

HeatStroke

Volume 7, No. 79

Phoenix, Arizona

November 18—December 1, 1999

He puts Pride in his Country

Nashville's gayest caballero
to perform in Phoenix

By John Thomas Lotardo, Contributor

It has been a while since gay country singer Jeff Miller parked his horse in Phoenix for a show. As Miller says, "it was a loooong time ago," but he is darned glad to be coming back. He'll be performing Dec. 1 at Charlie's in central Phoenix.

That last Valley visit was in 1990 and was Miller's very first touring stop when he began bringing all his own lighting and sound equipment to his shows. The Phoenix gig set the stage for some great advancement in his career.

Right now, Miller is one the most visible gay country/western artists in the United States. He is on the verge of being signed to a major label—no small feat when you consider the tough row a gay artist has to hoe in the Good 'Ol Boy atmosphere of Nashville.

When asked some of the positive things about being a performer who is openly gay, Miller is quick to answer, "not living a lie" as one of the biggest. He feels he no longer has to "dodge bullets all the time like others in Nashville."

The handsome and talented singer has received support from a whole corral of country superstars. One star in particular—none other than megaseller Garth Brooks—set the up-and-comer straight some time ago.

Brooks, whose bass-playing sister is an

out lesbian, asked Miller whether he is a gay man who happens to sing country, or a country artist who happens to be gay. Miller says he prefers to consider himself the latter.

Regardless, he is by no means covering up his gayness. In fact, he celebrates it in his music—and in his shows. His lyrics are "twisted gay parodies" of many mainstream songs. He says his audiences just love them.

For example, one song, "No Lube," is a man to man parody of the recent hit "No News." The "No Lube" version describes a hilarious one night stand encounter where the faithful lubricant cannot be found.

Other favorite tunes include the "Condom Polka" and "Half-a-Man." Performing "Half-a-Man" is pretty exciting for Miller, since he performed it as a pre-release of a single off the soundtrack for the current movie, *Happy Texas*. Although a female singer performs on the soundtrack, it is quite an honor to do a pre-release performance. That, Miller says, shows the kind of industry support



he is starting to receive.

Arista Records is even assisting in his current tour. Miller, considered one the gay artists most likely to be signed by a major label, hopes to have his new CD out in the spring.

The CD, *Cowboy Without a Clue*, is a labor of love for Miller. "I don't want to rush it," he says. He insists that it'll be worth the wait. At the upcoming Phoenix show, he will be giving the Valley a taste of what to expect when the collection does go on sale.

Asked what patrons can expect at a Jeff Miller performance, Miller laughs and

says to get ready. His shows are funny, clever, and—best of all—perfect for any country dance nightclub.

Miller works his concerts like a DJ works a dance floor, so you can sit back and enjoy or you can dance the night away. Either way, you and your pardner will love it.



The Jeff Miller show begins at 9 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at Charlie's, 727 west Camelback in Phoenix. Call 602/265-0224 for more information.

Gay love lasts, too

New anthology celebrates male/male commitments

by Allen Kalchik, Editor

After hearing too many of his gay clients proclaim that homosexual males are by nature incapable of coupling and staying in long term relationships, psychotherapist and author Merle Yost decided he could prove otherwise.

He spent nearly four years soliciting stories and photographs of gay men who've been coupled a decade or more, then showcased the best 14 examples in a handsome new book called *When Love Lasts Forever: Male Couples Celebrate Commitment*, out in hardcover from

Pilgrim Press in time for the holidays.

"I understand straight people are even buying it as a gift for their gay friends—that's not something I anticipated happening," Yost said during a phone interview from his therapy practice in Oakland, California.

Yost said he really hopes that the reverse is true as well—that gays will share the anthology with non-gay friends and family members as a way of affirming something that mainstream society routinely overlooks: male/male relationships can and do last.

The author will be in Phoenix Dec. 4 to sign copies of

the book at Obelisk Bookstore.

In a 16-year relationship himself, Yost has long had a particular interest in long-term male couples. He also knows firsthand the commitment it takes to keep a partnership going.

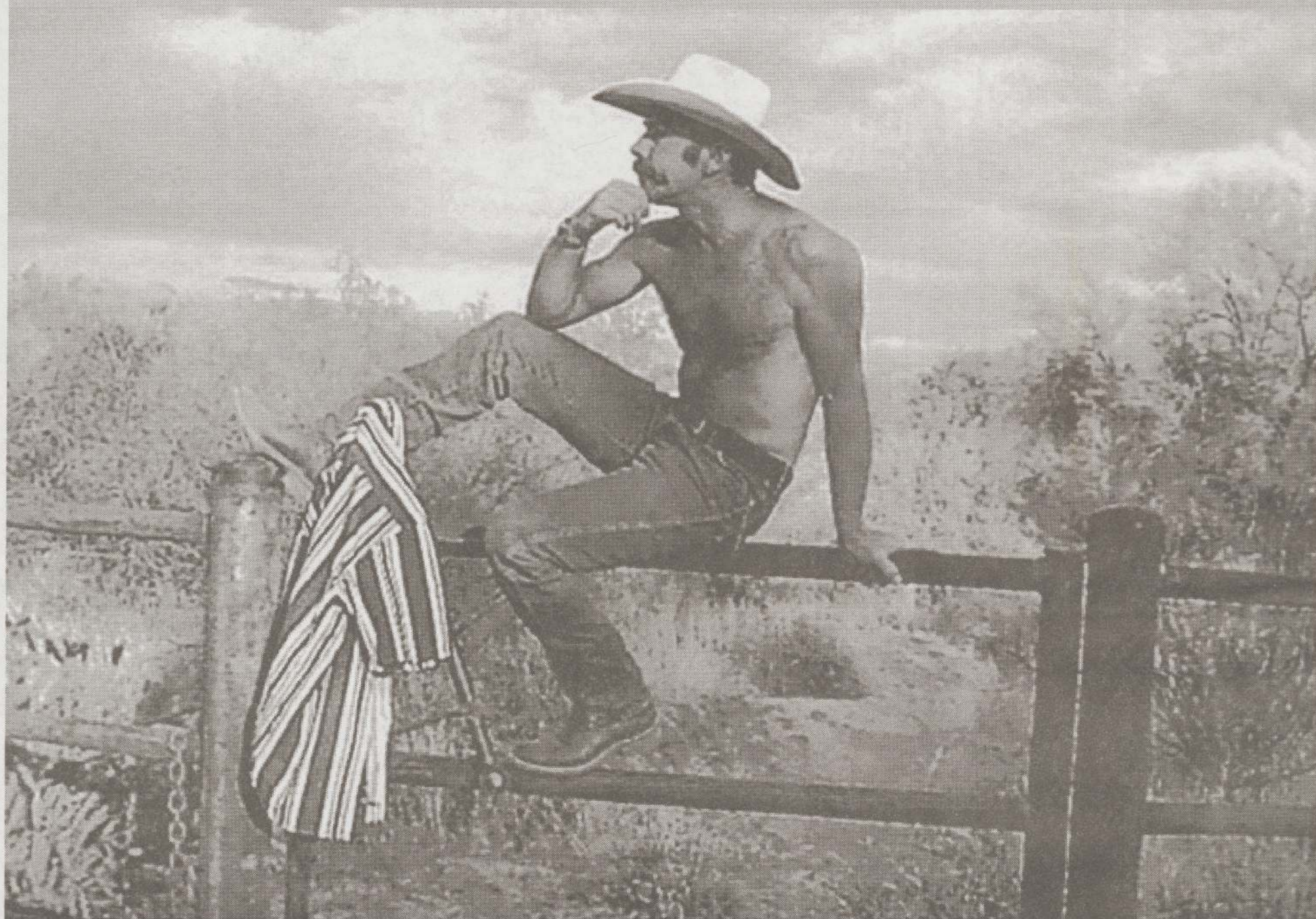
A Tucson resident from the age of 12 until his early 30s, Yost ran a management consulting company there and co-founded Tucson's gay and lesbian networking group, the Old Pueblo Business and Professional Association. He still loves and misses Arizona. "When I think of home, I think of Tucson," he said.

But when his partner, Frank Reber Brown, finished grad school and needed to relocate in order to find work, the pair faced a choice that can strain any marriage—no matter the genders involved. Would Yost stay in Tucson, or pull up stakes and forgo a secure career to preserve the relationship?

See "Author signing," page 15

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National Advertising Sales
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Horowitz:

Gagged

Aaron McKinney pled guilty to the murder of Matthew Shepard to avoid the death penalty for his crimes. News reports said the plea agreement reflected the wishes of the Shepard family who wanted to honor Matthew's memory.

Matthew's mother said that her son would have shown compassion and not argued for vengeance. I believed in my heart that the result was a good one—a substantial punishment for a heinous crime.

I'm still troubled, though, by the defense strategy of

The McKinney plea agreement prohibits McKinney, and anyone involved in the case, from speaking about the case with the media. This effectively means that the defendant himself, his attorneys, members of the defense and prosecution teams, and the entire public defender's office can never talk about the case. This stipulation is outrageous.

blaming the attack against Shepard on Shepard's alleged sexual advances toward his killers. I reject even the slightest notion that unwanted flirting could legally provoke someone to murder.

The judge decided to exclude that line of defense, effectively eliminating any excuses other than the influence of drugs and alcohol. McKinney was surely headed for conviction, and a plea agreement was his best option.

Plea agreements have become an essential tool of our criminal justice system. Although often criticized for good reason, they help free up our clogged court calendars and spare the state and crime victims the significant damage a long, drawn out court battle can engender. They provide swift justice and often guarantee a conviction in circumstances that offer very few guarantees.

The McKinney plea agreement, however, prohibits McKinney, and anyone else involved in the case, from speaking about the case with the media. This effectively means that the defendant himself, his attorneys, members of the defense and prosecution teams, and the entire public defender's office can never talk about the case. This stipulation is outrageous.

From the beginning, the Shepard Family didn't want Matthew to become a martyr for gay rights or a symbol

against violence. Despite their best efforts, Matthew's name will long be used and remembered as we push for tougher penalties for hate crimes.

Matthew's quiet life leaves a legacy of love that will always reach further because of his brutal murder. Most importantly, Matthew's death got the country talking about senseless violence against gays and lesbians that was routinely ignored and often encouraged.

I am in favor of plea agreement provisions that prevent a criminal from benefiting financially from his crime. I have no problem that Aaron McKinney cannot sell his story to the highest Hollywood bidder. But Mr. and Mrs. Shepard have no business forcing their desire to stop talking about Matthew's murder on society at large. Matthew's death has inspired a lot of people to action, and it is essential that we keep talking about it.

The plea agreement reads in part, "Pursuant to this letter and the Wyoming Rules of Professional Conduct [governing all lawyers in the State of Wyoming], the defense attorneys, including the public defenders' office, the mitigation specialist and any and all other members of the defense team agree to not comment to the news media regarding this case; other than if appropriate, releasing a brief statement that

counsel has agreed not to comment to the news media pursuant to an agreement with the Shepard family."

When talk of Matthew's murder is silenced, we are all in grave danger. We should not be in the business of tailoring our justice system to the desires of a victim's family.

The value of Matthew's case from legal, educational and historical perspectives is huge. We should be talking about the public defender's attempted use of the "gay advances" defense. We should be discussing McKinney's past same-sex experiences and trying to understand why anyone would hate and fear homosexuality enough to kill. We should be dissecting the investigations, arrests and prosecution decisions.

I hope that journalists will continue to write their stories even if some of the major players can't speak up because of the gag order. Judy and Dennis Shepard deserve their privacy and their private grief, but they shouldn't be allowed to trample the First Amendment to get there. We deserve our symbol and our martyr. I believe Matthew would have wanted his life to make that kind of difference to so many people.

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

Editors:

In reference to [Phoenix Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America president] Wally Straughn's Letter to the Editor in the last issue of October in response to my previous letter, there are some statements of misinformation that need to be corrected.

1. Straughn suggested I never attended the gay veteran meetings. I attended the meetings regularly up until July 1999, when I started to become disillusioned with the group.

2. Straughn said I never paid any dues. Actually, the GLBVA has asked me to renew my dues. I paid by check in Oct. 1998, expiring Sept. 1999.

3. Straughn said that I refused to join the Vietnam Veterans of America. Actually, over the months he has dis-

couraged me from attending, saying he would prefer that he went first to check out the group before I went. I got tired of waiting. On Aug. 26 I went to a VVA meeting and was promptly asked to leave. I guess my Navajo Indian spouse and my transgender attire had put these people off.

4. I did offer a couple of times to do some volunteer work in public relations, but I got no response from the organization.

Straughn, a natural leader for the group, is totally dedicated. He has a vision, but only his vision. There is no room for controversy.

Neala Lynn Balmes
Phoenix

Editors:

I wanted to make a comment about

the article by Michael Alvear in your last issue ("You've got Male", Nov. 3—17, 1999). It seems that your staff has started bringing the back of the newspaper to the front of the paper.

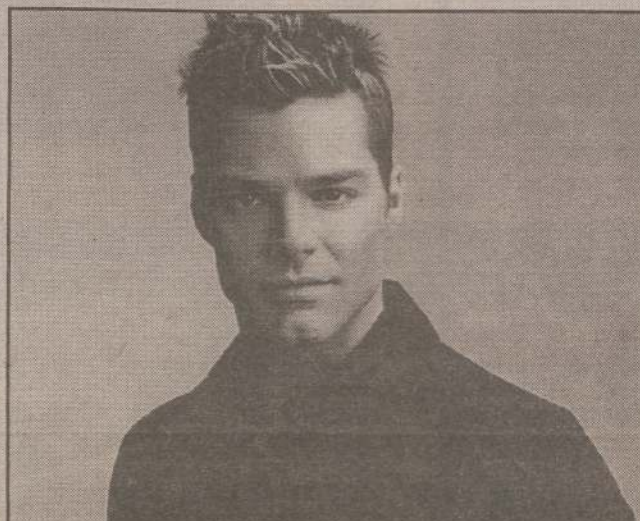
I'm sure that an article about on-line services and chatrooms could have been written without using quotes such as "having dick delivered to the door faster than a pizza."

You may be surprised that this bothers me, but it does. I wish you would stick to good, decent articles without putting such explicit pieces on your cover.

I normally enjoy reading HeatStroke and will probably continue to do so—at least as long as we don't get too much more of this kind of material.

