



**phoenix resource.**  
**the heterophobia issue.**

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# DIRECTORY

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I need to know something: How come it's okay for heterosexuals to mistreat homosexuals, but the inverse is considered contemptible? Where, I wonder, is it written that we must persevere, set an example, be fair, turn the other cheek?

Not in this publication.

This edition of *Phoenix Resource* ponders the possibility of aimless contempt for all heterosexuals by all homosexuals. What, we wondered, if straight folk were unfairly maligned by us homos? How would this be any different than their

abuse of us? What if we, living in *their* world, showed unabashed contempt for their tepid art, their wretched fashion, their innumerable strip malls?

Probably they'd squash us under their big nasty boot. The truth is, the world is fairly bursting with heterosexuals. They get to abuse us because there are more of them, and because they think that suppressing us is somehow useful. We are, after all, sinners.

So maybe we can't even up the score. But we can screw them when they're not looking. We can continue to recruit their children. We can continue to infiltrate their military, lousing up their security with our lurid sexual codes. We can continue to make more money and have

better sex than they do. We can give them bad haircuts.

Technically, heterophobia is the fear, not the loathing, of heterosexuals. And what's not to fear? Personally, I'm terrified of their sense of style, their trucks with great big tires, and their packs of shrieking brats. In a world where their teenaged sons clobber queers for fun, I think a little het-bashing is a fine thing.

Of course, there's no justification for trashing straight people en masse. That's silly. We'd just be mirroring their evil ways. Besides, some of them are pretty friendly, even if they do secretly loathe us. And there's nothing wrong with straight people that six hundred thousand gallons of rat poison wouldn't cure.

—Pela

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On the cover: *What's more scary, being straight or meeting a sixty-foot gorilla? Fay Wray and Robert Armstrong in a reaction shot from King Kong. Courtesy RKO Radio Pictures.*

Are we afraid of our own shadow?

# Stupid Het Tricks

**W**hen we queers encounter hatred and oppression out in the world, we commonly chalk it up to homophobia—that is, the fear of homosexuality among non-homosexuals. But homophobia is often most virulent among self-hating homosexuals. In other words, homophobia is frequently the fear of one's own true nature. In a little while I'm going to proffer a

by Paul Lind

theory that *heterophobia*—the irrational fear of non-gay people—is also often the product of the fear of aspects of one's own true nature.

But first, a brief, autobiographical digression:

When I was much younger, just before I came "out" to any degree, I thought that being a gay man must mean never having to say you're sorry—sorry about being promiscuous if you want, sorry about not wanting to play dumb hetero-based relationship games, and so on. Why bother with the classic het double standard (i.e., boys will be boys but girls must be chaste)? Since we're all guys, all presumably with the same hormonal content, why can't we fuck around as much as we want? I soon learned that the double standard applied in the gay male world, however. A guy who sleeps around a lot, I learned (second-hand, of course), is generally regarded as a tramp by his fellow queers. Because you would never hear a promiscuous straight guy called a tramp, I was baffled. And as for queers junking dumb hetero-based relationship games—well, let's just say I was a naïve young pup and leave it at that.

The upshot was that I entered the gay dating/tricking fray newly disabused of my utopian notions, and extremely cautious about whom I played with, lest I acquire a coterie of whining playmates complaining in unison that I failed to telephone them. Caution soon became near-celibacy. (Later, of course, AIDS would strike several gay men in New York, and caution would become the watchword for an entirely different reason.)

Today, I still resent the

hetero relationship model. As long as we gay men aren't impregnating our playmates or fostering false dreams of

wedded bliss and a home in the suburbs, why should we put up with cut-rate queer versions of these



expectations? We're *guys*, dammit—we're not *supposed* to be waiting for a knight in shining armor to come rescue us—and I resent guys who expect me to be their rescuer.

Nevertheless, these guys have my conscience in some sort of death grip. Despite my theoretical rejection of hetero values, I still feel guilty when I don't call, or when I *do* call, but it's only because I want to get laid (even when the callee has given me no reason to assume that he wants anything else). This, I now assume, is the source of my latent heterophobia: I fear that component of my nature that resembles straight people's.

Does my heterophobia translate, as homophobia often does for others, in a hatred for the other persuasion? I don't know, ask my analyst. I mean, I prefer to think of myself as an equal-opportunity

hater—sexual orientation, race, religion, gender, etc. have no bearing on why I dislike someone. But perhaps there's a palpable undercurrent of hetero alienation. Let's face it: this world was built for (if not by) straights. And they never seem to stop reminding us of that.

Yes, okay, straight people really bug me sometimes. So many of them seem so unaccountably stupid. Their governments are corrupt. Their religions are spiritually bankrupt. Their society is hellish. Their culture is second-rate.

But worse than all of that is the idea that irrelevant heterosexual values—notions that tell me how to be in love and how to express it, notions that should have no place in my liberated consciousness—are nevertheless a fundamental part of my psyche. Boy, I really hate that.

## The Great Divide

Here's a random and unscientific survey of the very real differences between heterosexual and homosexual people—their contrasting sensibilities and characteristics, and the meaning of each group in the scheme of things.

