

HeatStroke

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December 30, 1999—January 12, 2000

making it happen in Y2K

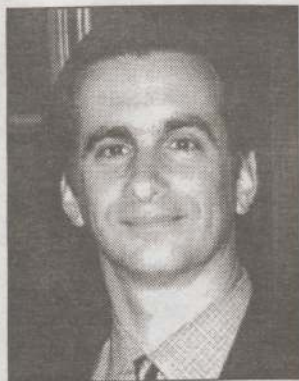


Once again, we asked a raft of local and national community leaders, *HeatStroke* contributors, and anyone else we could nail down, to give our readers some insight into what they would like to see happen in the coming year.

These aren't resolutions; they're more like hopes, wishes and plans for the gay/lesbian/humankind community in general. Last year, several passages of *HeatStroke's* year-end issue were picked up by a local right-wing organization and reprinted in their wacko newsletter as clear evidence of the ever-elusive gay agenda. Cool! We're hoping for similar notoriety this year.

Here, then, from the personal to the global, is what's topping the wish lists of some of the people who help make our community—and our newspaper—tick.

"As mayor of Tempe, I hope to be reelected on March 14th; see the Peabody Hotel get financing and commence construction along the Tempe Town Lake; and retain the Fiesta Bowl and Arizona Cardinals as Tempe-based businesses in a new facility.



I also hope more gay people will choose to be open and honest with family, friends and co-workers about their sexual orientation. For those of you who snuck this newspaper into your home, office or dorm room, you do have the courage and strength to "deal with it" and will be happier and healthier when you are not leading a double life.

Talk with someone, take small steps if

necessary, and be honest with those you love and who love you. Don't let the REAL millennium arrive January 1, 2001, without being true to yourself and seeking out the future that awaits you. A happier and healthier life can be yours."

—Neil Giuliano, openly gay (not to mention handsome & available) mayor; Tempe

"Lyle's Top Ten List for 2000—

10. I hope that everyone stops in to The Community Center to participate in one of our many groups and/or activities.

9. I hope that more people will volunteer at The Community Center (it will make our work go much more smoothly).

8. I hope The Community Center will be able to expand and offer more services and programs that the community wants.

7. I hope that all *HeatStroke* readers are registered to vote, and that they exercise that privilege... every time.

6. I hope that the Millennium March on Washington is a success and that the organizers take the necessary steps to address the needs of the massive number of young people who will be making the journey to D.C.

5. I hope that broadcast media will continue to show gays and lesbians as productive members of society and as role models (maybe they can expand on this to include positive role models for the black and Latina/o communities as well).

4. I hope that the leaders of our national glbt organizations will cease the infighting and recognize that we are all in this movement TOGETHER.



3. I hope the United States catches up to our allies in the areas of accepting gays in the military, and maybe even set a worldwide precedent with recognizing same gender marriages.

2. I hope that the phrase Y2K is never used again after January 1st.

1. I hope that everyone has a safe, happy and prosperous 2000.

And on a personal note... I hope for no more gray hair, and I'd really like to win big in the lottery."

—Lyle Miller, Executive Director, The Community Center; Phoenix

"In 2000, I'd love to see my career go where I dream that it will go.

But really (and as corny as this sounds) most of the time, I just want to be a good person in the world. You know—I can't even go there, because then I start to sound like a big cornball.

What I want to say is that I hope I can continue to act and to just be in the world in a way that is consistent with my spirituality... and still have fun!"

—Miss Coco Peru, international performer, playwright and diva; New York & Los Angeles



"In the year 2000 I would like to see every gay man and lesbian come out of the closet. We can pass bills at the legislature until we are blue in the face dealing with issues concerning our community, but the only way we are going to change society's view of us is if we are open, honest and visible about who we are as lesbian and gays.

I would also like to see the Democrats take control of the Senate. The current

Republican leadership in both the House and Senate continues to stymie any progressive legislation that affords lesbians and gay men the same rights and protections as our heterosexual counterparts. If the Democrats were able to control the upper chamber of the Arizona legislature, Steve and I would be able to pass bills out of the House and feel confident that they would receive a hearing in the Senate.



The reelection of Barbara Blewster is also something I would like to see happen in the year 2000. My Republican colleague from Prescott has become the most vocal spokesperson of the far right. If we did not have her continual statements from the Capitol, mainstream Arizona would not have the opportunity to witness the mindset of our very conservative lawmakers. Ms. Blewster has become one of our best weapons against intolerance."

—Ken Chevront, Arizona State Representative (D -District 25); Phoenix

"I never thought I'd hear myself saying this, but I'd like to see gay and lesbian marriage legalized here in Vermont in 2000. The marriage issue has always been kind of a snoozer for me. Yeah, yeah. I know it's an important strategic struggle, but really. Look at the divorce rate. The institution of marriage is a sinking ship, to quote *Nation* columnist Katha Pollitt. That's the reason queers are finally being considered for berths in steerage.

But in late December, our state Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples are legally entitled to the same bene-

See "Y2K Wishes," page 16

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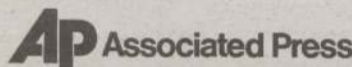
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Horowitz:

The 1993 March on Washington for GLBT rights gave me hope for the future of our community.

Gathering with hundreds of thousands of my brothers and sisters and our supporters inspired me to help bring enormous energy and enthusiasm back to Arizona. An overwhelming feeling of love and a sense of history permeated the capitol. We filled the hotels, restaurants, streets and subways with our style and the substance of our demands for equality.

Since the 1993 march, the gay community has risen to previously unimaginable levels of prominence and success.

Ellen came out and became the pioneer for a television industry with more than 100 openly gay characters. Funding for AIDS research soared and the introduction of protease inhibitors gave thousands hope for survival.

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned Colorado's antigay Amendment 2, and the Vermont Supreme Court told legislators to grant gay and lesbian Vermonters rights equivalent to married heterosexuals.

Arizonans elected and reelected openly gay mayors and legislators. We helped elect and reelect the most pro-gay President in history, and he appointed the first openly gay U.S. Ambassador as well as offering dozens of high level government jobs to qualified gay candidates. The federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act came within one vote of passing the U.S. Senate.

The war for equality is not won, however. The antigay religious right increased its membership and political power to frightening levels using antigay rhetoric as its primary fundraiser.

Matthew Shepard was murdered, and despite a national outcry, comprehensive federal hate crimes legislation failed to make it out of Congress. The military enacted the punitive and misguided "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and thousands of qualified military personnel were discharged in its wake.

Hawaiians changed their state constitution to avoid recognizing same-gender marriages while the hateful "Defense of Marriage" Act became law. Tens of thousands of people are still suffering and dying from AIDS. Antigay legislators like Karen Johnson, Jeff Groscost and Barbara Blewster continue to get elected. And more than three years have passed since the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act came within one vote of passing the U.S. Senate. We haven't come close since.

The Millennium March on Washington for Equality is scheduled for April 30, 2000. I intend to be there, and I hope

that a million others will be there as well.

When plans were announced for the 2000 march, as is often the case with our community, the organizers were soundly criticized. Some suggest that the event in Washington will take away from local grassroots events around the country. Others are angry because the makeup of the march planning group doesn't suit them. They suggest that some minority groups within our community are under represented. Some very powerful gay and lesbian leaders have had their feathers ruffled, and they are not supporting the millennium march.

Years ago, I suggested to a civil rights leader that the leaders of the gay civil rights movement, who were primarily effeminate men and masculine dykes, did not represent me. I complained that they did not put forward the true face of our community and they showcased the only the fringe elements.

Today, people complain that the white-male-dominated wealthy segment of our community is dominating the proposed march and that the disenfranchised have been left out.

The response to my complaining was, "Show up or shut up. If they are not representing you, show up and represent yourself."

Simply complaining about those who are leading the fight for civil rights only gives those who deny those rights a victory. Staying home and not supporting this march will prove that our community couldn't get together and bridge our differences.

It's time to stop the bickering. We have too much left to fight for without wasting our energy fighting against our own leaders.

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

Correction—

In the last issue of HeatStroke (issue # 81, Dec. 16 - Dec. 29), we inadvertently listed the price of the special, New Year's Eve presentation of *A Tuna Christmas* at Max's Dinner Theatre as \$4.95. The correct price for this show is \$44.95. We regret any inconvenience this error may have caused.

Editors:

I have a nagging feeling about the future gay veterans memorial still in the planning stages. The thought makes me a little uneasy.

I am not opposed to the memorial, but as I talk to people in and out of straight and gay communities, they seem to have a different perception about the memorial. They seem to think that it is a gay memorial, when it is actually a memorial dedicated to all soldiers, sponsored by the Phoenix Chapters of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America. The Unknown Soldier is getting one more salute, and the gay portion of that salute is about 10 %. That should give the homophobes a breather.

Personally, I would love to see a memorial that is not ashamed to say "gay soldier". Also, please include the words transgender, lesbian and bisexual. That is my own personal preference. Whatever

the group does, I will support it.

The second thing that is haunting me is the fact that, once the memorial is accepted by the federal cemetery, the community loses its title and deed to the caretakers of the cemetery. In short, once dedicated, the Feds can do whatever they want with it. There is no guarantee the memorial will stand. I believe in a money-back guarantee philosophy.

Let's hope the memorial survives. It will be a motivation for future adventurous souls to erect an even greater statue that will be historically challenging to the world at large. Let the next one say, "To the brave gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender warriors living and dead, for their silent service and a job well done."

Neala Lynn Balmes
Phoenix

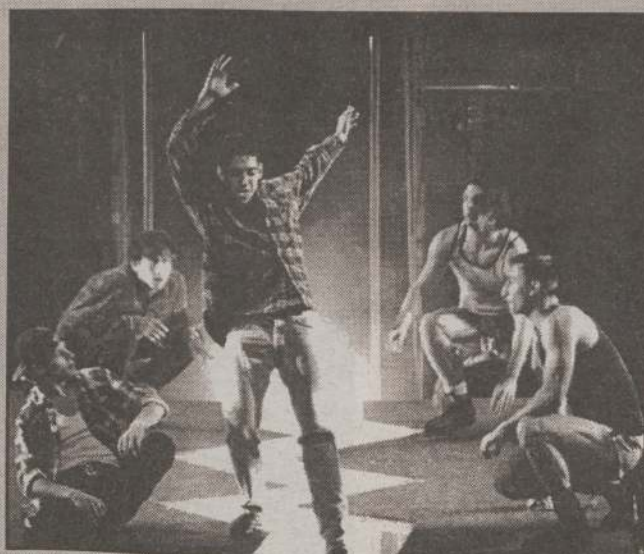


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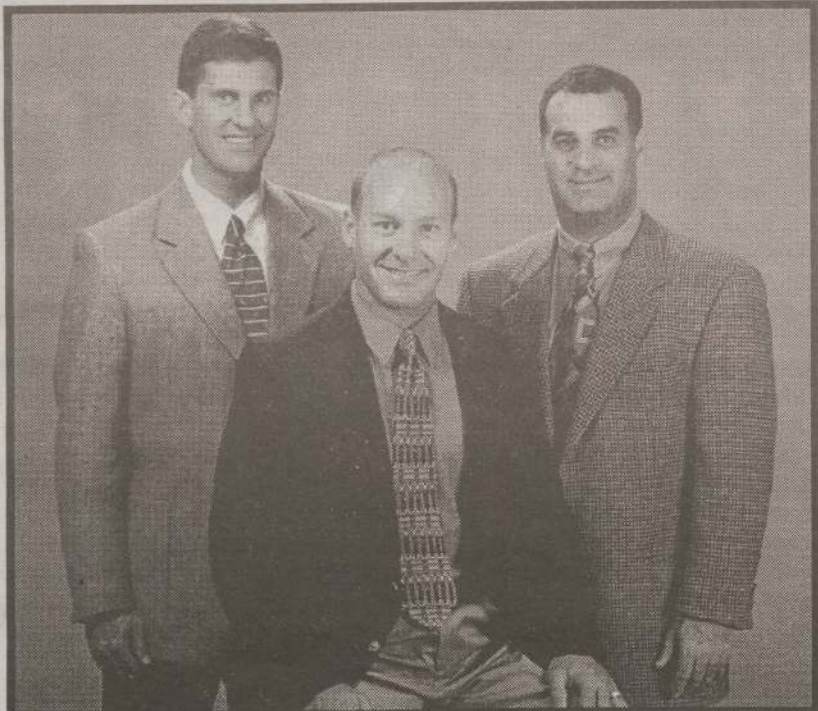


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Deb Price

21st Century to Usher in Era of Enlightenment for Gays and Lesbians



Light the fireworks! Fire the starting pistol! Bang the drum! The 21st century arrived 12 days earlier when the Vermont Supreme Court ushered in a new era of enlightenment: The Vermont legislature must grant same-sex couples all the legal protections and benefits of marriage, even if it chooses not to give actual marriage licenses.

Hold onto your party hats; this is not going to be your father's century. This will be the century our nation learns to celebrate, yes celebrate, its gay citizens.

The Precise Breakthrough Date function on my 21st-century crystal ball is suffering from a Y2K bug, so I can't pinpoint the timing of upcoming gay advances. When will gay workers be protected from discrimination? When will the first openly gay senator be elected? When will gay couples be able to file joint federal tax returns? Progress toward full social and legal equality will be so complete, I predict, the very questions that excite us today will quickly date us as having lived in a backward era.

In a not-too-distant decade, the fear and loathing of gay people will be almost universally viewed as a primitive and bizarre prejudice that should have died out with the dinosaurs. When lectured about the bad old days when gay couples couldn't even legally marry, teens of tomorrow will moan, "That's soooo 20th century."

Even bright schoolchildren will have difficulty remembering whether Abraham Lincoln lifted the ban on openly gay soldiers, because the ban will seem like ancient history. And contestants on *So You Want to Be a Billionaire*—beamed directly into viewers' optic nerves—will be stumped if asked, "When was the first openly gay Supreme Court justice appointed?"—because the appointment will have caused no more stir than the 1986 selection of the first Italian-American justice.

Anti-gay prejudice will continue being diluted with each passing generation. Luckily, we're all going to spend the rest of our lives in a world largely shaped by Y2Kids. The oldest among them are the toddlers I see at my neighborhood playground. One is a sweet little girl recently adopted by a lesbian couple. Imagine what our nation will be like if she's our first Asian-American chief justice or if her playmates control Congress. They simply won't tolerate second-class treatment of her parents.

Unfortunately, before we can reap the blessings of new leadership, we've got to

survive a bad hangover from the 20th century—those politicians who see nothing wrong with laws biased in favor of heterosexuals.

Twenty-first century attitudes toward sexuality could be profoundly influenced by designer-gene or gender-bending scientific discoveries. Boyce Rensberger, author of the acclaimed *Life Itself: Exploring the Realm of the Living Cell*, says he sees no insurmountable obstacle to a same-sex couple becoming the biological parents of a child. "If two women had a child, it would always be a girl. If two men did, half would be boys," he explains.

Bruce Bagemihl—author of *Biological Exuberance*, a fascinating exploration of sexual diversity in the animal kingdom—expects the new century to yield more evidence of heredity's role in sexual orientation. But searching for a gay

Hold onto your party hats; this is not going to be your father's century. This will be the century our nation learns to celebrate, yes celebrate, its gay citizens.

gene is futile, he believes, because "sexuality is far more complex, fluid and mysterious than that."

Maybe science will bring us "brain conferencing" gizmos that let us feel one another's emotions. But Matt Barton, a gay Michigan State University sophomore, says it's already easy for guys like his straight, macho dorm mates to empathize with him—even without any high-tech advance. "We share tragic love stories when either a boyfriend or girlfriend dumps one of us," Barton, 19, explains.

By 2010, he predicts, most men receiving unwanted male passes will be sophisticated enough to respond, "Thanks for the compliment, but I'm straight."

So, keep those noisemakers handy. The 21st century will bring more delights than we can even imagine.

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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A victory for gays & lesbians? a closer look at the Vermont Court Decision

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Supreme Court Justice John Dooley calls it "the most closely watched opinion in this court's history."

Justice Denise Johnson says "this case is undoubtedly one of the most controversial ever to come before this court."

And Chief Justice Jeffrey Amestoy acknowledges the issue before the court "arouses deeply-felt religious, moral and political beliefs."

The majority opinion runs 45 pages, Dooley's concurring opinion runs 18 pages and Johnson's concurring and dissenting opinion runs 30 pages.

Those 93 pages of highly complicated and somewhat arcane constitutional debate can be summed up in one sentence: Gays and lesbians are people.

That recognition in the strongest possible language is why gays and lesbians cheered this decision. The fact the court did not immediately sanction same-sex marriage and instead called on the Legislature to find a remedy is why many opponents of same-gender marriages cheered as well.

But this was more than anything a victory for gays and lesbians. The extent of that victory will become clearer in the coming months.

A careful reading of the decision leaves just one conclusion: There is no legal or constitutional reason to restrict marriage in Vermont to a union between a man and a woman. And in fact it may be unconstitutional to restrict marriage to heterosexual couples.

There are just two reasons the court did not immediately sanction same-sex marriages:

- First, it felt that by saying gay and lesbian couples deserve the same rights, benefits and protections as couples of the opposite sex, it was giving society enough to grapple with for one day. "Our decision declares decidedly new doctrine," Amestoy said in the court opinion.

"A sudden change in the marriage laws or the statutory benefits traditionally incidental to marriage may have disruptive and unforeseen consequences," he noted elsewhere as he explained that the court was going to let the Legislature decide how to work things out.

- And, second, four of the justices, all but Johnson, are especially wary of having the judiciary act as a legislature.

It is especially telling that in the court opinion Amestoy quotes from an article in the Harvard Law Review that says: "When a democracy is in moral flux, courts may not have the best or the final answers. Judicial answers may be wrong. They may be counterproductive even if they are right. Courts do best by proceeding in a way that is catalytic rather than preclusive and that is closely attuned to the fact that courts are participants in the system of democratic deliberation."

The most important sentence there is "They may be counterproductive even if they are right."

These justices believe they are right. But they are well aware that to endorse same-sex marriages today could well spark a reaction that would trample the rights of gays and lesbians.

So they will paint the picture in broad-brush strokes and let the Legislature provide the detailing.

That's where Johnson objects. If there is a wrong, we need to right it, she says. "The majority, in effect, issues an advisory opinion that leaves plaintiffs without redress and sends the matter to an uncertain fate in the Legislature," Johnson writes.

Hers is certainly a compelling argument, one that gays and lesbians may have preferred in the short run. But in the long run Amestoy's way might actually end up in the same place, with greater public acceptance, because it will be lawmakers, not judges, taking the steps.

Instead of one giant step, though,

there will be many smaller steps as the governor and lawmakers slowly comprehend the magnitude of the decision.

One question asked repeatedly this past week was, "Why Vermont?" What is it about this state, its Supreme Court or its Constitution that led to this decision at this time.

It is all of that—the state, the court and the constitution.

The majority opinion in the case is a fascinating tour through history, seeking to interpret a document written more than two centuries ago.

"Out of the shifting and complicated kaleidoscope of events, social forces, and ideas that culminated in the Vermont Constitution of 1777, our task is to distill the essence, the motivating ideal of the framers," wrote Amestoy. "The challenge

is to remain faithful to that historical ideal, while addressing contemporary issues that the framers undoubtedly could never have imagined."

Amestoy says the Common Benefits Clause of the state Constitution details support of broad principles: "Chief among these is the principle of inclusion."

"At its core the Common Benefits Clause expressed a vision of government that afforded every Vermonter its benefit and protection and provided no Vermonter particular advantage," Amestoy said.

"The past provides many instances where the law refused to see a human being when it should have," he wrote.

This decision, he said, was nothing more than "a recognition of our common humanity."

Bauer calls Vermont's gay rights ruling 'worse than terrorism'

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Conservative GOP presidential hopeful Gary Bauer on Dec. 27 compared Vermont's Supreme Court decision recognizing gay couples to an act of terrorist.

"I think what the Vermont Supreme Court did last week was in some ways worse than terrorism," Bauer told reporters at his New Hampshire campaign headquarters.

But the religious activist said he strongly disagreed with the Dec. 20 Vermont Supreme Court ruling that the state must grant the same protection to gay couples as it does to married couples.

Bauer called the decision another example of "a judicial decision that attacks America's deeply held values," and said he was disappointed his Republican rivals have not spoken up.

Accusing the other Republican contenders for the nomination of surrender-

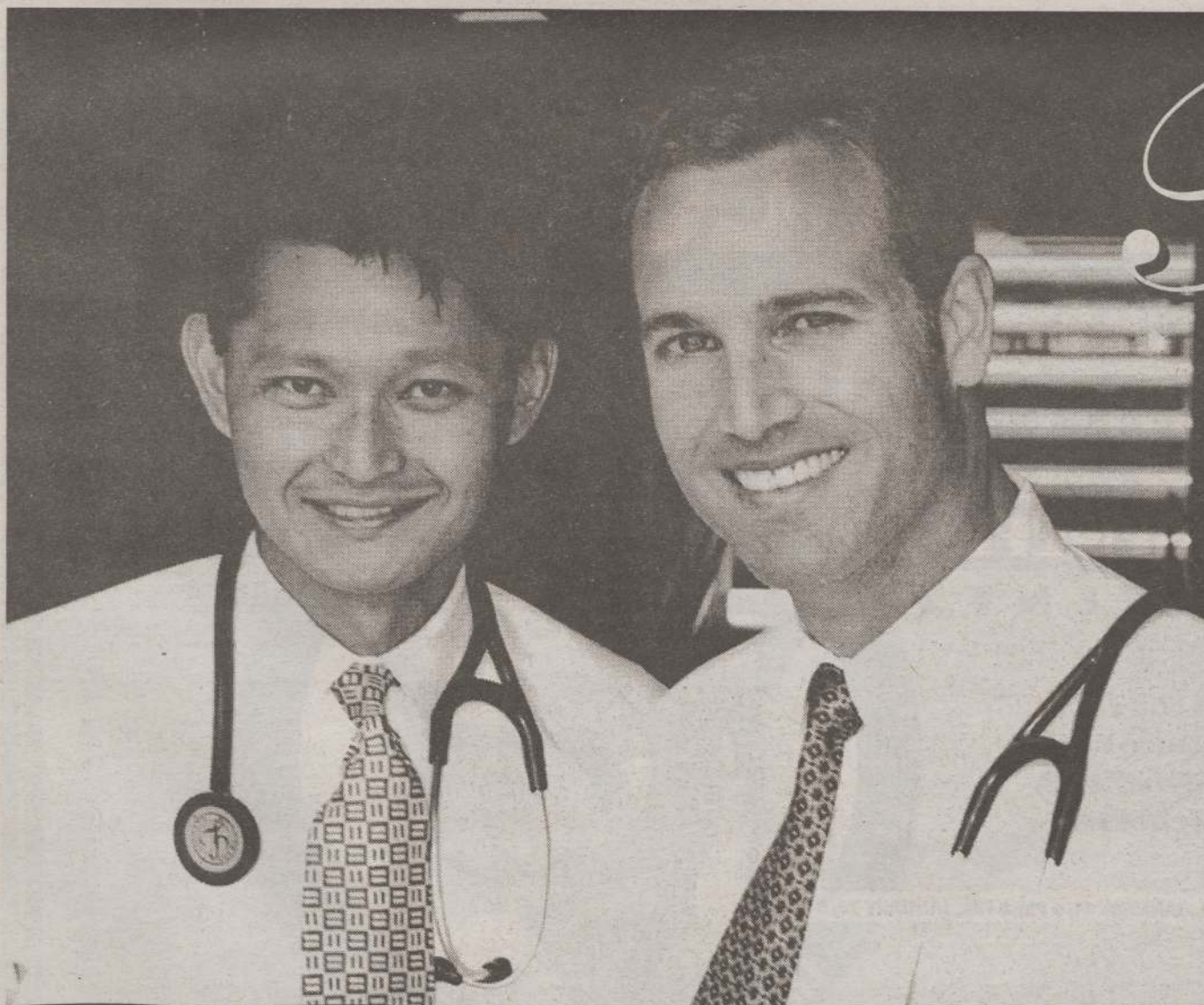
ing their party's conservative agenda, he urged Texas Gov. George W. Bush and publisher Steve Forbes "to find their voices on these issues."

