

# Chelsea Men:

Drawing on gay New York to create nationwide laughs

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"I'm not a Chelsea Boy today," says New York native Allan Neuwirth, on the phone from his decidedly *upper* East Side Manhattan address. "But I'm down there so often I guess I'm an honorary Chelsea Boy."

Honorary, indeed.

As one of the creators of the comic strip *Chelsea Boys*, Neuwirth, along with his business partner, Glen Hanson, has taken up pen & pad to bring the duo's unique combination of sharp visual style and New York wit to the country's gay masses via the funny pages.

Their new venture both celebrates and lampoons what is arguably the world's best-known gay ghetto, New

by *HeatStroke*, beginning in the newspaper's March 11-24 edition (Issue #61).

Neuwirth explains that neither he nor Hanson currently live in the trendy district—on purpose. "I think the scene is just too much sometimes. But so many of our friends are there and so much of gay life is there, we can't stay away from it."

The writer and illustrator reminds gay Phoenicians—many of whom often complain that the community here is too damned spread out—that there are definite drawbacks to living in an all-gay



GLEN  
HANSON

ALLAN  
NEUWIRTH

the same abs. Everybody is trying to look like a Chelsea Boy in Chelsea."

The funny thing, Neuwirth says, is that despite everyone there saying how much he wants to be different and express his individuality, everyone is instead striving to be the same as everyone else.

And ghettoization has another downside. "I guess the main drawback to being in an isolated, closed community would be that you lose touch with how everybody else is thinking and feeling and acting."

Neuwirth knows people who live their lives entirely in Chelsea and don't get out of the neighborhood much at all. "And I don't think that's healthy. I think we (gay men and lesbians) need to interact with everybody."

Given the current political climate of the country, Neuwirth believes our interaction with everybody is particularly important as the next century dawns.

As a community, he says, we're further along than we've ever been

"and yet we've taken steps backwards in many ways in the last few years. I think our enemies are massing, and it's a very frustrating time because gay-bashing and anti-gay prejudice seem to be the last acceptable prejudices that society condones."

He suggests that when you listen to what politicians such as Trent Lott have said recently, and when you look at some of the negative comments in the mainstream press, if the word "gay" or "homosexual" were replaced with "Black", "Jew", or a term describing any other minority, "there would be such an outcry—there would be such a huge reaction against it."

And yet there isn't, because anti-gay rhetoric is still accepted. "And that bothers the shit out of me. It's very frustrating. But we need more and more people to be out and loud and saying the things that need to be said and doing the things that need to be done."

See "Cartoonists" page 16



York's famed Chelsea District in Greenwich Village.

*Chelsea Boys* landed in Phoenix this spring after the strip was picked up

enclave.

"To me the chief drawbacks are the sameness of everybody. Everyone's got the same body—the same pecs,

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## Guest Commentary: The Barebones Truth About Bareback Sex

By Tony Valenzuela, HeatStroke  
Contributor

U ltimately, I understand the AIDS epidemic as the most perplexing, yet edifying event of my life.

I am part of the "second generation" of HIV, the one that came of age with AIDS, the one that "knows better," the one whose losses cannot be counted on tombstones, but whose history has still been haunted by the virus.

I am also HIV positive, asymptomatic and forging a life with uncharted expectations. For me, to live truthfully through this era has meant to examine my personal contradictions, make concessions to life's injustices, and reluctantly accept the imperfect nature of human beings.

For younger gay men to speak and write honestly about sex and HIV is daunting because what we say might alarm or offend older community members who have painful histories of loss attached to the epidemic. But we have no other choice. We also have suffered, but differently, accommodating the fright of HIV into our lives. Without discussing how AIDS has authentically impacted our generation, we cannot hope to make sense of our unique place in its history.

The current debates about bareback sex among gay men are a part of that story. Yet, these debates as currently played out in media and community center auditoriums are convoluted and simplistic.

Much of the trouble stems from grouping what need to be a dozen separate discussions into one, narrowly defined argument which insists that all the reasons and ramifications of unprotected sex are the same for all gay men. They are not. They vary, sometimes dramatically, depending on whether someone is HIV positive, negative or unsure of their status, 25 years old or 45, a top or a bottom, among other distinctions.

While I advocate for a harm-reduction approach to health promotion, I do not want to review here the multiple ways in which some gay men are engaging more safely in sex without condoms. Instead, I am interested in offering a perspective that challenges the presumption of a singular epidemic experience that relates to and prioritizes HIV in the same way.

As our true experiences emerge to tell what we have really felt—or done, or hoped for—during the epidemic, our stories will be a rich mosaic of unexpected, sometimes puzzling and contradictory narratives of survival. HIV prevention at all costs will not be the only noble history of this time, even though today, we assert it as the only acceptable way of living. This essay is a call to all whose experiences around HIV fall outside the mythological model citizen created by AIDS organizations.

Four years ago, I tested HIV positive. I was 26 years old. Strangely, it felt like a relief. The moment I learned my new status, I felt freed of the HIV negative angst that consumed my adolescence and young adulthood with fear and dread of infection.

Some older queers gasp at hearing these feelings, though they're not uncommon among my peers. For some of us, there is a peculiar, bittersweet liberation at becoming HIV positive, a double-edged sword that slices away the anxiety and hard work of staying negative but simultaneously forces one to face their mortality. In seroconverting, I began dissecting and scrutinizing the mantras of HIV prevention that gripped my youth activism as strongly as an orthodox religion. For the first time ever, I experienced a sex life free from the distress of becoming infected and I stopped using condoms with other consensual partners.