<u>hetero</u>	<u>homo*</u>
married with children	married with Cadillacs
Hulk Hogan	Quentin Crisp
Coleman lanterns	track lighting
Barbi Benton	Andrea Dworkin
fascism	fashion
Gene Siskel	Rex Reed
C rations	brunch
Bob Woodward	Truman Capote
rampant propagation	population control
Norman Rockwell	Robert Mapplethorpe
motorcycle gangs	female motorcycle gangs
sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll	sex, drugs and Broadway shows
Fellini	Pasolini
<i>The Arizona Republic</i>	<i>The Scottsdale Progress</i>
Loretta Lynn	Madonna
beige	ecru
Norman Mailer	anybody but Norman Mailer
Joan Jett	Holly Near
the military	the military
raving, beer-swilling,	raving, Evian-swilling,
flag-waving	politically correct
construction workers	lesbian café owners
Jimmy Swaggart	Leo Buscaglia
bank robbers	bank tellers
policemen	priests

\* The presence of a name on this list is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person, etc., etc.

## Now, Aren't You Sorry You Asked?

These two fag boys are curious to know how R. Pela would answer his own favorite question (from the *Paris is Burning* issue, August 30-September 13). He asked the question twice in the same issue, once of Tim Miller (wanton piece of male flesh that he is) and again of Pepper LaBeija (no comment necessary).

So, Mr. Pela, as you asked it, "If I were a television sitcom witch and could turn you into the most beautiful woman in the world, but you had to wear the same ugly dress for the rest of your life, would you go for it?"

Those Terrible Twins,  
James and John Bingham  
Mesa

*I already am the most beautiful woman in the world.*

—Ed.

## Size Queens

I enjoy your editorials, and I agree that this brain-part stuff is very weird (*Phoenix Resource: The "How Big Is Your Hypothalamus?" Issue*, September 13-26). I've always thought that gay people who want proof that "we can't help it" are fooling themselves. After all, the Nazis started by killing congenitally disabled people because it was an inborn thing that they couldn't help. And they later killed homosexuals under the same logic. There are still people who want a perfect gene pool; it's a pity they won't kill themselves toward that noble goal!

Wendy C.  
San Diego, California

Once again, (R. Pela is) characterizing gays as hairdressers and designers. In his hypothalamus editorial ("I was a Teenage Brain Stem") he writes, "Will genetic manipulation of the hypothalamus result in the eventual obliteration of homosexuality? If so, who will design furniture and style hair?"

Pela should spend his time and editorials showing the various ways that gays are not like the stereotypes forced upon us.

Name Withheld  
Phoenix

*Kafka wasn't fully appreciated in his lifetime, either.*

—Ed.

Your "hypothalamus issue" was crucial and entertaining as well. At a time when gays were up in arms about this topic, which was just another form of discrimination against us by the straight press, you gave us the chance to laugh at the stupidity of the whole thing. Thanks.

Roy Wheeler  
Phoenix

## Mo' Better Fiction

I'm glad to see *Phoenix Resource* running short fiction. I enjoyed "Parole Nor Pardon" by Perry Shurtz (September 13-26). I hope that you will continue to showcase gay fiction in upcoming issues. I am particularly interested in seeing fiction by gay women in your paper.

Rose Alt  
Phoenix

Perry Shurtz threw himself off a bridge last week. We plan to occasionally run fiction pieces by other authors in upcoming issues, however.

—Ed.

## Give Me Back My Mannequin

As a long-time fan of your bi-weekly rag, I was perusing a recent issue and reminiscing over the features which have come and gone over the years. One of my all-time favorites was the "Ask Covina" (?) column. While I realize that Ms. Norfleet has moved on, I feel that she might grant her loyal readers a one-time return to the pages of *Phoenix Resource*. I realize it would probably be too much to hope for a recurring piece. I'm sure that I speak for a large faction of your readers in making this request.

Laychie "Bud" McJeep  
Alexandria, Virginia

The fact that you remember "Covina Says...", which ran in this publication in 1985 and '86, is both gratifying and really scary. I am sure that you speak for none of our readers when you write that you'd like to see Covina in print again. "Covina Says...", an etiquette column "written" by a department store dresser's dummy, was the worst in low-concept journalism.

—Ed.

Send handwritten explanations of why men are terrible, unfeeling sex hogs to: Phoenix Resource Letters, P.O. Box 5948, Phoenix 85010.

Pity the pathetic, lonesome straight folk.

# In Defense of Heterosexuality

**S**cientific evidence suggests that heterosexuality is a phenomenon of nature, probably genetically determined at birth. While there's a pretty good chance that both your parents are heterosexual, that's not a necessary condition for procreation and parenting. But the two-gay-parent family, while not unheard of, is very rare indeed. And statistically, the odds are overwhelming

that at least one of your parents is straight. I'm absolutely certain this is true of my own father.

So let's be fair. Nobody chooses to be heterosexual.

Think about it. Who in their right mind would choose to be a social cripple whose notion of art is limited to Nagel prints and whose exposure to music comes from FM radio?

Let's be honest, too. Everyone knows at least one decent heterosexual, a relative perhaps, whom they wouldn't hesitate to

introduce at a party or bring to a nightclub. And how many of you can honestly say you have never been to a heterosexual party or a straight bar at one time or another? Admit it: Over the centuries, there have been several renowned writers, artists and composers who were undeniably heterosexual.

Have you ever considered the social and sexual burdens of heterosexuality?

Imagine being expected to show public spousal affection to a total fool, or

toward someone you really can't stand. This occurs to me every time I see a photograph of ex-governor Evan Meacham and wife Flo. And who can view old news photos of former president Richard Nixon without feeling at least a twinge of pity for Pat, there by his side, a forced smile on an otherwise blank face, as her husband tells yet another big goddamn lie.

Think about being steered into a career as a diesel mechanic or a housewife from childhood, even if from an early age



by Chuck Hadd Jr.

you've exhibited a flair for styling hair or decorating your room.