Name Withheld by Request

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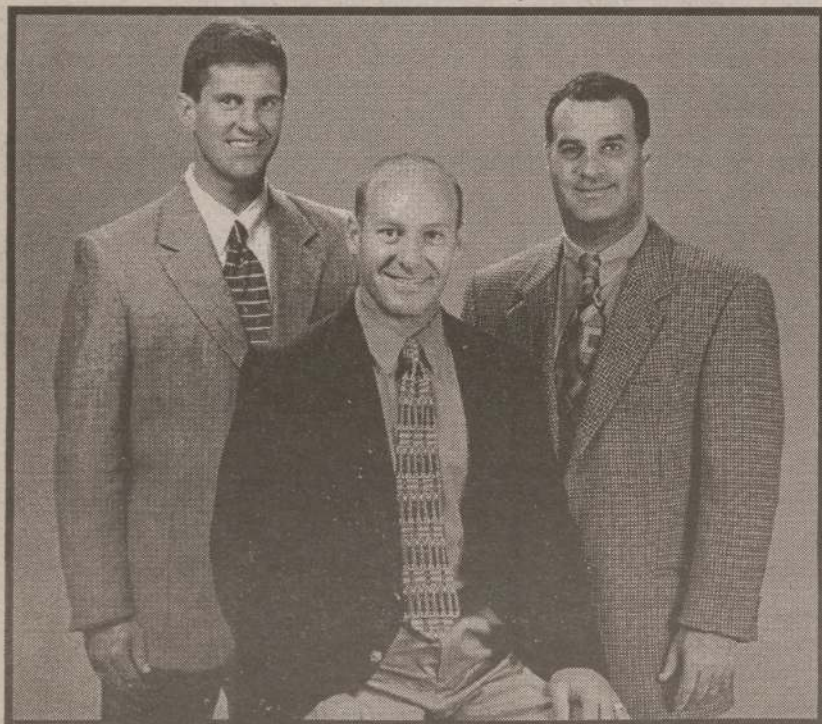
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Deb Price

Supreme Court needs to tread carefully in deciding family visitation rights



The U.S. Supreme Court rarely ventures into the messy, complicated realm of family law. Disputes over domestic matters such as child custody and visitation rights are normally left to the states. But gay-rights attorneys weren't just shocked when the Supreme Court recently agreed to decide the constitutionality of Washington state's visitation law. They were alarmed.

Superficially, the case involves a question of grandparent's rights rather than anything gay. After their unmarried son, Brad, committed suicide in 1993, Jennifer and Gary Troxel petitioned for the right to continue seeing their son's two daughters more regularly than the mother wanted to allow. Under Washington law, anyone could petition for visitation rights at any time and be granted them if that was in the child's best interests.

However, the Washington State Supreme Court struck down that law last December, ruling it violated a parent's constitutional right to privacy. (All states have grandparent visitation laws, some of which cover other so-called third parties. Washington's law was far broader than most.) The Troxels appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Oral arguments in *Troxel v. Granville* are expected early next year and a final decision by June.

In accepting the case, the U.S. Supreme Court has charged—perhaps blundered—into a field filled with land mines: What's a family? Who's a parent? Does biology give grandparents special rights? How should the overlapping rights of children, parents and grandparents be sorted out? When may a state overrule a fit parent's decisions?

"The Supreme Court doesn't understand family law. They might have thought this was a relatively simple case about grandparent's rights. This is not a simple case they've gotten themselves into," warns Nancy Polikoff, a national expert on gay family law.

The danger is that the court—whose nine justices include six grandparents—is so unfamiliar with the territory that it will inadvertently cause a great deal of harm to a great many children. One misstep by the court in almost any direction could be particularly damaging to children whose parents are gay.

Upholding Washington's unusually broad visitation law could undercut lesbian mothers trying to fend off attacks by homophobic relatives. On the other hand, language striking down the law might put new obstacles in the path of

gay people seeking to maintain a parental bond with an ex-partner's biological or adopted child.

Although gay-rights attorneys are divided on the wisdom and constitutionality of the disputed law, they are united in seeing huge potential hazards in a Supreme Court ruling.

"We are, as a movement, in the process of convincing states that they should rethink their idea of what family is," notes Matt Coles, the American Civil Liberties Union's chief gay-rights litigator. "It would certainly be very damaging to us if the U.S. Supreme Court said, 'Well, for constitutional purposes, you're only family if you are related by blood, marriage or court decree.'"

The best outcome might be for the court to say "Oops!" and take the rare step of saying the justices won't decide the case because accepting it was a mistake. Otherwise, the shorter the decision, the better. A single ill-chosen word or phrase could have devastating consequences.

One misstep by the court in almost any direction could be particularly damaging to children whose parents are gay.

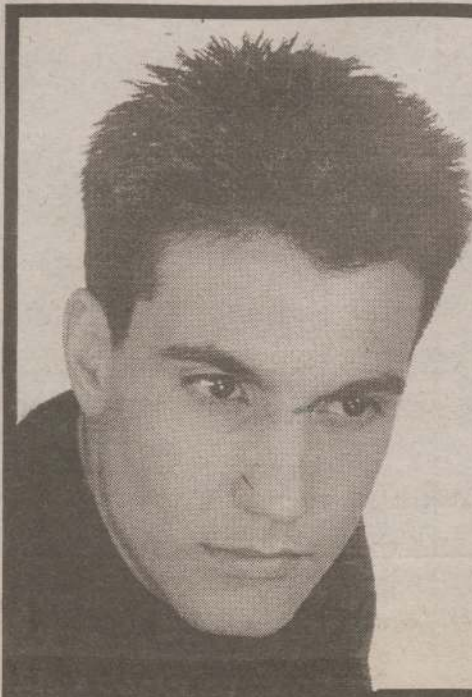
Arthur Leonard, author of *Sexuality and the Law*, suspects the Supreme Court accepted *Troxel v. Granville* because it thinks the Washington court seriously misinterpreted the U.S. Constitution and granted parents too much power.

"I'm assuming that they reached out to take this case because at least four members of the court think it should be reversed. I hope I'm right," he says. "The worst-case scenario would be for the court to say the natural parent has an absolute right of veto over who has contact with their children regardless of the best interests of the child."

If the Supreme Court doesn't tread carefully, it will trample the rights of our littlest citizens as well as those of countless adults.

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: America's 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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Army asks, Rep. Steve May fights

Legislator responds by hiring attorney, argues free speech violated

By Scott Thomsen, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP)—An openly gay Army reservist is challenging the military's investigation of his sexuality as a violation of his free speech rights and the military's own "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

State Rep. Steve May, R-East Phoenix, a lieutenant in the Army Reserve, faces possible disciplinary action because he said he was gay during a debate in the Legislature.

At the time, he was an honorably discharged civilian. Later he was recalled to active duty in preparation for a possible ground assault in Kosovo, and the Army began an investigation.

Now, May has hired an attorney and is demanding that the Army drop its investigation.

The Army appears to be telling gay soldiers who leave the military they can't be honest about their sexuality and participate in social debates as private citizens because they might be recalled to active duty and punished, said Christopher Wolf, May's attorney.

"The investigation is a violation of Mr. May's free speech rights, but also a violation of his constituents' right to have a representative who is not muzzled or gagged in any way," Wolf said.

Last week, the Army sent May a letter explaining that evidence, including May's admissions, creates a presumption that he engages in, attempts to engage in or intends to engage in homosexual acts.

Military regulations ban homosexuals from serving in the armed forces.

Violations typically result in a discharge.

The letter asked May to submit any rebuttal evidence.

"Basically, they're asking him to provide information on his sex life, a direct

violation of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' in our minds," Wolf said.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy bans homosexuals from serving in the armed forces, but the military is not supposed to seek out information about soldiers' sexuality.

"My legal position is that I was elected to serve my constituents and recalled to serve my country in uniform, and I have done both to the best of my ability. The 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy cannot be used by the Army to gag me in the performance of my official duties. That result would be an insult to bedrock principles of our democracy, principles that I joined the Army to uphold."

official duties," he said. "That result would be an insult to bedrock principles of our democracy, principles that I joined the Army to uphold."

Army Reserve spokesman Ted Bartimus said he could not comment on Monday's developments because the

Rep. Steve May

On Nov. 15, May responded to the Army's notice by hiring Wolf, who sent the Army a letter demanding an end to the investigation.

"In short, my legal and moral position is that I was elected to serve my constituents and recalled to serve my country in uniform, and I have done both to the best of my ability," May said in a written statement.

"The 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue' policy cannot be used by the Army to gag me in the performance of my

investigation is ongoing.

Wolf, a Washington, D.C., attorney, previously represented former Navy Chief Petty Officer Timothy McVeigh who was discharged after a Navy investigator discovered his America Online profile in which he said his hobbies included "collecting pictures of other young studs."

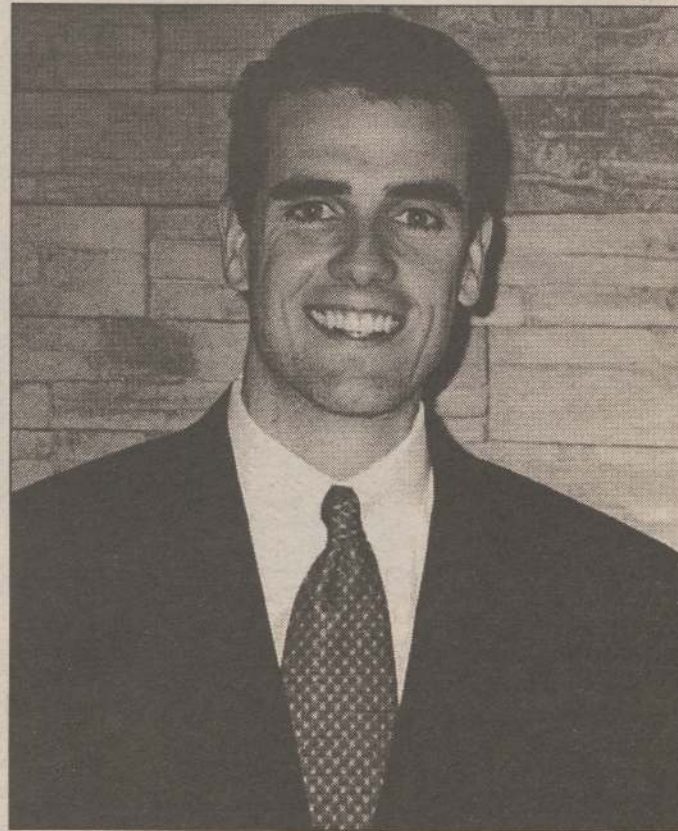
A judge ordered the Navy to reinstate McVeigh at his previous rank and salary.

McVeigh then reached a settlement with the Navy, which allowed him to retire with full military benefits even though he had not served 20 years. He also reached a financial settlement with AOL for disclosing personal information to the investigator.

McVeigh is not related to the convicted Oklahoma City bomber with the same name.

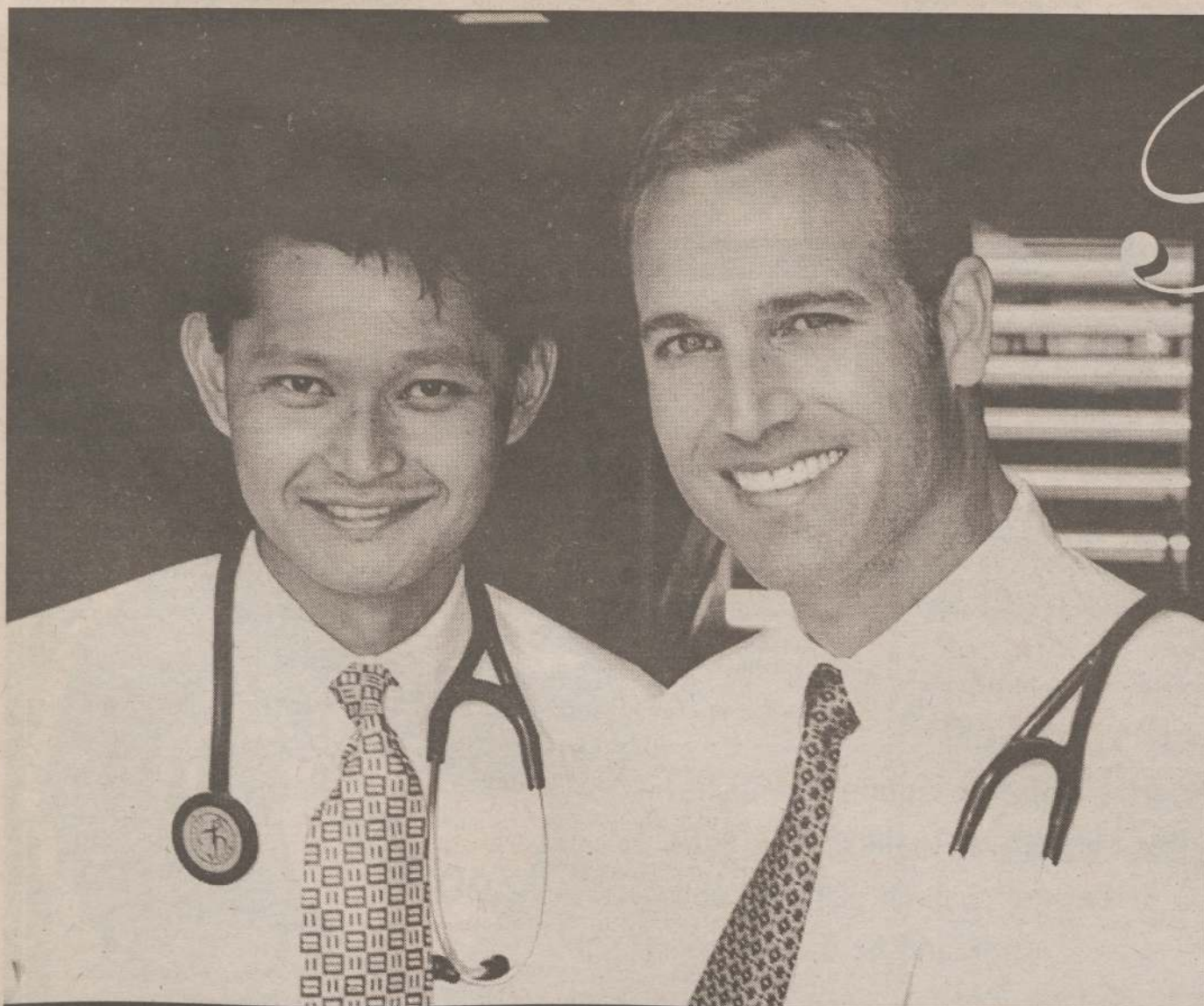
Wolf said May's case is outrageous.

He noted the May investigation did not begin until four months after his com-



ments and three months after his return to duty.

The Army forfeited its opportunity to investigate May because it recalled him when his sexuality was common knowledge, Wolf said.



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Historic Louisiana race enters home stretch for Nov. 20 run-off

Bagneris could become nation's first openly gay African-American state legislator

NEW ORLEANS—The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Nov. 10 renewed its call to help Larry Bagneris Jr. overcome the gay-baiting and race-baiting that has marred his pioneering bid for a seat in the Louisiana state House of Representatives representing the New Orleans-based 93rd District.