However, I was now HIV positive, adding an insidious stigmatization to my identity, the possibility of dying young,

the reality of devastating my family, and the labor of taking medications for the rest of my life. The process is anguish and the hopelessness of carrying a potentially deadly virus through my bloodstream ebbs and flows, even with the promising light of science. These last four years have been the hardest of my life.

Most urban gay men younger than 32 years have a unique relationship to HIV, coming into our sex lives after the epidemic had already taken hold of the community. When gay and straight media alike characterize young gay men as "cavalier" and "reckless" to the dangers of HIV, they do so not because we are these things, but because our feelings and behaviors towards the virus are incongruent with theirs. Rarely is the context explored in which younger gay men initially formed their relationship to the epidemic, or how harm reduction strategies, or the past decade of significant medical advances allows for evolved and informed negotiations of risk taking for all gay men, not just the young.

In sharp and emotional attacks, older lesbians and gays berate young gay men for not understanding the epidemic as the catastrophe it was for them. Yet how is this possible? If AIDS was the Holocaust to older urban folks, for most of my urban peers, HIV has been the Cold War: annihilation versus the looming possibility of destruction; physical suffering versus illness kept at bay by an arsenal of medications; survivors versus the largely abstract, psychologically embattled labels of "negative" and "positive." If AIDS meant losing one's life, one's physical abilities, or many of one's friends and lovers, HIV for most of us has meant only imagining it. If AIDS allowed for the mass grieving of lost loved ones at funerals, vigils and Quilt displays, HIV for most of us has meant an unrecognized and profoundly solitary mourning for what might be.

These distinctions have molded a new generation of gay men to understand our relationship to community, sex, pleasure, disease, death and life fundamentally different than those who, as adults, lived through the transition of the pre- and post-AIDS era.

I entered gay activism in college in 1990, in the midst of a tidal wave of gay male deaths. I was distanced from witnessing the suffering first-hand because my friends were not the people who were sick. I skimmed the endless obituaries, watched AIDS movies and documentaries, and witnessed frail gay men walking slowly down gay ghetto streets. My peers were the "queer" generation of direct action activists, on campus, in the streets, debating politics, wearing Freedom Rings, yet not really knowing those being devoured by disease.

The closest I ever got to an AIDS death was imagining my own, which was nearly impossible not to do in what felt like the course of life for gay men—a caveat to coming out in that particular historical period. What is being interpreted as "cavalier" by older lesbians and gays may be a demonstration of our relationship to HIV as a hard fact of gay life.

If I do not state explicitly that being positive is painful, then to speak or write about sex that does not obey condom absolutism is misinterpreted as advocating or "glamorizing" HIV infection, especially to "impressionable youth." An entire list of misunderstandings arises from simply discussing unprotected intercourse without a condom. For example, in doing so, I do not dispute the science that warns the current medical treatments for HIV might fail.

While I hold mixed feelings on issues such as reinfection and drug-resistant viruses, I do not dismiss them blindly.

From media reports to private conversations, barebacking is fallaciously reduced to the premeditated act of HIV transmission without concern for oneself or others.

In fact, the opposite is true: advocating this dialogue is precisely about community responsibility. We cannot successfully address HIV prevention without coming to terms with unprotected intercourse, a cherished act prevalent not only among gay men, but between women and men, regardless of sexual orientation, across the globe.

Moral judgements against sex without condoms are irrelevant unless one recog-

## What is being interpreted as "cavalier" by older lesbians and gays may be a demonstration of our relationship to HIV as a hard fact of gay life.

nizes not all unprotected sex is dangerous and not all people who have risky sex are immoral.

Ethics regarding sexual behavior and HIV transmission are exceedingly complex and paradoxical. In high-risk sexual situations, I believe someone HIV positive should disclose their status, as I believe a negative person should also ask. Realistically, this is challenging for me to do in all such sexual situations so I have found it important to develop a specific code of ethics in which I minimize the potential of transmitting HIV to another person.

I have had candid and difficult conversations with friends or peers who confess to putting themselves at serious risk for HIV, as I then attempt to explain my losses and pain of being infected, in hopes that they will make better informed decisions in the future. In contrast, I have also encountered times in which I had no emotional reaction upon hearing of another friend's seroconversion.

Oral purity does not exist in any human behavior regardless of the risks involved. The process of working towards sexual responsibility demands we speak truthfully about the areas in which we fall short without being chastised. My sexual decision-making is not free from error, yet it is also full of concern for others. My willingness throughout my work as an activist and writer to be extremely candid about my HIV status and sexual behavior is a deliberate attempt to model an open process within the intractable nature of living through this epidemic.

Will public tolerance of a harm-reduction approach to unprotected sex cause gay men to become lax in their practices and result in more infections? If our community stands firm on the unacceptability of sex without condoms, will we save lives? Or will frank, honest and difficult discussions help us understand our behaviors better and lead us to healthier and more responsible decision making?

The goal of HIV prevention must not create an inflexible, repressive atmosphere that inhibits sharing our true selves. More authentic stories and experiences from young and old, positive and negative, men and women, sensitively expressed and received, will invariably bring us closer, and help us to resolve these exhausting battles from within. In addition to lives being at stake, so is the integrity of our history.

Tony Valenzuela is a Los Angeles-based AIDS activist. He has worked extensively in the sex industry as an escort, and as the first openly HIV positive porn actor in the United States.