Consider my heterosexual Texas cousin. All through elementary school he was an avid reader with a prized collection of comic books. Unfortunately for him, by the time he was a high-school freshman, he stood 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighed close to 150 pounds—large for a 14-year-old, even by Texan standards. And in Texas, where men are men unless they're gay, my cousin had virtually no choice but to play football—a game he never particularly liked as a spectator and hated as an unwilling participant. In high school he never dared to come out of the closet with his true feeling about the game. But he was relieved in his junior year when a wrist-snapping injury late in the season ended his playing days forever.

Today, my cousin is a divorced computer salesman; he still hates football. And he still lives in Texas, where he's shunned by gays for being straight and ostracized by other heterosexuals for daring to display disinterest in a significant sport.

Yes, there are a lot of despicable elements of the heterosexual community. Critics of the heterosexual lifestyle can point to the blatantly promiscuous cruising at straight nightclubs: Men wearing pastel shirts with earrings and gaudy bracelets; women with butch haircuts and no earrings. There must be a special place in Hell for people like that. Meanwhile, the sheer number of such places around the Valley suggests that disease-spreading behavior is rampant and threatening to taint the entire population. But even if promiscuity is true of the majority of heterosexuals, it's still not fair to paint with the same broad brush the tiny minority who aren't sleazoids. The truth is, most heterosexuals live quiet, more or less monogamous lives.

More than fifty percent of them, in fact, remain with the same partner for life.

Some lesbians, incidentally, might find some sympathy for straight women when they consider this quote from a friend of mine on the burdens of heterosexuality: "The worst thing about being straight is having to wait for him to get it up instead of strapping it on," she said. "Not to mention cum on your face."

And gay men might commiserate with their heterosexual counterparts who, after tying the knot, hear these words from their mate: "I was only pretending before we got married, dear. The truth is I've never liked sucking cock."

By now almost everyone has heard of the hypothalamus studies that point to a biological "cause" of heterosexuality. This news has led to discussions about a possible "cure" for heterosexuals—perhaps something no more complicated than a delicate bit of neurosurgery. Those considering a cure, however, should think twice.

Would you really want people like Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker to join your league? What about Pat Murphy? Andrew "Dice" Clay? Florence Henderson? And if they were, in fact, secretly gay, would you want them to come out of the closet and tell everybody?

And what about this: If heterosexuals were all cured of their burdensome sexuality, who would clean out your sewer pipes and fix your cars?

Chuck Hadd Jr. is publisher of South Ash Press, a local poetry journal. His report on the Beauvais' discrimination case appeared in the August 2nd issue of Phoenix Resource. He is an admitted heterosexual.

# Scared Straight

Words of comfort from our winsome hetero counterparts

"If I were the chief of police, I would get me a hundred good men, give them each a baseball bat, and have them walk down Duval Street and dare one of these freaks to stick his head over the sidewalk. That is the way it was done in Key West in the days I remember and love."

Baptist minister Morris Wright of Key West, Florida; Wright's remarks appeared in an ad he took out in a Key West newspaper in January, 1979; many of Key West's gay establishments are located on Duval Street

"Homosexuality is a sickness, just as are baby-rape or wanting to become head of General Motors."

Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*, 1968

"I do not believe homosexuality is 'just another lifestyle.' I believe these people suffer from a severe personality disorder. Granted, some are sicker than others, but sick they are and all the fancy rhetoric of the American Psychiatric Association will not change it."

Ann Landers, in 1976, after the American Psychiatric Association dropped homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses

"I'd also purge the queers. I despise them worst of all. They're one of the ugliest problems of our society, and they must be removed—I don't know if with gas, or what, just so they don't poison society...They're the ultimate symbol of a decaying civilization."

American Nazi Party leader George Lincoln Rockwell in 1966

"Now we had all this mob over the weekend, which itself was a disheartening spectacle...We have to call a spade a spade and a perverted human being a perverted human being..."

U.S. Senator Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina), on the gay rights march on Washington DC in October 1987

"Now, listen, you queer. Stop calling me a crypto-Nazi or I'll sock you in your goddamn face and you'll stay plastered."

Conservative Columnist William F. Buckley, to Gore Vidal, during a live telecast from the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago; Buckley made the remarks after Vidal referred to him as a "crypto-Nazi"

"What do you know about men, you fat, ugly faggot?!"

Actor Henry Fonda to Charles Laughton, during rehearsals of the Broadway play *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*, in the early 1950s; Fonda was furious at Laughton, who was directing the play, for cutting some of his scenes and for hiring handsome young extras whose looks might have upstaged Fonda; producer Paul Gregory later wrote that Fonda's treatment of Laughton "was absolutely the cruellest thing I've ever seen"

Excerpted from *Unnatural Quotations* by Leigh W. Rutledge, ©1988 Alyson Publications. Reprinted with permission.