By prevailing in a special run-off election set for Nov. 20, he would become the nation's first openly gay African-American state legislator, the first openly gay state legislator in the deep South and Louisiana's first openly gay candidate elected to any public office.

"Larry Bagneris can make history on Nov. 20 if we can pull together and help him surmount the race-baiting and gay-baiting that has tarnished his landmark campaign," said Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Executive Director Brian K. Bond. "It's high time our nation had its first openly gay or lesbian African-American state legislator. It is high time Louisiana joined the states that have at least one openly gay or lesbian elected official. And it's high time the deep South saw its first openly gay or lesbian state legislator. Larry Bagneris is a pioneer who would be a dedicated public servant, but we are going to have to help him fend off the prejudicial attacks he has endured so that he can break all this new ground."



New Orleans Democrat Larry Bagneris.

An anti-Bagneris campaign mailing had been sent out anonymously to a large number of voters in the days before the Oct. 23 election. The attack piece stated that "Larry Bagneris is the first openly

homosexual gay black man to seek a major elected position in Louisiana," dwelled exclusively on his involvement in the gay community and referred again to both his sexual orientation and his skin color.

"The mailing amounted to nothing more than the shameful peddling of political prejudice," added Bond. "This is the home stretch of a very challenging race, but it presents us with a vital opportunity to help merit triumph over fear and discrimination

where we've never done that before." Bagneris, a Democrat and long-time civic leader, was one of two candidates to advance from an eight-way race on Oct. 23. He will face Karen Carter in the Nov. 20 run-off. The Victory Fund is strongly supporting Bagneris, as it has in his previous election bids. The organization is mailing an appeal to its members for contributions specifically for the Bagneris campaign. The Victory Fund's political action committee (PAC) is also making the maximum allowable direct contribution, as it did for the Oct. 23 race.

Born and raised in New Orleans,

Bagneris is vying for an open seat in the legislature. He has a distinguished record of service in the community, the civil rights movement, the Democratic Party and the fight against AIDS. He is a retired insurance professional and has won the endorsements of New Orleans City Council members Troy Carter and Eddie Sapir; New Orleans District Attorney Harry Connick; the local chapter of the AFL-CIO; LAGPAC, Louisiana's largest statewide gay and lesbian political organization; the New Orleans chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; the United Teachers of New

Orleans; and the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, the city's major daily newspaper.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is the only national organization whose sole mission is to increase the number of outstanding openly gay and lesbian public officials. As the nation's 14th largest non-connected political action committee, the Victory Fund has generated more than \$2 million for qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates at all levels of government. The organization can be reached on the Web at www.victoryfund.org or by calling 202/842-8679.

Tempe Mayor leads voter registration drive

With the 2000 elections less than a year away, Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano is looking for new voters. During November, Giuliano is manning a voter registration table on busy nights at Scottsdale's Club BS.

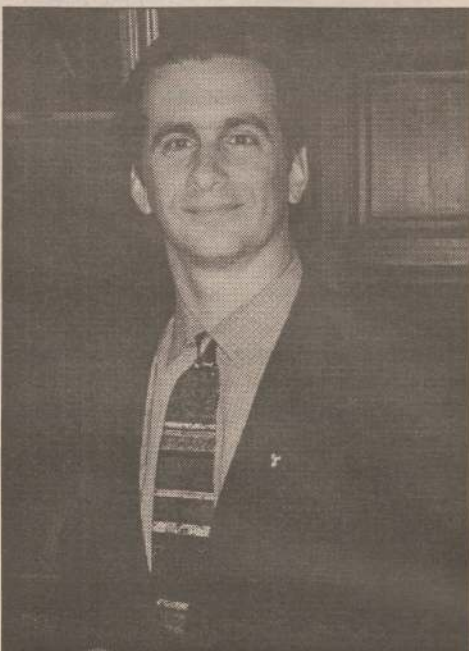
On Nov. 13, the first night of the registration drive, the Mayor signed up 27 new voters and additional 20 people filed address changes. The new voters live in several valley cities, including Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe.

"It's important to reach out to voters in the gay community to let them know they have a voice and they need to use it," Giuliano said. "The upcoming 2000 elections will help shape the direction of our community." Chandler, Glendale, Mesa, Tempe and Scottsdale are holding mayoral and council elections in March, 2000.

Neil Giuliano will be seeking his fourth term as Mayor of Tempe in March, 2000. As an openly gay elected official, Giuliano was reelected by a wide margin in 1998.

Meet mayor Giuliano and register to

vote at Club BS on Wednesday, Nov. 24 from 9 to 11 pm.



Mayor Neil Giuliano.

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"Vulgar Vodka" Night
Well Vodka \$2.00

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

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

Friday
Extended Happy Hour
8am - 9pm

Saturday
Happy Hour 8am - 8pm

Upcoming Events

Fri., Nov. 19, 9pm: Jalissa Michaels w/guests

Wed., December 8, 7pm: Miss Capitol Cities Pageant

In December: Miss Maxine Hart in 2 fundraisers for AZ Central Pride (watch for dates)

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Ammiano in pioneering run for San Francisco Mayor

Grass-roots campaigner could become first openly gay Mayor of a major U.S. city

WASHINGTON—The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Nov. 16 announced its endorsement of Tom Ammiano in his historic bid for mayor of San Francisco. By prevailing in a run-off election set for Dec. 14, he would become the first openly gay mayor of a major U.S. city. The Victory Fund made its endorsement with a clear understanding of its mission as the only national organization focused expressly on electing qualified openly gay and lesbian public servants, according to the group's executive director.

"As the first openly gay mayor of a major U.S. city, Tom Ammiano would make history for our community and our country while standing up for all of San Francisco's hard-working families. Tom pulled off a stunning grass-roots write-in effort, and his election would build on the legacy of Harvey Milk," said Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Executive Director Brian K. Bond, referring to the late gay San Francisco supervisor who, along with the city's mayor at the time, was slain by an anti-gay colleague in 1978. "Harvey Milk taught us that, while having fair-minded friends in office is essential, we all must have a place at the table of public policy. Indeed, Supervisor Milk himself 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.'"

"Harvey Milk taught us that, while having fair-minded friends in office is essential, we all must have a place at the table of public policy. Indeed, Supervisor Milk himself 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'"

"Incumbent Mayor Willie Brown has been a tremendously fair-minded leader and we have a great deal of respect for him and his supporters. But our mission to elect great openly gay and lesbian public servants is clear, even when they are not running against anti-gay extremists. We must open up the political process wherever we can until sexual orientation is no longer a barrier to public service."

Ammiano, the president of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, entered the race less than three weeks before the Nov. 2 election as a write-in candidate with a budget of only \$25,000. He came in second, ahead of former Mayor Frank Jordan and 12 other contenders. According to election results reported by the Nov. 15 *San Francisco Examiner*, Ammiano garnered 25.1 percent of the vote while Brown got 38.8 percent. By holding the incumbent to less than 50 percent of the vote, Ammiano forced the run-off.

Given that both Brown and Ammiano have strong records combating sexual orientation discrimination, the Victory Fund does not anticipate gay and lesbian public policy issues becoming a

focal point of the race.

In addition to supporting Ammiano's current campaign, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund also endorsed his successful 1994 and 1998 candidacies for city supervisor.

Originally from New Jersey, Ammiano moved to San Francisco in 1962. He worked as a school teacher before being elected president of the city's board of education in 1990. In 1994



Tom Ammiano, San Francisco supervisor and Mayoral candidate.

he won a seat on the city's board of supervisors. He was re-elected in 1998 with more votes than any other candidate, earning him the post of president.

As a supervisor, Ammiano was a driving force behind San Francisco's landmark domestic partnership legislation, requiring that city contractors offer the same benefits to their employees' domestic partners as they offer to the spouses of married workers.

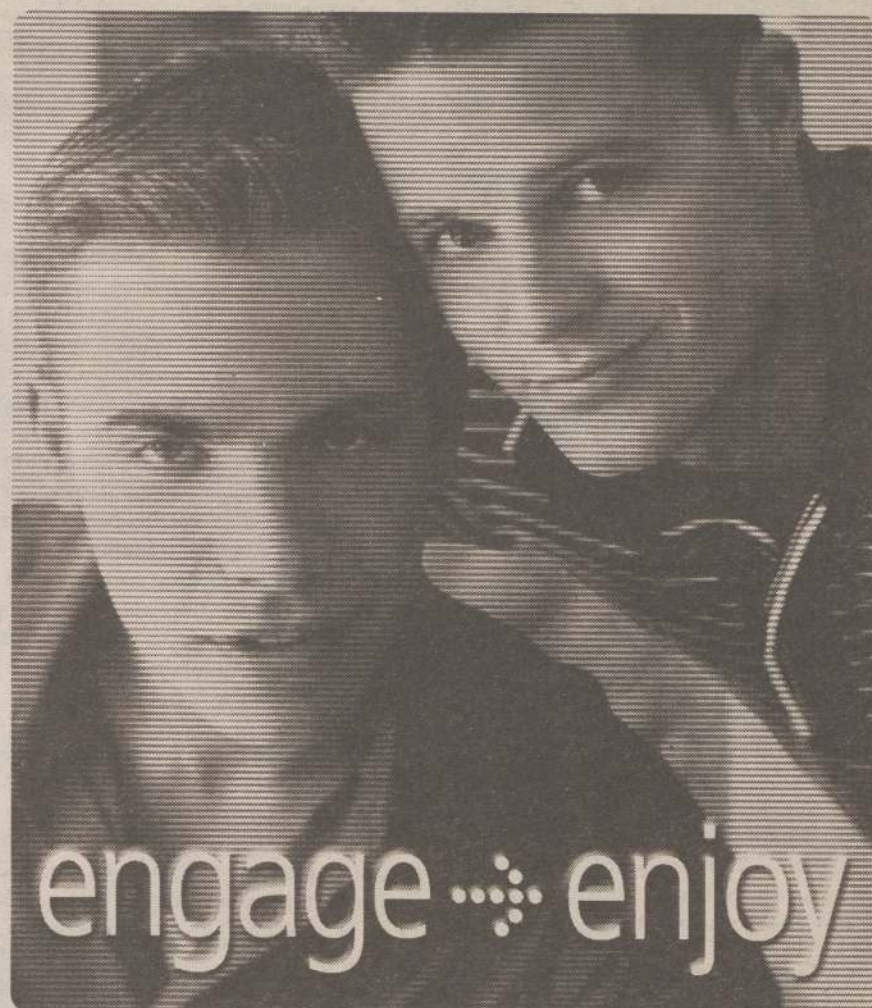
Among the priorities he would want to advance as mayor, Ammiano would work for more affordable housing, higher wages for working families, neighborhood revitalization, campaign finance reform and small business development. Ammiano has a long list of accomplishments for the people of San Francisco. He has championed such issues as economic justice; open and democratic local government; human and civil rights for all San Franciscans; and a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS and other public health concerns.

Ammiano's campaign has already faced discrimination. Most disturbingly, an anti-gay death threat—including eerily detailed descriptions of Ammiano's usual whereabouts and commuting habits—was posted on the Internet on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 1999. Ammiano and the San Francisco Police Department are taking the threat seriously and stepping up security efforts, the Nov. 12 edition of the *Examiner* reported.

"The fact that even in San Francisco in 1999, a good gay candidate cannot run for mayor without his very life being threatened is a sad commentary indeed," noted Bond. "The bias-motivated threat against Tom reminds us that we still have far to go until all Americans can live free from discrimination."

People wanting to find out more information about Tom Ammiano's mayoral bid can visit his Web site at www.ammiano4mayor.com; call his campaign at 425/503-1529; or write to Tom Ammiano for Mayor, 3583 16th Street, San Francisco, CA, 94114. Contributions are limited to \$250.

Rex Wockner



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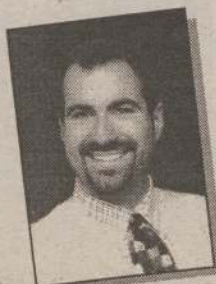
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International Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

South African gay bar bombed

Nine people were injured Nov. 7 in Cape Town, South Africa, when a pipe bomb exploded at the gay Blah Bar.

The blast, which blew out the doors and windows, happened just past midnight, the bar's busiest period. Four of the patrons' injuries were serious.

"For the first couple of seconds after the explosion there was complete silence," customer Gary de Klerk told reporters. "Everybody just went into a state of shock. Then people started panicking and ran around screaming."

Police Captain Mark Romburgh told local media: "At this stage indications are that it was a pipe bomb, which makes this look like another urban terror attack."

Ontario politicians will be outed

When the Legislature of the Canadian province of Ontario amended 67 laws Oct. 25 to give gay couples all the rights of common-law opposite-sex couples, it also guaranteed that members of the provincial parliament (MPPs) will be outed.

That's because closeted MPPs now will be legally bound to disclose the names and assets of their domestic partners to the provincial Integrity Commissioner, whose records are public.

According to mainstream media reports, at least half a dozen MPPs will be affected.

Canadian Scouts launch gay troop

Scouts Canada launched a troop in Toronto last week for gay and lesbian youth between ages 18 and 26.

It is the city's 129th Scouting troop and the first

of its kind in North America. Ten people have signed up.

A second troop for gays aged 14 to 17 may also be created, officials said.

"We wanted to offer a space where our members could come together from a common understanding and common experience of who they are," said troop Chair Bonte Minnema, a Women's Studies student at the University of Toronto.

Scouting in the U.S. bans gays.

Columbian court orders domestic-partner coverage

Bogota, Colombia's 26th Branch Civilian Court Nov. 3 ordered the Social Security Institute (SSI) to extend medical benefits to the male partner of a gay man who is covered by the national health-care system.

Both men have AIDS and take an anti-retroviral drug "cocktail." One man is covered by SSI because he is disabled. The other recently lost his job and health benefits, and then sought coverage on his partner's policy.

At first, the men, who have not been named, were granted spousal coverage by the institute, but when they went to exchange their temporary ID cards for permanent ones, they were told the agency had changed its mind.

According to local activists, the court's ruling marks the first time a Colombian judge has recognized a same-sex couple as de facto spouses.

Perth celebrates Pride

Thousands of people jammed the streets of Northbridge in Perth, Australia, Oct. 30 for the city's 10th Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade.

They were entertained by more than 50 floats, dykes on bikes, drag queens and even dancing gladiators.

"The parade was absolutely unreal," spectator Kylie Walton, 24, told local media. "It's one of the best nights of partying you can have—and look at the business it generates."

British churches to punish adoption agency

Thirty-seven Anglican churches will withhold their annual donations to the Church of England Children's Society in December to protest the agency's decision to lift its ban on adoption by gays.