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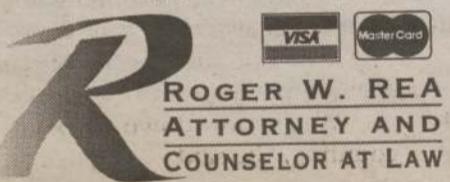
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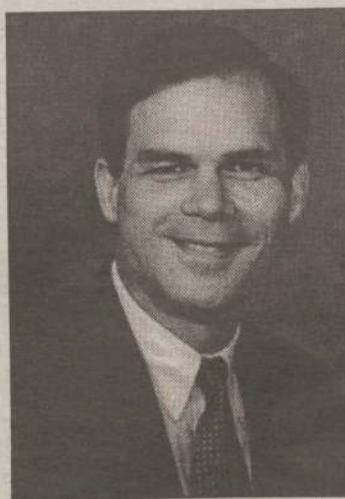
## Flanagan makes history: first openly gay man to run for Senate

BURLINGTON, VT—Vermont State Auditor Ed Flanagan, the first and only openly gay statewide elected official in the U.S., declared his candidacy March 9 to face incumbent U.S. Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT) in the 2000 election.

Flanagan, a Democrat who was elected to his fourth term as Vermont's Auditor of Accounts in 1998, is the only declared challenger to Jeffords, a two-term Republican U.S. Senator who barely survived his last election in 1994—winning with only 50% of the vote in what was a watershed year for the GOP nationally.

With Jeffords receiving only 42% of the vote in a recent statewide poll and given Vermont's leanings toward the Democratic party in this decade, national analysts consider the Vermont Senate race to be a toss-up.

Flanagan made his announcement



Ed Flanagan has announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate.

following the filing of papers with the federal Election Commission declaring his intention to run for U.S. Senate against Jeffords.

"As Auditor, I've stepped forward to protect Vermonters by fighting for higher quality managed health care and child care services, and by shining light on waste and abuse in government programs. As a United States Senator, I will make sure we have real reform in our health care system and we do all that is possible to improve our kids' education," said Flanagan.

Flanagan is the first openly gay candidate to run for the U.S. Senate. In 1998, Wisconsin voters made history by electing the first non-incumbent

openly gay or lesbian candidate to the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin.

Flanagan has built a reputation as a strong advocate for gay rights by speaking out about human rights at forums sponsored by gay and lesbian groups across the country.

## Barney Frank joins Florida gay rights activists at rally

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—As more than 300 activists sang songs, shouted slogans and hoisted banners March 21 proclaiming gay rights, Bill Miller stood alone, a few yards behind the animated crowd.

Miller held a large flag bearing a picture of an AIDS ribbon and wore a T-shirt reading: "All I want is a cure and my friends back."

Miller, a Jacksonville resident, said he made it to the rally in front of Florida's Old Capitol to honor more than 250 friends who have died from the AIDS virus.

"I'm here to represent people who are no longer there," he said.

The Florida rally is one of several planned across the country over the next few days. More than 350 events are scheduled by the end of the week promoting the theme "Equality Begins at Home."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force chose that message to encourage homosexuals to stand up and fight in their own communities, even in the wake of the brutal murders of gays Billy Jack Gaither in Alabama and Matthew Shepard in Wyoming.

"I think it shows how we are not going to leave for big cities, but will stay in the place our families are and do the work," said Nadine Smith, executive director for Equality Florida.

Florida, Ms. Smith said, has not always been kind to homosexuals and lesbians.

In addition to state activists, two prominent homosexual rights supporters gave upbeat talks at the rally.

Urvashi Vaid, the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, gave Gov. Jeb Bush and the Florida Legislature notice that her group will start the fight for equal rights at the state level.

"No longer will we privatize what is appropriately public," Ms. Vaid said. "We are here to claim the political sphere as our home."

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., delivered the keynote speech, sometimes dissecting the logic of politicians

opposed to banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The crowd erupted with laughter as Frank pondered the Defense of Marriage Act, which Congress passed and President Clinton signed. The act denies federal recognition of gay marriages and allows states to ignore same-sex unions licensed elsewhere.

Frank said marriages would only be defended under the new law if happily married heterosexual men would have preferred to marry other men had that option been available.

"We are winning the cultural and intellectual war in this country," said Frank, the highest ranking elected official in the country who is openly gay.

Several speakers criticized the Rev. Jerry Falwell, who recently has argued that Tinky Winky, the purple, purse-carrying Teletubby, must be homosexual.

One man even held up a stuffed version of the character from the children's television show every time a reference was made.

The gathering, which included gays, lesbians and bisexuals from across Florida, also welcomed a few transsexuals. Still, the small number of transsexuals on hand Sunday— even at the gay rally—proved how real discrimination against them is, according to one of the day's speakers.

Emily Poleshuck, a 19-year-old Florida State student, cuddled up with four friends in a rainbow flag. Each color in the gay pride flag represents a different kind of person, but the rainbow itself represents unity, explained Poleshuck, who said she is a lesbian.

Frank told the gay and lesbian activists to keep up their struggle for equal rights and never believe that their ideas will fail because they don't have the money to back them up.

"There's no politician I've ever met that will choose money over votes if both are out there," Frank said. "... Visibility is the basis of political action. Phantoms don't scare anybody."

# Valley gay vets will march in '99 parade

By Bobbi Dugan, HeatStroke  
Contributor

The Phoenix chapter of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (PGLBVA) will be marching in Phoenix's 1999 Veterans Day parade after all.