# straight and narrow

## hets: how they luv us!

**Three Gay Men Who Were Brutally Murdered by Heterosexuals:**  
1. Martin Coetzee: Coetzee was a well-known hairdresser in his hometown of Bloemfontein, South Africa. He was found dead in his apartment on Christmas Eve, 1973; he had been strangled to death with a necktie. Police arrested nineteen-year-old Coenraad Kroukamp, who claimed that Coetzee had plied him with liquor and then made sexual advances towards him. The boy's attorney argued in court, "Although the deceased has been described as a soft-natured person of slight build, he was nevertheless an experienced adult man who had forced himself on a young, healthy man half his age. Who can say what the psychological effect would have been on this young man had

the deceased succeeded in his intentions?" Though there were many irregularities in the boy's story—for example, by his own admission he did not at first resist Coetzee's advances—he was acquitted of murder on the grounds that he had acted in self-defense. "It must be accepted," ruled the judge, "that a normal man in his position...was entitled to defend himself." 2. Richard Heakin: Heakin, a twenty-one-year-old microfilm technician from Lincoln, Nebraska, was killed by four teenage boys outside a gay bar in Tucson, Arizona, on June 6, 1976. The boys were part of a larger group of teenagers harassing gay men leaving the disco at closing time. Heakin was standing by a car talking to friends when he was attacked and knocked

down. Police said his death was caused by a severe blow, perhaps a hard kick, to the back of the head. After the four boys who attacked him were caught and arrested (based on information supplied by witnesses), they confessed to the crime, and admitted

they had been out drinking beer and looking "to beat up queers." However, despite their confessions, Superior Court Judge Ben C. Birdsall refused to hand down jail sentences of any kind in the case. Characterizing the youths as "worthwhile

members of the community," he stressed that they were all high school athletes and that "none of them use drugs, or even marijuana." He gave them probation, and dismissed suggestions that they at least undergo psychiatric

counseling. "The four youths and their parents have been punished enough," he explained. 3. Charles Howard: Twenty-three-year-old Charles Howard was known as "Gentle Charlie" to his friends in Bangor, Maine. A slightly built, rather effeminate young man, he was



killed on the night of July 7, 1984. He and a friend were walking home from a church meeting that night when they were attacked by three teenage boys, one of whom had suggested to the other two, "Hey, let's kick the shit out of this fag!" Howard tried to run away from them, but tripped over a curb. The three teenagers fell upon him and started kicking and beating him. Then they picked him up and, despite his terrified pleas of "No, no, I can't swim," they tossed him over a bridge into a stream, where he drowned. The teenaged killers were arrested after they bragged about what they had done. Originally charged with first-degree murder, they were eventually convicted on charges of manslaughter—a charge of manslaughter legally implied that they did not act out of malice—and were sentenced by the court to incarceration at a youth center in Portland. All three boys were scheduled to be released by their twenty-first birthdays. In 1986, Charles Howard's mother filed a \$655,000 civil lawsuit against her son's killers. **Six Famous Men Who Have**

#### Publicly Denied

**Being Gay:** 1. Boy George, English pop singer: The androgynous pop star told a London newspaper in 1984, "I'm not gay, and I'm not a transvestite, no matter what anybody thinks. I'm basically very much a man." At other times, Boy George has variously described himself as "bisexual," "very confused," "not confused," and "not really all that keen on sex." 2. Roy Cohn, U.S. attorney: The controversial New York attorney, former counsel for Senator

Joseph McCarthy and an assistant prosecutor in the case that sent Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to the electric chair in 1953, was asked on *Sixty Minutes* about rumors that he was gay and dying of AIDS. "It's a lie as far as I'm concerned," Cohn replied. Cohn said he was suffering from liver cancer. Later, on the *Larry King Live* show, a phone caller asked Cohn if he was gay. "No," Cohn flatly replied. After Cohn's death in July 1986, it was revealed that Cohn had, in fact, been gay, and had been suffering from "underlying HIV infections." "He denied his homosexuality," wrote one of his friends,



conservative columnist William Safire, "because he could never reconcile it with his self-image of political masculinity." 3. Troy Donahue, U.S. actor: Donahue told *People* magazine in 1984, "I am not gay. Once in a while people get me confused with another blond, blue-eyed actor who was around at the same time, but it's no big deal. I love women. Sometimes, I guess, too much." Donahue has been married four times, once to actress Suzanne Pleshette. 4. Blake Edwards, U.S. film director: In a 1983 *Playboy* interview, Edwards was asked if, after writing and directing *Victor/Victoria*, he was worried people would

start whispering he was coming out of the closet. Edwards replied that despite having done some typical homosexual experimenting as a child, and despite some fears early in his life that he might be gay, he was nonetheless, in his words, "very heterosexual." 5. Daryl Hall, U.S. pop singer: In a 1984 *Rolling Stone* magazine interview, Hall denied persistent rumors that he is gay and that he and singing partner John Oates are lovers. "The idea of sex with a man doesn't turn me off," he said, "but I don't express it. I satisfied my curiosity about that years ago. I had lots of sex between the ages of

three or four and the time I was fourteen or fifteen. Strange experiences with older boys. But men don't particularly turn me on. And, no, John and I have never been lovers. He's not my type. Too short and dark." 12 Terrible Historical Events Gay People Have Been Blamed For: 1. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah 2. The fall of the Roman Empire 3. Plague in Constantinople 4. The fall of Visigothic Spain to the Muslims 5. The decline of medieval Arabic civilization 6. The Black Plague 7. The decline of Renaissance Italy 8. The 1755 Lisbon earthquake 9. The rise of Nazi Germany 10. Earthquakes in

California 11. The mid-1970s drought in the western U.S. 12. The appearance of AIDS. 5 Prominent Actors Who Turned Down the Role of Zach, the Doctor, in the Motion Picture **Making Love:** 1. Tom Berenger 2. Michael Douglas 3. Harrison Ford 4. William Hurt 5. Peter Strauss

*Excerpted from The Gay Book of Lists by Leigh W. Rutledge, ©1987 Alyson Publications. Reprinted with permission.*

Scottsdale Rd. in Papago Plaza). 423-1414.

**Radix Gallery:** New computer drawings from "Zones of Resistance" and "Cerebral Geographies" now through October 12. The compographic prints from the series-in-progress "Cerebral Geographies" investigate the relationship between the medical establishments' use of high-tech imaging processes and our own interior body spaces. The small scale works of computer-manipulated brain imagery offer a mode of countering fear of disease and death through abstraction. 1429 N. First St., 256-9252.

