will even out into perfect synchronicity soon enough. Just quiet your internal censor for five friggin' minutes, and discover what your real desires are. Opening up to a Libra is really not so hard, now is it?

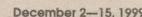
AQUARIUS: Mars is in your sign, giving you extra doses of vitality, so make the most of it. Get more physical, and be more direct with friends, colleagues and enemies. But flexibility will lead you to better sex, and I'm not just talking about bedroom gymnastics. Don't be afraid to give in to a Sag.

PISCES: You are about to be placed into a position of greater power. Think about what it is you really want to accomplish in your career; you just may start moving in the right direction. But for now, keep your brilliant ideas to yourself. OK, go ahead and share a few to a Scorpio who knows how to keep a secret.

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









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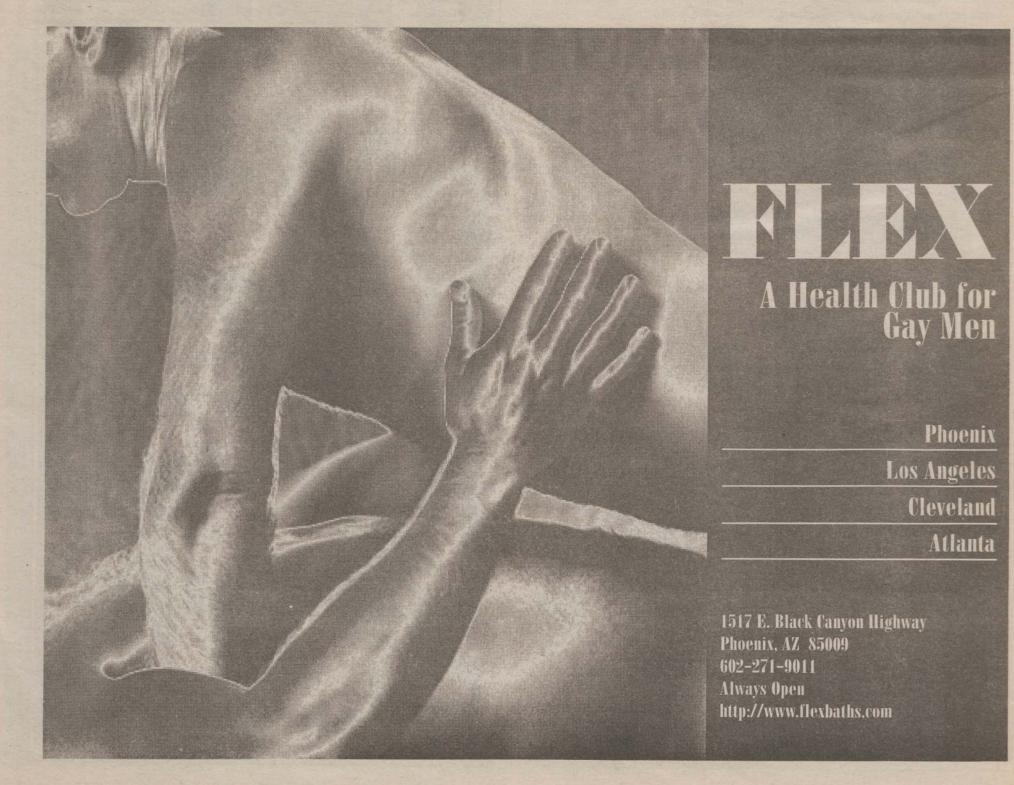
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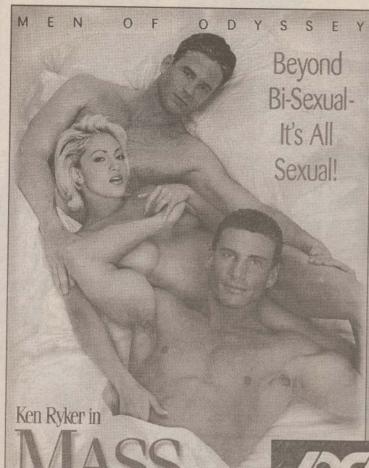
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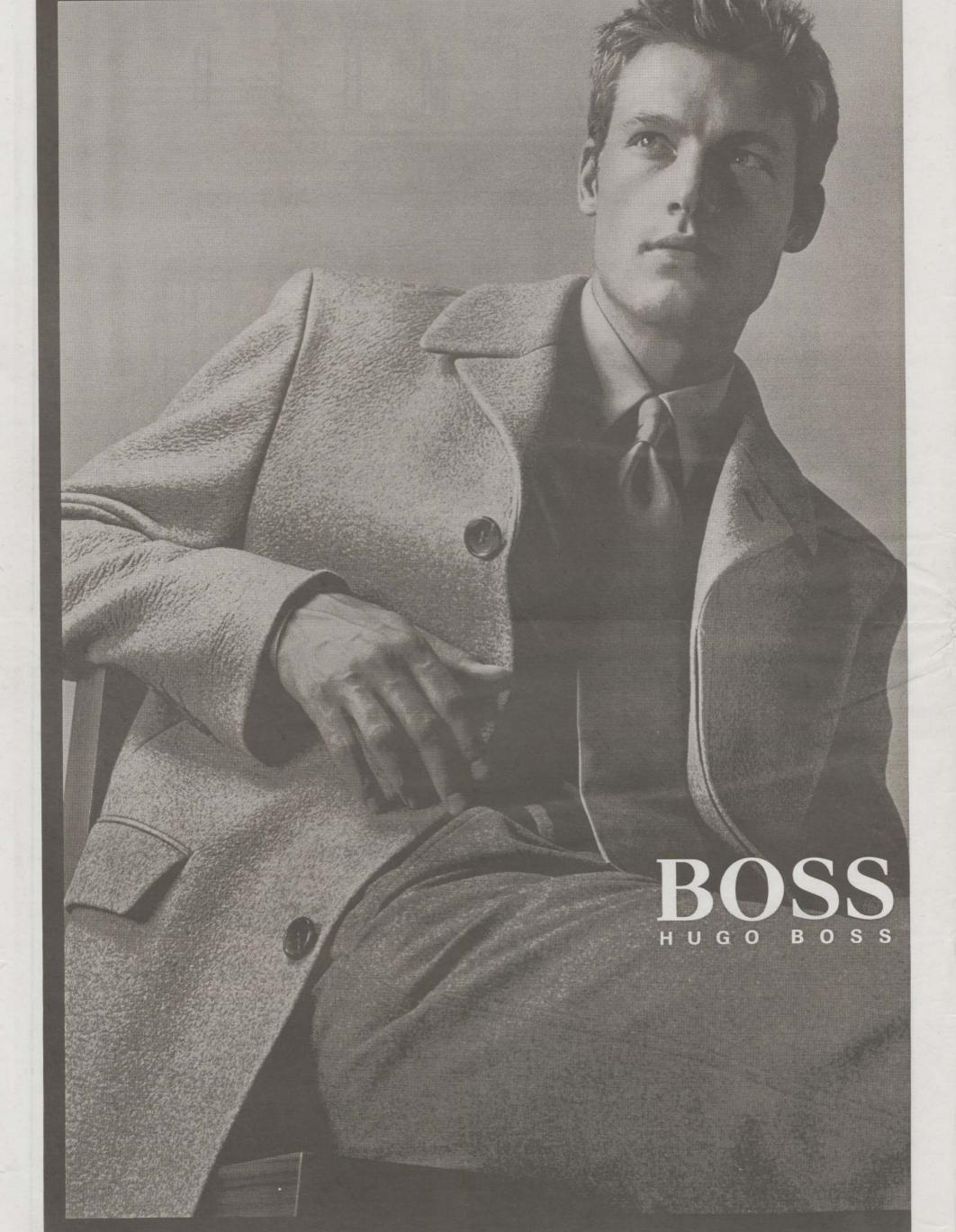




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