Forbes, however, has spoken out.

"It was a flagrant example of judicial activism. I believe in traditional marriage. The court overstepped its bounds. This, if anything, is a matter for the people to decide, not judges," Forbes said the day of the decision.

During a campaign trip to Vermont in October, Bush said he opposed legalizing gay marriage no matter what the court ruled. "My opinion is we should not have same-gender marriage," he said. "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman."

Spokesmen for Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, also said their candidates objected to the Vermont high court ruling.



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McCain raises big dollars from gays but doesn't support gay rights

Presidential hopeful disagrees with Vermont domestic partner decision, backs "Don't ask, don't tell"

PHOENIX (AP)—Presidential hopeful John McCain has collected tens of thousands of dollars in contributions from members of a gay Republican group with whom he disagrees on a broad-range of gay issues.

The Log Cabin Republicans, whose spokesmen praised McCain's willingness "to have a dialogue," are helping McCain despite his disagreement with them on issues like the Vermont Supreme Court ruling that homosexual couples are entitled to the same benefits as wedded couples.

McCain spokesman Dan Schnur told *The Arizona Republic* in a story published Dec. 23 that the senator "has indicated that he disagrees with the decision" by the Vermont court.

McCain also backs the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military, putting him at odds with Steve May, a prominent Phoenix Log Cabin Republican supporter who is threatened with an Army discharge because of his sexual orientation.

Yet, McCain's campaign manager, Rick Davis, addressed members of the Log

Cabin Republicans simultaneously by satellite at fund-raisers in Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York, Seattle and Washington on Dec. 14. The event raised about \$40,000.

McCain's relationship with the gay community has not been smooth.

In 1996, he helped ensure the defeat of a bill that would have barred employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The measure lost 49-50.

Three years earlier, McCain was denounced by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force for agreeing to be keynote speaker at a fundraiser for an Oregon group sponsoring a ballot initiative condemning homosexuality as "perverse." His aides said at the time that McCain's appearance didn't constitute an endorsement of the group's

views. In recent weeks, the senator said he continues to support the "Don't ask don't tell" policy that allows homosexuals to serve in the military as long as their sexu-

"I really admire his leadership. He's the man I want in the Oval Office. But I just hope that he is really willing to examine the immorality, impracticality and absurdity of this (policy)."

Rep. Steve May

al orientation remains secret. Despite that, May, the state lawmaker who faces discharge from the Army reserve for being gay, supports McCain. He helped organize the December fund raiser.

"I really admire his leadership," May

said. "He's the man I want in the Oval Office. But I just hope that he is really willing to examine the immorality, impracticality and absurdity of this (policy)."

McCain spokesman Schnur said that although McCain might disagree with Log Cabin Republicans on some issues, they were in agreement on such things as "lower taxes and a strong national defense."

In contrast to GOP presidential front-runner George W. Bush, who has thus far declined the group's invitation, McCain sat down with members of the Log Cabin Republicans last month and said that he would work to end discrimination. That appears to be enough for many gay Republicans.

"You're talking about those kind of values (McCain's) versus people like Pat Buchanan, Gary Bauer and others who have historically said that gays should not be in the Republican Party, that we are people who should not have civil rights, that we should be in programs because we're mentally ill," said Log Cabin spokesman Kevin Ivers.

Pentagon insists harassment of gays & lesbians won't be tolerated

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon has ordered each of the military services to re-emphasize to commanders in the field that harassment of troops accused of being gay or lesbian will not be tolerated.

The Pentagon has drawn fire recently for its "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Critics say an increasing number of gay and lesbian service members are being harassed, contrary to the stated policy of permitting them to serve so long as they do not declare their sexual orientation.

The criticism sharpened after a court-martial in which an Army private was

convicted of murdering a gay soldier harassed with the knowledge of his superiors. President Clinton said earlier this month that the Pentagon's policy on gays was "out of whack," which prompted Defense Secretary William Cohen to order a 90-day review of how the policy is being carried out.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Thursday that Rudy de Leon, the undersecretary of defense for personnel, and Douglas Dworkin, the acting general counsel, raised the matter in a Dec. 18 memorandum to service leaders.

"It is important that the leadership of each of the services issue a strong statement to the field that harassment of service members for any reason, to include alleged or perceived homosexuality, will not be tolerated," according to the memo released Thursday by the Defense Department.

De Leon and Dworkin approved the services' plan for improving how the policy will be applied. They also gave the services a deadline of Jan. 17 to submit revised training guidelines intended to clarify how they will investigate threats or

harassment of service members based on alleged homosexuality.

Bacon said it had not been made clear to commanders that a complaint about being harassed for alleged homosexuality is not grounds for investigating the complainant. Instead it should be the basis for investigating the harassers, he said.

"It's an effort to emphasize that the policy should be described as 'don't ask, don't tell, don't harass,' and to put some backbone in the 'don't harass' part of the policy," Bacon said.

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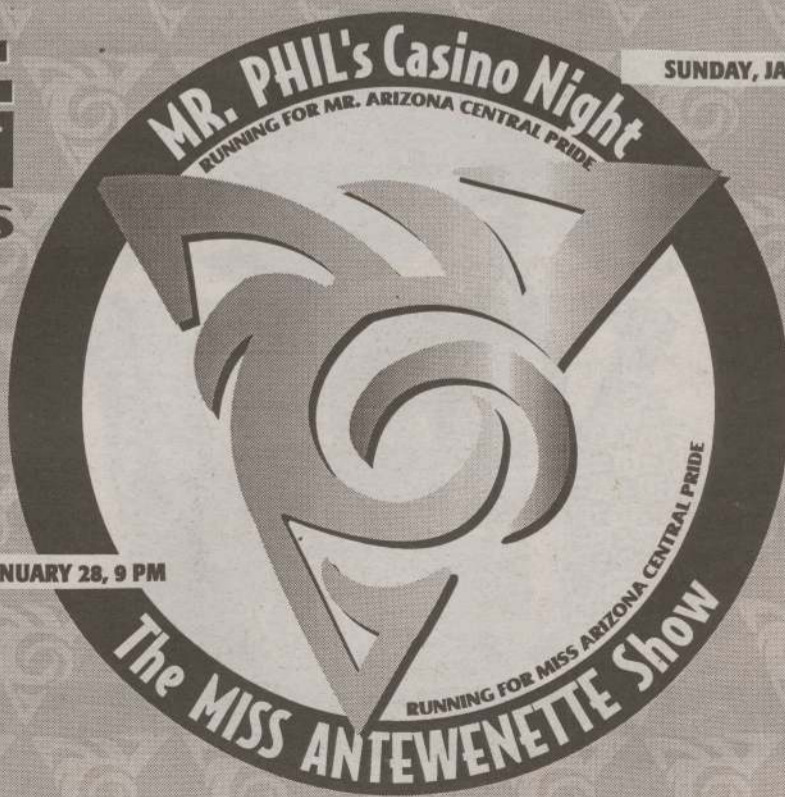
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No Cover

The Queer Decade: the 1970s saw the gay rights movement blossom

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Cleve Jones took to the road in 1973, stuck out his thumb and bummed rides until he made it from Phoenix to California's gay ghetto.

He was 18 years old and out of closet, and wanted to join thousands of other gay men and women who were migrating to San Francisco.

"We were aware we were participating in something that really was brand new, the likes of which had never been seen before anywhere," said Jones, who 12 years later would receive his HIV diagnosis and dream up the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

The gay rights movement may have been born in June 1969, when drag queens at New York's Stonewall bar fought back against police harassment, but it came of age in the 1970s in San Francisco.

"California was the place where people came in order to be liberated. They would escape their homes in the furry underbelly of the nation, feel the gay pride," said Sally Gearhart. Years later, she would find herself fighting something less than liberating: a state initiative aimed at banning gays from teaching in public schools.

The parades and newly emerging gay marching bands and sporting events turned political in 1977 when camera shop owner Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He was the first openly-gay elected official in the country.

Milk mobilized California's gay community in 1978, when state Sen. John Briggs proposed banning gay teachers—right on the heels of Anita Bryant's successful campaign to repeal a gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Fla.

President Carter came out against the Briggs initiative, as did Gov. Reagan, and

it was defeated by voters. The celebration at the Beverly Hilton Hotel was "euphoria like nobody's business," said the Rev. Troy Perry.

"I just jumped up and ran around in a circle," said Perry, with the largely gay and lesbian Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. "It's a moment I still play in my mind."

But the victory turned to tragedy 20 days later, when a disgruntled former supervisor gunned down Milk and liberal San Francisco Mayor George Moscone in their City Hall offices.

"The thing I feared so much, it finally happened," Perry said.

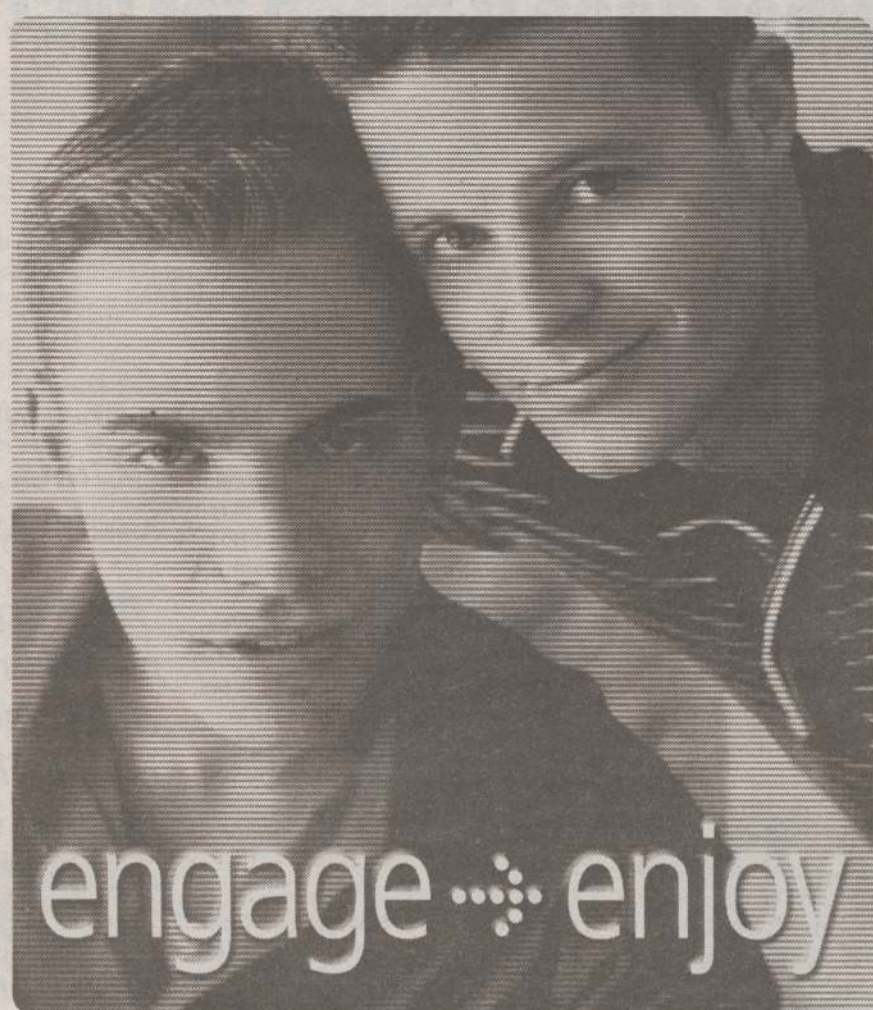
Thousands marched in a spontaneous candlelight vigil from the predominantly gay Castro district to City Hall.

"You might say that that was the moment when gay people really knew their power," Gearhart said. "1978 was a year we became transformed from a group of people yelling and screaming to a political power block."

And just as Jones and others began making their way into mainstream politics, AIDS cast its long shadow over the gay community, forever changing the movement.

"I think that were Harvey Milk able to come back today, he would be amused that our movement's two top goals are the right to marry and the right to be in the military," Jones said. "In the 70s we were about dismantling the patriarchy and exploring personal liberation and we were not trying to be like straight people."

"We were radicals! We were part of a radical movement then that did not wish to be marketed by Anheiser Busch or American Airlines," he added. "I'm not complaining—bring it on, bring it on. I'm grateful to be alive to see it happening."



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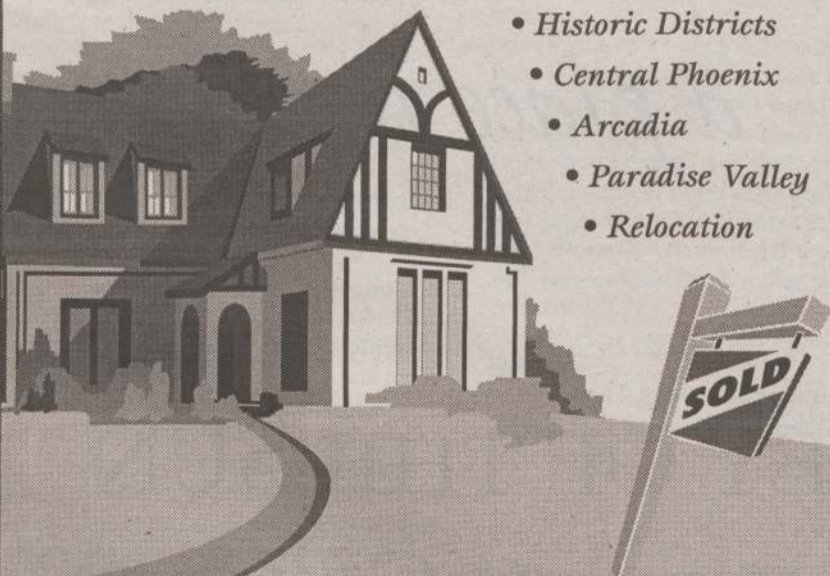
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What does it mean for us? Vermont Court decision Q & A

By the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

Why was this decision significant?

The Vermont Supreme Court made history by ruling that Vermont's denial of marriage benefits to same-sex couples violates the Vermont constitution. The court declared that same-sex couples in that state may not be deprived of the statutory benefits and protections afforded persons of the opposite sex who choose to marry. The court's language affirming the rights of same-sex couples was monumental. In the ruling the justices said: to extend equal rights to same-sex couples "who seek nothing more, nor less, than legal protection and security for their avowed commitment to an intimate and lasting relationship is simply, when all is said and done, a recognition of our common humanity."

Did the Vermont Supreme Court case legalize same-sex marriage?

The decision does not automatically create same-sex marriage rights in Vermont, but directs the state legislature to either expand marriage to cover same-sex couples, or create a distinct mechanism (domestic partnership or other) that makes available to same-sex couples all of the benefits and privileges of marriage.

On what basis did the Vermont Supreme Court find that denying benefits to same-sex couples is unconstitutional?

The Vermont Supreme Court found that limiting marriage benefits to opposite sex couples was in violation the Vermont constitution's "Common Benefits Clause." This clause says that the government ought to be "instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community, and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single person, family or set of persons who are part of only that community."

Can this ruling be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court?

No. The decision cannot be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court primarily because the Vermont court based its decision on the "Common Benefits Clause" of the state constitution, and not on the U.S. Constitution.

When will the Vermont State Legislature take up the issue and will they legislate same-sex marriage or create a parallel system of benefits such as domestic partnerships?

The Supreme Court instructed the Vermont legislature to act in an "orderly and expeditious fashion" in extending all marriage benefits to same-sex couples. The Court warned the legislature that "[i]n the event that the benefits and protections in question are not statutorily granted, plaintiffs may petition this Court to order the remedy they originally sought." The legislature will convene in January for its 2000 session, which ends in May.

Following the ruling, reaction from Vermont lawmakers has been mixed. Peter Shumlin, the president pro tempore of the Vermont Senate told the New York Times that he expected it would be much easier to get votes for a domestic partnership law than one creating full-fledged marriages, but "both are strong possibilities."

Vermont Gov. Howard Dean (D) told

the *New York Times* that he thought the legislature would pass a domestic partnership law. On CNN, Gov. Dean indicated that the Vermont state legislature would not pass a same-sex marriage bill but that he would support passage of comprehensive domestic partnership legislation. According to the Associated Press, Dean said that same-sex marriage, "makes me uncomfortable, the same as anybody else."

Vermont Attorney General William Sorell told the *New York Times*, "it would likely be a civilly sanctioned relationship that would, for all intents and purposes, have the same benefits and protection a

are not. Throughout history, we have seen that separate is never equal. Domestic partnership laws are a step in the right direction but—despite the faulty assumption of the Vermont Supreme Court—domestic partnership can never fully replicate marriage.

The Human Rights Campaign urges the Vermont state legislature to support same-sex marriage because it is the only way to assure that same-sex couples are treated equally under the law.

If a same-sex couple enters a domestic partnership in Vermont and then moves to another state, will their new state be required to recognize their commitment?

Probably not. Without legalized marriage, the recognition of same-sex couples will be subject to the laws of each individual state and the whims of their lawmakers. This status presents many practical, ethical and legal problems for same-sex couples who relocate.

If the Vermont legislature approves same-sex marriage, will these marriages be honored in other states?

There is currently no state that recognizes same-sex marriages and there are at least 30 states that have explicitly banned gay marriage. Congress, in addition, passed the "Defense of Marriage Act" which allows states to not recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere and which denies Federal marital benefits to same-sex couples.

Can this decision be overturned in a right-wing led referendum?

No. There is no referendum mechanism in the State of Vermont. In addition, because of procedural hurdles, it would be nearly impossible for the State legislature to amend the state Constitution as a way to moot the Vermont Supreme Court's decision.

The Vermont Supreme Court is mistaken in its assertion that marriage and domestic partnership are equal. They are not. Throughout history, we have seen that separate is never equal. Domestic partnership laws are a step in the right direction but domestic partnership can never fully replicate marriage.

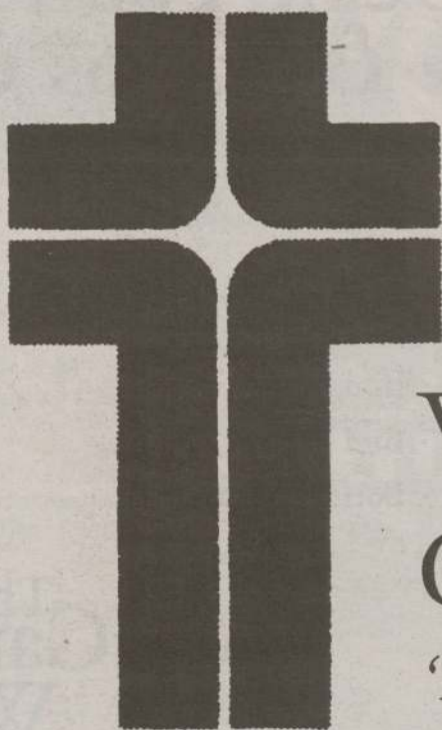
traditionally married couple would have but wouldn't be called a marital relationship. They wouldn't be called spouses, they'd be called domestic partners, and for a number of people, that makes an enormous difference."

Would a domestic partnership statute truly replicate marriage?

No. The Vermont Supreme Court is mistaken in its assertion that marriage and domestic partnership are equal. They

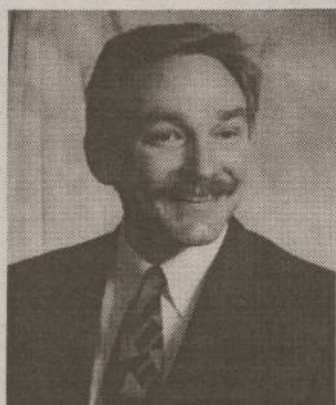
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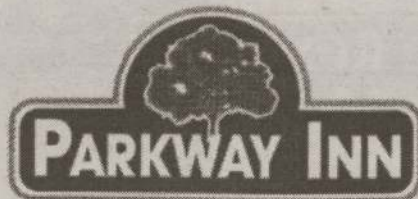
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Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



It's A Wonderful Life

Another day, another year, another decade gone by for this writer—but none has been as tumultuous and as exhilarating as the past one.

Why do I say this? Is it possible that growing older might be fun and even enjoyable? The answer to this is certainly YES.

Those who have followed my story here in *HeatStroke* know that my past ten years have been spent recovering from my "terminal" diagnosis and a near-fatal bankruptcy. That is all behind me now, and there is always growth and wisdom that follows from crisis and challenge.

One of the more prophetic and optimistic statements made to me during this past decade came from Kirk Baxter, founder of Body Positive, at one of the early Thursday Night Support Groups that he presided over. I will never forget him saying, in 1993, that "I plan to be around to celebrate the new Millennium in the year 2000."

I asked myself, "Who is he kidding? HIV+ people can't live that long." Both of us were HIV+ and had few options with just a few medicines and therapies available to carry us through that many more years. Well, Kirk was right.

I want to mention a few of the remarkable achievements and milestones that I have been so fortunate to see come to pass in our community during this past year and decade:

- AIDS Walk Arizona reaching the \$1 million milestone under the leadership of Louise Bowden and AIDS Project Arizona. They and hundreds of volunteers and tens of thousands of Walkers brought a once small and little known Walk into the big leagues.

- The Founding of AzAPA (Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance), which finally gave the word "advocacy" its rightful place here in Arizona and ushered in the first collaboration between the State of Arizona and AIDS Service Organizations to provide necessary funding for antiviral medicines.

- The extraordinary growth and success of the ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) under the leadership of Judy Norton and Laura Kroger that has made the life-extending antiviral drugs available to thousands of Arizona residents.

- Seeing the Ryan White Planning Council achieve remarkable levels of collaboration and cooperation to help local organizations provide exceptional ser-

vices to persons infected and affected by the HIV virus. There are far too many people to mention here who have given countless hours to make this committee work. Hats off to all of you!

- The success of the two vitamin and mineral buyers' clubs at APAZ and Body Positive that have helped to maintain and improve the quality of life of thousands of HIV+ persons. Most cities (and states) do not even have a single buyers' club, much less two, and we are fortunate that these agencies and the Ryan White Planning Council have supported their existence.

- The POZ Life EXPO stopped here in 1998 and 1999 and brought so much awareness and information to all of us here in Phoenix and in Maricopa County. Now that the 1999 Tour is over, the director in New York tells me that the Phoenix EXPO was one of the most exciting and successful stops on any of their tours. I want to thank all of the volunteers, agencies, and staff members that helped to make this a smashing success and bring our often by-passed city into the big time. Since then, pharmaceutical companies and promoters have targeted our fair city for national speakers that previously never considered coming here.

- Finally, a word to some of the pharmaceutical representatives that have gone above and beyond the call of duty to support AIDS Service Organizations here in so many ways. I particularly want to mention the long-term involvement of Scott Sarisky, Mary Milione, Karen Northcutt, Michael Smith, Jeff Brake, and Richard Miller who have been an inspiration to and provided support for me and countless others in our work.