**Ex Libris Design Gallery:** Classic design objects for home and office, plus books on fine art, photography, architecture and design are featured in this recently relocated gallery, now on the Bridge Level at Scottsdale Galleria, 4343 N. Scottsdale Rd. 941-5289.

**Joanne Rapp Gallery/The Hand and the Spirit:** "The Turned Wood Vessel: A Group Exhibition," featuring works by some 17 artists, continues through October 31, and

"Master Metalsmiths: San Diego State Faculty and Alumni," continues through October 17. Fine wearable-art pieces by various artists are regularly featured. 4222 N. Marshall Way, 949-1262.

**Works of Artists:** This new, 11,000-square-foot gallery mall features a variety of fine artworks and crafts, including paintings, sculpture, photographs, furniture, jewelry and antiques. Hours: 10am to 6pm Sunday through Wednesday, 10am to 9pm Thursday through Saturday. 7101 E. McDowell (at



A You're an Amazon: Lesbian singer/songwriter Alix Dobkin will perform in one show October 5 at Science of the Mind Center.

#### center stage

**Beehive:** Actor's Theater of Phoenix kicks off its 1991-1992 season with Larry Gallagher's flashback to the Sixties, a musical buzzing with the energy, enthusiasm and spirit of the female vocalists of the decade. Featuring songs by such artists as Lesley Gore and Annette Funicello, Lulu and Petula Clark, Aretha Franklin



Drama Queen: Goldie Hawn goes over the top in *Deceived*.

and Janis Joplin. Performances Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, Sunday matinee at 2pm. Tickets: Thursday and Sunday shows \$18.50; Fridays and Saturdays \$22. Stage West, Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St. Box office: 252-TIXS.

**42nd Street:** Phoenix Little Theatre resurrects Harry Warren's "Lullaby of Broadway" musical through October 6. With songs like "We're in the Money," "You're Getting to Be a Habit With Me" and "Shuffle Off to Buffalo," this tapping, singing salute to Broadway is sure to please everyone. Tickets \$13, \$15 and \$17. PLT Mainstage, 25 E. Coronado Rd. 254-2151.

**Murder by Proxy:** What could be better than an original theater piece featuring performances by both Elaine Boothby and Molly Kellogg? How about actor/ playwright Neil Cohen in a wig and a cocktail dress? This audience-participation-murder mystery-dinner-theater extravaganza is the pick of an overworked genre. Go see it. Tickets are \$32.50, which includes a four-course dinner along with the play. Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30pm, Sundays at 5:15pm. Ramada Valley Ho Resort, 6850 E. Main in Scottsdale. 423-8737.

**Guv, The Musical:** An updated version of the popular Tyler-Miles production is now playing Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 7pm, through October 13. \$12 for Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays; \$14 Fridays and Saturdays. Mill Avenue

Theatre, 520 S. Mill Ave., Tempe. 921-7777.

**Man of La Mancha:** Theater Works squeezes this musical tale of Don Quixote, set in a dungeon during the Spanish Inquisition, onto its teeny tiny stage through October 13. Showing at 8pm Thursdays through Saturdays and 2:30pm and 7pm Sundays. Tickets are \$9.50 to \$11.50. 6615 W.

**Meet Me In St. Louis:** A new production of the old-fashioned musical, this time starring Debby Boone. Show times are 8pm Tuesdays through Fridays, 2pm and 8pm Saturdays and 2pm and 7:30pm Sundays. Tickets are \$34, \$31 and \$22 (\$36, \$33 and \$24 for Friday and Saturday evenings), available at Gammage Auditorium, ASU ticket outlets and Dillard's Box Offices. 965-3434.

**Men of Manhattan:** Writer John Glines uses a series of vignettes involving gay characters in New York City to illustrate our struggles with discrimination and AIDS. Performances at The Bum Steer's Courtyard Playhouse, 4620 N. 7th Ave. October 2, 3, 4 and 9, 10, 11 at 8pm, Sunday, October 6 at 7pm. Tickets at the door are \$6. Reservations call 249-3950. Group reservations available.

#### appearance

**The Phoenix Symphony Opener:** The opening night celebration for the Phoenix Symphony includes a catered reception, musical entertainment, opening night concert and post-concert dessert, champagne and dancing. October 3, 6pm, Arizona Center, 400 N. Fifth St. Tickets are \$100, which does not include the concert. 948-9400, or 264-6363 for tickets.

**Alix Dobkin:** A thunderbolt in feminist circles since the Seventies, Dobkin transcends

the usual performer-artist boundary with music, wit and political satire. Joining Dobkin is singer-songwriter Martie van der Voort, whose music has been called "outrageous, off the wall and candid." Saturday, October 5, 8pm at Science of Mind Center, 2838 N. 7th St. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door and are available at Changing Hands Bookstore, Humanspace Books, Arcadia Bookstore in Flagstaff, Antigone Books in Tucson or by calling CB Productions at 438-1157. For more information, call 234-3009.

**Judy Roberts with Fred Forney:** Grammy nominee Judy Roberts has nine albums under her belt and is "Chicago's favorite jazz woman" and "Arizona's favorite snowbird." Fred Forney is a

composer, arranger and trumpeter. They each will perform beginning at 7:30pm on Tuesday, October 1 at Kerr Cultural Center, 6110 N. Scottsdale Rd. Tickets \$10. 965-KERR.