PGLBVA president Wally Straughn said his group and the parade planning committee have "cleared up the misunderstanding" that brought national attention and charges of anti-gay discrimination against the parade's organizers.

Early in March Straughn received e-mail messages from Bill Messer, chairman of the 1999 parade planning committee, suggesting that the PGLBVA would not be welcomed in this year's parade because of complaints about a "cross-dressing member."

Another committee member, Paula Pedene, was quoted in an *Arizona Republic* story as saying, "They came to the parade as cross-dressers in drag attire. None of them came in patriotic clothing."

Straughn said the misunderstanding happened because the committee members were unfamiliar with transsexuals, and they thought PGLBVA member Neala Lynn Balmes was a man in drag.

"They just needed some education," Straughn said. After the story broke in local and national media, the planning committee was willing to listen to Straughn. He explained that Balmes is legally a woman, and it was correct for her to march in female attire.

Straughn attended a March 16 meeting of the parade planning com-

mittee, where he said everything "was just great." In a letter to his members, Straughn wrote, "I attended—along with Miguel Guzman of the Tucson Chapter of the GLBVA. We were treated with the same respect and courtesy that everyone else was."

Straughn said he had an opportunity to talk to Messer and Pedene, who "expressed their regret over the misunderstanding." They said they had been misquoted by the *Republic*.

Straughn was appointed to serve

on the standards committee, which will set the rules for dress in the 1999 parade. What the parade committee expected from participants was some uniformity of dress, and some indication of the marcher's branch of service, Straughn said.

PGLBVA will conform to whatever the committee decides, Straughn said. If he has too, he will "bring in a drill sergeant type" to teach members "a more military bearing."

"We'll strut right down the street. I want us to be the best damned entry

in the parade," Straughn said.

It has not yet been decided what the 1999 parade's official dress code will be. But if Balmes has to wear a uniform in this year's parade, "We will get her a female uniform. We would not even suggest she march in a male uniform. We wouldn't ask her to," Straughn said.

"Lynn's been hanging in there like a trooper over all this," he added.



## Louisiana's sodomy law declared unconstitutional

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Gay rights activists and others opposed to Louisiana's so-called "crime against nature" law have won their second victory in two months in their fight to decriminalize certain kinds of sexual behavior.

Louisiana District Judge Carolyn Gill-Jefferson ruled March 17 that the state's crime against nature law, which dates back to the early 19th century, unconstitutionally criminalizes private sexual behavior by consenting adults.

Just last month, the state's 4th Circuit Court of Appeal overturned the conviction of a man prosecuted under the law for engaging in oral sex with a woman. In that case, the man had been accused of rape but was not convicted on that charge. He was convicted of the crime against nature charge based on evidence of that he had had oral sex with the alleged victim.

Gill-Jefferson's ruling came in a civil case in which several homosexual men and women and the Louisiana Electorate of Gays and Lesbians Inc., sued to have the law declared unconstitutional.

The 4th Circuit case is now pending before the state Supreme Court.

"The state has presented no evidence, much less the required compelling state interest, to justify its intrusion on plaintiffs' constitutionally protected right of privacy," Gill-Jefferson wrote.

The law makes consensual oral and anal sex a "crime against nature, a felony punishable by five years in prison. The ruling struck down the parts of the law dealing with "non-commercial, consensual, private sexual behavior by adult human beings."

Other parts of the law, such as those dealing with animals, were not affected by the ruling.

Gill-Jefferson rejected arguments

challenging the gay group that sued. The state said the group had no standing to challenge the law because they had not been arrested.

"The plaintiffs, as lesbians and gay men who engage in conduct prohibited under (the law), are under the clear wording of the statute unindicted felons," Gill-Jefferson said.

"As such, their concerns and fears as to the loss of their jobs and careers if arrested and convicted ... are not merely subjective fears but actual consequences that will ensue."

Jeanne LeBlanc, a New Orleans social worker and a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said the law's existence constituted a constant threat. "Even if you haven't been personally touched by it, the fear is there," she said.

Rawls said the number of states is dwindling where such sex is illegal.

"We are now down to 15 and counting," he said.

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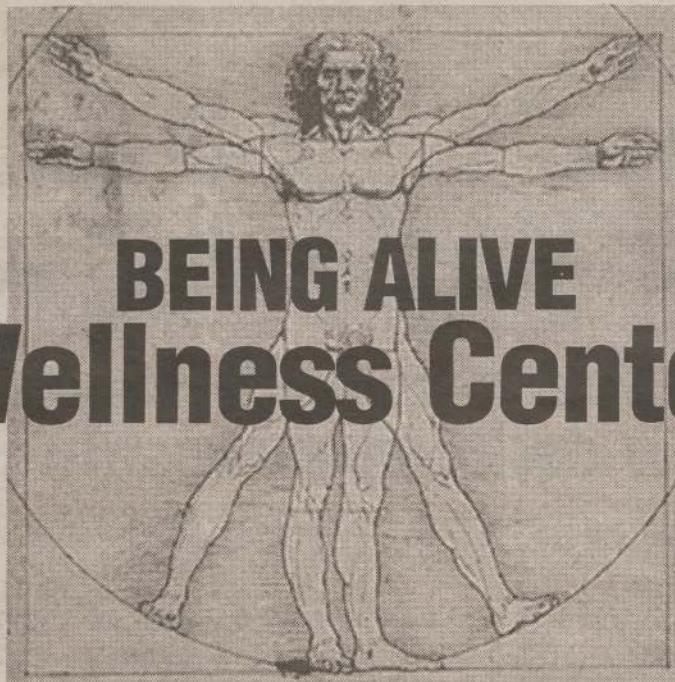
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## AGRA contestants on top in Phoenix, 2nd in Vegas