Roger Roycroft, a warden at St. John the Evangelist Church in Chelford, Cheshire, told local media: "Someone has to stand up and say they don't approve. We feel very strongly that traditional family values must be maintained and, since there is no shortage of families wishing to adopt, we find such political correctness something we have no wish to encourage."

Manitoba legislator comes out

A member of the Canadian province of Manitoba's legislature has publicly said he's gay.

In an interview with the gay publication *Swerve*, New Democrat Jim Rondeau of Assiniboia said: "I'm not openly gay, but I'm not in the closet. I don't hide what I am. ... I'm not embarrassed. If I was straight, I wouldn't advertise it."

Pakistani transnics kill customers

Four transvestite prostitutes in Lahore, Pakistan, have admitted killing 14 customers and raping or robbing 150 others—most of them policemen or servicemen.

The transvestites said the men were gang-raped if they refused to be anally penetrated, and if they resisted the rape, they were killed.

New Zealand to bar HIV-positive immigrants

New Zealand will ban HIV-positive immigrants beginning July 1.

"We can't afford to save the world," said Immigration Minister Tuariki Delamere. "I feel this is a very valid form of discrimination."

Immigrants, refugees and people wanting to live in New Zealand for more than two years will be required to test HIV-negative before arrival.

Of the 105 people who tested positive in New Zealand in 1998, 43 were refugees.

British gays win equal tenant rights

Britain's Law Lords, the nation's top court, ruled Oct. 28 that gay couples have equal tenancy rights.

The decision came in the case of Martin Fitzpatrick, whose landlord tried to evict him after the death of his lover, who was the sole signatory on the lease.

The men had been together 18 years.

Unsafe sex up in Australia

More Australian gay men are having unprotected anal sex with casual partners.

The National Centre in HIV Research's latest Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey found that 29.6 percent of respondents had had condomless intercourse with a casual partner, up from 19.9 percent in 1996.

"There is a need for a wide mix of education strategies which may re-engage men in considering their sexual health generally," commented David Fowler, acting director of the AIDS and Infectious Diseases Unit of New South Wales Health.

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SATURDAY, November 20th

Men of Charlie's Drive-In Movie and beer bust, 2pm.

SUNDAY, November 21st

AGRA Meeting - 5pm.

Victoria London, candidate for Miss AGRA is hosting a show following the AGRA meeting!

MONDAY, November 22nd

Underwear Show & Sale! Hosted by Paula Sha (candidate for Miss Arizona Central Gay Pride)

WEDNESDAY, November 24th

\$2 Top Shelf Night! Open dance lessons at 7:30pm with Troy.
Party on into After Hours until 3am!!!

THURSDAY, November 25th

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Open at 6pm...After Hours until 3am!!!

SUNDAY, November 28th

Showtime with Paula Sha (candidate for Miss Arizona Central Gay Pride) at 8pm!

WEDNESDAY, December 1st

The Jeff Miller Show...from Nashville...
"DIRTY BUT STILL LEGAL!" 2 Shows!

FRIDAY, December 3rd

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Gay Dems call on George W. to state position on GLBT issues

National group points out Bush's contradictions

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Stonewall Democratic Federation (NSDF) has started a millennium clock on the positions of presidential candidate George W. Bush. The Clock starts at 364 days, 20 hours and zero seconds and is counting down to Election Day 2000.

At a press conference held in Dallas, Texas this week, NSDF Director Keith Morrison urged Bush to clarify his positions on issues of importance to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

In April 1999 and again in an article for the *New York Times*, Bush voiced his position that he was opposed to discrimination and that he would hire qualified people for positions in his administration. Then, in October, conservative columnist Cal Thomas reported that George W. told a meeting of conservative leaders he would never "knowingly" hire a gay person for his administration. Morrison asked, "Mr. Bush please let the people know, is Cal Thomas lying, or which constituency are you lying to?"

"We will let this clock run until his positions are clear. We already know of his father's 'Read My Lips' statement during his campaign. Now do we have to tolerate his campaign strategy of 'Read My Mind'? It is incumbent for the candidate to get his views across to the citizens. If we have to read his mind, what can we believe?" said Morrison.

The George W. Bush record on hiring is at best murky. As for minority hiring, Mr. Bush has a very sketchy track record as reported in an article in the *Dallas Morning News*, October 12, 1999. Texas is about 56% White, 30% Hispanic and 12% Black. But approximately 80% of the Governor's over 3,400 appointments are White.

"Obviously Governor Bush has a problem being inclusive. How could we expect him to hire or appoint people who don't look or act like him? He has no experience

being actively inclusive," Morrison stated.

Morrison continued, "In a state as large as Texas, why hasn't he been able to find more qualified people of color, and I would expect at least one gay person would be up to Bush's qualifications. That is if he isn't really discriminatory or homophobic."

"Until George W. Bush can tell us who he is lying to, and why he hasn't in a five-year tenure as Governor been capable of hiring a member of the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender community to serve in his administration, this organization and community will be actively fighting against his election," Morrison concluded.

The Press conference was attended by members of NSDF affiliates from both Houston and Dallas. Many people voiced their dismay over the mainstream press portraying the Republican Presidential candidates as more tolerant and accepting of gays and lesbians.

"It's just not true. These candidates have signed pledges opposing equal rights for gay and lesbian citizens, or refused to speak out against such actions. In addition, many of the candidates are out there spewing negative rhetoric about gays and lesbians," said NSDF and Dallas Stonewall Board member Michael Milliken.

The conference concluded with a challenge to both candidate Bush and the Log Cabin Republicans to clarify and disseminate the true position of Governor Bush on these matters. Morrison said, "The Gay Republicans need to stand up for the community and get some answers. If Log Cabin can't figure out his policies, then how will we in our community ever be able to 'Read His Mind'?"

The National Stonewall Democratic Federation is the only national organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Democrats. With 45 affiliated clubs, Stonewall has more than 10,000 members.

New club serves drinks, live music in North Phoenix

By Allen Kalchik, editor

Looking to try someplace different? Head north to Doc Gireaux.

Portland, Oregon transplants d'Amileau Baulk and Lance Ray scoped out the Valley's gay nightspots after moving here recently and decided this was the place to open the club they've long dreamed of—a live music venue that caters to the queer community in a relaxed, club lounge atmosphere.

Their bar opened a few weeks ago on Cave Creek Road, just south of the Cactus/Thunderbird intersection. Live Jazz, Blues, Soul and R&B acts have been performing every weekend, and the management just added live music on Wednesdays featuring the Rob Wagener Quartet. The Award-winning, all-female group Sistah Blue will be there on Saturday, Nov. 20.

"It's unlike anything else in Phoenix," Baulk says of the club. So why the unusual, French-sounding name? "We had a friend whose last name was Gireaux when we were living in the Bay Area, and that's when we first had the idea to one day open a gay blues club," the owner explains. "We always liked her name and

so we said we'd name the place after her."

Why Doc? "You know how the guy behind the bar becomes the person you tell your troubles?—that's where the 'Doc' comes from. I'm Doc," Baulk says with a wink.

North Valley residents are fast becoming regulars, but folks from all over the metro area have been stopping in to dance, visit and shoot a little pool as well.



Doc Gireaux owners Lance Ray (l) and d'Amileau Baulk welcome Ayanna, the lead singer of the blues group Soul Kitchen.

Doc Gireaux is situated on the west side of the road where it shares a parking lot with Aamco transmissions. The address is 12032 N. Cave Creek Rd., open daily at 3 pm. Call 602/997-9461 for information, or check the club's ad on the following page for current bookings.



We Remember

Garry Mangum, aka Tish Tanner

Aug. 15, 1949—Nov. 7, 1999

Phoenix's gay community mourns the passing of
Garry Mangum, entertainer and activist extraordinaire.

Services will be at 2p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 at Camelback Sunset
Funeral Home, 301 W. Camelback, Phoenix, 602/277-2603.

Contributions to settle the estate are being accepted by
Arizona Central Pride, 602/279-1771.

Phoenix gay vets welcomed in '99 parade—earn "Most Improved" title

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

For the second year in a row, a group of openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered veterans marched proudly down a Phoenix city street as part of the annual Veterans Day Parade held here Nov. 11.

And this time out, the gay vets will be handed an award for their entry.

A contingent of about ten members of the Phoenix Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America joined more than 150 entries in the midday parade down Central Avenue to honor current U.S. service personnel and all military veterans of the nation's wars.

In e-mail messages to PGLBVA President Wally Straughn, Planning Committee Chairman Bill Messer suggested the gay vets organization would be unwelcome, particularly because of complaints about a "... member that cross-dressed..." that "... really took the cake."

Straughn took Messer's threat to be an anti-gay snub and brought the story to the local gay press, as well as to several radio stations and *The Arizona Republic*, which covered the allegations and Straughn's response on Page 1.

After the spat was reported in national and local media, the planning committee and Straughn improved communications.

PGLBVA in the planning process, and then decided that in 1999 it would expect some uniformity of dress from all participants, according to Straughn.

So the gay group held drill practices and marched in step this year behind a highly visible banner that drew applause and—in some cases—looks of surprise from assembled spectators. The gay vets also sported matching dark blue T-shirts and dark pants, with the word "Veteran" spelled with a pink triangle printed across their shirts.

But parade organizers did more than make the group feel welcome. On Nov. 16, Straughn attended a meeting of the

Entry. Everyone was just pleased—all the people that were upset last year now said we were the most improved group in the parade."

Straughn said the gay organization "did everything they asked us to do. We had a uniform look, we marched, we followed their instructions exactly and so now it has all paid off with us winning this award."

Straughn said that one woman on the parade committee even expressed a wish that other groups borrow the gay group's drill instructor next year "so that some of the other entries would learn the right way to march in a parade."



A small controversy erupted last March after parade planning officials said they would ban the gay group from participating in 1999 due to complaints they said they received following the 1998 parade, in which PGLBVA members marched for the first time.

Straughn explained to Messer and other parade planners that the veteran in question, Neala Lynn Balmes, is a male-to-female transgendered person for whom female attire is always appropriate.

The committee apologized for the misunderstanding, solicited input from the

Parade Planning Committee and learned that the PGLBVA contingent had won an award. "The committee had set up a new category in the parade and nominated us the winner," he said.

"So the gay and lesbian veterans will get the award as the Most Improved

Neala Balmes, whose appearance reportedly sparked the controversy, did not participate in the parade this year, though at least one other male-to-female transgendered vet was part of PGLBVA's winning entry.

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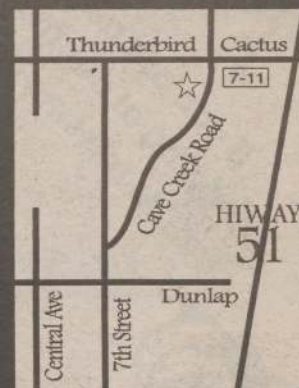
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Goings On

Tish Tanner memorials Nov. 21

A memorial service, several special church services and several receptions at Valley gay bars have been scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 21, in honor of longtime Valley activist and entertainer Garry Mangum, aka Tish Tanner, who died at home in Phoenix Nov. 7 at the age of 50.

The following gay and gay-friendly churches will hold services honoring Mangum on that date: Augustana Lutheran at 10:30 am; Community Church of Hope at 9 and 11 am; Gentle Shepherd MCC at 9 and 11 am; Light of the Lamb at 10:30 am.

Garry Mangum's Memorial Service will be held the afternoon of the 21st, from 2 to 4 pm at Camelback Sunset Chapel, 301 W. Camelback Rd. in central Phoenix.

In addition, the following Valley bars will host food and drink receptions from 4 to 6 pm: Apollo's, The Bunk House, Charlie's, Studio 43, Wink's, and the 307.

Mangum shared the joy of laughter with the Phoenix glbt community for many years as the trashy but loveable Tish Tanner. He also worked tirelessly for a variety of causes, raising untold thousands of dollars for AIDS and advancing gay issues and visibility.

Most recently, he was the Vice President, Publicity Director and Entertainment Director of Arizona Central Pride. His humor, level headedness and his dedication to the Valley's annual Pride parade and festival will be sorely missed.

AzAPA getting boost from Holiday show

Barbra Seville and the Arizona AIDS

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

Policy Alliance (AzAPA) will present a Holiday Season Kick Off Spectacular at Wink's in Phoenix on Nov. 24 at 9:30 pm.

The all-star comedy/drag review will raise money for AzAPA, the state's lobbying and advocacy organization on behalf of those affected by HIV/AIDS. For information, call 602/253-AIDS.

Free HIV tests for World AIDS Day

In recognition of World AIDS Day and Planned Parenthood of Central and Northern Arizona (PPCNA)'s commitment to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, all of PPCNA's Health centers will be offering free HIV testing on Wednesday, Dec. 1. For the rest of the month of December, HIV testing at the centers will be reduced to \$10.

For more information, contact the nearest Planned Parenthood location or stop in on Dec. 1 for a free test. Appointments are recommended but not required.

Story 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, 1999.

Ten restored homes in this queer-centric 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 after-dark 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 those 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 Tune

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.

Under the artistic direction of Kim McCreary, Arizona Women in Tune has performed at many community events this past year and will be performing at Patriot's Park in downtown Phoenix on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. The group is a member of GALA, the international alliance of gay choruses. Women in Tune will be traveling to San Jose in July next year for GALA's Festival 2000 to perform

with 160 choruses from around the nation and the world.

In addition to the Dec. 5 winter concert, Women in Tune will hold concerts in March and May, 2000. The group is offering a package of season tickets at a reduced price for people who plan to attend all three performances. The ticket package is available for \$36 by calling 623/878-5430.

Nuevo servicio en Español


Casa de Cristo ha visto la necesidad de tener servicios en Español para nuestra comunidad. Los invitamos a celebrar al Señor Jesucristo con nosotros. Queremos que todos sepan que el amor de Dios es para nosotros también. Nos reunimos los domingos a las 3 pm. Nuestra dirección es 1029 E. Turney, Phoenix, AZ 85014. El teléfono es 602/265-2831. También tenemos servicios en Inglés los domingos a las 10 am y a las 6:30 pm. Entre semana tenemos servicios los miércoles a las 6:30 pm.

New Spanish speaking church service

Casa de Cristo church in Phoenix is offering a new Spanish Worship Service on Sundays at 3 pm. Casa de Cristo is located at 1029 E. Turney (Turney is between Indian School and Camelback Roads). Call 602/265-2831 for more information. Sunday services in English are held at 10 am and 6:30 pm. There is also a Wednesday night service at 6:30 pm. Translators are available at all services.

ACP announces theme, logo design contest


The Arizona Central Pride committee,



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Merry Christmas

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.

Vintage vinyl raffled to raise money for Aunt Rita's

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

The 1100 records, donated by a California deejay, will be raffled in sets 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 for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawings will be held at each bar the week of Dec. 13 to 18.