I will be starting the New Year in San Jose, California as the Director of a new Wellness Center that will open in the spring of 2000. I have learned so much from all of you and it is due to this wonderful wealth of experience and education gained here in Phoenix that I have been chosen to continue my work in the HIV service world in another part of the country.

For some reason, I just know that I'll be back.

Happy Holidays and heartfelt Best Wishes for a prosperous New Year to each of you!

Peace and Strength,
Mark Hoffman

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**International
Gay & Lesbian
News Briefs**
Compiled by Rex Wockner

BOY GEORGE NEARLY KILLED

Gay singer Boy George was nearly killed Dec. 14 when a huge mirror-ball fell on him during a concert rehearsal in the English coastal town of Bournemouth.

The 62-pound prop hit George on the shoulder and scraped his head before smashing to bits on the floor.

He was treated for shock and severe bruising but went on with the show that evening anyway.

"Boy George just crumpled," said a witness. "I thought he must be dead. I can't believe he got away so lightly. He was very, very, very lucky indeed."

George told reporters later: "It would have been both ironic and glamorous to be finished off by a four-foot glitter-ball. But I have survived and I'm still here, although my back is aching like anything. It caught my ear, which is really sore as well."

EURO COURT RULES FOR GAY DAD

The European Court of Human Rights Dec. 21 struck down a Portuguese ruling that had stripped a gay man of his parental rights because of his sexual orientation.

The Euro court ruled unanimously that the Lisbon Court of Appeal had discriminated against Joao Manuel Salgueiro da Silva Mouta based on his sexuality, and violated his "right to respect for private and family life" as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The Portuguese court had said homosexuality is "an abnormality and children must not grow up in the shadow of abnormal situations." Silva Mouta had been allowed to visit his 9-year-old daughter only if he did not reveal to her that he is gay.

Portugal has 90 days to appeal the new ruling to a 17-member Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights.

EXTRA DRUGS SENT SOUTH

The New York group AID FOR AIDS says it has sent over \$2.02 million in left-over anti-HIV drugs to 170 people with HIV in 18 Latin American nations.

A similar program operates in San Diego, where drugs left over when people die or change medications are routed to the ACOSIDA clinic in Tijuana and elsewhere in Mexico.

In both instances, the drugs go directly to physicians who care for people with HIV, to avoid any possibility of interference by corrupt government workers.

To donate to the New York group, visit www.aidforaids.org. To contribute to the California project, phone (619) 697-9440.

AIR FRANCE EXTENDS BENEFITS

Air France last week extended cheap spouse fares to gay couples who register under the nation's new partnership law.

"Our aim is to treat our staff and our clients who have legally registered their partnerships the same as married couples," said a company spokesperson.

Other French airlines and the national railroad already provide benefits to gay employees' partners.

THAIS PROTEST AIDS DRUG PRICE

More than 50 Thai activists staged a three-day protest outside the public health ministry Dec. 22-25 demanding

that the government license local production of the AIDS drug ddI.

Negotiations with the U.S. company Bristol-Myers Squibb, which holds the patent on the drug, have dragged on too long and the Government Pharmaceutical Organization should invoke international law on "compulsory licensing" and produce ddI itself, the demonstrators said.

Bristol-Myers sells the drug for \$1.25 a pill in Thailand—about \$150 for a month's supply, which is beyond the reach of most Thais. Protester Paisal Tanut of the HIV Network said generic ddI could be sold for half as much.

One in 60 Thais is HIV-positive and 35,412 have died of AIDS.

DIOCESE TRIES TO CONVERT GAYS

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, Australia, and its bishop, George Pell, are under fire from gay groups for promoting an organization called Courage which urges gays to turn straight or embrace celibacy via prayer and therapy.

The archdiocese endorsed the group, which has said homosexuals are "as sick as their secrets," in a recent mailing to 300 priests.

The local Catholic gay group Rainbow Sash Movement denounced Pell's affiliation with Courage as "shocking and scandalous."

"Another generation of Catholic youth will face years of self doubt and despair, fight futile struggles against their natural sexual orientation, and live with a sense of being defective and disordered. And all this in the name of God," said spokesman Michael Kelly.

MP OUTRAGES GAYS

Canadian federal member of Parliament Cliff Bretkreuz, who represents the Yellowhead riding of Alberta for the Reform Party, outraged gays with remarks made in his December syndicated newspaper column.

Bretkreuz wrote: "The health minister should prioritize and help the innocent

victims of AIDS. Those infected with AIDS from bad blood and children born with the disease should be at the top of the line of treatment."

AUSSIES FACE BIAS AT WORK

Fifty-two percent of 900 gay, lesbian or transgender Australians told pollsters they've experienced anti-gay discrimination at work.

The study, "The Pink Ceiling Is Too Low," was carried out by the Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research and the New South Wales Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.

"This shows that anti-discrimination laws aren't good enough, said Lobby Co-Convener Kathy Sant. "We need a concerted campaign from governments, the union movement and employers to stamp out this sort of behavior."

SCOTTISH CHURCHES FAVOR ANTI-GAY LAW

Scotland's Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland joined forces Dec. 13 to urge the government to abandon plans to scrap the anti-gay law known as Section 28.

The 11-year-old British statute prohibits cities from "intentionally promot[ing] homosexuality" and bans teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" in schools.

"We are worried that without this law some teachers will put things to children that we do not consider wholesome," Catholic spokesman Tom Connelly told Reuters. "We are concerned that the removal of this clause will undermine family life."

The Scottish School Boards Association also wants the law to remain on the books.

"What I don't want to see happening is teachers being forced into having to promote any type of sexual activity, whether homosexual or otherwise," said SBBA head Ann Hill.



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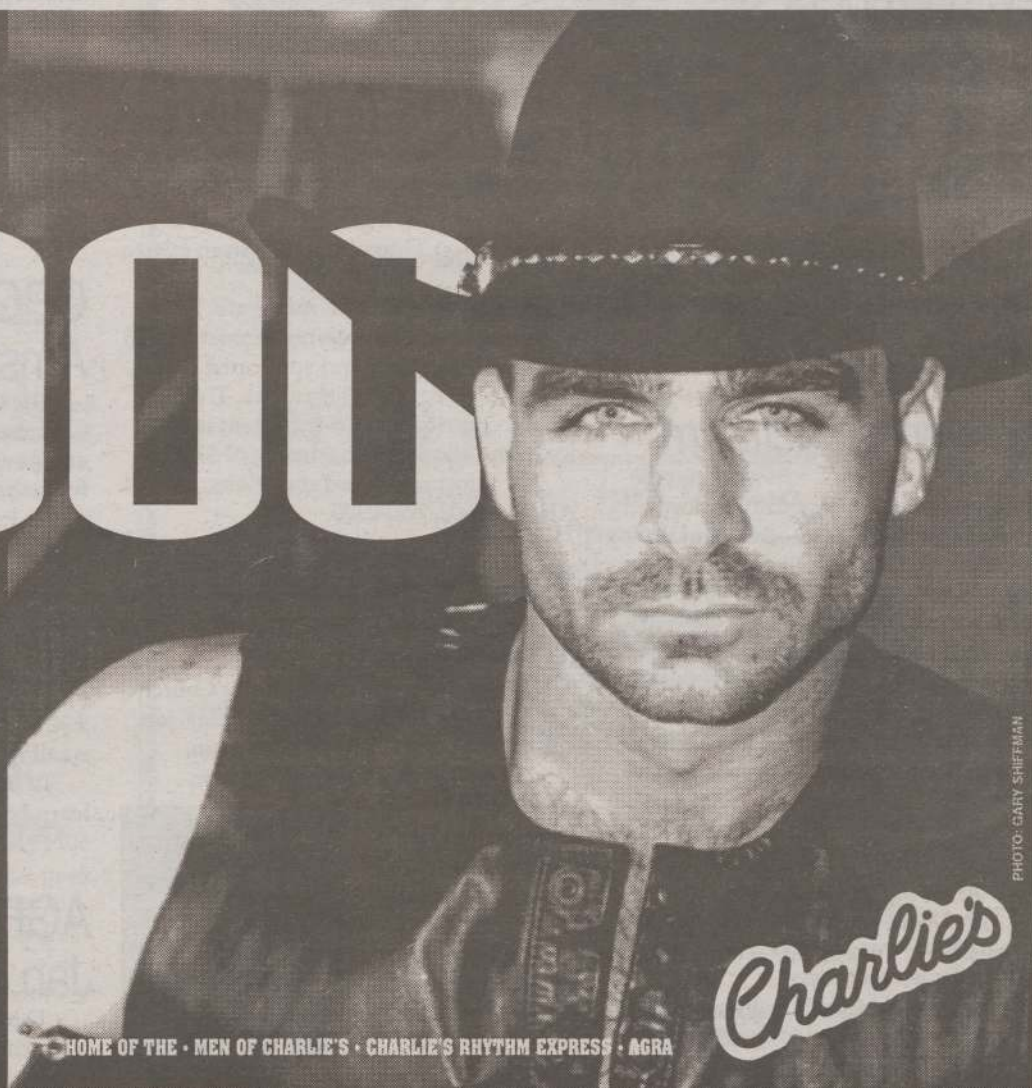


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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to
the Phoenix Queer Community

Men's Chorus seeking new members

The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale will be holding auditions for the upcoming season on January 3rd. In addition to singing with the chorale at local dates, new members will have the opportunity to attend the GALA 2000 Festival this summer—a national gathering of gay and lesbian choruses. Please call Rick Myrick at 602/955-8345 to be scheduled for an audition.

It's Time for transgender activism

It's Time Arizona! is a new, statewide grassroots advocacy organization formed to promote positive civic, social and political changes for the benefit of the transgender community.

The organization's first meeting will feature California schoolteacher Dana Rivers (see our interview on page 14 of this issue) as guest speaker and will be held Saturday, Jan. 8, 2000 at the Gentle Shepherd MCC, 7820 N. 27th Ave. in Phoenix from 4 - 6 pm.

This first meeting will serve to officially introduce ITAZ to Arizona and to present the group's goals and mission statement. The Arizona group takes its name from a national transgender organization called It's Time America!

Local activists Monica Helms and Amanda Schrader founded the Arizona branch to address issues such as educating the media in the use of proper pronouns, health insurance and employment protections for persons changing gender, and marriage protection after a legal gender change.

All interested people are urged to attend the Jan. 8 meeting, and questions will be encouraged.

Fundraiser for gay-friendly Rep. on Jan. 6

The Arizona Human Rights Fund and Log Cabin Republicans of Central Arizona are combining their efforts to boost the reelection campaign of Rep. Carolyn Allen (R - Scottsdale) with a co-sponsored evening event at a private residence in Scottsdale on Thursday, Jan. 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Allen is a respected, moderate Republican who represents District 28 and who has sponsored and supported legislation to help equal rights causes. The suggested contribution for this event is \$50, up to the allowable maximum of \$256.

For information and directions, contact AHRF at 602/650-0900.

New Church beginning in Valley

Valley of the Sun Community Church will have its opening service Sunday, Jan. 9, 2000 at 11 am at The Parkway Inn, located on I-17 northbound between Northern and Dunlap. Services will be held in the hotel's community room.

The Service will be led by Rev. Jerry T. Cook, recently Senior pastor of White Rock Community Church in Dallas. Cook founded the church eight years ago and grew the church to its current membership of more than 700 before his recent relocation to Phoenix. White Rock Community Church is the largest independent church in the world minis-



Rev. Jerry Cook

tering primarily to the gay and lesbian community.

Cook, 44, the son of an Arkansas Baptist family which has had its share of preachers, came to the attention of CBS news' Dan Rather and was featured on CBS Reports five years ago. Cook began preaching at the age of 14 and worked as a Baptist pastor until he began the gay ministry eight years ago.

Although the primary focus of the ministry of Valley of the Sun Community Church will be to the gay and lesbian community, Cook hopes that all will feel welcome.

GPGLCC NetMix at Amsterdam Jan. 12

The Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is the Valley's gay and gay-friendly networking organization for community professionals. As such, the group holds a monthly NetMix for members and guests to socialize and network to promote business within the community.

This month's event will be held Jan. 12 at Amsterdam, a downtown club located at 718 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The GPGLCC charges a small fee to cover refreshments.

To find out more about this event or to learn how you can join the chamber, call 602/825-8444.

AGRA Rodeo Jan. 14-16

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association will host the first International Gay Rodeo Association-sanctioned rodeo of the new millennium in Phoenix this month.

The Road Runner Regional Rodeo will be held at the Corona Ranch and Rodeo Grounds on 29th Ave. and Baseline Rd. in Phoenix on Jan. 14, 15 & 16. In addition to the Rodeo events all day Saturday and Sunday, there will be dancing, entertain-

ment, vendor booths and the Mr./Ms./Miss AGRA contest.

Attendance at this annual event regularly tops 3,500 over MLK weekend and attracts gays and lesbians from all over the state, country and Canada.

Through money taken at the gate last year, AGRA was able to donate \$6,000 to four local charities, including Joshua Tree, PFLAG, VOIT and the Community Church of Hope.

For more information visit www.agra.com, or call the RRRR hotline at 602/265-0618

Square dancers hosting convention during AZ rodeo

Every year Desert Valley Squares hosts "Swing Thru Arizona" and invites square dancers from around the country to visit Phoenix for a weekend packed with fun and dancing. "Swing Thru Arizona" is always held over the MLK weekend, which happens to be the same weekend AGRA hosts its annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo. This year's convention will be held Jan. 14-17.


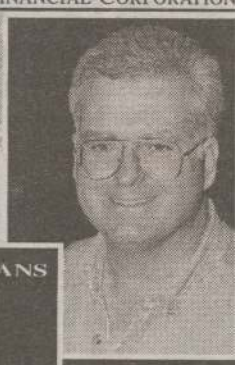
Desert Valley Squares is Arizona's premiere gay and lesbian social square dance club. The organization is a member of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs and is an out and proud founding member of the Grand Canyon Square Dance Association. To join this fun and active group or to find out more about social square dancing in Phoenix, call 480/990-2562.

Annual Greg Olson Barrel Race Jan. 17

The Second Annual Greg Olson Memorial Barrel Race will be held on MLK day, Monday, Jan. 17 at Cowboy Country in Levine.

Olson was an early member of the

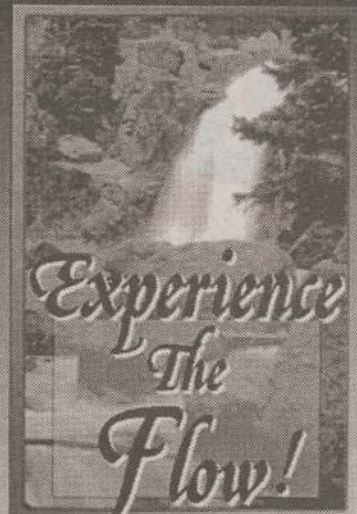
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Arizona Gay Rodeo Association who became a star athlete on the International Gay Rodeo Association circuit, winning innumerable buckles and All-Around Cowboy titles prior to his death in 1995 due to AIDS complications.

Last year's event drew approximately 100 barrel racers, and this year organizers are expecting nearly 200, with many out-of-state contestants of the Road Runner Rodeo planning to stay in the Valley an extra day in order to participate. There will be \$2,000 in added prize money, with proceeds going toward the 2001 All-Around Racing Saddle in memory of Olson.

Admission to watch the event is free. It will begin at noon. Cowboy Country is located 3.5 miles south of Baseline Road on 51st Ave., across from the Vee Quiva Casino. There will be a show held at Charlie's on Jan. 9 to raise money to offset the costs of the barrel race, featuring 20 entertainers and starting at 8 pm.

DA turning 20; heading to rodeo

Desert Adventures, the Valley's premiere outdoor gay and lesbian social club, turns 20 this month. The group will celebrate with an anniversary kickoff party at Pookie's Cafe on Thursday, Jan. 20.

The weekend before that, DA will be hosting a community information booth at the Road Runner Regional Rodeo on 29th Ave. and Baseline, Jan. 14 - 16. The booth will give interested people an opportunity to stop by and meet some DA members, and to learn more about this active organization's regular hikes, parties, camping trips, and other bar-alternative social events.

To find out more about DA activities or to join the club, call 602/266-CAMP.

Queer art in Bisbee

"Transcendent Faith—Gay, Lesbian and

Transgendered Saints", a collection of art by Jim Ru, will be on exhibit beginning Jan. 14 through Feb. 20 in the lobby gallery of the Bisbee Repertory Theater in Bisbee.

There will be an artist's reception at 6 pm on Jan. 14. These paintings are crafted by Ru with an eye for humor as well as for serious art, and explore representations of queer people from Buddha to the Bible, to poets and Berdeches. The show is running in conjunction with the Bisbee Rep.'s production of the musical *La Cage Aux Folles*.

The theater is located at 94 Main St. Call 520/432-3786 for information, or check the web at oz.acmecity.com/munchkin/105.

New G&L running club formed

Arizona Frontrunners is a new gay and lesbian running club that has been formed in Phoenix. The runners have been meeting on Saturday mornings at 9 am for a weekly run through Papago Park. Members are looking for new people to join and run for fun.

If interested, send an e-mail requesting information to: azfronrunners@hotmail.com, or call 602/954-3983.

"Farewell to Be-nun-i-kin" to aid foundation

Here's your chance to get a sneak peek inside one of the Valley's better known residences while helping to preserve area history.

The Arizona Historical Foundation will be raising funds by offering guided tours of Be-nun-i-kin, longtime Paradise Valley home of the late Sen. Barry Goldwater, on Sunday, Jan. 23 from noon to 5 pm.

Tour tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$50 for families and \$75 for groups of ten. Reservations are limited; call 480/966-8331 for tickets and information.



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Friday, Jan. 21:
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Rodeo Weekend, Jan. 14-17:
Good luck to all AGRA Rodeo contestants!



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Her continuing education

Dana Rivers uses the media spotlight to teach others about transgender bias

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

The year 1999 was full of big changes for Sacramento area schoolteacher Dana Rivers.

Last summer, following years of planning and preparation, she underwent surgery to physically reassign her gender from male to female.

Then came fall. Rivers made national headlines after her school district tried to force her out, and she filed a lawsuit to keep her job.

As a male teacher named David Warfield, Rivers had won not only numerous awards, but also the hearts and respect of students and colleagues alike.

But awards, admiration and competency didn't matter to everyone. When a Northern California-based conservative leader learned of the tenured teacher's sex change, he persuaded one school board member that Rivers should be fired—supposedly for discussing her surgery with students, but more likely, she says, because she is transsexual.

Rivers headed to court to keep her position with the Center Unified School District as students and parents rallied around her. But, she says, the lawsuit was taking an emotional toll on people where she lived and taught.

"I resigned from the district in a negotiated agreement," Rivers told *HeatStroke*. "The bottom line is: I was prevailing in the legal arena, but the politics and the stress of the event were kind of working on the community."

Now Rivers works as a software consultant. She also travels the country, discussing her situation and talking about discrimination against transgendered and transsexual people.

Rivers will be in the Valley Saturday, Jan. 8 as the featured guest speaker at the

inaugural meeting of It's Time, Arizona, a newly formed organization for transgendered people here.

By telephone from her home just before Christmas, Rivers talked about her case and transgenderism in society at the apex of the millennium.

HeatStroke: What ages and what classes were you teaching?

Dana Rivers: I was teaching high school students. Primarily sophomores, juniors and seniors. I taught history and broadcast journalism.

HS: What appealed to you about being a teacher?

DR: What I love about teaching is my interaction with students. Contrary to what the press says, high school students are wonderful, exciting people who are in their own transitory period of their lives. They're making the transition from being taken care of by their parents, to taking care of themselves and their society. That process is very stimulating to me and I love working with kids who are doing that.

HS: Then why did you accept the district's offer to settle?

DR: I had to weigh my options. I decided that the financial settlement and the ability to do things at a place where I was appreciated—rather than hassled—were more valuable.

HS: So what are you doing now?

DR: I'm taking some time off to finish my transition, and I'm also doing some consulting work for a software development company in Silicon Valley, developing an educational product. That is exciting because I haven't been in the business

world in a long, long time. It's kind of fun.

HS: Do you expect to get back into teaching?

DR: Oh yes, I am a teacher. I always have been, and I look forward to doing it again.

HS: Opponents said that the reason they wanted you out of your job is not because you changed your gender, but because you talked openly about your surgery with students.

DR: It's simply not true. The fact is that when I told my employer that I was transitioning, my principal and the administrators were supportive. Originally, the school board was supportive, and I was told that I would be able to come back in the fall with no problems.

Then the Pacific Justice Institute became involved. It's an extreme, right-wing organization dedicated to keeping queer people out of the public sector. They convinced one school board member to change their mind. They needed a reason to change their mind, so they found some alleged charges to level against me, and that's how it went.

But the fact is that they didn't want me—they do not today want me—to teach in their district because I am transsexual. It's not because I did or didn't talk to students, and the details of the case are just absurd.

HS: It certainly does seem absurd. Any thinking person knows that gender reassignment doesn't happen overnight, and your transition must have been pretty obvious to your students—no matter what their ages. Most parents would prefer a teacher in that situation to be honest about the process, rather than never mention it.

DR: Exactly. The rude thing would have been for me to just show up in the fall [as a post-op transsexual]. The fact that I told my employer, the fact that I wrote a letter to my colleagues, the fact

that I agreed not to use class time to discuss my situation—all of that was very respectful and professional. But they twisted all that around to try and create a case that I had acted in an unprofessional manner.

They were not going to win that. The trouble was, what they were winning was that I was not in a classroom. It's a court of law, and not a court of justice. And what I was burdened with was that they were going to make my life, and the lives of the people who care about me, miserable for as long as they could.

HS: Do you think you'll teach at a private school next time? Will that protect you in any way?

DR: No, no. I believe that I will teach in a public school again. It's a small community here where I was teaching. I think they got caught up in something they regret and wish they maybe could have handled it differently. They look silly.

You have to keep in mind that we're dealing with an elected school board. The administrators—my superintendent, my principal, my colleagues, were all supportive of me staying there. So it wasn't like there was this huge opposition. It was actually a few decision makers that were able to create all these problems.

HS: It was not a precedent-setting thing, for you to expect to remain in your teaching job after changing your gender, was it?

DR: Oh no, no. There's at least a dozen teachers teaching at public schools just in Northern California today that have quietly gone about the business of transitioning without any—or very little—fanfare.

HS: Then why all the fanfare over you?

DR: Only because the Pacific Justice Institute decided to make a case out of it. This organization has traveled around the country doing that. The person in charge of it, to me, is a Hitler-esque figure in that


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Pookie's Cafe: First and third Tuesday of each month
ASU University Club: Second Tuesday of each month
Chomple's on Shea: Fourth Tuesday of each month


Regional Council Meeting
Jan. 20th at 7 p.m., CCH (Community Church of Hope)

Tourism Summit • Jan. 21st at 4 p.m., Pookie's Cafe

TOWN HALL MEETING
Jan. 26th at 7 p.m., Parkway Inn

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"In the moment of creation you were given incredible gifts; and one of the most important is the gift of sexuality."
— Mary Margaret Moore

he wants to define society by a narrow formula that he and the people who follow him believe in.

He will go to any length to define who should be in public schools and public positions. And he has, unfortunately, been somewhat successful in doing that. His name is Brad Dacus.

HS: *We have nearly a five-decade history with successful male-to-female gender reassignment here on Earth, is that about right?*

DR: Certainly it goes back to about the 1950s with Christine Jorgenson, yes.