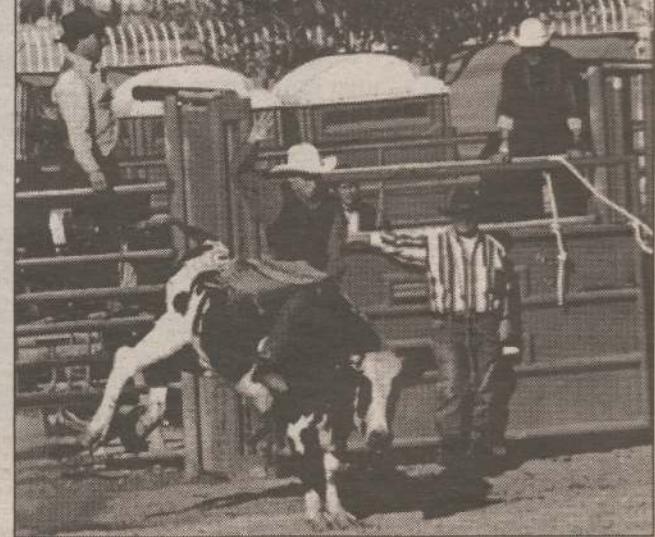
The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association Team took top honors in the Road Runner Regional Rodeo held in Phoenix in January and an overall second place at the Bighorn Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada the first weekend in March.

AGRA cowboys and cowgirls won 11 of the 22 champion buckles awarded at the RRRR and accumulated a total of 3367 points. California (GSGRA) came in second, with four buckles and 3135 points.

At Horseman's Park In Las Vegas March 6-7, the AGRA, GSGRA and CGRA (Colorado) squads each took home five championship buckles. In total points awarded the AGRA team took second place with 2000, behind the ASGRA (Atlantic States), with 3891.

At the RRRR, AGRA cowgirls took home all four rough stock buckles, including bronc riding, steer riding, bull riding and chute dogging.

At the Bighorn rodeo, AGRA swept the "triple crown" winning all three of the very competitive camp events, including the wild drag race, goat dressing and steer decorating. Next stop on the international circuit for



most Western cowboys and cowgirls is the Los Angeles gay rodeo in April. AGRA will host the next RRRR—number 14—in January, 2000 right here in Phoenix.

## Memorial Quilt on view at Capitol

Twenty new panels representing Arizonans who have died from AIDS complications were dedicated to be added to the AIDS Memorial Quilt at a ceremony in Phoenix March 21.

Ninety-six panels of the national memorial were on view in the Valley as part of a simultaneous, nationwide display of quilt panels in all 50 states. The Arizona showing was held in the State Capitol building's west entrance hall.

Several hundred people participated by viewing the memorial, which was displayed from noon until 5 pm. The 11-yr-old memorial is headquartered in San Francisco

and managed by the NAMES Project Foundation.

The Quilt contains more than 42,000 panels and organizers of the



March 21 event expected more than 2,000 new panels to be dedicated on that day.

## Minister: churches must open doors to gays

PHOENIX (AP)—Churches face upheaval if they continue to deny full participation to homosexuals, according to a Methodist minister who lost his Nebraska church after performing a lesbian wedding.

congregation," or one that is open to anyone regardless of sexual orientation. More than 400 people packed two services and 140 attended a 90-minute discussion.

Several lesbian couples sat arm in arm in the front row as Creech praised Asbury as "a vision of what the church is to be and is becoming—an open and inclusive congregation where there are no barriers and no one is excluded."

If the greater church resists, "some new form of church is going to be born," he said.

Creech, 29, performed a same-sex ceremony in September 1997 at First United Methodist Church in Omaha, Neb., and promptly was suspended by his bishop. He was put on trial for disobeying the order and discipline of

**"One of the things that happens is how we selectively choose scripture to validate our prejudices, validate that which we want to enforce."**

"It is times like these that change is possible, and this is when God does God's work best, by using chaos to bring new things into being," the Rev. Jimmy Creech said March 21.

Creech spoke at Asbury United Methodist Church, which marked its third anniversary as a "reconciling

*Continued on next page*

# APAZ initiates new job program for HIV+

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

John was diagnosed HIV positive in 1992 and quit working a year later.

"I was physically growing weaker and weaker, I kept getting migraine headaches," he recalled. John's occupation was in insurance billing until the virus in his system forced him out of the workplace and onto disability.

Six years later, John is considering going back to work. And he's using a new program offered by AIDS Project Arizona to help weigh his options and determine whether joining the ranks of the re-employed is in his near future.

Called simply "Job Club", the program is sponsored by Strelkoff and Associates. It began March 22 with an introductory class held at the APAZ offices in central Phoenix.

Adding the program now is the direct result of a needs assessment



APAZ's Bev Brinkman is coordinating the agency's newest offering: the Job Club.

"Most of the questions that people have are about how you can work with your disability and maintain your insurance," Brinkman explained.

With 20 years of experience in the field of vocational rehabilitation, she feels confident that she can provide

some answers, or at the least direct APAZ's clients to the proper government agencies that can help them. "I know a lot of people in the field and at the state and county offices," she said.

The response to the program has been "really

good," according to Brinkman. People interested in signing up should call APAZ at (602)265-2437 and ask to speak with Mark Garvey.