Proceeds will go toward holiday gift certificates to help 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 that is being continued in honor of the organization's founding director, Skip O'Neil.

For more information, check with your

local bar or call Sharon Drosos at APAZ, 602/253-AIDS.

Team AZ plans Sedona trip

The Valley's gay and lesbian athletic organization, Team Arizona, has announced a bus trip to Sedona for Dec. 11. The holiday shopping trip to Tlaquepaque Arts and Crafts Village will depart Phoenix at 1:30 pm and return well after dark, so that travelers can enjoy the thousands of glowing holiday luminarias in Sedona that evening, at Los Abridados.

The trip costs \$20 per person and the money raised will go toward sending local athletes to the 2002 Gay games in Sydney, Australia. For reservations and more details, call Barbara at 602/840-4993 or Wayne at 602/264-2645.

Wreaths for Life '99

The annual Wreaths for Life fundraiser, a holiday event held each year at Phoenix's Biltmore Fashion Park to benefit Aunt Rita's Foundation, is seeking sponsors as well as holiday wreaths to display and sell.

The deadline for delivery of completed wreaths to the outdoor mall is Nov. 22 and 23 from 4 to 6:30 pm. Wreaths should be 24" to 36" in diameter and be made of durable, non-perishable items as they will be displayed outdoors through the holiday season.

Those who are unable to make a wreath are encouraged to participate in the program by donating the money for supplies—volunteers are standing by to make a wreath for you. Another way to help is to sponsor a door, getting recognition for your business or organization for as little as \$200.

Last year's Wreaths for Life program raised more than \$31,000 for people living with HIV/AIDS. To get more information or find out how you can help, call Tom Snyder at 602/867-3619.



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

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Tuesday: Dart leagues at the Cash.

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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: Come on down for our Sunday afternoon Tea Dance! A Grand Master Molly Event, from 6pm until ?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Attention Softball Fans!
During women's softball season, Cash Inn will open at 12 noon every Sunday, with Happy Hour from 1-4pm.

Now on Sundays:
Cash Inn kicks off its regular Sunday afternoon Tea Dance with our DJ Molly, starts at 6pm.



Thursday, Nov. 25:
Cash Inn is closed for Thanksgiving.



Friday, Dec. 3:
Don't miss a performance by Cash Inn favorite, Diamond Fire, the music starts at 9pm; cover.

Live Band!

My Queer Life PLAYING IT STRAIGHT

by Michael Thomas Ford

I was once asked to appear on a television talk show to discuss why so many people in the gay community have a problem with bisexuals.

When it was my turn to talk, I explained that a lot of gay people resent the fact that many bisexuals only consider themselves part of the queer community when they're in same-sex relationships, but when they're involved with people of the opposite sex they enjoy all the privileges that the appearance of heterosexuality affords.

This went over very well with the large gay contingent in the audience, and the glamorous bisexuals on the panel—all of whom wore leather and sunglasses for some reason—pouted because they knew they'd been found out.

Well, now I feel just the tiniest bit guilty. You see, I've been doing exactly what I accused those poor beleaguered bisexuals of doing. Sort of. I'm not sleeping with women or anything, but I confess that I'm not above letting people think that I am when it serves my purposes.

It's all because of the sales clerk at J Crew. A few months ago I had to buy some clothes for an event I was attending, and I really didn't want to do it. I waited until the last minute and then dragged myself to the J Crew store because the models in their catalogs always look nice and I figured I really couldn't go wrong.

As soon as I entered the store, however, the panic set in. There were too many different choices, too many colors and patterns and styles. I wandered around for a while, wondering what might go with what, and then it all became too overwhelming. I started to leave.

But as I raced for the exit, I was accosted by a smiling young man with perfect hair, perfect teeth, and perfect clothes. He was clearly gay, and he knew how to dress. Normally I wouldn't talk to such a person because it would make me tense, but he was determined.

"Good afternoon," he said. "I'm Kyle. Can I help you with anything?"

"I'm going to this thing," I said unhelpfully. "I need to wear something."

Kyle looked me up and down. As usual, I was wearing old jeans, a flannel shirt, and work boots. I'd also thrown on a very worn and rather dirty canvas coat of the type favored by construction workers, and a baseball cap. Kyle took it all in and smiled again.

"How about a suit?" he asked.

I shook my head. "Absolutely not. I'd rather die."

"Okay then," he tried again. "How about pants, a shirt, and a tie. Maybe even a jacket?"

That sounded better, even though I suspected I was simply getting a suit in pieces. Besides, at that point I would do

anything to get out of that store. It was bad enough having to buy grown-up clothes. Having a fellow queen see the true depth of my fashion ignorance was a humbling experience.

"Do you have any idea what you might want?" asked Kyle hopefully.

I shook my head. "I really hate shopping," I admitted. "I mean really hate it. You have no idea."

Kyle nodded. "Let me guess, your girlfriend usually picks out everything for you."

"Girlfriend?" I said, confused.

"I'm sorry, your wife then. I didn't notice a ring, so I assumed you weren't married."

It dawned on me then that Kyle thought I was straight. I started to laugh, and was about to correct him, when I was overcome by a horrible thought. He seemed to be enjoying helping out the poor straight guy with no fashion sense. I doubted he would be as enthused about dealing with one of his own who was just too stupid to pick out clothes by himself.

"Oh, there's no ring," I said finally. It was true, if a tad misleading.

Kyle beamed. "Well, then, I'll have to see what I can do for you," he said.

That was when I discovered one of the only real benefits (that I can see) of heterosexuality. For the next hour, Kyle busied himself picking out clothes for me. He told me what pants looked the best, and what colors of shirts went with which

ties. He fussed and straightened and buttoned until I felt just like one of the models in the catalog. He practically offered to come over and dress me the night of the event.

When I left, loaded up with bags filled with clothes that all matched, he assured me that he'd had a wonderful time. I almost felt as if I should say, "I'll call you."

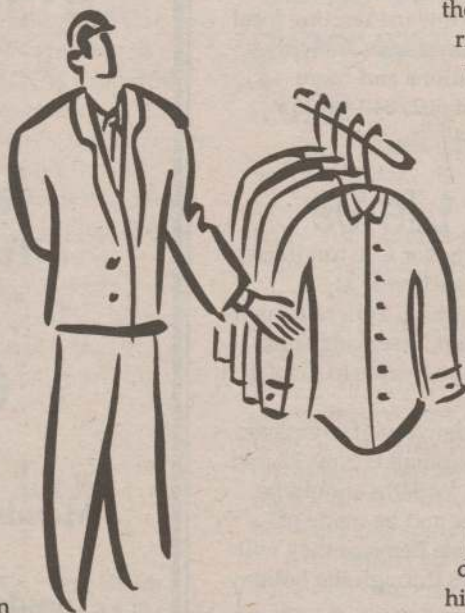
What little bit of guilt I felt over duping Kyle faded when everyone complimented me on my wardrobe later that week. So what if he thought I was straight? I looked great.

I confess that I've done this several times since then, with both male and female store clerks. Usually all it takes is me wandering into a store and looking around in a dazed manner.

Inevitably someone comes along, takes me by the arm, and tells me exactly what I should be wearing. They all seem very eager to help out the befuddled man whose wife or girlfriend has left him to dress himself, and who am I to ruin their joy?

Just last week a charming young man spent a good twenty minutes picking out the perfect underwear for me. I can't tell you how relieved I was not to have to do it myself. Deciding between the jersey boxers and the button-fly shorts was more than I could handle alone.

Maybe I am a traitor to the cause. Maybe I'm just as horrid as those leather-wearing bisexuals hiding behind their sunglasses. I don't care. For the first time in thirty-one years I match, and that's all that really matters in life.



Michael Thomas Ford is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me* and *That's Mr. Faggot to You*. He can be reached at Shopiltee@aol.com



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Wednesday, December 1st

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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"After eleven years of [National Coming Out Days], I am, quite frankly, almost out of come-outs. It's become quite the challenge. I've considered ringing neighbors' doorbells while wearing some drag king outfit, shrilling fabulously, 'I'm a lesbian!' into their bemused faces, and opening my Tinky Winky pocketbook for treats."

—Comedian Kate Clinton writing in *The Progressive*, November issue.

"Too often, alas, public thunder against gays muffles the squeaking of a closet door."

—Former U.S. Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin writing in *San Diego's Union-Tribune*, Oct. 21.

"One thing that really pisses me off is that the church—that is supposed to represent the teachings of Jesus Christ, who never said a word about homosexuals and whose teachings are about equality and loving each other, and doing unto others—and you have the institution of the church preventing homosexuals from becoming ministers to help and love people. It's just a perversion of the teachings to me."

—Singer Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls to *Atlanta's Southern Voice*, Sept. 30.

"The *Advocate* did an interview with me. They said, 'We want to do a thing about you coming out.' I said, 'I'm not coming out. There's no place to come out from.' When the magazine came out, I was on the cover, and it said, 'Piano Man Comes Out.' I felt really irritated because I realized they had done that just to create some kind of publicity to sell magazines. A lot of people think I came out at that point. But anybody who knows me knew that I was already out."

—Pianist Michael Feinstein to *Atlanta's Southern Voice*, Sept. 30.

"We have looked very carefully at and will look more carefully in the future at any kind of rhetoric in our writings or preachments or whatever that might lead someone to have hostility toward anybody, and that includes gays and lesbians."

—Fundamentalist Christian leader Rev. Jerry Falwell to the TV program *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*, Oct. 21.

"I'm sorry I have caricatured you based on 5 percent of your population, and I should know better because 5 per-

cent of our population is just as bad."

—Fundamentalist Christian leader Rev. Jerry Falwell at the Oct. 23 meeting in Lynchburg, Va., between 200 of his followers and 200 gays and lesbians, according to the *San Francisco Examiner*, Oct. 24.

"When a celebrity comes out, everyone expects you to fix everything since you have the nation's ear. You even feel obliged to step up and speak for those who have no voice. I think it is easier to hear it from me because I write music. Ellen is a funny lady, and what she was saying wasn't funny. That's what went wrong. It was unfortunate."

—Singer Melissa Etheridge to the *New York Post*, Oct. 22.

"What I've learned is that the clichés are true—family and happiness are far more rewarding than fame and success. But work is also really important—so don't expect me to throw away everything to work in the garden."

—Singer Melissa Etheridge to the *New York Post*, Oct. 22.

"My best friend is gay. So, many of my friends are. One slowly becomes sensitive to how big of a deal homophobia is."

—Actor William Macy, who plays the gay character Sheriff Chappy in the film *Happy, Texas*, to *Boston's Bay Windows*, Oct. 7.

"It's the darnedest thing. I feel like I'm doing the best work of my life, and it's on a sitcom. With all the drama and Shakespeare I've done, my acting is better in this little half-hour format. It's more real. There's something about *Will and Grace* that frees me up. I just love going to work every day."

—Actor Eric McCormack to *Entertainment News Service*, Oct. 23.

"In America, 'intellectual' is a term of denigration. In America, if you are an intellectual, you have to be a lesbian."

—Joan Juliet Buck, the American-born editor of *French Vogue*, to *Talk* magazine, current issue.

"I checked the box [on my draft intake form] and I thought I was going to get a major grilling. But actually they just sent me to a shrink who was across the hall. He said, 'Are you a practicing homosexual?' and I said, 'No, I'm perfect.' He looked up and laughed, and then I said, 'Yes, I am,' and that was all."

—Comedy writer and Hollywood *Squares* star Bruce Vilanch to *Miami's The Weekly News*, Oct. 21.

"George W. Bush's obvious pandering to the most right-wing members of the

Republican Party shows his true colors. Bush talks a great deal about being compassionate, but in the end his anti-gay views show him to be an old-fashioned right-wing conservative."

—Democratic National Committee Chair Joe Andrew in an Oct. 23 press release.

"I wouldn't say I was a slut but around 16, 17, I used to have sex with basically all of my friends, both male and female, sometimes at the same time! It was the early '70s, and we were all obsessed by decadence! It was David Bowie, Lou Reed, Cabaret...divine decadence, darling."

—The Pet Shop Boys' Neil Tennant to *Atlanta's Etcetera* magazine, Oct. 22.

"I had a lot of girlfriends in the '70s. I had a good time with some. But then I knew I seemed to want to have sex with men as well, and by the early '80s, I made the choice to go for that because I realized it was my nature."

—The Pet Shop Boys' Neil Tennant to *Atlanta's Etcetera* magazine, Oct. 22.

"On *Friends* the gay story lines have always been secondary, the B story or C story. On *Ellen*, it became what that show was about. If a show becomes about an issue, you should be on the Lifetime channel or something."

—*Friends* actor Matthew Perry to the *Advocate*, Nov. 9.

"A great nude photograph of Martha Stewart and David Letterman's job. I think that's not asking too much."

—From lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhoefer's Christmas list, the *Advocate*, Nov. 9.

"I support gays being able to serve openly in the military. If a gay American can serve openly in the White House, in the Congress, in the courts, in the Treasury Department and in the attorney general's office, why can't they serve openly in the U.S. military? It doesn't make sense. If a gay American can be a bricklayer, a doctor, an athlete, a lawyer, a painter, why can't a gay American be a sergeant and a lieutenant colonel? It does not make sense to me. I am against all discrimination. I'm against discrimination on the basis of race, gender and sexual orientation, and the place to deal with that is the 1964 Civil Rights Act, adding sexual orientation to the list of protected classes. I also think that it's important that we can talk about gay Americans and realize that they are our neighbors, they are our bosses. They're no different in many ways than all of us. And we have to get to a time in America where we can see

beneath skin color, eye shape or sexual orientation to the individual. Because that is when we're going to be able to achieve the dignity that I think America stands for."

—Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Bradley at an Oct. 27 town meeting in Hanover, N.H.

"I think that the story of our country is, in part, an unfolding of the American dream with a deeper meaning in each generation. It's a mystery how Thomas Jefferson could write the words of our Declaration and own slaves. It's a mystery how the founders in Philadelphia could write our Constitution and not allow women to vote. But we have taken the inner meaning and power of our founding documents and the spirit of America and breathed new life into them in each new generation. And the time has come for gays and lesbians to be recognized within the circle of human dignity. Now, this is—this is an issue that is a—moral issue. I feel very strongly about it and I will fight for advances in this area. I have supported the nondiscrimination act in the Congress. And frankly, you know, most gay and lesbian leaders, and certainly most civil-rights groups leaders, have argued against opening up the 1964 Civil Rights Act ... and they take the—they prefer the other approach."

—Democratic Presidential candidate and current U.S. Vice President Al Gore at an Oct. 27 town meeting in Hanover, N.H.

"I'm for domestic partnerships having legal protections, but not the same sacrament, not the same name, because I favor protecting the institution of marriage as it has been understood between a man and a woman. But I think that a partner should have legal protection and contractual rights and health care and the rest."