HS: *Why, then, do you think it's taking so long for humankind—and especially American society—to come around to dealing with basic issues of acceptance and fairness when it comes to transgendered people? Like protecting people's jobs, even using the proper pronouns. Why haven't we gotten over this stuff by the end of 1999?*

DR: Gender difference really addresses the essence of our culture. I have kind of a philosophy, partly political and partly spiritual, around that.

The rise of capitalism and the Judeo-Christian blend with the political system in Europe created a need to polarize the genders. Men were land owners, men were property owners. Men's competitive nature, and a need to create a culture where women stayed home and raised kids so that men could go off and earn a living, caused the rise of patriarchy and a political system where women were not allowed to participate. That goes back several hundred years.

It doesn't take too long in history in any culture to find an appreciation not only of women, but also for people of transgendered status. The Native American cultures long celebrated having what they called Two Spirit people in their culture. And the same thing happened with pagan cultures in Europe.

Then you have the rise of Christianity, and when you start to overlay that with

the way the church is used by the political system to subjugate people, it's pretty obvious that by polarizing people, you win, essentially.

It's taken a couple of centuries to occur, and the last few decades have started to turn that around. I'm optimistic that it will happen. When you say 50 years or 40 years, you might say, "Wow, that's a long time." But in the big scheme, I think that in another 50 years you will see that we have once again reversed that system.

HS: *What do you think of how transgendered people are typically portrayed in the entertainment industry?*

DR: It gets better, but only in bits and pieces. If you look at race, it took years to for people who were African American, or Asian, to just have roles that let them just be who they were.

The same thing happens with gender. The story of Brandon Teena that was just portrayed in the movie, *Boys Don't Cry*, although it was not specifically about gender difference, indicated that there are [transgendered] people out there.

There's the role in the recent Robert DeNiro movie, *Flawless*, with the sort of flaming drag queen. While that's a somewhat stereotypical role, that person is the hero subject in the film. So, you know, we're getting there.

Someday, somebody who is gender different will be cast in the role of a detective or a judge, or someone who is just able to go about their business.

HS: *And not used merely for comic relief.*

DR: Exactly. I've said all year that there are two groups we still get to make open fun of on sitcoms on network television—and that's people who are obese, and people who are gender different.

Every sitcom in every season has a least one episode where guys dress up like girls, with big balloons in their tops and little short skirts, and they'll prance around for 22 minutes.

That is just blatant genderism, if you

will. And sexism.

HS: *Whom do you draw on for support? Who helped get you through the stress of this very public controversy over losing your employment?*

DR: I have a host of friends. In fact, I was just answering one of over a hundred e-mails that I've gotten in the last couple of days. With the holidays rolling around, people are getting back in touch with me. I've received hundreds and hundreds of supportive e-mails.

I received one short, one-sentence piece of hate mail in this whole thing. My family was really worried about that, but I got only one piece and I like to joke about it, because in it, they called me a bitch. It's like, "Okay. Well, at least they got the gender right."

My mom is supportive, as is my former spouse—we're still legally married—we spoke last night. I'll spend Christmas with her mom and her family.

HS: *Do you have any children from that marriage?*

DR: No, I have a daughter from my first marriage. I've been married three times. One of the issues around gender differences is that we tend to kind of pour through relationships.

I have dear friends in the gender community, and I do have a really close friend that spends a lot of time with me, and I'll leave it at that. We're spending the holidays together—that person is friends with my family, too. And so it's been a real supportive environment.

HS: *For years, transgendered people wanted visibility and inclusion in the fight for equal rights for gays and lesbians. Now many transgendered people want their own organizations to address separate issues within the overall movement. Is one way better than another?*

DR: I think both have merit. You have to remember that at one point the word "gay" was controversial. "Gay" was going to mean people of whatever gender who

were homosexual, and then at the rise of the feminist movement lesbians said, "No, no, no. We need our own voices," so we said "we'll be lesbian and gay."

And then people who are bisexual said, "We need a voice, too", and so the people who are bisexual were allowed in the club. And so the coalition that has formed in the transgendered movement is kind of a natural outgrowth.

The common bond that we share—lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender—is really our gender difference. The fact is that a femmy man, a really butch woman, anybody that doesn't fit a traditional mold, is going to be discriminated against in our society. And therefore we do have a common purpose.

At the same time, transgender issues are unique. With my actions this spring, I couldn't hide who I was. I was taking hormones and I was growing breasts. My hips were widening. I was losing weight, I was having electrolysis treatments. It was a very visible transition.

My sexual identity, I had been kind of private about. But regardless of that, if I had come out to my employers and said I was lesbian or gay, it would have been a different set of choices that I would have been making, and I would have gone about my business in a much quieter way. I have a rainbow sticker on the back of my car, and I'm very, very tolerant. I think a lot of my students suspected that I was queer tolerant for years.

But being transgendered means that I don't have a choice of coming out or not coming out. Once I make the decision to follow the doctor's advice, start the hormones and go through the process, I am out. That is an issue that is unique to us.

So we have things that bind us together and we also have our own issues.



Dana Rivers is scheduled to speak at the first meeting of It's Time, Arizona!, to be held on Saturday, Jan. 8 at 4 pm. The meeting will be at the Gentle Shepherd MCC, 7820 N. 27th Ave. in Phoenix. E-mail inquiries to ITAZ@webtv.net.

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Making it Happen—Y2K Wishes

Continued from page 1

fits and protections as married heterosexuals. And despite all my progressive cynicism, despite the fact that I'm a big, tough, out lesbian who doesn't need a court ruling to know that my relationship counts, even despite the fact that I like living in sin—I felt really, well, *validated*.

I've often suspected that there's an aspect of sour grapes to my radical politics. Like, if I can't be in your club, fine. It's a stupid, smelly, heteropatriarchal club anyway. This is a useful, self-affirming attitude up to a point. But eventually, you start getting bitter and developing weird nervous tics.

I'm not booking a reception hall. But the possibility that maybe one day I could if I wanted to is surprisingly liberating."

—Alison Bechdel, creator of *Dykes to Watch Out For*, *Jonesville, VT*



"For the Year 2000, I would like to see the Transgender community in Arizona continue to grow stronger. Improved communications between the various Phoenix groups and with the entire state will cement that strength.

Also, I would like to see the Transgender community continue working closely with our Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual friends. In this year, I am hoping that more TG Arizonans become active nationally, as well as locally, helping to educate the country on who we are.

Finally, on a national level, some of us hope to create an international Transgender Hall of Fame to honor those pioneers who have done so much for our people."

—Monica F. Helms, transgender activist; *Phoenix*

"As chairman of the Diocese of Phoenix's HIV/AIDS Resource Committee, it is my hope that the local church will grow in compassion and ministry to the HIV/AIDS-affected community this next year. It is certainly our intention to do so.

As a priest, I pray that the Catholic Church and the gay and lesbian community worldwide may grow in dialogue and mutual understanding throughout this new century. I am firmly convinced there is more that unites us than divides us as communities and individuals. May we leave the pains of the past behind, and together establish new and common ground."

—Fr. Chris Carpenter, Catholic Priest; *Mesa*

"What do I want to see happen in the

coming year? Well, so many things.

Since I actually got everything I asked for last year, including a close-to-perfect boyfriend and another year of not having to have a real job, I feel piggy asking for anything else this year.

But since you asked, I'll put in a request for a sale on my screenplay, a stress-free move when Dave and I start sharing a home, and a dog bed the dog will actually sleep on so we don't have to share with him any more.

Oh, and while we're at it, how about incredibly painful hemorrhoids for all of those politicians who keep voting against same-sex domestic partnership laws despite the fact that only 26% of American families are made up of heterosexual couples with children."

—Michael Thomas Ford, award-winning queer humorist & writer; *Jamaica Plain, MA*



"Gay2K: What an outstanding finale to the 20th century!

Our issues will continue to be an important part of the American landscape well into the millennium. Recent trends from the Boy Scouts to marriage to our visibility in the media are reasons for us all to be hopeful. However, the HIV epidemic continues to take its toll on our community and others. We can't give up that fight.

On a personal note, I'd just like to find a nice boyfriend."

—James Dale, gay activist, *POZ* magazine staffer & hunky former Eagle Scout; *New York, NY*



"For the year 2000 I would like to see a thousand gbt veterans attend the Rainbow Memorial dedication at the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix on Veterans Day 2000.

I also hope to see an end to the ban on gbt service members. I am sure that then we'll truly see peace on earth and goodwill to all!"

—Wally Straughn, President, *Arizona Rainbow Veterans*; *Phoenix*

"My hopes are that as the New Year comes in and the new Millennium begins, there is more recognition and support given to the diversity within our community.

I feel it is only in our acknowledgement and understanding of how others are affected that we can come together with a secure front to attack the issues of inequality. When it happens to one, it happens to us all."

—Donna A. McHenry, Youth Services Coordinator, *The Community Center*; *Phoenix*



"I'm looking into this new year, century, millennium, to see even greater balance in our lives—a little like PH adjustments in our swimming pools.

I'd like to see greater pride and less hatred for ourselves, each other, and our community; less prejudice and more harmony between us and the larger community, and better health, honesty, and purpose for ourselves to follow.

And humor, always."

—Keith A. Thompson, Manpower Program Coordinator, *Maricopa County Dept. of Health Services*; *Phoenix*

"For one thing, I'm hoping we'll have a little bit more peace in this world of ours, because everybody's always shooting each other. These young people are getting guns, and guns are so free in America. We've got to set a standard somewhere—I know Charleton Heston defends them, but it just happens so much.

Every time I go to Phoenix, every time I go to Chicago, every time I come back here to California, I turn on the news and somebody's gotten shot—shootings, killings, murders.

So maybe for the year 2000, everybody will become a little more conscientious, a little more loving and there'll be less hatred and less killing. Because there's a lot of that going on. I'm hoping that people will become more conscientious and not be as mean as we are and selfish, because that's what causes all that death.

I hope we all find more peace in the year 2000. Realistic peace."

—Rudy DeLamor, abusive & beloved cabaret pianist/comedian; *Orange County, CA*



"I would like to see the presidential candidates come out openly in support of homosexuals in the military, to say that gays and lesbians can openly serve and defend their country.

And I would like to see the broadening of domestic partnership laws that would incorporate homosexuality—in all of the states. I'd like to see spousal rights granted to couples who've been in long-term relationships, where they could be committed to each other. Not necessarily through marriage, but openly accepted.

I'd like to see the Phoenix gay community come together. Not to say that it isn't now—we've certainly made great improvements in the 40 years that I've been here. But I'd like to see us even more united on many different fronts. There's a lot of power here, but sometimes it stagnates.

But the number one thing I'd like to see in the year 2000 is the development of an HIV vaccine that works."

—Bob Hegyi, longtime community leader, equal rights & HIV activist; *Phoenix*

"I want to see people work less, engage in more independent thinking, and be more accepting of people whose 'truth' is different from theirs.

I want cities to build high rises not suburban sprawl, and subways not freeways.

I want gays to break out of the little ghetto-box lifestyles they've manufactured and rejoin the full community. Or, alternatively, to at least let go of

gay group-think and create different kinds of competing gay boxes.

I want to work less, exercise more, eat healthy food, play with my friends, and for my cat Sasha to come home.

I want to receive less e-mail."

—Rex Wockner, syndicated gay writer & media watchdog; *San Diego, CA*



"I'd like to see the local AIDS groups come together as one and not duplicate services—I'm always looking at that.

And I wish that everyone would take an active, important role in politics in our community, because they don't know how important it is until it's too late.

For the year 2000, I want to see more gays and lesbians elected. We have really set an example here in Arizona already with four openly gay people elected. We have a couple running already, but I would like to more and more openly gay men—and lesbians—elected. And it is really going to be easy, because of the term limits. It's going to be easier than it ever has been."

—Bill Lewis, semi-retired media mogul & Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund board member; *Scottsdale*



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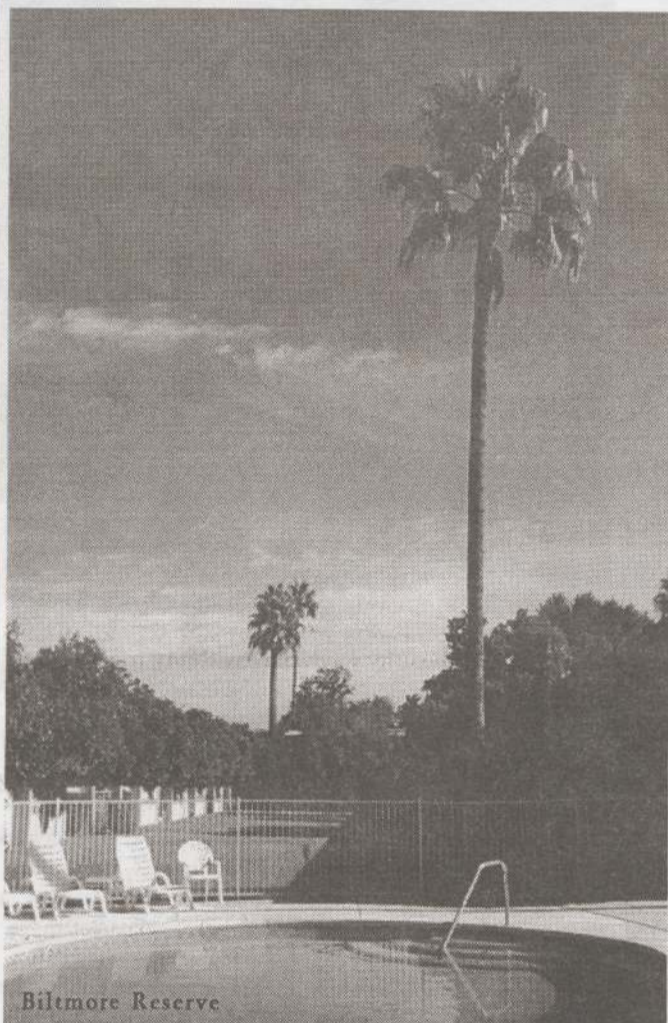
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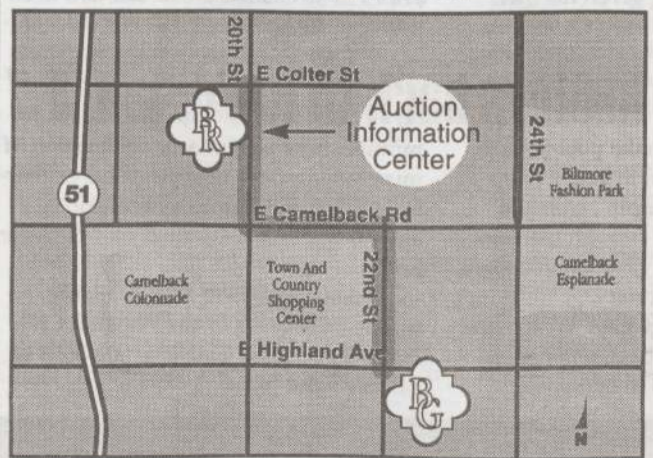


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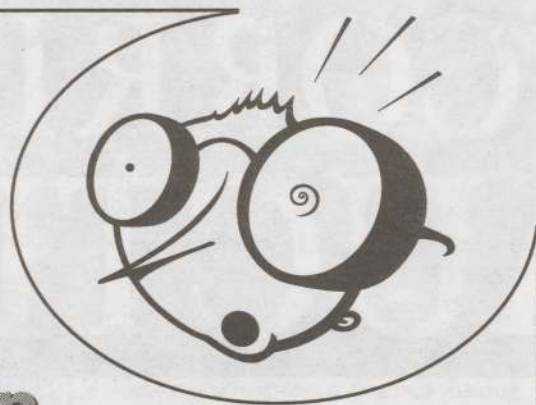
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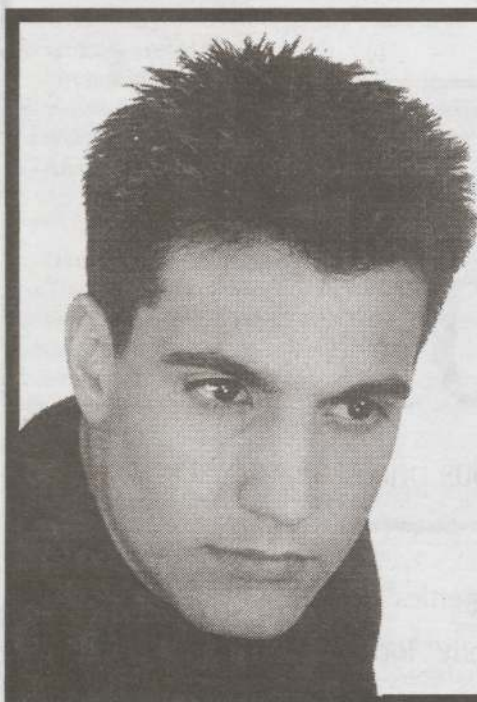
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On tour with The Phantom

Haunting hit returns to Gammage this month

By John Thomas Lotardo, Contributor

With the recent closing of the touring company of *Cats*, Andrew Lloyd Weber's *The Phantom of the Opera* became "the last big dinosaur" of Broadway musicals with a touring company playing for weeks on end around the country, confirms actor and dancer William Patrick Dunne.

Dunne is a member of the *Phantom* cast coming to the Valley for the bus and truck extravaganza's return engagement here, which begins Wednesday Jan. 12, 2000 at ASU's Gammage Auditorium in Tempe and runs through Feb. 18.

Dunne, who plays the role of the Slave Master and is featured as a dance soloist, has been touring with *Phantom* since July 1997. Before that, he was a cast member of the Broadway production.

Born in Indiana, Dunne began his professional career in the theater at age ten. He later appeared on television's Nickelodeon. Then he received a scholarship and stipend to study dance with the School of American Ballet in New York. "They trained us like racehorses," Dunne remembers. His more recent credits include a stint in the ever-popular *Cats*; *Singing in the Rain*; and *The Wizard of Oz* with Phyllis Diller.

As a touring-company veteran, Dunne embraces the "lost art" of writing letters. "I write fifteen letters a week," he tells *HeatStroke*. Shunning e-mail technology, he keeps in touch with family and friends by sending photos, reviews and postcards.

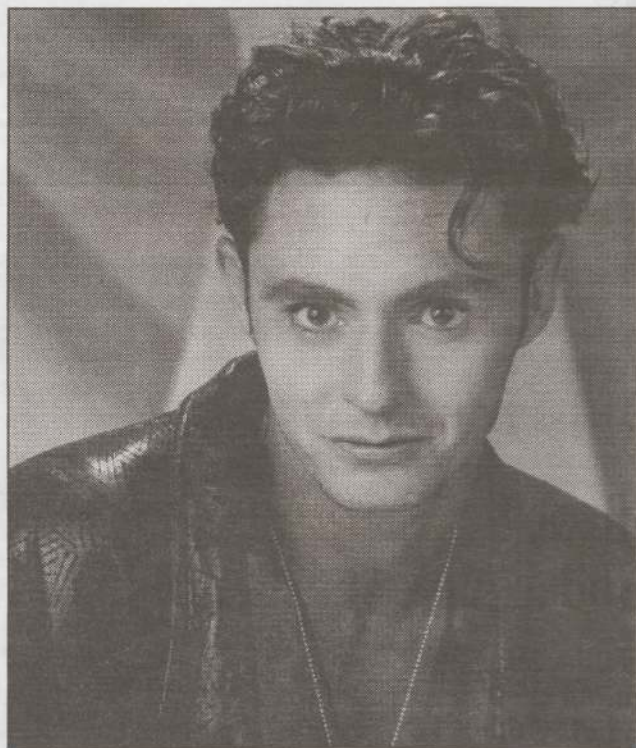
He writes his boyfriend, Don Smith, daily. Smith, a professional puppeteer, has been Dunne's boyfriend for the past three years and is even more diligent about keeping in touch, Dunne admits. "Sometimes he'll write me twice a day."

At the time of our interview, Dunne had just started reading a new letter from Smith describing a recent trip to London, where Smith worked on the opening production of *Casper*. The show, based on the popular (not to mention friendly) ghost, utilizes six-foot tall puppets together with a live cast.

Asked how the creative duo keep their relationship going given his own

hectic touring schedule, Dunne answers with a laugh, "Calling cards!!" In addition to the letter writing, the men try to speak with each other by phone every day.

Though the longing is evident, it is part of the price these boys pay for what they do. Dunne is among that rare group of performers able to pursue a career in the arts and be paid well for it. "You know, as they say, ten percent of actors are working, and only one percent are doing national tours." He knows how fortunate he is to be part of that one per-



cent. "My roots are in theater. I always want to keep performing."

Among his program credits, Dunne includes a dedication to legendary gay actor Roddy McDowell in the *Phantom* playbill. Ask the young dancer to clarify the reference, and he pauses for a few moments. McDowell, who died in 1998 from colon cancer, and Dunne were very close friends.

Dunne says the credit refers to a nickname he had for McDowell. Dunne's own nickname was "Mr. Bright Eyes", a reference to the character Charleton Heston played in the sci-fi classic, *The Planet of the Apes*. Dunne's nickname for McDowell was "Mr. Face". In the playbill credits Dunne writes, "Mr. Face, I'll miss you."

Phantom performances begin at Gammage on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2000 and run through Saturday, Feb. 19. Tickets prices range from \$16.75 to \$69.25 and are on sale now at all Dillard's outlets or by calling 480/503-5555.

Homoerotic hoofers back in town, Jan. 4-7

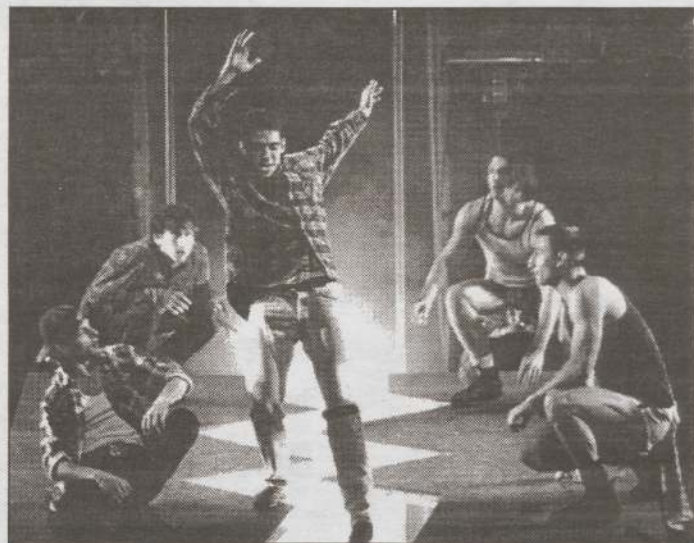
They're known to make post-performance visits to gay bars in every city they visit, and their rompin', stompin' choreography includes enough man-on-man sexual imagery to give Rep. Barbara Blewster a massive coronary.

But are the Tap Dogs gay? With three six-man troupes crisscrossing the country and sold-out shows in every port, these Aussies aren't about to jeopardize their U.S. meal ticket by saying. You can head to the Orpheum in downtown Phoenix and see what they're keeping mum about, when the guys make their return Valley appearance there Jan. 4-7.

If you've never seen Tap Dogs, it's quite a trip. Part dance, part rock, part theater and part strip tease, the 70-

minute show is a sweaty celebration of muscled boyflesh and youthful exuberance in a family atmosphere, and it always features a talented cast of major hotties.

Tickets are \$35 to \$40, available through Dillard's or the Phoenix Civic Plaza Box Office. Call 480/503-5555 to get in on the fun.



Holding on to the brass ring

Internationally known choreographer part of Dance Conference 2000

By John Thomas Lotardo, Contributor

Sean Curran, the keynote speaker for the upcoming Arizona Dance Arts Alliance Conference 2000 on Jan. 7, is at the pinnacle of his career.