**Grand Canyon Men's Chorale:** This new all-gay chorale will lend its voices to the closing ceremonies of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt's appearance at the Phoenix Civic Plaza (see Other Stuff below). The group, led by artistic director Ron Casola, will perform during services that begin at 5pm Sunday, September 29, the third day of the Quilt's visit and the day dedicated to "PWAs, Family, Friends and Significant Others."

**23 More Minutes:** This newest band-to-be-seen will perform at the Silver Dollar with Logical Nonsense and Burning Bush on Sunday, October 6 at 3pm (all ages). 417 E. Madison, 258-0667.

**Diana Ross:** September 28, 7pm. \$30. Celebrity Theater.

**Front 242:** September 29, 8pm (all ages) at Club Rio, 430 N. Scottsdale Rd., 894-0533.

**Celebrity Skin:** Friday, September 27, 8pm (all ages) at Silver Dollar, 417 E. Madison, 258-0667.

**Patti LaBelle:** Thursday, October 10, 7:30pm at Celebrity Theatre.

**Ladysmith Black Mambazo:** Saturday, October 12, 7:30pm at Scottsdale Center for the Arts, 7383 Scottsdale Mall, 994-2787.

**Pointer Sisters:** Thursday, October 3, 7:30pm at Celebrity Theatre.

#### toe shoes

**Doug Varone and Dancers:** Gammage Auditorium's Dance Directions series opens at 8pm Friday, October 11, with a performance by Doug Varone and Dancers in the Paul V.

Galvin Playhouse. The company probes the very heart of human emotion and interactions using subtle, everyday gestures mixed with a cascade of original movement that is witty, athletic and emotionally vulnerable. Tickets \$12. 965-3434.

**West African Dance and Drumming:** "Uncle C.K." Ganyo, master drummer and former director of the National Folkloric Company of the Arts Council of Ghana, instructs classes in West African Percussion, song and dance from 7pm to 9pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Fee is \$5 per class or \$25 per month; all ages and skill levels are welcome. For details and location, call 253-5920.

**Stars of the Bolshoi:** The dancers of the Bolshoi Ballet return to Arizona for one performance. September 27, 8pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. Tickets are priced at \$75, \$50, \$25; \$50 for benefit reception. 381-0184.

**Cynthia Gregory and Balletmet:** See this prima ballerina and company when they perform their dynamic repertoire September 28 at 8pm and September 29 at 2pm and 7pm. Theater at the Scottsdale Mall, \$22 evening, \$29 matinee. 994-ARTS.

#### other stuff

**NAMES Project:** The Phoenix chapter of this nationwide grassroots organization, which developed the mammoth AIDS Memorial Quilt that's been displayed in Washington, D.C. each October since 1987, helps loved ones to construct panels memorializing those who've died as a result of AIDS. These are added to the national Quilt, which included 13,500 separate panels and weighed nearly 30 tons as of last January. (Each three-by-six-foot panel

represents less than 14 percent of AIDS deaths in the U.S., or less than 4 percent worldwide.) A 2,000-panel segment of the Quilt—the size of two football fields—will be displayed at the Phoenix Civic Plaza,

September 27 through 29, prior to this year's Washington event. Volunteers are needed for various tasks relating to the display; interested persons should call 420-9396.

**Harvest Festival:** Alwun House will host a unique evening of art, music and dancing to benefit the Lesbian and Gay Community Switchboard. Enjoy loads of fab food and a no-host bar, along with progressive dance music by Calvin Martin. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, available at Humanspace Books or from Alwun House. Saturday, October 5, 8pm. Alwun House is located at 1204 E. Jefferson, 234-2753.

#### big screen review

**Deceived:** This psychological thriller starring Goldie Hawn and John Heard is something in the nature of a departure for Hawn. The film-makers take great pains to insure that Goldie does not make people laugh. The story is gripping and the direction works in most instances (except for about three-too-many "pet cat jumping out of nowhere" scenes), but Hawn's utter seriousness gives the movie an overly somber feeling. No one's asking for "Sock-it-to-me time," but a little more humor could have been injected without sacrificing Hawn's stature as a Big Dramatic Actress. One question: Is there some strange hormone released in a psychotic killer's brain that makes him want to crash through the nearest available window? -Neil Cohen

#### big screen

**Barton Fink:** Those wacky Coen brothers—Joel and Ethan—serve up an eerie homage to Clifford Odets, David Lynch, and 1940s Hollywood. All the good stuff you've heard about this one is true. Starring John Turturro and John Goodman.

**Livin' Large:** A high-spirited comedy about a guy from Atlanta's black ghetto who gets a chance to live out his dream of becoming a TV newsmen.

**Sex, Drugs, Rock and Roll:** This film version of Eric Bogosian's one-man theater piece is at times brilliant, sad, funny and depressingly cynical. Who is this guy, and why is he talking so much?

**The Commitments:** A rude, rowdy, rocking comedy about a group of Irish teenagers who put together Dublin's first soul band. Director Alan Parker (*Fame*) captures the raw sexual energy of rock and the humor of working-class teens and creates a movie sure to make you want to dance.

**The Fisher King:** Total turn-on Jeff Bridges plays a total turn-off radio shock jock who goes too far and quits his job. Out on the streets, he meets visionary Robin Williams and moves on to a whole other wavelength. Directed by Terry Gilliam.

#### some deadly sins

vanity  
sloth  
avarice  
gluttony  
lust  
greed  
leafy green vegetables

by **réy hoffman**

**Q**  
**U**  
**B**

Those wacky hetero journals!