—Democratic Presidential candidate and current U.S. Vice President Al Gore at an Oct. 27 town meeting in Hanover, N.H.

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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

A Rose for Heche

Lesbian lovely Anne Heche is set to star in the drama *Auggie Rose*, joining a cast that already includes *Fargo* star William H. Macy (who recently played gay in *Happy, Texas*), horror movie queen Jamie Lee Curtis, and Go hottie Timothy Olyphant. The feature, the first for director Matt Tabak, starts a five-week shoot this month in Los Angeles.

The plot focuses on an interesting twist of fate that occurs in the boring life of an insurance salesman (played by

centration camp.

The writer still maintains that his horrifying tale is true, but birth records indicate he was actually born in Switzerland in 1941 and remained there until he was adopted by a wealthy family.

Rudin, whose film will focus on the investigation into Wilkomirski and his story, is the perfect producer for the project—his upcoming feature film version of Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning Irish memoir *Angela's Ashes* is a shoo-in at next year's Academy Awards.

From Batman to Boot Camp

Flawless director Joel Schumacher, who fell out of the remake of the French thriller *L'Appartement* when the budget bloated beyond belief, is going gritty for his next project. He has committed to direct *Tigerland*, an ensemble drama starring Irish newcomer Colin Farrell that focuses on a group of young men in combat training for Vietnam.

The openly gay Schumacher is famed for his ability to make attractive men—like nude bongo enthusiast Matthew McConaughey and Batboy Chris O'Donnell—even more photogenic, but he won't be doing his usual glamour lighting in this flick. To achieve a realistic look, the production will be shot on a closed-down army base without the help of makeup artist, hairdresser or production designer.

Schumacher is also attached to the fifth installment of the *Batman* series. Rumor has it that Warner Brothers is kicking around plots for the next live-action adventure of the caped crusader.

Among the contenders is one that centers on young college grad Bruce Wayne's transformation into famed superhero, while another has a geriatric Bruce pass the torch (and Batmobile) on to a high school hunk named Terry McGinnis who discovers Batman's true identity. Romeo prefers the latter plot, especially if Freddie Prinze Jr. is picked to play Terry.

Roos Goes Straight with Bouncing Ben

Gay writer-director Don Roos, who wowed critics and audiences alike last year with his queer-themed dark comedy *The Opposite of Sex*, is making his next picture more hetero (and, it seems, more boring).

Bounce stars irksome "it boy" Ben Affleck as a womanizing hotshot advertising exec who surrenders his seat on an airplane to a married homebody anxious to get back to wifey. When the plane

crashes, Affleck's character is ridden with guilt and seeks out the grieving widow (played by Ben's own currently off-again "it girl," Gwyneth Paltrow) only to—guess what?—fall in love. But she doesn't know the connection between her new love and her late hubby.

Sounds a bit like that recent Harrison Ford stinker *Random Hearts*, doesn't it? The Miramax film wraps production this month and is set to open July 2000. Let's

Love is looking to add directing to her resume. She's paid out of her own pocket to option the rights to Caroline Sullivan's book *Bye Bye Baby*, about the '70s Scottish boy band the Bay City Rollers, and would like to bring the project to the big screen as both director and producer.

The book chronicles the band's success and subsequent walk on the wild side. When the plaid-clad lads were no longer wanted on the covers of *Teenbeat*, various

tragedies overtook the group: Billy Lyall died from an AIDS-related illness; Les McKeown was charged with reckless driving after striking and killing a senior citizen with his car; Tam Paton was jailed for committing indecent acts with minors; and Erick Faulkner and Alan Longmuir both attempted suicide.

Love, the widow of grunge rocker Kurt Cobain, was asked to write a blurb for the book's jacket. When she read it, she flipped for the material.

Boys Don't Model

Twentysomething Hilary Swank, who gives an outstanding gender-bending performance as transman Brandon Teena in *Boys Don't Cry*, has been approached by designer Calvin Klein to model.

The talented actress was rumored to be flattered to be asked but said she's not

interested. Let's hope Ms. Swank turned the designer down graciously: she might want him to whip up a gown—or a tux—for next year's Academy Awards.

Romeo San Vicente is a member of the Mile High Club. You can reach Romeo in care of *HeatStroke* or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.



Anne Heche's next project is *Auggie Rose*, scheduled to begin shooting this month.

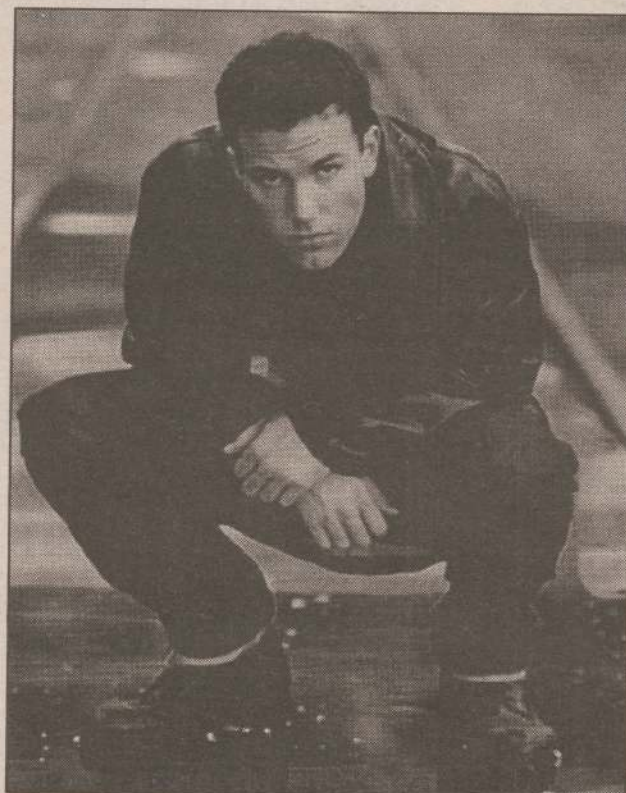
Macy, of course) when a gunshot victim from a robbery dies in his arms. The businessman decides to assume the identity of the dead man, an ex-con named Auggie Rose, and embark on a secret double life.

Complications ensue when a woman (played by Heche) Rose had been corresponding romantically with while he was in prison arrives to meet him for the first time. No release date has yet been set for the picture.

Two Heads Will Roll For Rudin

Gay film and theater producer Scott Rudin has snapped up the screen rights to Elena Lappin's *Granta* magazine article "The Man with Two Heads," about the controversy over the Holocaust memoirs of Benjamin Wilkomirski.

The gripping memoirs, published in 1995, garnered major kudos, and Wilkomirski even went on a fundraising tour for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. But evidence surfaced that Wilkomirski wasn't even in Poland during the Holocaust, let alone in a Polish con-



Ben Affleck stars opposite Gwyneth Paltrow in *Bounce*—helmed by gay director Don Roos.

hope at least the flight attendants on the doomed plane get to be gay.

Mojo Rising

New Line Cinema has optioned the feature film rights to Joe R. Landsdale's 1995 gay-themed detective novel *Mojo*. The book is one of several by Landsdale featuring the adventures of Hap Collins (a field worker from the writer's home turf, East Texas) and Leonard Pine, his tough-as-hell best buddy who happens to be gay and black.

Mojo's plot centers on the death of Leonard's uncle, who leaves behind a significant amount of money and a home. When Leonard and Hap start cleaning house, they stumble upon a child's skeleton and porno mags.

Determined to clear his uncle's name with the authorities, Leonard enlists Hap in a haphazard investigation that ultimately exposes a serial killer. No actors are yet attached to the project.

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Author to sign book on gay male relationships

Continued from page 1

Yost opted to keep the partnership together, moving to California with Brown. That initiated his own career change. He went back to school and earned his Masters in psychology, then opened a counseling practice and eventually authored three bestselling books on management and stress.

Though also nonfiction, *When Love Lasts Forever* is quite a departure from Yost's previous three books. The 14 couples included, together from 10 to 45 years, use their full names and they tell their stories in their own words.

The honesty of the autobiographies and slightly oversized format lend an air of the "coffee table book" to the collection. "That's the way it was designed. That's exactly the look the publisher was going for," Yost explained.

He felt it was important to use real names and pictures in order to show that the gay men participating in the anthology are proud and happy rather than embarrassed or ashamed.

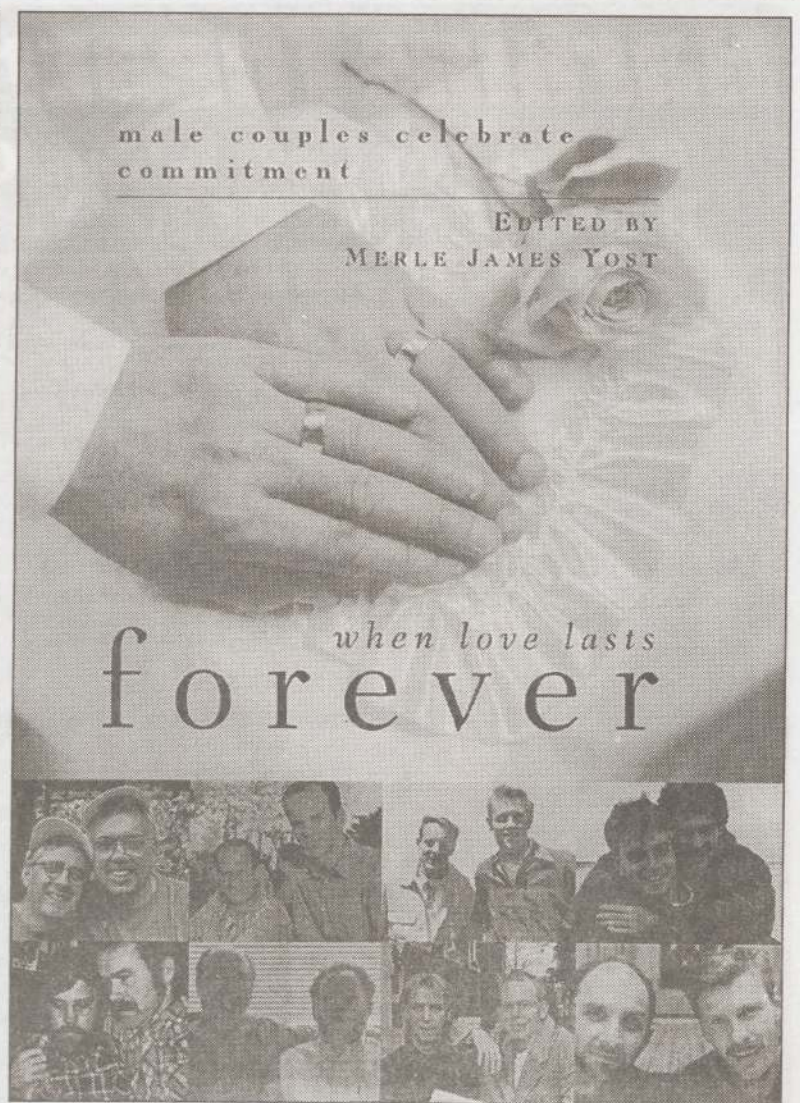
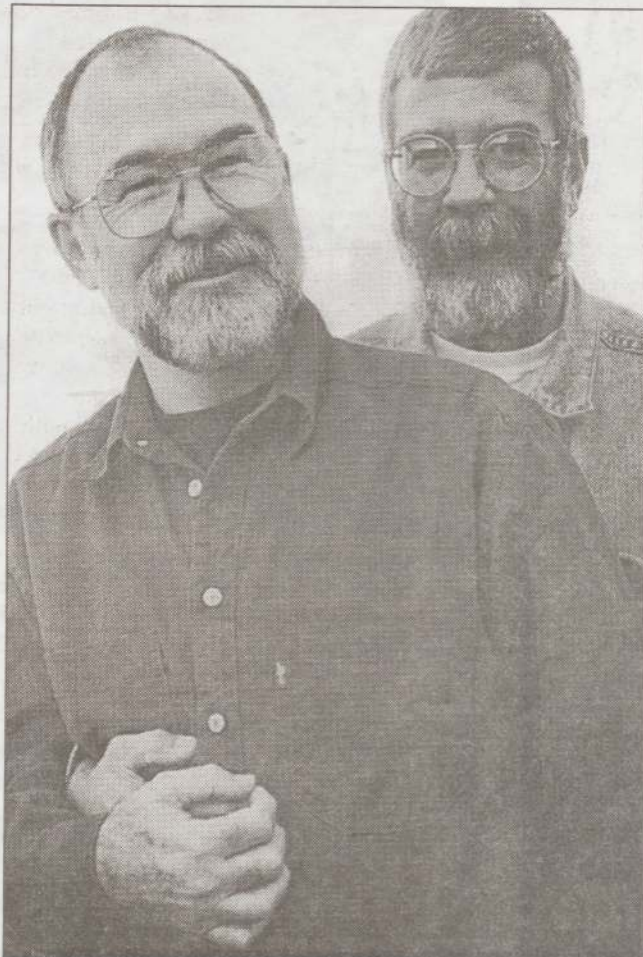
Gay men have responded to the book in a big way, but Yost is curious to see what the feedback will be from other corners of society. It's been suggested that homophobic people in public office and the media who deny the possibility of lasting male/male relationships could benefit from reading the book. Yost agrees, but said he hasn't yet heard from anyone in the enemy camp.

In any case, the book is selling well among friends. "PFLAG has been very supportive, and the gay church community has really come out in support of it," Yost commented that several gay churches nationwide have already made the book required reading for partners planning religious commitment ceremonies.

"I had a straight woman friend who read it before it was published, and she told me that after the third or fourth story she forgot that it was about male couples," Yost said. "She found herself relating to it as



Above: Merle Yost, author of *When Love Lasts Forever*. Below: Terry Colbert and James Mason, one of the couples featured in the book.



being about relationships and what people have to do to stay together, and it made her think of things she'd personally been through in past relationships."

He added, "I thought that was a really important and valid endorsement. If people forget that it's a book about male coupling and see it as just about coupling, then I've accomplished part of what I was trying to do from the beginning."



Merle Yost will be at Obelisk: The Bookstore, 24 W. Camelback Rd. in Phoenix, on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 2 pm. Call 602/265-BOOK for information or to order.