Curran recently returned from France, where he and the troupe that bears his name participated in the esteemed Cannes International Dance Festival. There, his dance company received five standing ovations.

Not too shabby, when you consider that Mikhail Baryshnikov—the legendary ballet dancer-turned artistic director of the modern troupe White Oak Dance Project—was booed from the very same stage just moments before.

The harsh treatment of Baryshnikov was quite unnerving for Curran. "The French really let you know whether they like you or not," he says.

The choreography that garnered so much enthusiasm for his troupe in France, Curran explains, explores the issue of gay, lesbian, and interracial parenting. What made it more exciting for Curran was that the audience in Cannes was not made up only of his peers—peo-

He went on to perform with the modern dance company, Bill T. Jones/Arine Zane Dance Company, run by the couple of the same name. He was later invited to become part of the wildly popular New York production of *STOMP*.

He also choreographed the musical play, *The Dead*, starring Christopher Walken, recently scheduled to go from its current off-Broadway locale to the Great White Way.

At the time of our interview, Curran was in Chicago to choreograph a modern interpretation piece with the Trinity Irish Dance Company.

With all the excitement surrounding such groups as Riverdance and Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*, Curran is excited to work with Trinity, one of the leading Irish groups in the United States. He hopes the group will be performing his work this spring when their tour stops in Arizona.

The choreographing he does for his own company is described as the "downtown dancething." Curran explains, "I do not use stock choreography." Allowing himself to be somewhat grandiose, Curran likens his role to that of a poet.

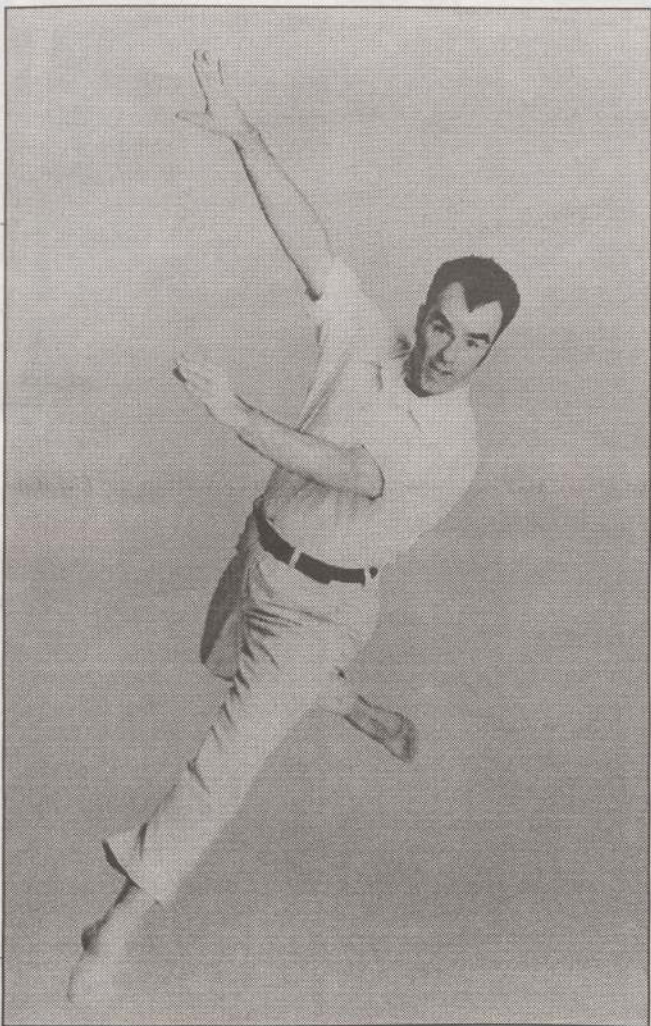
This poetry he creates will be happening on the campus of Arizona State University the first week of January. Curran will be conducting a dance residency for the University the week prior to the ADAA Conference 2000.

The Conference is part of the multi-disciplinary art conference, "Crossing Cultural, Artistic, and Cyber Borders," which runs from January 6 through January 9, 2000. Ten sponsoring Arizona Art organizations representing dance, music, theatre and education have organized joint events, which include workshops, dance and theater productions, receptions and several keynote speakers.

For example, the ADAA Conference will have a performance at ASU on Friday, Jan. 7

at 7:30 pm in the Physical Education Building East, Room 132. Tickets are free to conference participants, \$8 for general admission, and \$6 for seniors and students.

Sean Curran will be the keynote speaker at 6 pm, immediately before the performance. For more information about the Dance Conference, contact Deb Meiers at 480/814-9619. For information about other conferences being held in conjunction with this event, call Claire West at 602/229-8231.



ple with the same liberal bent as a gay choreographer. Contrary to performances where artists are "preaching to the converted," the audiences at Cannes are made up of people from a broad range of lifestyles.

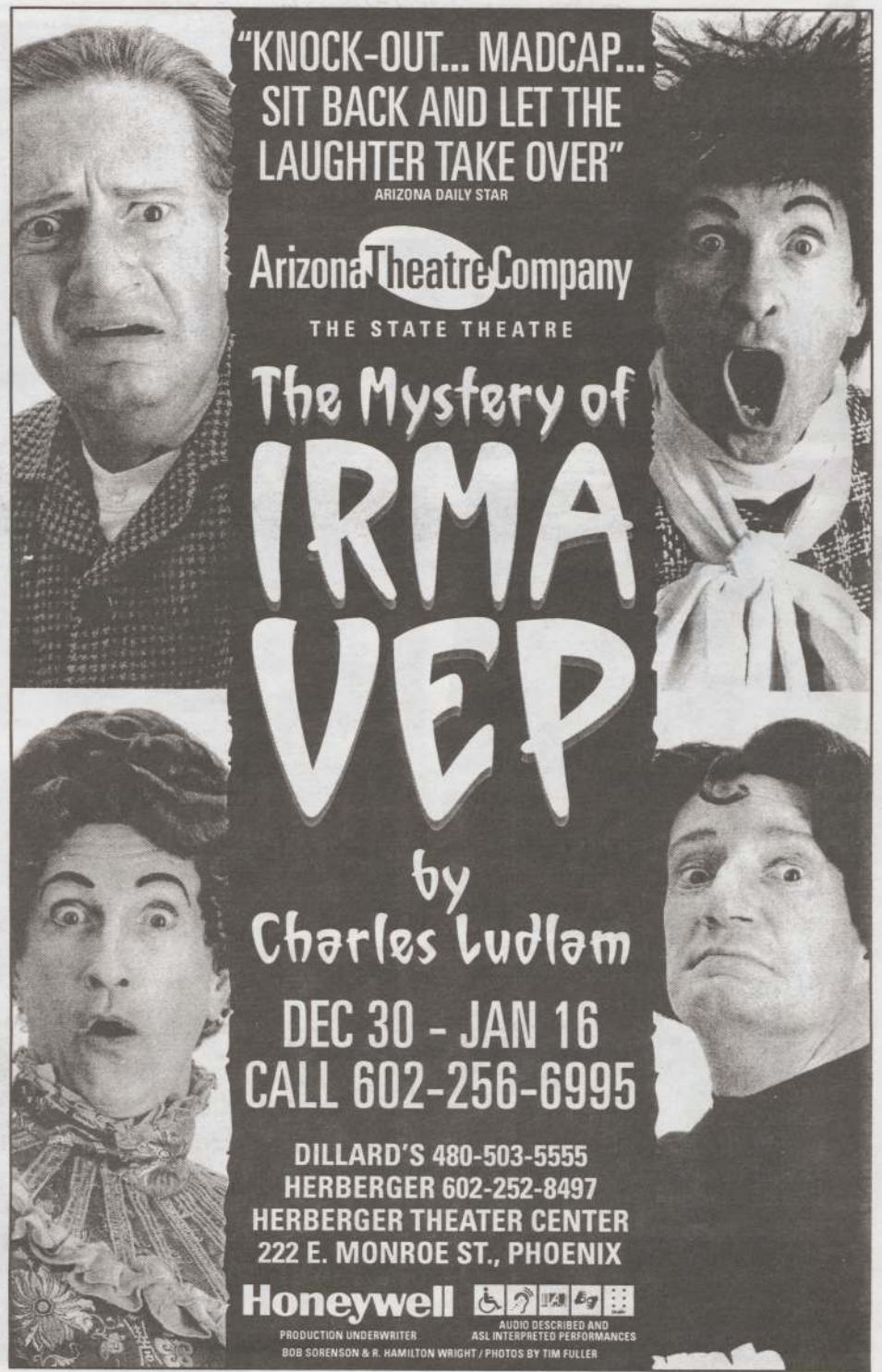
Born to Irish immigrants, Sean Curran's dancing career began with traditional Irish Step dancing. After moving to New York as a wide-eyed gay 17 year-old "to become a Broadway star", he landed in the dance department of New York University.

Additional Upcoming Entertaining Events

- Catch jazz multi-keyboardist and vocalist Ken Wain along with *The Ken Wain Ensemble* at the Kerr Cultural Center in Scottsdale Jan. 5. 480/965-5377.
- Tremble to Shakespeare's supernatural Scottish tragedy with a new production of *Macbeth*, presented by The Shakespeare Theatre in the Cactus High Auditorium in Scottsdale Jan. 6 through Jan. 23. Tickets at the door only.
- Check out *The Old Settler*, the next production of the Black Theatre Troupe in Phoenix, Jan. 6 through Jan. 23.
- Laugh along with Wendy Wasserstein's Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning *The Heidi Chronicles*. It's a

Theatre Works production, on stage at 9850 W. Peoria from Jan. 7 through Jan. 30. 623/815-7930.

- Experience *Flying Saucers* playing at the On The Spot Theater in Central Phoenix, Jan. 7 through Jan. 12.
- Hear *Echoes of Centuries Past* at the Chandler Center For The Arts on Jan. 14.
- Take in the guitar and clarinet sounds of *The Lightwood Duo* at Kerr Cultural Center in Scottsdale on Jan. 14. 480/965-5377.
- Tap your toes to the big, bold sounds of *The River City Brass Band* out of Pittsburgh and performing at The Sundome Jan. 14. 623/975-1900.



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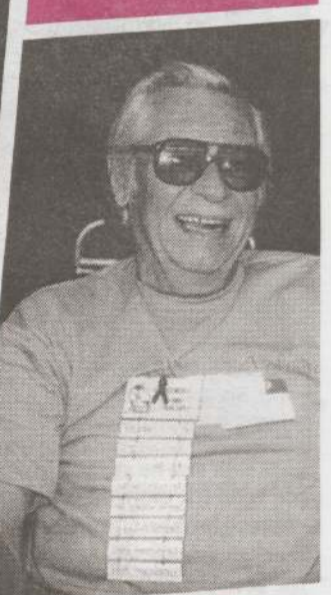
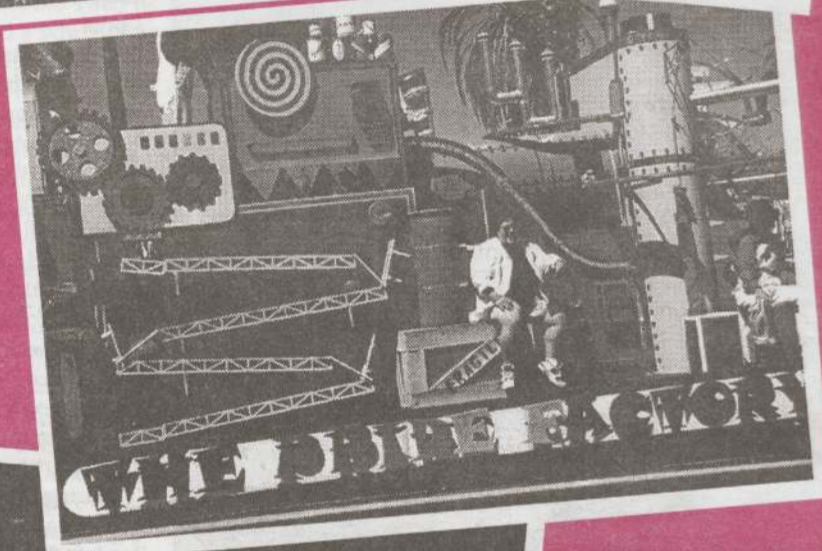
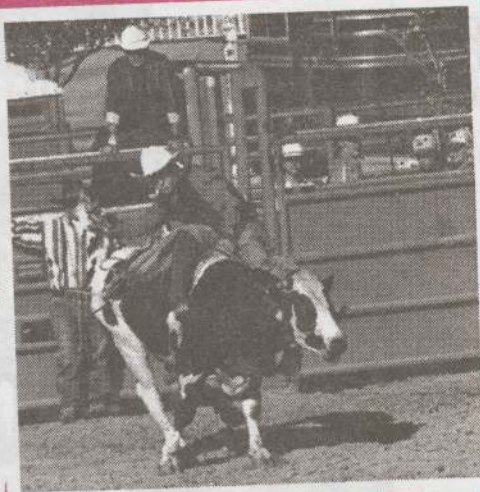
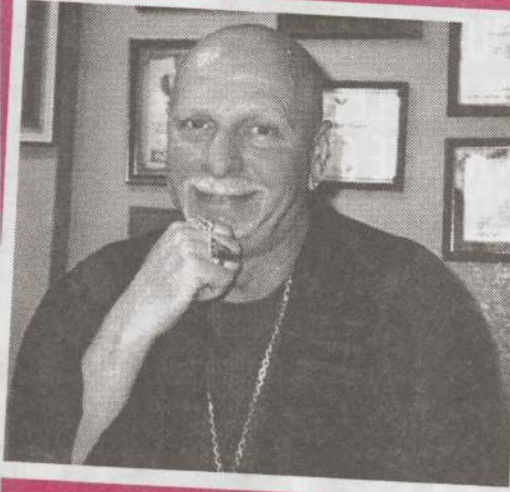
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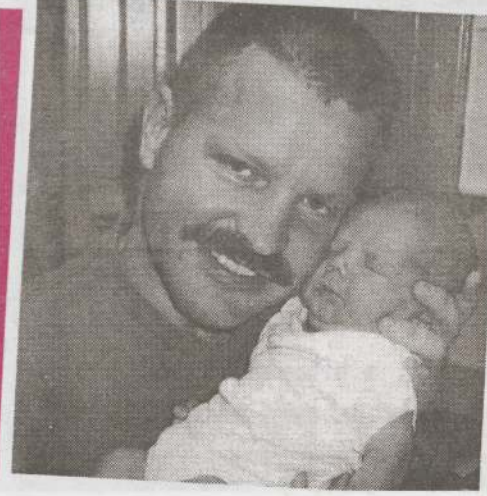


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from the pages of
HeatStroke



HILARITY & HORROR

ATC's *Irma Vep* has a little bit of everything

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Take a dose of *Rebecca*, add a pinch of *Dracula*.

Toss in howling werewolves on foggy moors and a vampire rapping at the window. Add a portrait that bleeds and a mummified Egyptian princess newly risen from the dead.

Charles Ludlam's madcap farce, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, incorporates all of the above—and more—in a convoluted script centered on a pair of mentally unhinged servants and the daffy Lord and Lady of the dilapidated English manor in which they all live.

Arizona Theatre Company's slick, new production of Ludlam's 1984 off-Broadway hit opens in Phoenix on Jan. 30 at the Herberger, and it is a side-splitting must see.

The plot is a complicated one, but with a comedy this far over the top, fluidity hardly matters. *Irma Vep* derives its many laughs by mixing eight oddball characters, two quick-changing actors, Ludlam's biting wit and dozens of cheap, horror movie clichés.

"I'm almost sure that this is the biggest production of this play, ever, in terms of the size of the house, the stage and the set," said R. Hamilton Wright, who costars with Bob Sorenson in the ATC version of *Irma Vep*.

The actors had a moment to chat with *HeatStroke* before a December matinee at Tucson's Temple Theatre. All ATC shows open in Tucson for a month or so before moving north to Phoenix's Herberger.

Despite *Irma Vep*'s proven hit status, few regional theaters have mounted the screwball comedy, Wright explained.

When produced in New York (originally, and in a lauded 1998 revival), *Irma Vep*'s staging was automatically limited by the undersized, off-Broadway venues where it played.

Such limits are broken at ATC, and both actors ("the two Bobs", as they're known around the set) are obviously enjoying themselves immensely as they hop in and out of characters and back again, making the absolute most of Drew Boughton's magnificent set design and David Kay Mickelsen's eye-popping costumes.

Ludlam, who made his reputation doing camp drag roles and founded New York's ground breaking Ridiculous Theatre Company, wrote *Irma Vep* to star himself and his lover, Everett Quinton.

Neither Sorenson nor Wright are gay, but as experienced pros, both men understand where Ludlam's camp sensibility comes from. They also appreciate the rapport needed to play the *Irma Vep* roles—several of which involve gender-switching—with success. "There's definitely a chemistry" between the two actors, Wright said.

"It's true. As soon as we met, we hit it off," Sorenson added. "It's like we were on the same comic wavelength." ATC Artistic Director David Ira Goldstein picked up on it, too. He'd cast the pair in *Scapin* during ATC's 1997-98 season and began to consider the men for *Irma Vep*, based on the way they jelled while performing in Moliere's memorable farce.

"We have a great deal of respect for each other as actors, and we like each other, too," said Sorenson. "And I think—I hope, anyway—that it comes across

when people see the show."

Wright hails from Seattle. Sorenson, one of the Phoenix area's busiest equity actors, did *Irma Vep* once before, with Phoenix Theatre. He has also been put through his two-actor, multi-costume paces in past productions of the redneck classic, *Greater Tuna*.

A working chemistry between the actors is vital, because a large part of *Irma Vep*'s charm stems from the "how are they doing that?" aspect of its production. Both

ing-fast character switching that takes place just off stage.

The two Bobs seem as dazzled as their audiences by what they are able to pull off. "It's really like a well-rehearsed dance," Wright said of *Irma Vep*'s carefully choreographed, behind-the-scenes maneuvering.

"We have three dressers back there helping us, and everyone has a precise part," Sorenson added.

Were he around today, Ludlam, who died of AIDS complications in 1987, would likely applaud the fervor with which both hetero actors approach their female characterizations. Sorenson is a screaming delight as the shrill housekeeper and Wright is nothing short of astounding as the hilariously naive Lady Enid.

For inspiration, Wright recalls seeing Ludlam perform in New York in *Candide*. "He was amazing, I remember it very vividly," the actor said. Wright plays the roles in ATC's *Irma Vep* that Ludlam played originally, but said he tries not to be intimidated by it.

"I think about that, but then I'll tell myself, 'don't think about it,'" he explained. "But, yeah, I have to think about it."

Sorenson added, "You don't want to replicate what the original writer and star did, so much as you want to try to capture the spirit of it."

And, both actors admitted, capturing the wonderful, ridiculous spirit of Charles Ludlam is their current priority.



Above: R. Hamilton Wright (l) and Bob Sorenson star in ATC's *The Mystery of Irma Vep*.



players are effectively winking at the audience throughout, especially with regard to the twisted storyline and unbelievably fast costume changes.

At a recent matinee, theatergoers broke into spontaneous applause more than once in appreciation of the lighten-



The Mystery of Irma Vep runs through Jan. 23 at the Herberger Theatre, 222 E. Monroe in Phoenix. Tickets range from \$28 - \$36, call 602/256-6995 for reservations and show times.

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Compiled by Rex Wockner



"In Queer Theory, they're outing dead writers. I find that to be a little specious. They are bending these pre-Stonewall writers' works to conform to their theory. ... Academics have now extended the usage of the word 'queer' way beyond its gay meaning. It's gotten so you can be fully straight and have been hit by a car, and suddenly you're 'queer.' I'm not kidding."

—Veteran gay writer Felice Picano to San Diego's *Gay & Lesbian Times*, Nov. 18.

"This place is so infested with fags, you couldn't swing a dead cat without hitting one."

—Anti-gay activist Timothy Phelps, son of Fred, in a Nov. 21 protest of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

"I'm saturated with myself. I've started to reject everything in my films that used to be called Almodovar-esque. I don't use those colors anymore, or those kinds of furniture. Maybe it's because that vulgarity was typical of the '80s and I've had enough of it."

—Filmmaker Pedro Almodovar to the *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 21.

"I think I behaved gayer—if that's even a word—when I was closeted than I do now. I feel more masculine now. ... I think that I was so uptight [in high school] about trying to seem straight that in the process I seemed gay. It becomes such a façade that you can completely deconstruct it. Other people see through it so easily. And I see it in other people sometimes. I have a couple of friends who are struggling with their sexuality. And when they are out with their straight friends they're going, 'Oh, du-u-ude!' And it looks so incredibly false."

—Screenwriter Christopher Landon, son of the late actor Michael Landon, to the *Advocate*, Dec. 7.

"I actually go into a lot of meetings and people think that I'm straight because of my work. And I think that that's fun. And I hope that they pick up this magazine and read the [coming-out] article and get a pleasant surprise. I just think that it helps sort of bash some stereotypes."

—Screenwriter Christopher Landon, son of the late actor Michael Landon, to the *Advocate*, Dec. 7.

"My mom always told me the gay community made the best crowds."

—Disco singer Erin Hamilton, Carol Burnett's daughter, to the *Advocate*, Dec. 7.

"The fact that I've been accepted by the lesbian community is a huge thing to me because that is my mother's world and it was the world I grew up in."

—Actress Ally Sheedy (*High Art*) to the *Advocate*, Dec. 7.

"[When I was 18, my mother had] taken me out for tea, this special [lunch], and she said, 'Alex, I just want you to know I'm a lesbian and I'm in a relationship with so-and-so.' The thought going through my head was, 'How do I give her

this moment, which I'm sure she's been preparing for?' I didn't want to take it away from her, but I'd known this for nine years or something. It's just like, 'Duh.' I told her later [that I knew], and she said, 'No, Alex, you did not know; you had no idea.' But really."

—Actress Ally Sheedy (*High Art*) to the *Advocate*, Dec. 7.

"To change it [our teaching] is to call a circle a square. That's not going to happen."

—Chicago Cardinal Francis George on the Catholic Church's anti-gay doctrines, to the *Associated Press*, Nov. 26.

"I don't label myself straight or even gay. I can love a man or a woman and no longer believe in gender barriers. I love love. It's not about sexuality anymore, it's about emotions."

—Former gay porn star turned actor Ryan Idol to *Los Angeles' Fab*, Dec. 10.

"He's just one of those people that thinks all he has to offer is his schlong. If he gives himself a chance then he might discover something more about himself. ... There is a saying 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks.' But I wish him nothing but the best."

—Former gay porn star Ryan Idol on gay porn star Jeff Stryker to *Los Angeles' Fab*, Dec. 10.

"There will come a day when Anne Heche will be straight again. Gay men are different. If they've been straight and turn gay, they're gay, honey. But for chicks it's different, especially if they're in show business. Even when they're eating your pussy, they're still straight. I'm just looking out for Ellen. Believe me, I'm concerned for her. Because when the shit goes down, it's not gonna be pretty."

—Actress and comedian Sandra Bernhard as quoted in *Los Angeles' Fab*, Dec. 10.

"I was terrified but I didn't let it show. I screamed at them to go away but they surrounded us and moved in. One pulled out a knife, so I used my elbows to knock two of them to the ground, then punched the third one as hard as I could in the face."

—Lesbian French tennis pro Amelie Mauresmo who decked three muggers on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe in early December, to London's *The Mirror*.