If the first series of classes goes as well as expected, Brinkman, Garvey and APAZ director Peter Houle hope to make the program a permanent part of the agency's services. They are trying to acquire funding to support a full-time staffer.

In the meantime, Brinkman will continue to run the classes and clients like John will get their questions answered.

"We encourage people to come down and just find out what their options are,"

the coordinator explained. "We aren't going to tell anyone they should work, or force them to find a job. It isn't about that."

As for John, he is hoping that if he gets well enough he'll be able to work from home—possibly part time—without affecting his health care coverage. He's currently on a series of drugs referred to as "Quad Therapy" and is getting weekly steroid injections to treat HIV wasting Syndrome.

"I'm going to be 41 and it's hard to think that this is the only way to live with AIDS," John said of his forced early retirement.

"Before, we were dying from AIDS. Now we are learning to live with AIDS. And this idea of going back to work and contributing something again—it's all part of that."

***"I miss work, but I have a lot of questions. Like whether you get your medicare back if you give it up and then get sick again right away."***

survey that was done at APAZ last November and December, said Bev Brinkman, a nutritionist and employment counselor recently hired by the organization. Brinkman is the program's part-time coordinator.

Brinkman explained that because so many clients' lives are being extended through new drug treatments, going back to work is a viable option for an increasing number of people who dropped out of their careers after being disabled by HIV.

John was among the clients who asked for the program late last year. He said, "I miss work, but I have a lot of questions. Like whether you get your medicare back if you give it up to take a job, and then get sick again right away. Or is there another long waiting period."

**Continued from previous page**

the 8.5 million-member denomination.

Eight of the 11 members of a judicial council voted last March to convict him, but nine votes were required to defrock him. Though acquitted, Creech was not given another church assignment and was put on leave.

While the Scripture contains six references to homosexuality, "there isn't a word for homosexuality in Hebrew, Arabic or Greek," Creech said.

"One of the things that happens

is how we selectively choose Scripture to validate our prejudices, validate that which we want to enforce," he said.

Joy and Donna Haupt-Black joined Asbury four years ago after having their union blessed in the Metropolitan Community Church, the largest faith group ministering mostly to homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals.

"I am excited about seeing the church change, and that is basically why I am here," Joy Haupt-Black said. "I really appreciate the love of fellow Christians in this building."



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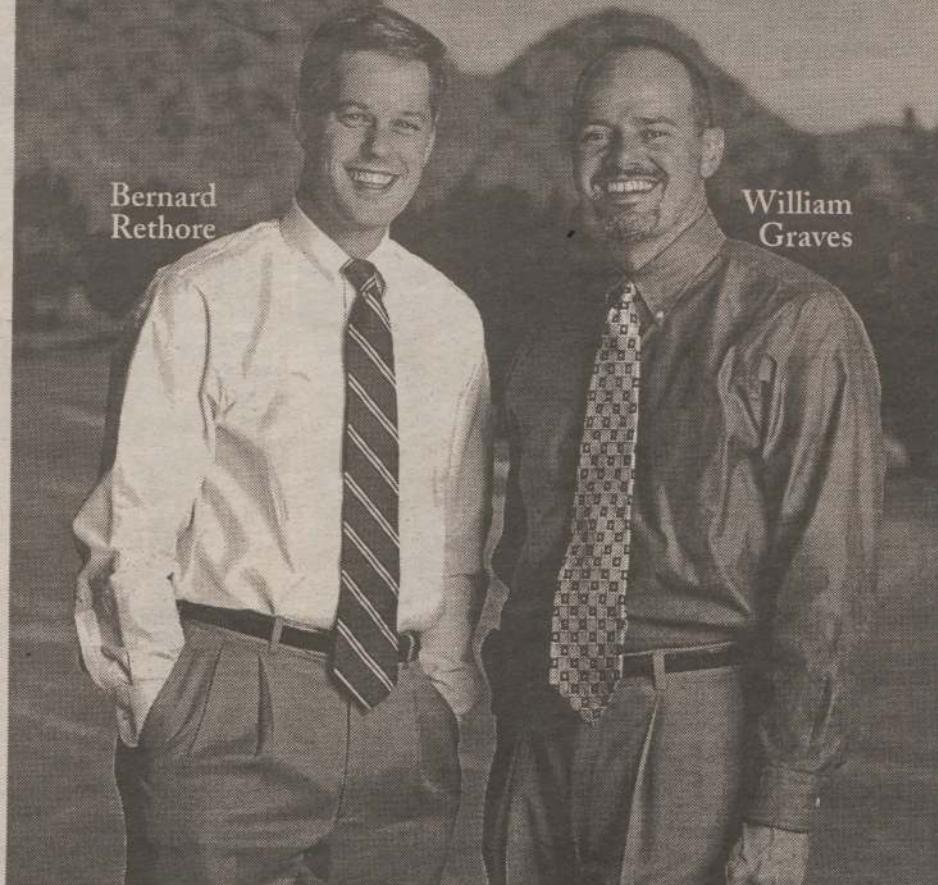
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# Friday nights out—for women both in & out

## New social group is instant hit at Center

By Bobbi Dugan, HeatStroke Contributor

In the Phoenix area today, Lesbians' Night Out (LNO) is more than a curious catch phrase.

It's a new and instantly popular Valley social group for women that meets Friday evenings at The Community Center.

Sue Curtis is the group's founder and facilitator. "When I first started volunteering at the Center, I realized there was not a lot for women to do," Curtis said.