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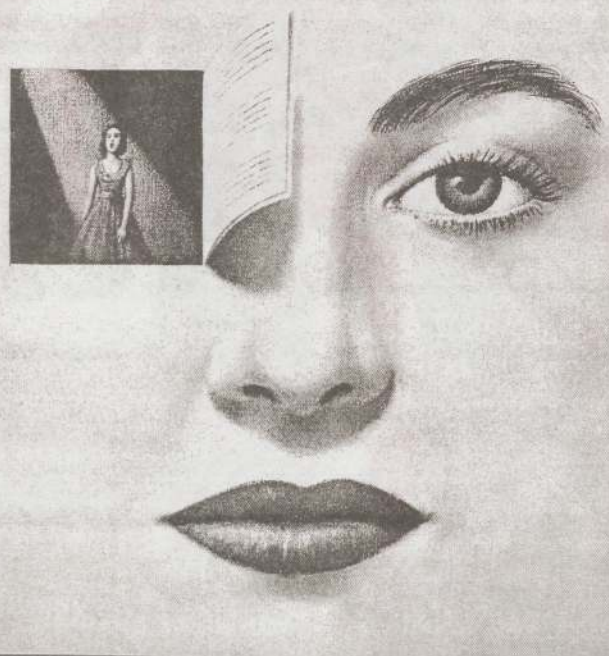


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Intelligent Life found onstage in Tempe

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.



White boy rappers playing Tempe, Mesa

Everlast—a.k.a. Erik Schrody—may be just 29 but the former House of Pain frontman knows what it's like to face his own mortality.

Last year, on the very day he finished his 15-track solo album, *Whitey Ford Sings the Blues*, the hard living rocker wound up in the hospital with a massive heart attack, having stressed a congenital heart defect to the max.

Now a devout Muslim with a repaired aorta and a sublime radio hit ("What It's Like"), Everlast is touring in support of the *Whitey Ford* disc, which he's referred to as, "what if Neil Young or Willie Nelson was a b-boy."

Find out what in the hell that means when Everlast plays Tempe's Club Rio on Monday, Nov. 22 at 8 pm. Sumack opens the show and tickets are \$17 in advance, available through Ticketmaster.

Another guitar-driven palefaced rap-

per comes to the Valley on Thursday, Dec. 2 when Detroit's Kid Rock plays the Mesa Amphitheater.

Touring behind his lauded 1998 cd *Devil Without a Cause*, the Kid has been splashed all over the video channels lately, reveling in party-hard touring and slyly expressing himself from beneath a rakish fedora.



Tickets to Kid Rock with Powerman 5000 and special guests are \$25 in advance. Call Dillard's or the Mesa Community Center Box Office.

British adult comedy opens at Planet Earth

Mark Ravenhill's 1996 British hit *Shopping and Fucking* will open Nov. 19 at the Planet Earth Theatre in Phoenix under the direction of Ron May.

The play is a corrosive, brutal look at love, consumerism and sex set in the world of London's ecstasy and club culture. The adults-only dark comedy fea-

tures 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.

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Out of Town

By
Andrew Collins



The Evolution of Boutique Hotels

Throughout much of this century, travelers have had two very basic options in the way of accommodations: large full-service hotels, usually affiliated with chains and decked with pleasant but anti-septic cookie-cutter furnishings, or small inns and B&Bs, typically with fewer than 20 or 30 rooms and limited amenities.

In 1981, a San Francisco hotelier named Bill Kimpton opened the Bedford at Union Square, a 144-room property that combined the strengths of large and small accommodations. The travel industry soon dubbed this sort of place a "boutique hotel," and the landscape has never been the same since.

These days—from Honolulu's Waikiki Beach to Quebec City's Lower Town—stylish and intimate boutique hotels are popping up across North America and drawing a loyal clientele within the gay and lesbian community. For gay travelers, especially when traveling with their partners, booking a room at either a large chain hotel or a tiny inn has traditionally presented potential problems of comfort and accessibility.

Two members of the same sex checking in amid the chaos and impersonal trappings of an immense convention hotel often feel uncomfortable, especially if the harried front-desk clerk questions why on earth they've reserved a room with just one bed. "There must be some mistake," is the often-heard reaction.

The same couple runs the risk of an awkward exchange when booking a room at a small B&B whose owners may or may not be accepting of gay guests. Then, having to take breakfast the next morning with total strangers—or even share a hall bath with them—presents further cause for potential anxiety. At gay-owned properties, of course, these problems are largely avoided, but such accommodations don't exist in every neighborhood of every city.

What the Kimpton Group has created is a series of comparatively small hotels, typically with between 75 and 250 rooms. By 1999, Kimpton had nearly 30 hotels, mostly on the West Coast.

Other hallmarks of these intimate properties are high staff-to-guest ratios, homey yet elegant lobbies with inviting check-in areas, stylish and inspired decorating schemes ranging from old-world Parisian to postindustrial chic, and deluxe yet whimsical in-room amenities—from high-quality bath creams and gels to hard

candies and real-live goldfish.

At the risk of stereotyping, if gay travelers aren't impressed with Kimpton's uniformly well-trained and personable hotel employees, they'll at least be enchanted by the courtly though cutting-edge aesthetic.

In New York a few years back, forward-thinking hoteliers Ian Schrager and the late Steve Rubell (of Studio 54 fame) teamed with inimitable interior designer Philippe Starck to stake a different claim in the boutique hotel market.

When they opened the Royalton, Paramount, and Morgans hotels, they broke new ground with their eye-catching decor—elements like amoeba-shaped blue-velvet chairs, conical stainless-steel sinks, and low-slung futon-like beds. More see-and-be-seen and celebrity-oriented than Kimpton's low-keyed hideaways (and considerably snootier, too), the Schrager hotels have also captured the fancy of gay men and lesbians. And on a related note, both mini-chains employ high numbers of openly gay staff.

What these types of hotels may lack—an international franchise name, huge meeting rooms and convention facilities, immense shopping arcades, enormous health clubs—many leisure and independent-minded business travelers can live without. And by eliminating these facilities, boutique hotels keep their rates lower than mega-hotels of similar or even inferior quality.

In fact, a number of boutique hotels do provide limited business services and exercise rooms, and most of them also have excellent restaurants. Kimpton, for instance, has developed some of the most critically acclaimed dining venues in San Francisco, a change from when hotel dining lacked any cachet except among guests.

Boutique hotels also provide a number of the amenities that travelers appreciate at larger properties and often can't find in B&Bs, such as data ports, cable TV, automated voice mail, valet parking, and complimentary morning newspapers.

Yet the ambience of inns and B&Bs, from the emphasis on fine art and high-quality furnishings to settings that are often historic and architecturally noteworthy, has also been incorporated into the boutique lodging concept. Some even throw in a complimentary Continental breakfast or afternoon wine tastings.

Fortunately, Kimpton and Schrager continue to expand their empires, and other hotel groups have latched onto the trend, while an entirely new breed of independently owned historic hotels have started renovating and reinventing themselves into the boutique mode.

Kimpton Hotels parlayed the success of its San Francisco-based Hotel Monaco into a mini-chain. This debonair Parisian-influenced hostelry opened in 1995, and before long similarly trendy and refined Hotel Monacos had opened in Seattle, Denver, Chicago, and Salt Lake City. Plans now call for the concept to expand to Boston, New York, Vancouver, and Washington, D.C.

Also in 1999, Kimpton transformed a

pair of historic buildings in downtown Chicago into the Hotel Allegro and the Hotel Burnham; the latter occupies the 1895 landmark Renaissance Building, one of America's first skyscrapers.

The \$27.5 million restoration retains such original details as the Carrara marble wainscoting and ceilings, terrazzo floors, and mahogany trim, and original offices have been turned into lavish guest rooms bathed in golds and navy blues and outfitted with deep-blue velvet headboards.

Ian Schrager has worked his wonders on the Mondrian Hotel in the heart of tres-gay West Hollywood, as well as at the ultra-trendy Hotel Delano in Miami's South Beach. In fact, the historic art deco district in that tropical Floridian getaway has witnessed the conversion of countless left-for-dead apartment buildings and welfare hotels into first-rate boutique lodgings.

Back in San Francisco, a young entrepreneur named Chip Conley founded Joie de Vivre hotels more than a decade ago. He's taken everything from 1920s high-rises to 1950s motor lodges to early 1900s mansions and reopened them as hip

Euro-inspired retreats. Reasonable rates and gay-friendliness are a trademark of Joie de Vivre, with hotels like the Abigail (budget), Commodore and Phoenix (mid-range), Rex and Archbishop's Mansion (upscale), and Nob Hill Lambourne (luxury) favorites among queer travelers.

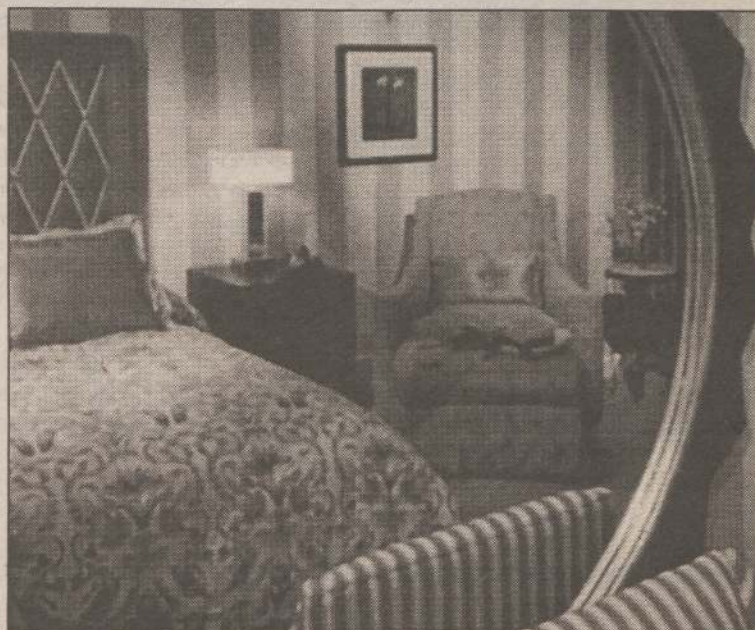
A final chain worth keeping an eye on is West Coast Hotels (a.k.a. "Coast Hotels" in Canada), which began by revamping a few dated and rather ordinary properties in downtown Seattle—the Camlin, the Paramount, the Roosevelt, and the Vance—and has rejuvenated vintage buildings in Honolulu, Portland, Vancouver, Spokane, San Francisco, and several other cities.

A few last bits of advice when searching for boutique hotels: Many lovely small and inviting properties out there are not part of a franchise.

Also, quite a few larger chains have caught on and now operate—often discreetly—boutique accom-

modations (for example, The Westin Francis Marion in Charleston, the Wyndham Union Station in Nashville, and the Renaissance Harbor Court in Baltimore).

A number of these hotels are part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Historic Hotels of America, or are members of discriminating hotel groups like Relais & Chateau and Preferred Hotels and Resorts. However you find one, be sure to consider booking



Parisian-influenced fabrics, colors, and furnishings set the rooms at the Kimpton Group's Hotel Monacos apart from the bland furnishings of impersonal convention hotels.

a room at a boutique property the next time you make travel plans—your experience may forever change the way you look at hotels.

Andrew Collins authored the expanded second edition of *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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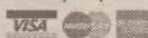
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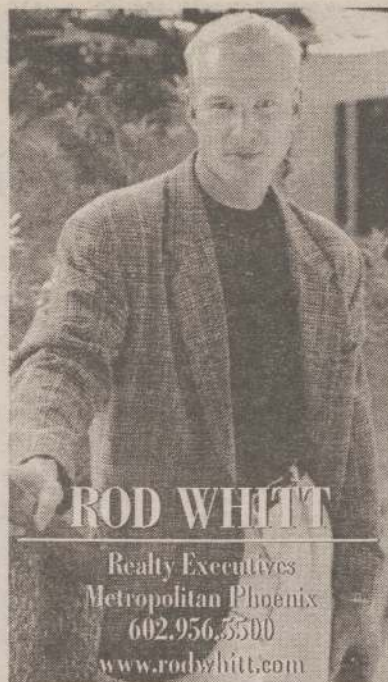
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Dear Cowboy,

I broke up with a guy one year ago after three months of heavy dating and it really hurt at the time. He wanted for us to stay friends and he called several times over the summer, but I put him off because it was working better for me not to see him at all.

I know that since me he has seriously dated at least two other guys and probably had sex with a lot more than that. Meanwhile I have had one date in the past year and technically have not had sex at all since we broke up.

Now he's calling again, saying he wants me back and that he made a mistake. He wants us to be "together for the holidays" and says he wants to live with me. I'm still really in love with him but I

don't want to get hurt again. What should I do?

Signed, Interested But Scared

Dear Interested,

The troubles you are having over this cowpoke run a little deeper than can probably be solved in this short amount of space. The fact that you are ruminating on the problem thoughtfully enough to write it out is a good start, but it's hard to know which way to advise you without knowing more about the situation. You'd probably get a lot of help in the sorting department from a licensed pro that you can really open up to.

That said, I ought to point out that three months of dating is not a very long time to get to know someone. Your carry-

ing that torch for a year afterwards makes me wonder if you are having a hard time separating real love from a physical infatuation—which is something every one of us goes through and nothing to worry about admitting.

This stud might be a great guy in general and he might even be great for you, but I'd rather see you build up a little more self esteem and date a few more cowboys before getting too heavy into another relationship with him. You also need to have some sex—technically—and get things back into a proper perspective.

Trust your own instincts. If you want to start seeing him again and can take it slow, then go for it. But if one or two trail rides with a guy you're this hot for are going to turn into an instant commitment and sharing the ranch, it's probably in your own best interest to say "whoa" to anything exclusive right from the start.

Dear Cowboy,

Can you help me think of some good things to do for a first date? I usually go to a play or a movie, but then you end up not being able to talk to the other person

until you go somewhere afterward.

I like to just have dinner someplace kind of nice, but then that seems so formal. I also like to have a guy over for dinner, but that seems kind of forward for a first date. What do you think?

Signed, Trying to Get Out There

Dear Out There,

Hit the trail! This is the best time of year to explore what's going on outside the Valley. Load up a picnic cooler and head for the hills—or the lakes, or the rivers, or the hiking trails.

Get a reliable map and explore something new together. Drive up to Jerome, or head south to Bisbee or Tombstone. If you don't have all day, stay in town and hit the Heard Museum or the Art Museum, or tour Pueblo Grande or the Botanical Gardens. Find something historical and informative to do.

Save the movies until after you get to know the cowboy. You'll find it's a lot easier to be yourself at the start when you're up and moving around. There'll be time enough for sitting together in the dark later on.