"It just seemed like the thing to do. I didn't think he needed to live any longer. ... It didn't seem any different than waking up and saying, 'I'm going to the grocery store this afternoon.'"

—Steve Mullins who was convicted of the anti-gay murder of Billy Jack Gaither in Sylacauga, Ala., to ABC's *20/20*, Dec. 6.

"I don't believe 'don't ask, don't tell' has worked and I don't believe it is ultimately the policy we should have in our military. I believe Americans willing to

serve their country should be allowed to do so. There are already gay and lesbian Americans who serve with distinction in the military. They should be able to do so without discrimination and harassment."

—Hillary Clinton speaking to Irish-American supporters Dec. 9 in New York.

"I'm quite sympathetic with what she [my wife Hillary] said [about the military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy not working.] I think one thing that's maybe not clearly understood is the reason that I went for 'don't ask, don't tell' is that it was all I could do, because I had a clear signal from Congress that if I implemented my policy, they would reverse it by an overwhelming majority. ... What I'd like to do is focus on trying to make the policy we announced back in '93 work the way it was intended to, 'cause it's way out of whack now, and I don't think any serious person can say it's not."

—President Clinton in a CBS radio interview, Dec. 12.

"In light of the Winchell case and other evidence, I believe the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy should be eliminated. Gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve their country without discrimination. If I am entrusted with the Presidency, I will make those changes and propose legislation in Congress to eliminate this unacceptable form of discrimination."

—U.S. Vice President Al Gore in a Dec. 13 written statement.

"Most bisexual men are going to be with another man—period. Get used to it. ... Men who have both male and female partners rarely wind up in a successful monogamous relationship with a woman. That's cold truth. ... Ask at the beginning of a dating excursion if the man is or has been sleeping with other men. If the answer is yes, step out of the way."

—Rhona Raskin in her *Chicago Sun-Times* advice column, Dec. 9.

"It ... seems unlikely that chain corporations [moving into the Castro] would want the Castro to be anything but gay. Corporations love gay people. We have disposable income. We love to shop. We set—and react to—merchandising trends. Plus, we are very, very clean, and fun to be around."


—Columnist Dave Ford writing in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Dec. 12.

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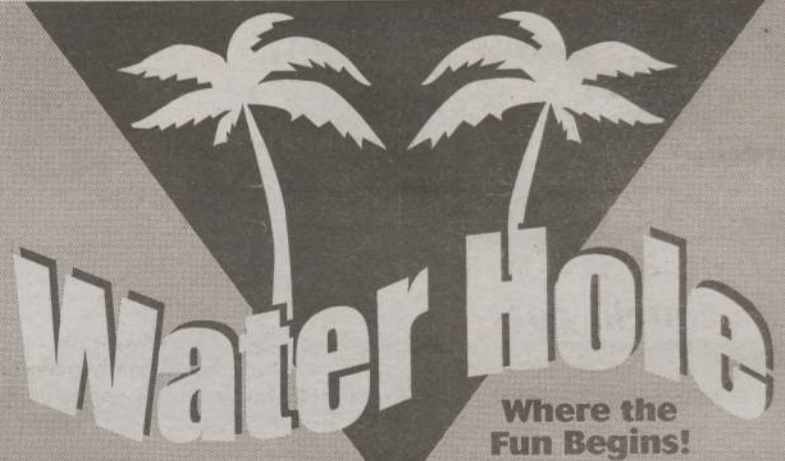
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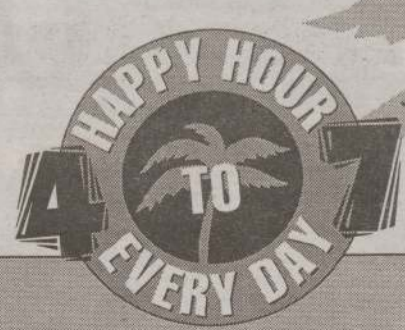


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My Queer Life

SELLING OUT

by Michael Thomas Ford

Okay, I admit it. I've been watching this *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* show. The game itself is incredibly stupid. The questions are those random kind that you just either know or don't know. But it seems that everyone is obsessed with this show, and that's no big surprise.

Americans are fascinated by money, and by other people trying to win money. And who doesn't want to be a millionaire? Those of us who don't have it want to see other people get it, or at least lose in the chase while we sit home going, "I would have gotten that one."

While ratings for *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* have been stellar, the show seems to be dipping a bit now that someone really has won the million. I think, though, that with a little bit of tweaking they could get the show back on top. The trick is to simply play to other great American obsessions.

Imagine, for example, *Who Wants To Weigh 500 Pounds?* Next to money, weight is the great American obsession. Many of us are trying to lose a few pounds, and thin is most definitely in. But what would happen if we offered people money to gain weight?

In this variation of the game show, thin, beautiful people would be given the chance to make big money by getting fat. For every pound they would be given a

pounds? How many of us would gain that much weight for cash? Especially if we were really weight conscious to begin with. It would be a fascinating struggle between beauty and wealth.

If you had, for example, a bunch of supermodels or aerobics instructors, watching them decide between thinness and retirement would provide weeks of fun. Every episode would involve weighing the contestants and asking them if they wanted to progress to the next level of obesity.

The host could wave platters of Hostess products before their anxious faces, tempting them to ever-greater levels of hugeness just for the sake of taking home that elusive half a million. It would be human drama at its most theatrical.

Or what about *Who Wants To Be A Homosexual?* This would be even better.

Heterosexual contestants—preferably men—would be presented with a series of choices, each one leading them closer and closer to a queer life. The first step might be agreeing to spend a night out dancing in a gay bar, say for \$2500.

From there they would be challenged to marching in a Pride parade wearing only leather shorts, walking down a main street of some medium-sized Midwestern city holding hands with someone of the same gender, coming out to a family member, and attending a Liza Minnelli concert.

As the weeks went on, they would have to decide if a same sex kiss was worth the cash payout, whether being the passive partner in oral sex for sixteen thousand was preferable to being the active partner for twenty-five, and, in the final week, if being anally-penetrated on

national television could be paid for with half a million.

Just like on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*, contestants would be allowed to stop at any point and walk away with the cash they'd accumulated. If they agreed to go on, and did not perform the assigned task successfully, their money would be taken away and they would be left with nothing.

And should a contestant reach the final level and pass the anal sex test, he would be rewarded with not only a complete new Hugo Boss wardrobe and an entire collection of Erasure albums, but also the keys to a condo in South Beach and a lifetime subscription to both *Out* and *Genre*.

But lest he be swayed by all of these gifts, he would have one final decision to make. He could choose to remain homosexual, or he could trade it all for a smaller cash settlement, a return to heterosexu-

thing. Imagine watching people decide how much being perceived as gay was worth. Would they stop at \$32,000, or would they only be willing to be gay for \$120,000? How much would it take to buy off male fears about sucking dick and taking it up the butt? I'd love to find out.

Of course, we already have some idea of what the answer is. "Straight" porn actors regularly get paid different sums for assuming different positions in their films.

Much of the gay world watched, literally, as former porn icon Ryan Idol went from being a straight guy who would only allow other actors to blow him to a skilled cocksucker himself. With each film, Idol did a little more, as long as he was paid more. And he isn't alone. Hollywood is filled with actors who will play gay as long as the paycheck is large enough.

But what about those folks who keep their real-life queerness secret for exactly the same reason. How many people are there who are willing to keep quiet for money, trading who they are for the security of a paycheck and continued status? How many of us choose to do it in both small and large ways on a daily basis?

Like the contestants in these game shows, do we continually weigh what our identities are worth, selling ourselves for another week of living large if the risk seems too great? Yes, money can make people do a lot of things they would never do for free. But sometimes you have to wonder at what cost.



ality, and the destruction of all tapes of the show.

This would be even better than the fat

From there they would be challenged to marching in a Pride parade wearing only leather shorts, walking down a main street of some medium-sized Midwestern city holding hands with someone of the same gender, coming out to a family member, and attending a Liza Minnelli concert.

cash prize, with the amount increasing at various levels.

The first few pounds probably wouldn't be a big deal. Most people would be willing to pack on ten or twenty pounds if they were given, say, five or ten thousand dollars. Losing that extra weight wouldn't be too awful.

But what would happen when the stakes were raised to fifty or a hundred



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



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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, *HeatStroke* Contributor

NETTING MORE DICK

On-again, off-again homo (and always funny) comedian **Andy Dick** is the latest talent to reach out and touch the 'Net. The former *News Radio* star recently inked a deal with software provider LOADtv to develop original Web-based programming.

He'll retain creative control of the material, including an Andy Dick short-



Former *News Radio* player Andy Dick has signed a deal to produce a variety of web-based performances.

film festival, a talk show, and performances by his band, **Bitches of the Century**. The proposed slate of projects will be available on the Internet and accessible only by using LOADtv's video player, but it should be the same kind of stuff that makes Dick's crazy stage show so famous.

The comedian was recently quoted in *Variety* as saying, "I was thinking that the only place I could get as trippy or as raunchy as I want was on stage, but with this LOADtv deal, I can do exactly that.... [The Internet] is an unlimited venue for me to go down" (interesting choice of words, by the way).

LOADtv is already streaming some of the outrageous Dick's work, including the videos *Andy Dick Officer Naughty* and *Andy Dick Gets Exotic Erotic*, on its Web site, where you can also send Dick-centric e-greetings. To check it out, visit LOADtv.com or AndyDick.com.

MADONNA BAKES SOME AMERICAN PIE

The Material Girl is cooking up a tasty delight for the soundtrack of her new film, *The Next Best Thing*, co-starring queer hunk **Rupert Everett**.

Madonna is contributing two tunes for

the flick, including a remake of **Don McLean's** '70s classic, *American Pie*—with **Everett** singing back up. Her other song, *Time Stood Still*, made specially for the film, could be a major hit since it's co-written and co-produced by **William Orbit**, whose work on her *Ray of Light* album helped get Madonna a long-overdue Grammy.

Perhaps the overlooked **Evita** will finally get her Academy Award nomination—for best original song. The *Next Best Thing* soundtrack will be released on Madonna's Maverick label early this year, and the film is currently slated to open March 10.

BASH ON SHOWTIME

Queers who have been dying to see *Object of My Affection* star **Paul Rudd's** portrayal of a violent homophobe in *Bash*, **Neil LaBute's** set of dark one-act plays, will soon be able to view the work in the privacy of their own homes.

Rudd, who originated the role Off-Broadway last year, is co-starring in the current Los Angeles run of *Bash* with **Calista Flockhart** and former *ER* star **Ron Eldard**. Recent performances were taped at Beverly Hills' Canon Theater to air on the cutting-edge cable network Showtime later this year.

QUEEN SEEKS SUGAR DADDY

You'd think an Academy Award-winning writer would have an easier time getting his next project off the ground, but that's not the case for **Bill Condon**.

The openly gay writer-director, who won an Oscar for his screenplay for *Gods and Monsters*, is now seeking a new home for his Miss America project, currently titled *Queen Bess*. The movie, based on the troubled life of **Bess Myerson**, who became the first Jewish woman to win the beauty crown in 1945, was supposed to start filming soon, co-financed by New Regency Productions, Britain's FilmFour and France's TF1.

But rumor has it the three backers couldn't agree on a cast, and one of them backed out when their casting preferences weren't met. With such talent as **Glenn Close** and **Toni Collette** attached to star, some smart production company has got to see the potential in the project and pony up the cash.

BRAD ROWES TO NBC

Brad Rowe, the *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* hunk who starred in the recently canceled **Kevin Williamson** debacle *Wasteland*, is coming back to the small screen, this time on NBC.

Rowe will be sporting polyester for a role in the upcoming four-hour miniseries *The '70s*, about young people coming of age in the aftermath of the notorious 1970 riots at Kent State University, where several student protesters lost their lives. Rowe plays a political activist (sadly, a straight one).

Vinessa Shaw, who played the lovely HIV-positive prostitute in *Eyes Wide Shut*, will play his girlfriend, and **Amy Smart** of *Varsity Blues* fame will co-star as Rowe's sister. The miniseries, which starts production this month, is set to air sometime in Y2K.

PARKER & STONE AIM FOR A SHOCKWAVE

The cutting-edge team of **Matt Stone** and **Trey Parker**, the force behind *South Park*, want even more creative control. Apparently, characters like **Big Gay Al**

a character played by another blonde bombshell, **Ellen Barkin**. Wilson researched her role by going to S&M dungeons and hiring a dominatrix. *Mercy* is still without a distributor, but if it's as hot as it sounds, it's sure to cinch a deal soon.

CUMMING DOES THE KID THING

Cabaret star and Tony winner **Alan Cumming** has chosen his next big screen role—in a kiddie flick. He's just signed on for a supporting part in *Spy Kids*, to be directed by *From Dusk Till Dawn* hipster **Robert Rodriguez**.

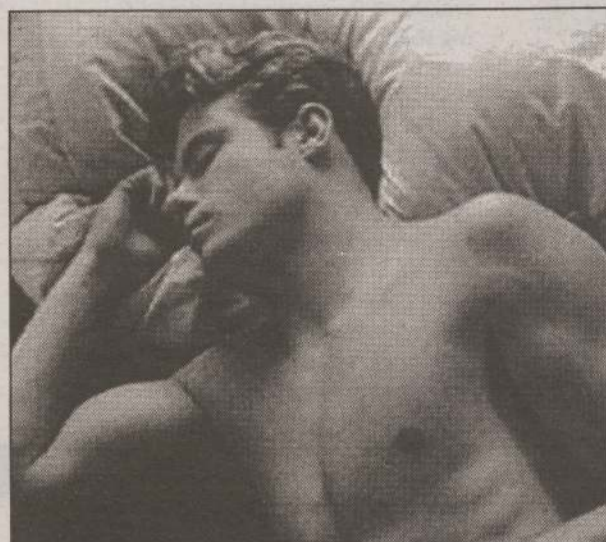
The film's plot centers on youngsters who have to save their secret agent parents from imminent danger. No word on who Cumming will play in the flick, but there's a yet-to-be accepted offer out to Latin hottie **Antonio Banderas**, too.

LA VIDA HOMO

Über-makeup artist (and very openly gay male) **Kevin Aucoin** is sick of dealing with closeted celebrities. After recently receiving an award from a gay youth organization, Aucoin blasted the famous who choose not to acknowledge their sexuality.

"From morning talk-show hosts to Academy Award-winning actors and actresses to top fashion designers and Latin heartthrobs," he said, "[these] closeted gay men and women in positions of power callously stand by and do nothing." Aucoin, who claims he doesn't believe in outing, says his plea comes

out of a strong belief that young gays and lesbians need role models.



Brad Rowe, the hunk from *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*, will star in an NBC miniseries about the '70s.

and **Mr. Hankey** the musical Christmas Poo aren't risqué enough to keep the dastardly duo satisfied.

They recently signed a deal with *Shockwave.com* to provide a large volume of content for the Web-based entertainment company. Parker and Stone will create 39 original animated shorts for the site that they promise will be "further out there than *South Park*."

"That's another advantage of the Internet," they say. "We don't have to deal with the FCC." Not only is the deal unprecedented, but it could add millions to the couple's net worth if (or when) *Shockwave.com* goes public.

CHERCHEZ LA FEMME

Dykes who like *La Femme Nikita* babe **Peta Wilson** are gonna have better fantasy material pretty soon. The blonde babe gets some steamy girl-girl action in her new film *Mercy*.

Wilson plays a homicide detective who infiltrates a circle of bisexual women while investigating a murder and then gets involved with

Romeo San Vicente enjoys being a gay role model. You can reach Romeo in care of *HeatStroke* or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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Out of Town

By
Andrew Collins



Spa Getaways in the East

With the new millennium in full swing, and the voracious eating and excessive merriment of December having left its mark in your memory (and perhaps on your waist line), you may be seeking the kind of vacation that not only relieves the wintertime blues and post-holiday anxieties, but offers a healthful and stimulating dose of relaxation and rejuvenation as well.

Spas, both the day variety and those located at full-service resorts, can retune your system, from head to toe, mentally and physically.

A number of gay-friendly facilities dot the Eastern Seaboard, from the snow-covered ski country in New England's Berkshires to the tropical climes of Florida and the Caribbean. You can opt for a highly structured, alcohol-free retreat where you'll truly have an opportunity to establish new, body-friendly habits and gain a better understanding of yourself, or go with a low-keyed resort where you're free to pick and choose whichever treatments and therapies suit you—this sort of place is also ideal if you're seeking spa-related activities, but your traveling companion would rather mellow out by the pool or spend the afternoon shopping.

Vacationing in the Caribbean has long been a concern among gay and lesbian travelers given the disapproving, even at

It may sound crazy, at least if relaxation is your goal, to check into a New York City hotel and subject your nerves to the honking, jostling, and aggressions of this frantic-paced city, but then consider the alluring and seductive treatments offered by Gotham's delightfully hip Bliss Spa, a day-facility with locations in SoHo and in Midtown.

times hostile, attitudes exhibited toward homosexuality in places like the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

The lush and mountainous island of St. Lucia, one of the Caribbean's undisputed jewels, isn't especially gay-friendly either, but it is home to Le Sport, a posh, adult-oriented, all-inclusive resort and spa where same-sex couples are quite welcome. Whereas many all-inclusives squeeze in several-hundred guests, Le Sport has just 102 rooms, all with marble

details (and in some cases marble floors), rattan chairs and writing desks, four-poster beds, and French doors that open onto a terrace that in most cases faces the silky white-sand beach and azure-blue ocean.

All meals, drinks, accommodations, and most activities and treatments are covered by the high but competitive (by luxury Caribbean standards) rates. This includes use of the magnificent hilltop Oasis Relaxation Centre, where you can go for massage, aromatherapy, facial, hair and scalp rejuvenation, salt loofah-buff, mineral bath, and Swiss needle shower treatments, plus use of the hot and cold plunge pools, a huge gym, an aerobics studio, and a clothing-optional sun deck (but remember, this place is predominantly hetero). Certain treatments—Shiatsu, reflexology, and beauty-salon treatments—carry an additional charge, but for the most part you're free to kick back and let a remarkably friendly and quite competent staff treat you like royalty.

If sultry Florida is more your thing, consider the intimate gay-owned Hidden Jungle Spa and Retreat, which has six suites on its 2.5-acre tropical compound in western Fort Lauderdale, fringing the Everglades, as well as a full-scale day spa. Two waterfalls cascade into a nearly 100-foot-long swimming lagoon, while hot tubs and a large cedar-lined sauna provide great muscle relaxation.

Staff members—who include the former hair stylist of Lucille Ball and Diana Ross—work diligently to pamper their clients. You can consult with a personal trainer, or opt for one of the full packages, such as the Muscle Melting Massage (which includes a loofah body scrub, deep massage, manicure and pedicure, paraffin dip, and time in the pool and beach area).

Guest accommodations have individual themes, such as the retro Seventies Suite, with lava and fiber-optic lamps and mirrors along the walls and ceiling. While Hidden Jungle has its own extremely posh and comfortable accommodations, it's also within an easy drive of the growing number of gay resorts in nearby coastal Fort Lauderdale, including such top-notch facilities as the luxurious Royal Palms, the sophisticated Pineapple Point Guest House, and the romantic Mangrove Villas, whose spacious units have kitchens and living/dining areas.

It may sound crazy, at least if relaxation is your goal, to check into a New York City hotel and subject your nerves to the honking, jostling, and aggressions of this frantic-paced city, but then consider the alluring and seductive treatments offered by Gotham's delightfully hip Bliss Spa, a day-facility with locations in SoHo and in Midtown. These are jubilant and fun-filled spas, intentionally lacking eerie New Age music or haughty receptionists. The staff is generally young and easy-

going, and the amenities are designed with even the spa-phobic in mind.

Bliss has a huge following among both women and men (and plenty of celebs, from Julia Roberts to Calvin Klein)—there's even a guys' locker room and lounge stocked with beer and business and sports magazines. Both branches offer an experience that's truly indicative of the spa's name, and the more-recently opened Midtown location has several treatment rooms where you can partake of a few different therapies—from a foot massage

mansion. With a 3-1 staff-to-guest ratio, Canyon Ranch carefully tends to its guests' needs, helping them design a personalized program that may include meditation, indoor swimming and tennis, downhill and cross-country skiing, state-of-the-art spa treatments, and a variety of health-related seminars on topics ranging from weight-loss to stress management.

Keep in mind the climate and setting, the size, and the degree to which a resort or day spa is gay-oriented, as you consider the sort of spa vacation that will most



Soothing waterfalls rush down a rocky outcropping into the alluring lagoon at Fort Lauderdale's gay-owned Hidden Jungle Spa & Retreat.

to a Crystal Clearing facial exfoliation—simultaneously. It doesn't get much better than this.

Bliss is a day spa, so keep in mind a few great New York City hotels as potential bases for your visit: In SoHo, go with either the SoHo Grand or Mercer Hotel if money is not a concern, while the Holiday Inn Downtown and the Washington Square Hotel are ideal mid-price options.

The Peninsula offers sublime eastern Midtown accommodations, while in the not too far away Upper West Side, the slick Hotel Lucerne offers gracious rooms at moderate rates (by Manhattan standards).

If rural New England is closer to your idea of a perfect winter retreat, consider a stay at the Canyon Ranch, the Western Massachusetts sister of the famed spa-resort of the same name in Tucson, which has long been synonymous with top-notch wellness programs. This Berkshires retreat sits on 120 wooded acres with spectacular mountain views—it's steps from the historic village of Lenox, which proliferates with boutiques and charming shops.

Accommodations are in a glorious 120-room inn, and delicious but sound meals are presented within the vaulted confines of a Versailles-inspired 1897

suit your needs. Then, when calling to book your trip, be certain to ask about different kinds of packages, and the level of structure you will encounter at each facility.

A well-chosen and well-planned spa getaway can virtually transform a person, and even if you can't afford a vacation like this every year, you deserve the experience at least once in your life.

Andrew Collins authored *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*, as well as six gay guides covering the West Coast, New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam. He can be reached in care of HeatStroke or at GayFodors@aol.com.

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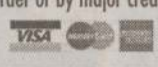
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Central Phoenix - 2 BR home, formal din., new carpet, paint, AC & evap on a large lot for \$750/mo. Mario Romero's Success Team, The Melcher Agency. 602/943-3003.

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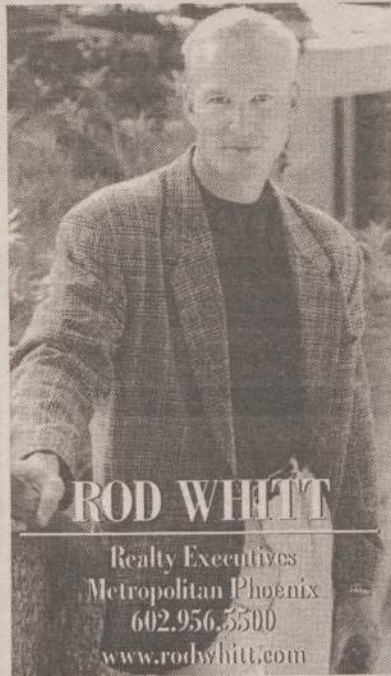
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"DEAR COWBOY" A REGULAR ADVICE COLUMN



We've rounded up a real cowboy who's tough as rawhide but gentle as a poet. Ask him anything. Calmer and wiser than most of us, he's full of strong coffee and good advice. And he never squints into the sun. Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ 85067, or e-mail to alkalphx@aol.com — we'll pass them along to the wise one for you.

Dear Cowboy,

My boyfriend is driving me nuts with his Y2K readiness procedures. He's been storing up bottled water and canned food for months. He put security doors and windows on his house. He also converted a lot of his savings to cash, which he recently hid God-knows-where.