The group's first meeting was held in mid-December. Curtis, her partner, and just one other woman were present. Curtis hoped eventually to have 10-15 people coming to the meetings. Seventeen women attended the second gathering. The third brought in 59.

"We were stunned," Curtis said. "We realized there really was a need for this."

New members found out about the group through word of mouth and flyers. Since February, weekly attendance has averaged 50 people. The organization has served 210 women altogether, Curtis said.

"Everybody says it's fun," is

Curtis' explanation for LNO's rapid growth.

The group is loosely structured with "very simple rules," according to Curtis. "We have a white box full of games. The women come in, go to the toy box,

fun. "We take over the Center on Friday nights," Curtis said.

Members range in age from early 20s to 70s and are "all nationalities, religions and backgrounds."

The safety and comfort of members is the primary concern of the group.

A previous Valley women's organization, The Lesbian Resource Project (LRP), had refused to use the Center's facilities when it moved to

the current Camelback location, partly because of secu-

McCammon and Dee Sunday, are careful to protect the privacy of LNO members. Names, addresses and phone numbers are not required information, and if shared are not given out. No photographs are allowed. Curtis said her group is one of the few places where women can meet other women and be completely safe.

The group also is successful because of its informal atmosphere. It's a place women can socialize and there is "no political agenda or other driving force . . . just being with the community," Curtis said.

Future LNO plans include games tournaments and mixers or "whatever the group wants to do," Curtis said. LNO takes a lot of her time. She hopes soon to have a volunteer committee to oversee the activities.

Curtis has been so busy facilitating the group, "I haven't been able to play games, yet!"

Meetings are 7 to 10 pm each Friday at The Community Center, 24 W. Camelback. Refreshments are served. Donations are requested to pay for refreshments and new games. For information call the Community Center, (602) 234-2752.



and pick what they want to play."

The members form groups based on favorite activities. A popular one is Spoons, a card game Curtis describes as being "like musical chairs. It gets very loud and rowdy." Song Burst, a "musical Trivial Pursuit," also turns the crowd boisterous, Curtis said.

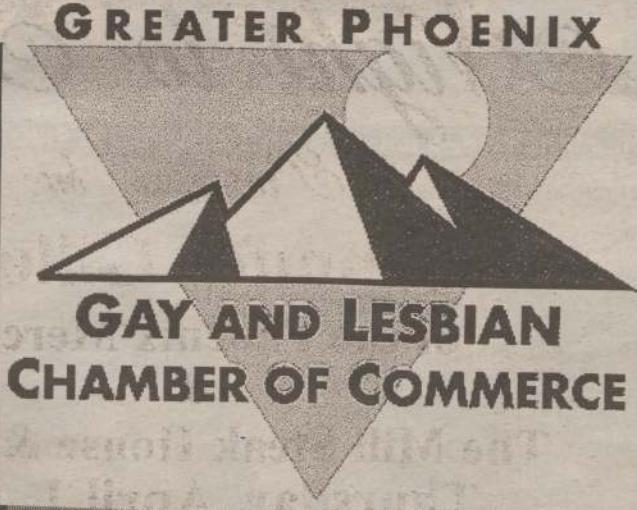
The group is alcohol and smoke free, which does little to dampen the

activity concerns. However, Curtis said LNO had experienced no problems. Close, lighted parking is available and members keep watch on one another.

Another difference between the groups is anonymity. When LRP disbanded last year, board member Norma Turner said many members or potential members were closeted lesbians who were "uncomfortable with the LRP's out-front position."

Curtis and her assistants, Hollis

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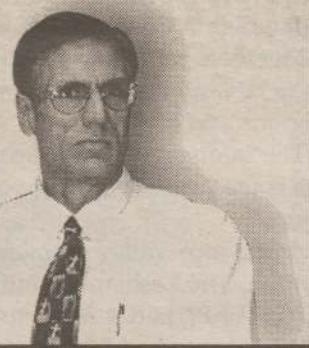
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## Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



### BUYER BEWARE

**A**mericans will spend more than \$7 billion on herbal and alternative supplements during 1999.

Too many consumers assume that any product that makes it to the shelves of a reputable retail store is both safe and efficacious. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We hear about the anecdotal benefits of these products, and sometimes fall for the "innocent-until-proved worthless" logic peddled by herbal manufacturers: If you can't prove the claim false, who is to say it's not true?

"You'd think the press would be the watchdog, the most cynical party," says Dr. Wallace Sampson, editor of the *Scientific Review of Alternative Medicine*. "But they've been gullible in reporting on natural medicine."

In addition, the Food and Drug Administration doesn't regulate herbs and dietary supplements as it does prescription drugs and can't require those manufacturers to prove that their supplements are effective.

It is important to note that some herbs do work well for certain conditions, but the consumer often makes a giant leap, saying that because some

medicinal herbs work, all of them do. Some beneficial herbs don't always live up to their reputations because they are either misused, improperly processed and packaged, or not analyzed and standardized for the known active ingredients.

Let's examine several examples that support the "let the buyer beware" statement.

First, a recent independent analysis of 25 brands of ginseng, an herb known to increase libido, stamina and energy, found that 20 of them contained insignificant amounts of the herb's active ingredient, ginsenosides.

Current law says the products must contain ginseng—which they do—but most companies buy cheap raw product and do not follow proper processing in order to deliver the active ingredient in the capsules that find their way to the health food store's shelves.

To increase your chances of getting authentic ginseng, find a product that includes 100 to 125 mg of ginseng extracted from the root of the plant and standardized to contain a minimum of 4% ginsenosides, the key ingredient.