# How Cosmopolitan

**S**ome people claim that gay and lesbian publications present a bad image of our community with their needless focus on sex. From beefcake covers to phone sex ads, from movie reviews focusing on actors' bodies to political debates focusing on tearooms, many of our publications make us seem shallow and sex-obsessed compared with heterosexuals.

by Wendy Caster

Well, I have bad news and I have good news. The bad news is that some of our publications often *do* make us look shallow. The good news is that mainstream publications make heterosexuals look every bit as frivolous!

Take *Cosmopolitan*. It proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that all heterosexuals

think about is sex and their appearance—and the only reason they think about their appearance is to get more sex. Featuring 175 pages of ads but only 110 of text, the magazine lives to sell. And, of the 110 text pages, 30 are actually text-ads: That is, they push more of the same products.

What are those

products? Skin care, hair care, makeup, clothing, perfume, cigarettes, booze. And what do the skimpy 80 pages of actual text focus on? Sex. Money. Sex. Clothing. Sex. Food. Sex. Self-esteem. Sex. Looks. Sex. How profound.

The August *Cosmo* cover, featuring a photograph of a scantily clad, pouting blonde



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woman, promises "Hunk City!" (a poster of male movie stars); "What Men Want in a Woman"; and "Shocking as It May Seem, Nice Couples Do." I decided to find out what it is nice straight couples do.

I found out. They have kinky sex. Monogamous, fairly vanilla kinky sex, but kinky sex nonetheless. And *Cosmo* tells them how: "If you're acting out a scene, get into it. Use the appropriate tone of voice...If you have the urge to giggle, do so." Jeez.

Thinking it unfair to judge *Cosmo* by one issue, I checked out the September issue as well. Its cover, featuring a photograph of a scantily clad, pouting blonde woman, asks, "Good Girls, Bad Girls: Which Are You?" Another article is about easing "your man's" sexual anxiety. A third teaches a "revolutionary" new sex technique. The only cover story that isn't specifically about sex is a profile of Cher, and guess what part of her life that article focuses on?

I decided to find out whether I was a good girl or a bad girl. Here is how *Cosmo* suggests I can tell: "Good girls never go after another girl's man...bad girls go after him and his brother." "Good girls say, 'Thanks for the lovely dinner.'...bad girls say, 'what would you like for breakfast?'"

Dare I suggest that, while both gays and straights may occasionally appear insubstantial, we do it better? I haven't read anything as sophomoric since...high school!

Of course, both gay/lesbian and het publications have chunks of serious content amid the trash. Discussions of political issues, introductions to new writers, and debates about racism and sexism appear in the

gay/lesbian press. September's *Cosmo* has a first-person article by a woman in construction work and a questionnaire on how to tell if you're ready for parenthood. And who can totally dislike a magazine that says, "If you're already what insecure men call a 'bitch,' great. If you're not, you need to reform?"

And not all emphasis on sex is shallow. Articles—whether straight or gay—on safe sex, improved sexual technique, and heightened sexual pleasure, are every bit as important as political or financial treatises—if not more so.

Wandering through *Cosmo*, I realized that straight women and gay men have a lot in common. I suspect this comes from trying to impress men, leading to an emphasis on personal image. Lesbians and straight men, since they try to impress women, can be less looks-oriented. Of course, this is a roaring generalization, and it's changing, too. In a bizarre outpouring of equality, looks are beating out substance in all sociosexual groups, with lesbian-oriented sex ads specifying "no dykes" and straight men being afraid to go out in public without looking like Arnold Schwarzenegger. But, for now, the generalization holds some truth, and the tone of gay men and straight women writing about men is similar. Take this *Cosmo* quote: "Real L.A. people know it's not possible to find cute...men who have muscles, like to dance, and have a good job and brains."

Reading *Cosmo* left me with two final thoughts: First, that I'm glad I'm gay; and secondly, that gay men and lesbians should not have to be better than straight people to get the same rights and respect.