Then last week, he bought two handguns. One for himself and one for me. He insisted I take mine, even though I've never fired a gun in my life. I think this whole craze is bogus, but he won't listen. I want to go to a party, but he insists I come over to his house and "see how it goes down." How can I get him to calm down?

Signed, Over the Millennium Already

Dear Over,

First off, get rid of the firearm. Not under any circumstances does a gun belong in the possession of a cowpoke who: A) doesn't want it and B); doesn't know how to shoot it. Sell it back to the store, turn it in to the police, I don't care how—just get it gone.

Second, I'm not sure you can calm your pardner down, so give up. Sounds like he's already deep into his obsession. With the big day right around the bend, my advice is to steer clear of him until well after the first. Go to that party, and leave him to experience his millennium moment all by himself.

Dear Cowboy,

Is there a sure way to tell whether someone is cheating without following him? There must be some sort of trick question I can ask. Do you know of any?

Signed,
Suspicious in North Phoenix

Dear Suspicious,

Tests? Trick Questions? Following? I think you're aiming that pony in the wrong direction if you really want a happy and healthy relationship. Trust and communication are among

the most important aspects of keeping a pairing going. Even from your short letter, I'd say it's a good bet you boys don't have either one.

But it's probably not too late. Sit your mate down and tell him what your relationship and being faithful to it mean to you. Don't ask him if he's been cheating—tell him why you aren't. Get a dialogue going and keep the lines of communication

open. If you aren't able to do that, set yourselves free.

My boyfriend is driving me nuts with his Y2K readiness procedures. Last week he bought two handguns. One for himself and one for me. He insisted I take mine, even though I've never fired a gun in my life.

HeatStroke's Funny Page

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN.

HOLIDAY GIFT EXTRAVAGANZA

THE EDIBLE GIFT

OH BUCKY— YOU'VE BROUGHT ANOTHER OF YOUR FESTIVE HOLIDAY LOAVES! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE...

Well, I know how much you love them... I made this one with an entire bottle of marachino cherries...

THE ROMANS BUILT AQUEDUCTS WITH BRICKS LIKE THESE...

THE POLITICALLY CORRECT GIFT.

NOW THERE'S A PING PONG TABLE IN A COMMUNITY CENTER ON AN INDIAN RESERVATION IN YUCCA-YUCCA COUNTY WYOMING THAT SAYS "GIFT OF ETHAN GREEN"...

WOW, CHARLOTTE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

YEA, WELL IT WAS THIS, OR THIS GREAT SHARK SKIN JACKET...

I'M MOVED... TRULY...

YOUR STEP-AUNT'S GIFT

AUNTIE IRENE YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE...

I KNOW, BUT I WAS IN THE "YOUNG ADULTS" SECTION AND I SAID TO MYSELF "IRENE, THAT 'KEEP ON RAPPIN' SWEATSHIRT IS SOMETHING ETHAN'LL JUST ADORE..."

KEEP ON RAPPIN'

CLACK... CLACK... CLACK...

FACE...

THE HATSISTER GIFT

"BEEFY SOPHOMORE LOVE SLAVES" VIDEO

10MG. VALIUM FOR THOSE FAMILY GET-TOGETHERS...

YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST!

STOP NOW... YOU'RE MAKING US WEEPY...

TOWELS

THE LOVER'S GIFT...

ALRIGHT, MAYBE THERE ARE PERFECT COUPLES SOMEWHERE ON THIS EARTH WHO GIVE EACH OTHER EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT WITHOUT ASKING... BUT NOT MANY...

IT'S A NEON LAMP OF YOUR ASTROLOGICAL SIGN...

A DEPARTMENT STORE YOU THOUGHT WENT OUT OF BUSINESS IN THE MID 70S

©1990 E. ORNER

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

click this

©1999 by Alison Bechdel

SORRY, READERS. THIS WEEK'S EPISODE HAS BEEN CANCELLED WHILE OUR STAFF SCRAMBLES BELATEDLY FOR A CRUMB OF THE e-PIE.

ON THE CAMPUS OF DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR, INC.

HOW'S THE DOMAIN NAME COMING ALONG, LOIS?

THE COUNCIL OF RIVER EMBANKMENT MONITORS IS USING DYKES-TOWATCHOUTFOR.COM, AND DENTISTS FOR TREATMENT WITHOUT FLUORIDE WANTS 2.5 MIL FOR DTWOF.COM.

BUY IT! WE'VE GOTTA BUILD BRAND! IF WE END UP AS A DOT.NET, YOU CAN KISS RETIRING ON YOUR STOCK OPTIONS SAYONARA!

UH... BUY IT WITH WHAT?

PUT IT ON YOUR CREDIT CARD, I'LL PAY YOU BACK AFTER THE IPO.

JEZANNA, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT GOING PUBLIC. I THINK WE MAY HAVE LOST OUR WINDOW.

TONI? YOUR MOM CALLED. SHE SAYS ALL IS FORGIVEN, SHE'S JOINING PFLAG, AND SHE WANTS 100 SHARES.

JESUCRISTO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LOST OUR WINDOW?

JUST ADDING DOT.COM TO YOUR NAME DOESN'T DO IT ANY MORE. WE NEED SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING WE CAN, LIKE, SELL.

WHAT ABOUT THE VIRTUAL COMIC'S PROGRAM RAFFI'S BEEN WORKING ON, WHERE THE USER BECOMES A CARTOON CHARACTER AND ENTERS THE SIMULATED ENVIRONMENT OF THE STRIP AND INTERACTS WITH US?

CHECK IT OUT.

WE ALL LOOK LIKE POKEMON!

I'M WORKING ON IT. THIS IS JUST THE BETA.

THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES! PEOPLE COULD MEET MO FOR BRUNCH! SPOT CARLOS ON THE BENCH PRESS! HAVE SEX WITH LOIS!

WHO THE HELL WOULD PAY FOR THAT?

I'VE GOT A PLAN TO MONETIZE THE SITE, JEZ. SAY A READER LIKES THE SWEATER I'M WEARING. THEY CLICK ON IT...

...AND BINGO! PAPAYAREPUBLIC.COM IS DOWNLOADING THEIR CREDIT CARD NUMBER!

SELLING PEOPLE MORE USELESS SHIT! I LIKE IT! BUT WE COULD SAVE OURSELVES A LOT OF TROUBLE BY GOING DIRECTLY TO SATAN.COM AND CASHING IN OUR SOULS!

HMM, INTERESTING, MO. THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD OPTION IF WE'RE UNABLE TO ATTRACT VENTURE CAPITAL.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CLICK ON THE MO POKEMON?

CLICK HER SHIRT AND YOU GO TO KSMART.COM. CLICK HER HEAD AND SHE IMPLodes FROM THE TENSION BETWEEN HER CORE BELIEFS AND THE THINGS SHE HAS TO DO FOR THIS JOB.

COOL.

A Couple of guys

Eric? Eric?

HUH? ...WHA--?

ERIC, I'M WORRIED ABOUT TONIGHT.

CHELSEA BOYS

REMEMBER HOW WE SAID WE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE MILLENNIUM?

YEAH! GLAD YA BROUGHT THAT UP, CAUSE --

WAIT, I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

HONEY, I BOOKED US A ROMANTIC SKI WEEKEND AT THIS INCREDIBLE CHALET IN ASPEN FOR NEW YEAR'S!!

OH, NO... I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU, TOO--

WHAT?

TONIGHT AT MIDNIGHT, WE FIND OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL ABOUT Y2K.

WHAT IF THERE'S AN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CRISIS? WHAT IF ALL THE WORLD'S COMPUTERS FREEZE UP, AND THERE'S CHAOS EVERYWHERE? WHAT IF ALL THE POWER GRIDS SUDDENLY JUST-- SHUT DOWN?

JOEV, I'M THE NEUROTIC ONE, AND I'M NOT EVEN WORRIED ABOUT IT.

BUT WHAT IF IT'S ALL TRUE?

WHAT IF WE HAVE TO SPEND AN EXTRA DAY WITH MY PARENTS?

RISE AND SHINE, BOYS! TIME TO WASH UP FOR BREAKFAST!

I GOT US A FLIGHT TO LAS VEGAS, A ROOM AT THE MGM GRAND... AND TWO FRONT ROW SEATS TO BARBRA STREISAND'S NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT...

UH... NATHAN... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS--

I HATE LAS VEGAS... AND I REALLY DON'T CARE FOR BARBRA STREISAND.

HOW CAN YOU NOT LIKE BARBRA?? SHE'S-- SHE'S AN ICON!!

I CAN'T STAND HER. I THINK SHE'S A SHRILL, EGOTISTICAL BITCH. FRANKLY I'D RATHER CHEW GLASS THAN SPEND 3 HOURS LISTENING TO HER SCREECHING CATERWALL.

OH YEAH? WELL... I HATE SNOW-- AND I HATE SKIING-- AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M GONNA SPEND THE LAST NIGHT OF THIS MILLENNIUM FREEZING MY ASS OFF ON SOME GODFORSAKEN MOUNTAINTOP!!!

OHAY! SO WE'LL STAY HERE AND DO NOTHING!

OH, NO, I JUST SPENT OVER 7,000 BUCKS MAXING OUT MY CREDIT CARDS TO SEE WHAT MAY BE THE LAST LIVE APPEARANCE OF THIS CENTURY'S GREATEST DIVA.

I'M GOING!!!

FINE. THEN GO!

FINE! I WILL!

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WWW.CHELSEA-BOYS.COM

Directory of Nonprofit Services for the Phoenix Metro Gay & Lesbian Community

HIV Services

AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix 85064 602/234-6143

AIDS Project Arizona
1427 N. 3rd Street, Suite 125
Phoenix 85004 602/253-2437

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

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

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

AZ AIDS Services for the Deaf
111 E. Camelback
Phoenix 85012 602/265-9953

Aunt Rita's Foundation
5501 N. 7th Ave #215
Phoenix 85013 602/279-0716

Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593

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

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

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

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

Planned Parenthood
5651 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 85016 602/277-7526

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

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

Terros, Inc.
320 E. Virginia Ave.
Phoenix 85004 602/234-8900

Volunteers in Direct Aid
P.O. Box 40476
Phoenix 85067 602/279-8432

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

Political Action & Education

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

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

Arizona Human Rights Fund
P.O. Box 25044
Phoenix 85002 602/650-0900

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

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

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project
P.O. Box 60881
Phoenix 85082 602/351-3080

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

Maricopa Cty. Libertarian Party
P.O. Box 501
Phoenix 85001 602/248-8425

Social & Support Groups

Alpha Zeta—Crossdressers Supp.
A Rose—Transgender Support
P.O. Box 1738
Tempe 85280 480/488-0959

APEX-AZ Power Exchange
apex@xroads.com
602/415-1123

Arizona 2-somes 602/277-8796

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

Arizona Rainbow Veterans
602/864-6092;
AZRainbowVets@aol.com

Bears of the Arizona Desert
PO Box 25951
Tempe 85285 480/345-8755
www.bearsazdesert.com

Copperstate Leathersmen
P.O. Box 40472
Phoenix, AZ 85067

Delta Lambda Phi - Phoenix
903 S. Rural Rd., Suite 101-317
Tempe 85281 602/248-5270

Desert Adventures
P.O. Box 2008
Phoenix, 85001 602/266-2267

Entre Nosotros
546 E. Osborn, #22
Phoenix 85012 602/285-0970

FATHOM
PO Box 83072
Phoenix 85029
www.psn.net/~damour

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;
cavebear@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
480/895-6906
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

Community Church of Hope
4400 N. Central
Phoenix 85014 602/234-2180

Dignity and Integrity
P.O. Box 60953
Phoenix 85082 602/222-8664

Gente Shepherd MCC
7810 N. 27th Ave.
Phoenix 85051 602/864-6404

Goddess Womyn's Network
480/610-8061 ext. 3

Healing Waters Ministries
225 W. University, 105
Tempe 85281 480/894-8681

Lutherans Concerned
P.O. Box 7519
Phoenix 85011 602/870-3611

Presbyterians for Lesbians & Gays
P.O. Box 61162
Phoenix 85082 602/275-0506

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Paradise Valley 85253
602/840-8400

Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch.
1700 W. Warner Rd.
Chandler 85224 480/899-4249

Music, Sports & Hobby Groups

Arizona Frontrunners
azfronrunners@hotmail.com
602/954-3983

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix 85011 602/265-0618

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

Cactus Cities Softball League
PO Box 45101
Phoenix 85064 602/287-9573

Charlie's Renegades
P.O. Box 17602
Phoenix 85011 602/277-9142

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

Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 16462
Phoenix, AZ 85067 480/990-2562

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

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

Lambda Car Club
P.O. Box 36211
Phoenix 85067 602/409-3160

Phoenix Tennis Alliance
602/359-0936

Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling Alliance (PUGBA)
PO Box 44422
Phoenix 85064 602/246-9643

Spartan Wrestling Club
602/340-8070
mattbims@aol.com

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

Valley of the Sun Comm'n'y Band
Jayne: 480/947-0907;
Terry: 602/954-9244

Professional Enrichment & Networking

Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix 85001 602/225-8444

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Mormons)
P.O. Box 26601
Tempe, 85285 602/553-8674

Asbury United Methodist Church
1601W Indian School
Phoenix 85015 602/279-2369

AVIV of Arizona (Jewish Group)
PO Box 66904
Phoenix 85082 602/952-1612

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1029 E. Turney
Phoenix 85014 602/265-2831

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

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Phoenix 85014 602/234-2180

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Kathie J. Gummere ----- 602/952-0293
Roger Rea ----- 602/248-7921
Bernard Rethore ----- 602/381-6253

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Conrad Egge, PhD ----- 602/230-2025
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Jack A. Komnick ----- 602/254-6977

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Sherry Tackett, MSN ----- 602/266-4670

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

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Petland (Ed) ----- 480/844-2920
Alicia Ruiz, DVM ----- 602/277-5155

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Mario Romero ----- 602/943-3003
Lisa L. Seeley ----- 602/252-7777
John Walsh ----- 480/922-6943
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Restaurants

Pookie's ----- 602/277-2121

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Historic District Antique Mall -- 602/253-3778
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Q PUZZLE "About In & Out"

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ACROSS

- 1 It may be split or tight
- 4 Robberies
- 10 A Great Peter
- 14 "___ Me, Feel Me" (song from Tommy)
- 15 Completely mistaken (like a participant in water sports?)
- 16 "There is Nothin' Like a ___" (South Pacific song)
- 17 He played Howard Brackett
- 19 Narrow hole to drop things in
- 20 Those who are worshiped, like porn star Ryan
- 21 Lawyers' charges
- 23 More than bi
- 24 Portion (out)

- 25 He played Cameron Drake
- 28 Poem for Billy Joe
- 29 Schoolboy
- 30 Mrs. Gorbachev
- 31 Corolla and Camry
- 35 Sgt. and cpl.
- 36 He wrote the screenplay
- 38 Train track component
- 40 Get excited
- 41 Boner
- 43 National Coming Out Day mo.
- 44 What Beatrice Dohrn and Evan Wolfson practice
- 47 She played Emily Montgomery
- 51 5,280 feet
- 52 Like George Michael, now

- 53 "___ boy!"
- 54 A rubber might make him come out
- 55 Egyptian fertility goddess
- 57 He played Peter Malloy
- 60 Dollar division
- 61 It may be atomic or solar
- 62 Have the sniffles
- 63 On pins and needles
- 64 Step down
- 65 Bolger or Bradbury

DOWN

- 1 Igloo inhabitant
- 2 "You ___ Me" (Anne Murray hit)
- 3 Dedicate
- 4 ___ Christian Andersen
- 5 Reindeer relative
- 6 Not in the pink
- 7 Speedy
- 8 Doctrine
- 9 One mounts it and rides it
- 10 Bear scores, for short
- 11 Deer-attracting deposit
- 12 Medium dry sherry of Spain
- 13 Eye parts
- 18 ___ de France
- 22 Dominant partner in a B&D scene
- 25 Peter who wrote A Year in Provence
- 26 Decorate
- 27 Judge Ito
- 29 Composer Harrison
- 31 Hawk hook
- 32 Egyptian boy-king
- 33 Kind of committee

- 34 Skulked around
- 36 Sea rover's crime
- 37 Ending for lobby or hobby
- 38 Shout hallelujah
- 39 Turned on
- 42 Elvis Presley's longtime label
- 44 Straight
- 45 Clueless star Silverstone
- 46 How often Michigan's Between the Lines is published
- 48 Speak
- 49 Slingshot ammo
- 50 Charles in Charge actor Willie
- 51 Reverend White of Soulforce
- 54 It author Elinor ___
- 56 Pig's place
- 58 ___ Lanka
- 59 Faberge creation

S	O	W	H	B	O	C	Z	E	C	H			
I	R	A	A	O	L	A	C	H	I	E	V	E	
M	A	R	T	I	N	A	D	R	I	N	K	I	N
I	N	B	O	R	N	G	A	I	L				
A	G	L	O	W	W	I	M	B	L	E	D	O	N
N	E	E	E	T	H	A	N	L	E	I	A		
			R	A	Y	O	N	S	H	E	L		

E**dibles**

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

Libations

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 Giraux**
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. **Pumphouse II**
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/275-3509
23. Roscoe's on 7th
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/285-0833

24. The Rose
4301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 602/265-3233
25. Studio 43
4343 N. 7th Ave
Phoenix 602/230-2515
26. 307 Lounge
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 602/252-0001
27. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/254-0231

28. **Waterhole**
8830 N. 43rd Ave
Glendale 623/937-3139
29. Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/265-9002

Staples

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

35. Movies on Central
4700 N. Central, #121
Phoenix 602/274-0994

36. **Tuff Stuff**
1714 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix 602/254-9651

Tubs

40. **Chute**
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/234-1654

41. **Flex**
1517 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix 602/271-9011

Culture

60. America West Arena
201 E. Jefferson
Phoenix 602/379-7800
61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum
1101 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/255-2110
62. AZ Historical Society
Museum
1300 N. College
Tempe 480/929-0292
63. AZ Mining & Mineral
Museum
1502 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/253-3791
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

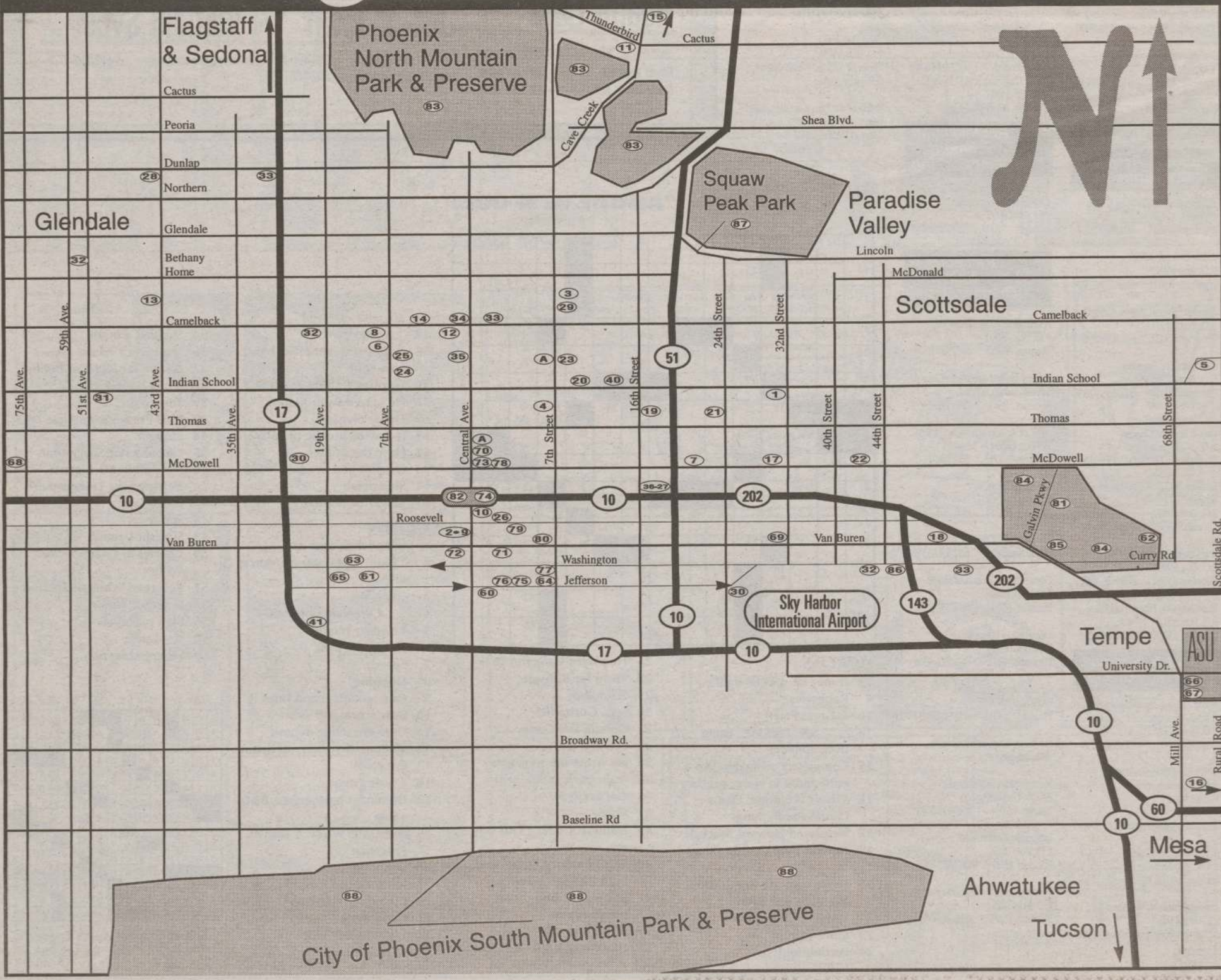
85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 602/273-1431

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



Q Q Q Q Q Q S C O P E S

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES: Venus is moving at a fast clip through your house of love, so no wonder you're feeling a little more doe-eyed and romantic than usual. Some very touchy-feely conversations with good friends could lead to something more, especially if your pal is a Capricorn.

TAURUS: Saturn retrograde in your sign may make you feel confused about the day-to-day aspects of your life. Try to slow down, dear, and make your schedule accommodate your basic nature. Do a reality check on your own life, and check out a Virgo while you're at it.

GEMINI: Change is on the horizon in your most passionate relationship when the Sun conjuncts Pluto in your house of love in early December. Just lie back and enjoy being wanted. The real you is about to make an appearance. A Pisces will love both sides of your so-called "split personality."

CANCER: Don't worry about what other people say, and don't be fooled by the masks they wear. Do all you need to do to make your future what you want it to be. Jupiter retrograde in your career house means opportunities could come disguised as major annoyances. But you can be yourself with a Scorpio.

LEO: A creative project could trigger a breakthrough in your love life—and vice versa. Venus is finishing up a stint in the most social sector of your chart, so give in to excitement and spontaneity. Kismet is in the air, and all the parts of your life seem related now. A Sag holds the key to your psyche.

VIRGO: Home and work issues may seem at odds, but actually, one area of your life could help you deal with the other. Clean house and get rid of the junk you've carried around for years. Once you restore order to your life, all your relationships will benefit, especially one with a Pisces.

LIBRA: Now that Mercury is back on track and the Sun is transiting your house of ideas, write down some of your little gems. Observe who makes

you feel good and who drags you down, and vow to work on the relationships that are nourishing you spiritually. A Taurus wants to know you better.