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HeatStroke's Funny Page

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN

by Eric Orner



ericsoner@aol.com

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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Phoenix, AZ 85067

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Tempe 85281 602/248-5270

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Phoenix, 85001 602/266-2267

Entre Nosotros
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Phoenix 85012 602/285-0970

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Phoenix 85029
www.psn.net/~damour

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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 602/254-9651

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 (LADS)
PO Box 27335
Phoenix 85061 602/997-2411

Parents & Friends of Lesbians
and Gays
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

The Community Center and
Youth Services 602/265-7283
Lesbian & Gay Community
Switchboard 602/234-2752
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
PO Box 33367
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

Casa De Cristo
1029 E. Turney
Phoenix 85014 602/265-2831

Christ of the Desert Catholic Ch.
of the Antioch 602/230-5358

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480/610-8061 ext. 3

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Tempe 85281 480/894-8681

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Phoenix 85082 602/275-0506

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Paradise Valley 85283
602/840-8400

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Chandler 85224 480/899-4249

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Phoenix 85001 602/266-CAMP

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Phoenix, AZ 85067 480/990-2562

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Phoenix, AZ 85082

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Phoenix 85067 602/409-3160

Phoenix Tennis Alliance
602/359-0936

Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling
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Phoenix 85064 602/246-9643

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602/340-8070
mathbims@aol.com

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

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Jayme: 480/947-0907;
Terry: 602/954-9244

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Tempe, 85285 602/553-8674

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Phoenix 85015 602/279-2369

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Phoenix 602/277-2121

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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

S**taples**

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

T**ubs**

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

C**ulture**

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

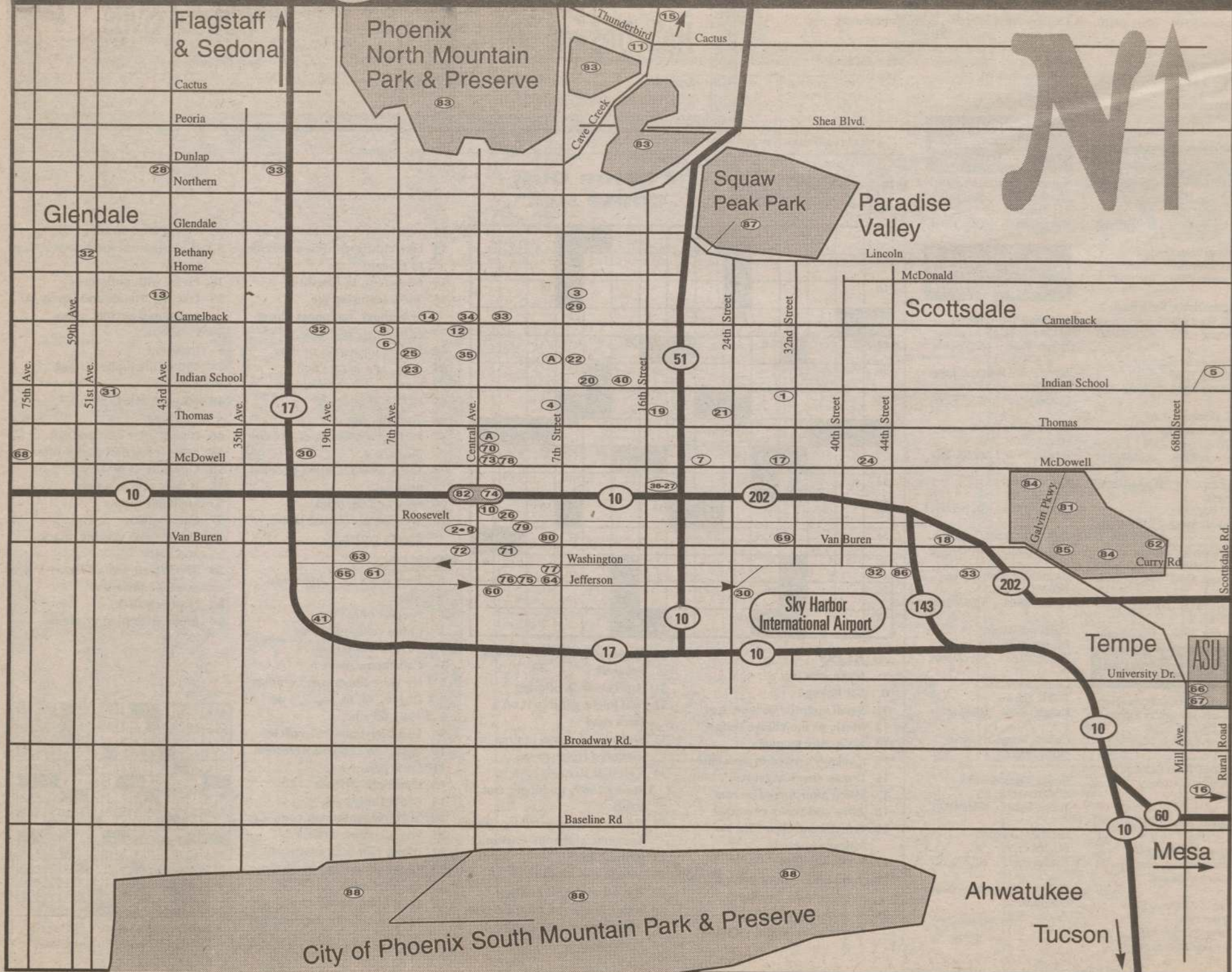
66. ASU Art Museum
Nelson Fine Arts Center
Mill Ave. & 10th Street
Tempe 480/965-2787
67. ASU Gammage Center
Apache & Mill Ave.
Tempe 480/965-3434
68. Blockbuster Desert Sky
Pavillion
2121 N. 83rd Ave.
Phoenix 623/254-7499
69. Celebrity Theater
440 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix 602/267-9373
70. Heard Museum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

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

O**utdoors**

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

Finding it in Phoenix



QSCOPES

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES: Life seems so much less serious after the Sun moves into your adventurous ninth house on November 23, so have a good time, babe. And while you're hanging with a Libra, you may have an almost religious epiphany about how to experience more joy in your life.

TAURUS: You may finally be ready to settle into a relationship that includes both security and passion! No need to trade one for the other. But lately, it seems like you're just going through the motions, both at work and in love. Take a chance with a Scorpio to show what's really in your heart.

GEMINI: The full moon (late on the 22nd) falls in your sign, and that puts the spotlight on you, babe. But be careful what you wish for; you just might get it, though in an unexpected way. A dream becomes a reality in your career. An Aquarius can make your love life dreamy, too.

CANCER: Your body needs lots of TLC right now, so think about what you eat, how much you exercise, and how you can boost your energy. A romantic riddle may puzzle you in the days ahead, but focus on the little details, and love will resolve itself, maybe with the help of a playful Sag.

LEO: You can't do much to make things better at work right now, except to throw some more creativity into the mix. Success on the job leads to more confidence in your love life. Let that old Leonine ego you've been hiding come out of the closet. A Cancer will be impressed.

VIRGO: With the Sun in your home sector and Venus in your house of money and possessions, it's a good time for redecorating. Making your house more of a home is not a frivolous act. Decision-making is a lot easier now; start by deciding whether it's all or nothing at all with a Pisces.

LIBRA: Your appeal is super-strong now as the Sun moves towards Pluto

in the most flirtatious house in your chart. Stop denying your obvious charms, and use them, honey! You may feel a desire to date even people you wrote off long ago. Break your own rules and have some fun. A Capricorn won't mind in the least.

SCORPIO: The full moon in your partnership house (late on the 22nd) signifies the beginning of a new cycle in your love life. If you've been unsure whether to go all the way emotionally, I suggest you give it a shot. Just do me a favor: blend the passionate with the practical. An Aquarius will show you how.

SAGITTARIUS: This is your time of year, and opportunities are popping up all over. You may make a lot of fast friends beginning late on November 22, when the full moon enters your house of relationships, but don't give yourself away too quickly, darling. Let a Taurus come to you.

CAPRICORN: A dreamy cycle in your life is beginning, but it could be scary, too. You could find out things about yourself that you were afraid to see before. Take notice of the way your day job affects your physical well-being. An Aries can help you rediscover your heart.

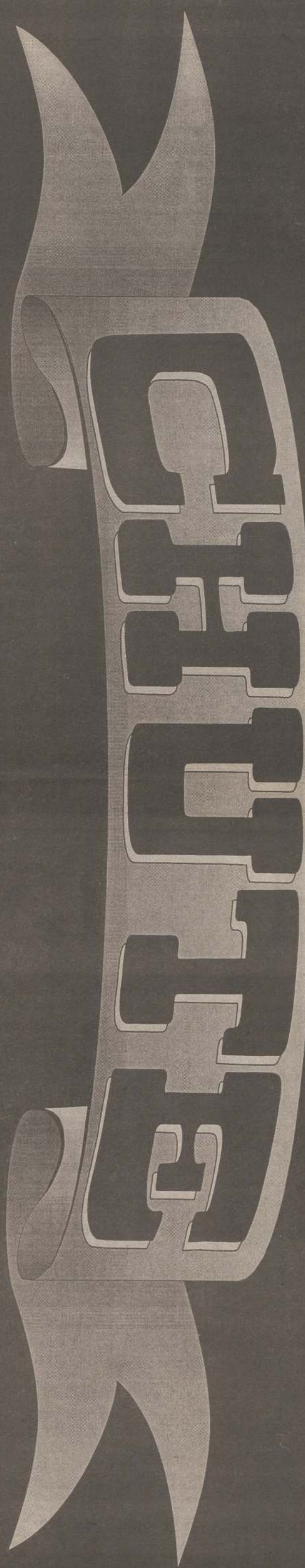
AQUARIUS: The effects of the full moon (on November 22) are strong. Rather than pick a fight with a Gemini, pick a creative project to throw yourself into. Mercury goes direct in your career house on Thanksgiving, so make a secret wish for a loved one's success and pay back a karmic debt.

PISCES: You have a lot on your plate these days in every area of your life. Organize your time, and vow that you will actually finish everything you start. Look for metaphors everywhere and apply them to your own daily battles. A Scorpio helps you keep your dramatic antics in line.

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

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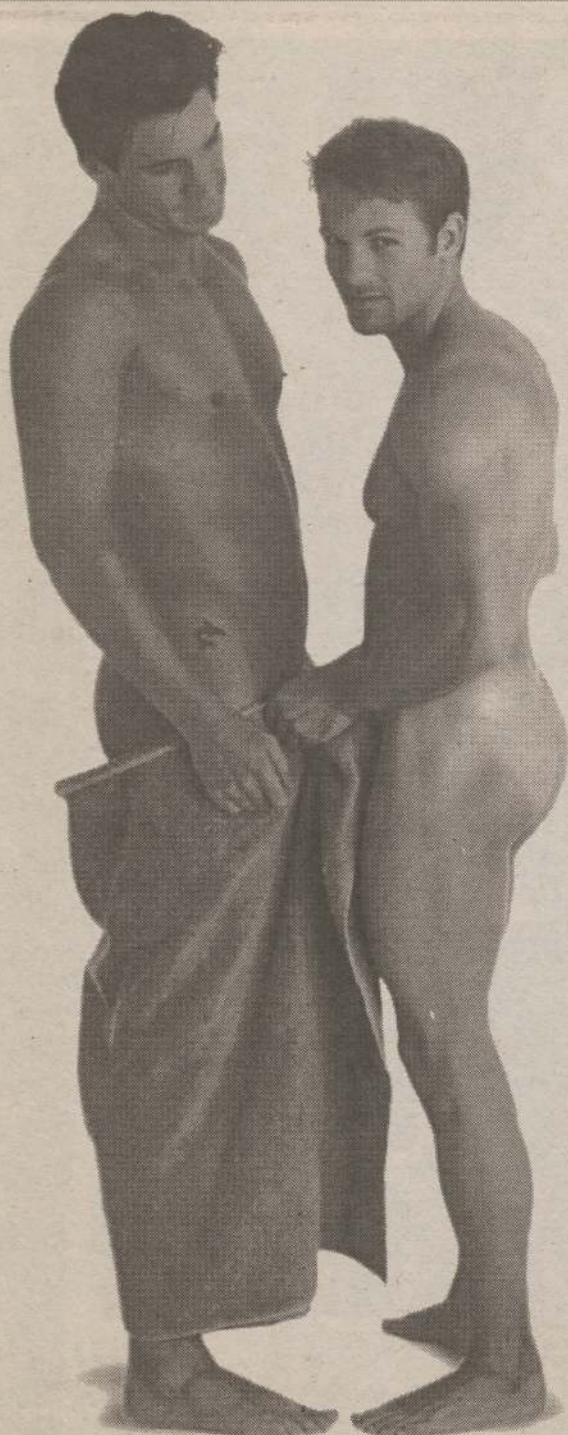


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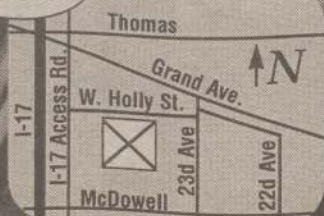
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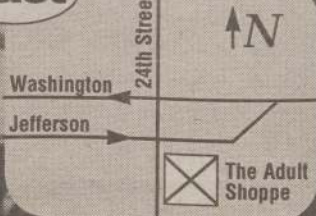
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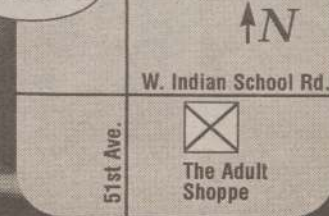
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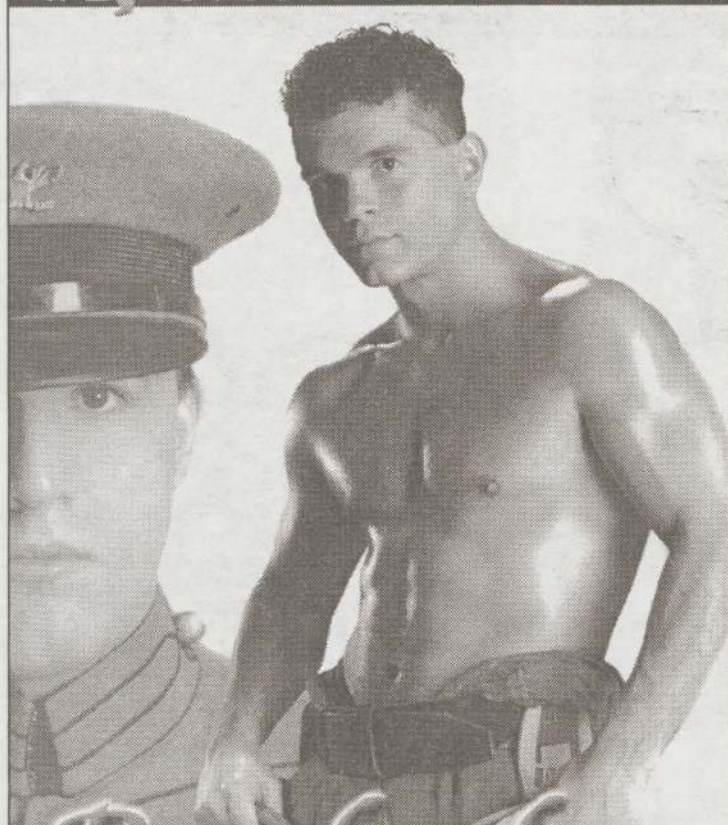
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