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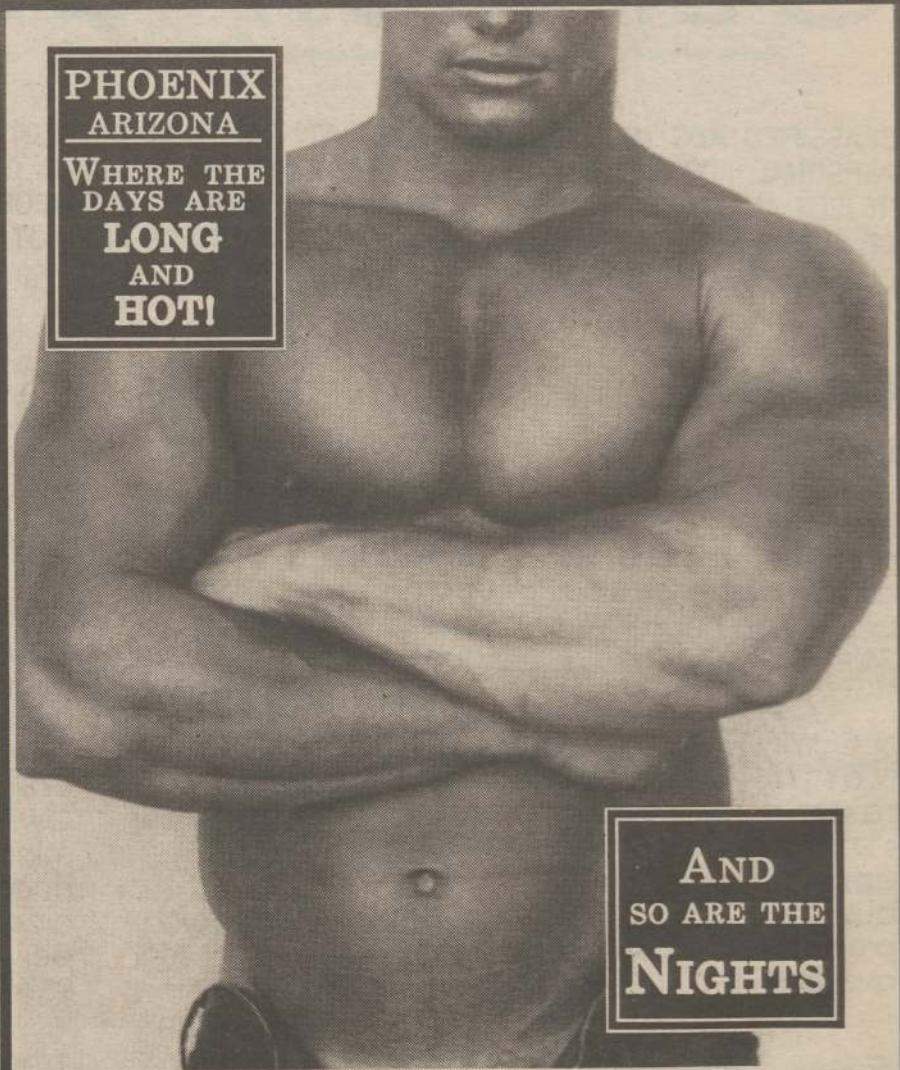
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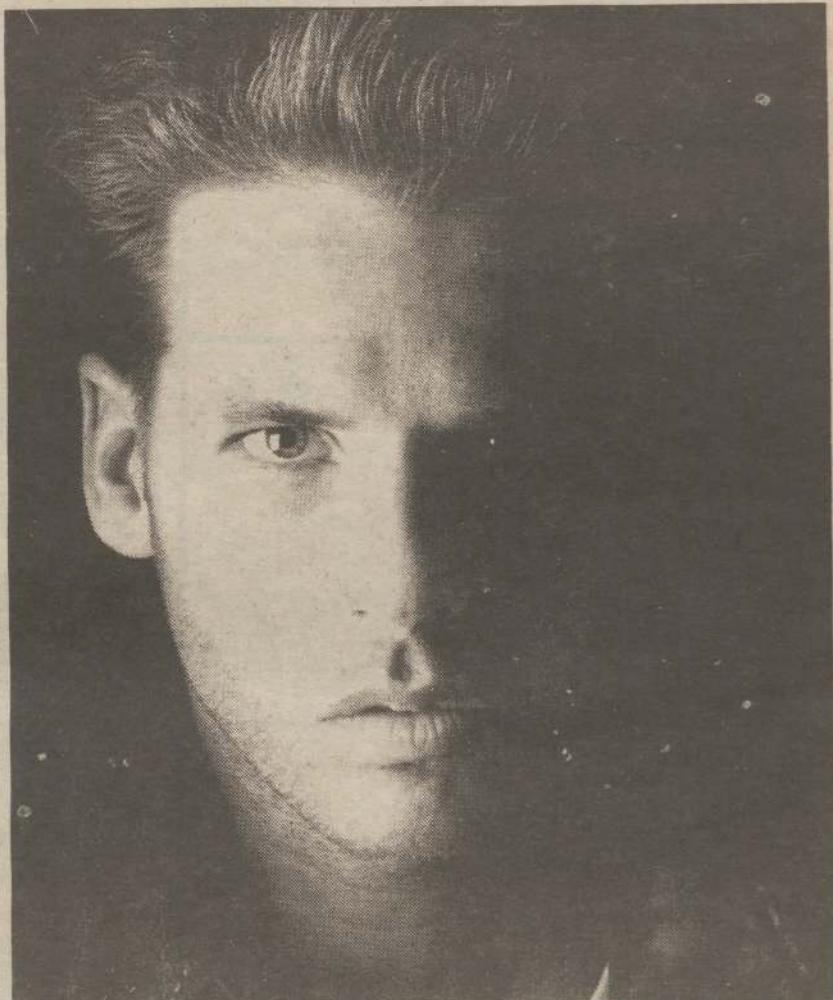
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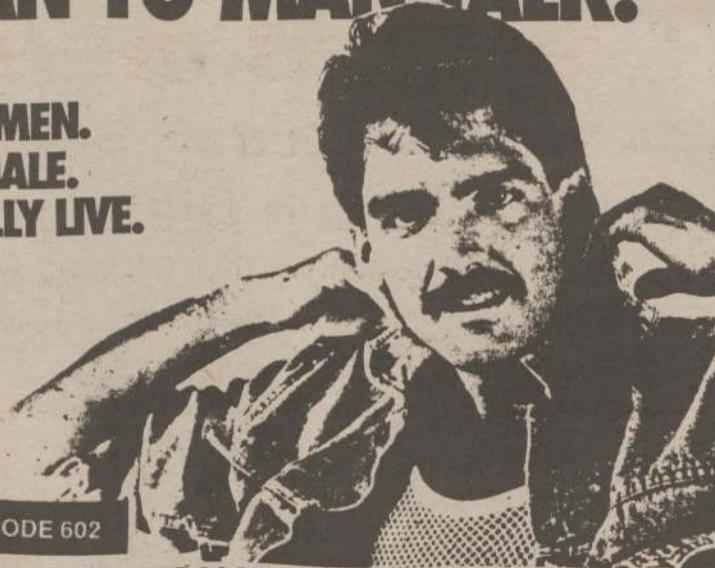
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