SCORPIO: The Sun joins Pluto in your money sector in early December, and that spells one thing: Transformation. Money comes easily to you now, and so does good sex. Connect the dots between these two loaded issues and don't waste what you receive in abundance. A Cancer helps you make it through the chaos.

SAGITTARIUS: You are about to enter a completely new cycle in your life: Can you feel it coming? Pluto is inspiring you to be the best you can be. You will surely have to ruffle some feathers, but keep your eye on your big vision of the future. A Gemini believes in you completely.

CAPRICORN: Follow your unconscious wherever it goes. Well-laid plans may have to be changed, so be flexible. Keep a journal of the wild thoughts that are running through your head. You're unlocking mysteries, and you don't want to forget the answers later! A Libra can explain.

AQUARIUS: If you're into hip-hop, listen to some British pop from the early '80s. If you love foreign films, douse yourself in Hollywood trash. Do whatever comes *unnaturally*, and you will benefit greatly in the months to come. Be as nonjudgmental as you want others to be, and open your mind to a Virgo. I said "mind," darling, "mind"!

PISCES: You can't control other people's behavior, but you can certainly have a powerful effect on them. Think about the subtle manipulation you've been doing for years, and try to stop cold turkey! You have to give to get now, sweetie, but you will receive in abundance. A Leo has a special gift for you.

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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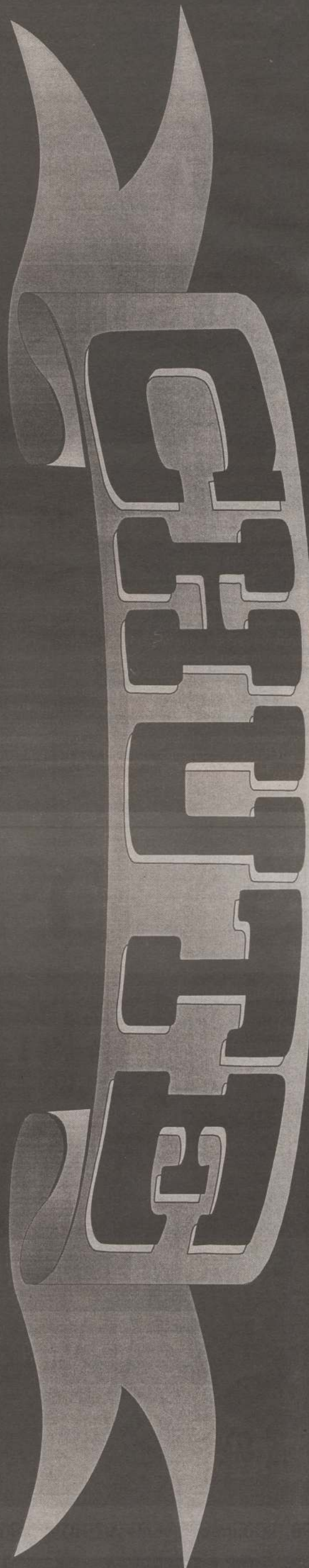
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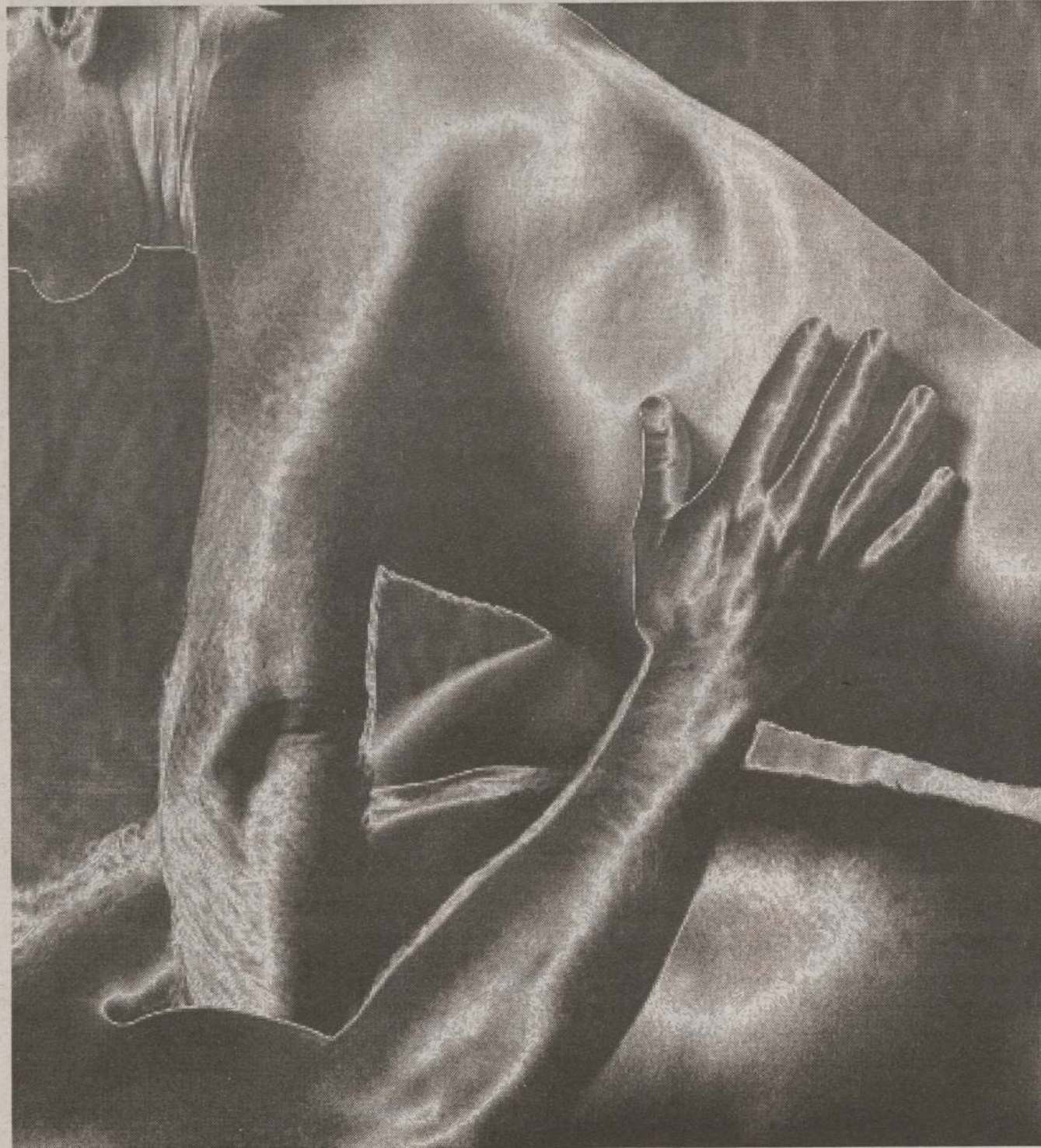
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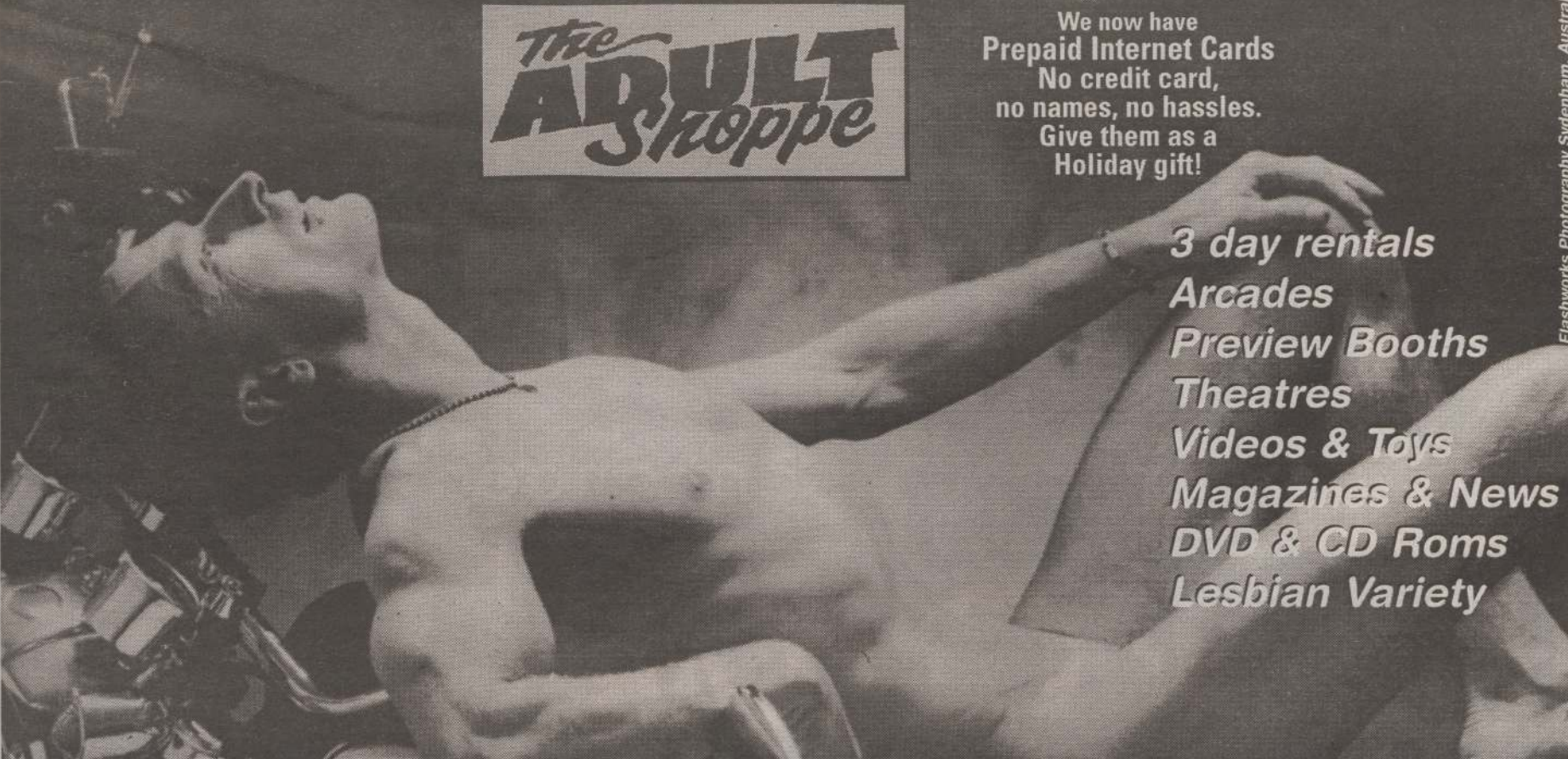
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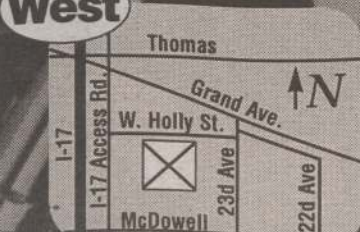
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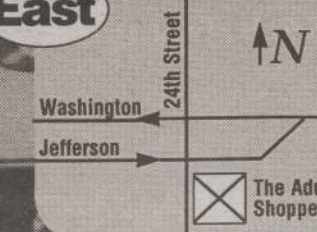
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West



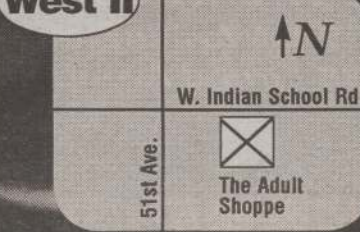
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 Just North of McDowell off the I-17 Access Road
602/253-7126

East



111 S. 24th St.
 Just South of Jefferson on 24th St.
602/306-1130

West II



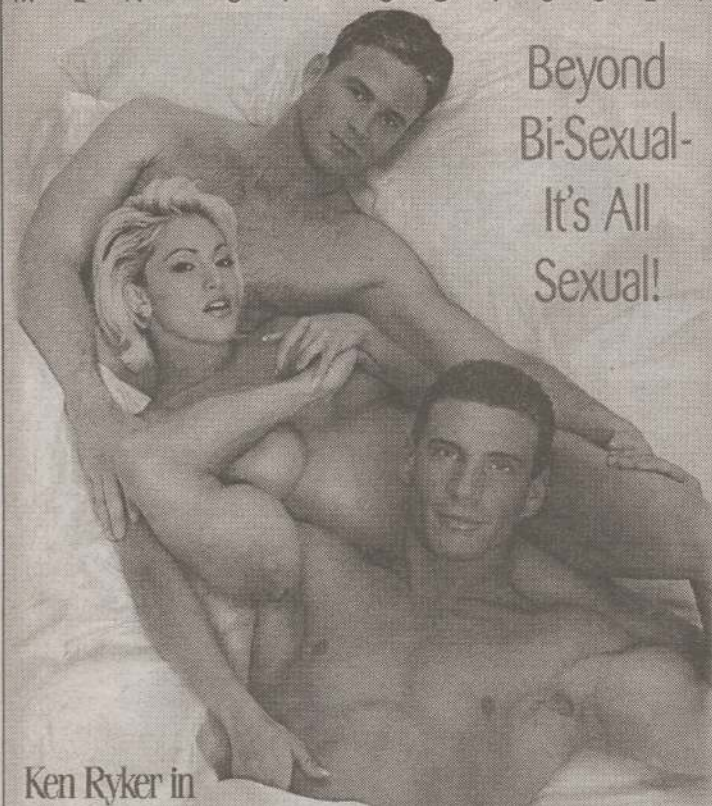
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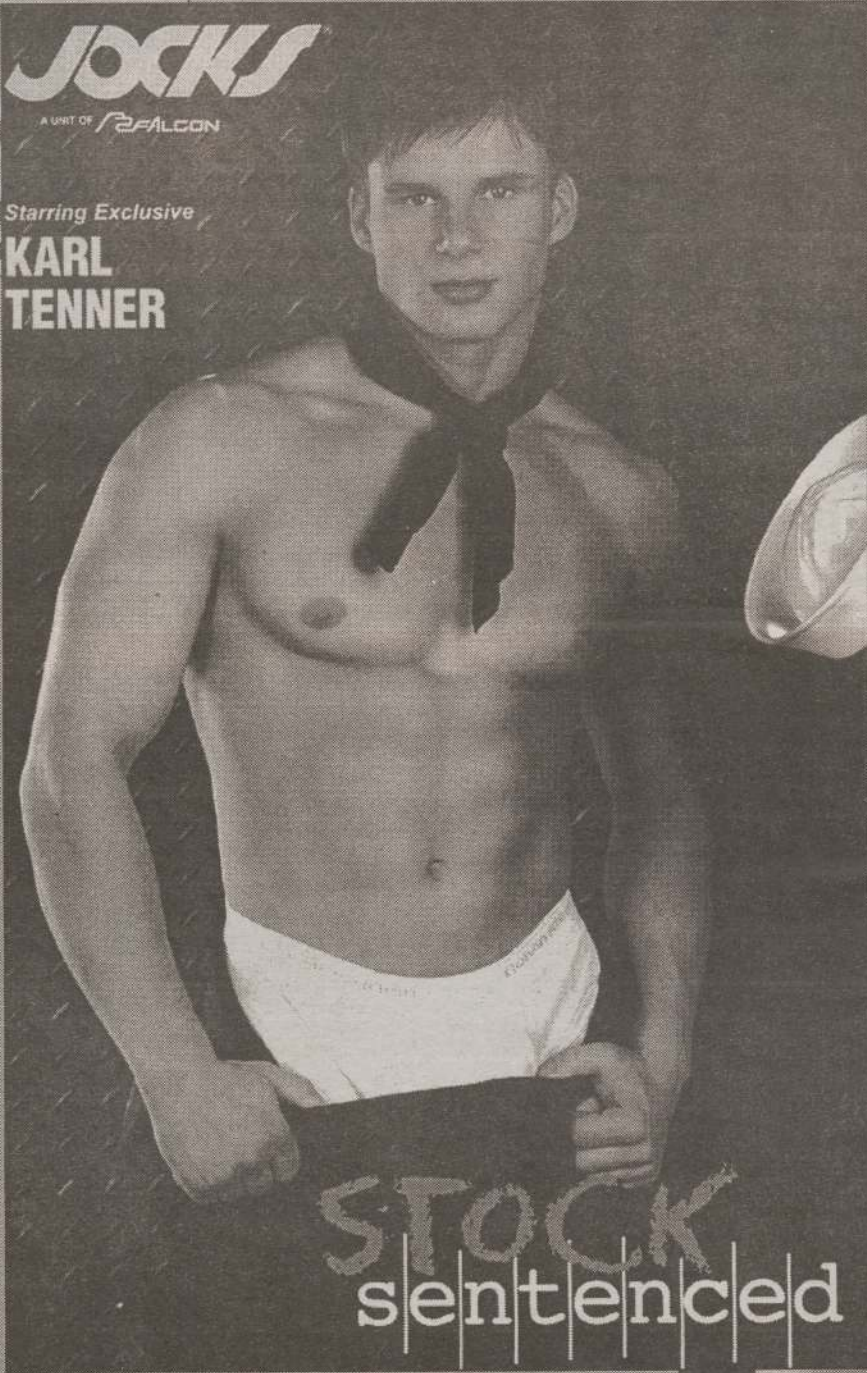
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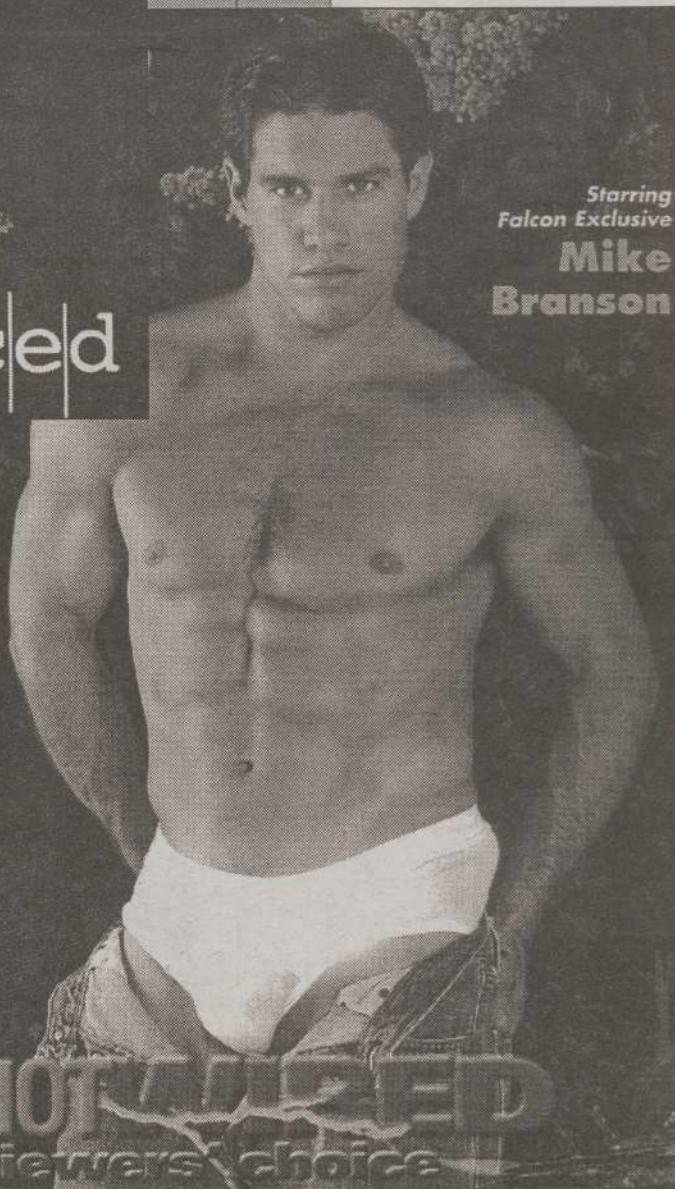
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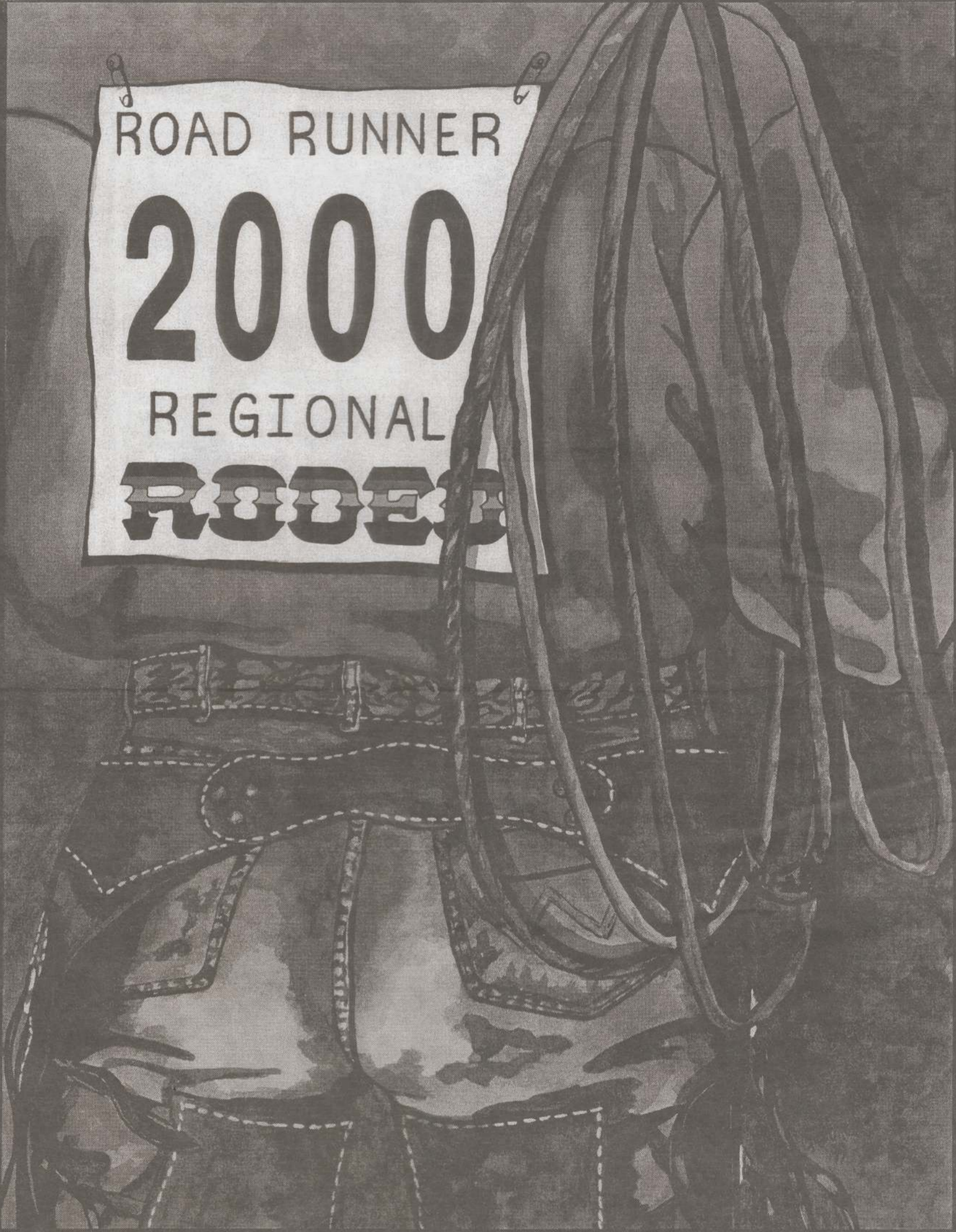
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