Current thinking in the herb world is that a good, effective product should contain all elements of the

plant (called "full potency") plus a minimum amount of the known active ingredient.

A second example regards yohimbe, a proven alternative remedy for treating impotence.

A recent review in the *Journal of Urology* examined seven independent trials that showed that yohimbe was much more effective in producing erections than a placebo was.

There can, however, be serious interactions with some foods. But you probably won't have to worry about that because an analysis performed at the department of pharmacology at Purdue University showed that 17 of 24 different brands of yohimbe purchased at health food stores contained little or no yohimbe at all!

**R**ecently, a client of mine brought in a bottle of "pure creatine monohydrate" (a product used for muscle gain) for my examination. Upon reading the label—which took a little time because the list of ingredients was jumbled—I found that this expensive bottle of creatine was 50% refined sugar, which cost the distributor just pennies per bottle. No wonder he was getting a "buzz" each time he used the product.

What can the buyer do to protect himself?

Here are my suggestions:

1—Don't believe the hype words in advertising for these products. Any "amazing discovery" is probably worthless.

2—Ignore testimonials, especially those from profit-minded multilevel marketing companies.

3—Look for products marked "standardized" that list every ingredient in the bottle and include the

names and amounts of the active ingredients.

4—Avoid products that use the word "rich". A garlic formulation "rich in allicin" (allicin is the active ingredient in garlic) might have little or no actual allicin.

5—Consult the new 1999 PDR for *Herbal Medicines*, the companion to the long-used standard PDR (Physician's Desk Reference) for prescription medicines.

6—Consult a certified herbologist or botanical chemist. Ask to see their credentials.

7—Use products manufactured by companies that have every product analyzed by independent testing laboratories and will provide the test results to the consumer, such as Solgar or Tyler Encapsulations.

8—Clear the use of all herbal and nutritional supplements with your doctor. Some have serious interactions with HIV and other prescription drugs or with certain foods.

9—Respect herbs. The good ones work.

10—Check for a lot number and expiration date on each purchase—only the best companies consistently put this information on every bottle.

11—You get what you pay for—an efficacious, quality product cannot be sold at bargain prices.

With herbs and supplements, you've got to do the homework or you'll waste your time and money.



Mark Hoffman is HIV positive and works as Health Educator and Treatment Advocate for Phoenix Body Positive and A Place Called Home. The opinions expressed in this column are his own and do not represent those of either organization

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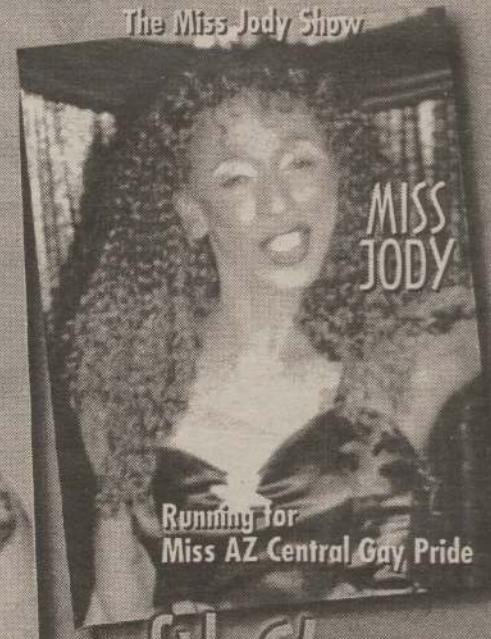
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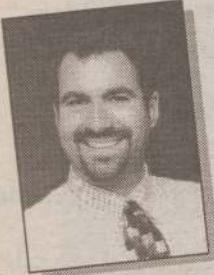
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- Legal Issues
- Community Resources

# International Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

## French Senate dumps partners bill

The French Senate March 18 rejected a measure passed by the National Assembly in December that granted unmarried couples—gay and straight, romantic or not—many of the rights and benefits of matrimony.

The vote was 216 to 99.

The Senators approved an alternate proposal by a vote of 192 to 117 that recognizes only male-female cohabiting couples.

The measure that passed the Assembly 316-249 on Dec. 9 would have granted gay couples rights in such areas as inheritance, housing, taxation, workplace benefits, social security and social-welfare programs.

## Danish politician marries gay lover

Former Danish health minister and current European Parliament candidate Torben Lund, 49, married his boyfriend, sociology student Claus Lautrup, 28, at Copenhagen city hall March 13.

Lund, a leader of the Social Democratic party and the

departed the stately hall in a shower of rice.

"A politician does not need courage to admit his homosexuality," Lund told Agence France-Presse. "The important thing is to be natural, to behave like others, to love like other people, not to fear prejudice and rumors—and to show overtly that one is homosexual, because it is not an illness."

"I am happy to live in an open-minded, free and tolerant country like Denmark, where homosexuals do not have to keep a low profile and where gay marriage does not create a sensation."

Lund was twice married to women and has two daughters aged 23 and 14. But meeting Lautrup put an end to his heterosexual ways.



Danish Social Democratic leader Torben Lund.

nation's first openly gay cabinet-level official, is considered a shoo-in for the Euro Parliament seat.

The two men exchanged rings and

"One shouldn't hesitate to listen to the voice of the heart," he said. "You only live once."

Denmark was the first country in the world to legalize marriage-like gay partnerships, in October 1989. Registered gay couples have all the rights of opposite-sex spouses except for access to adoption, church weddings and artificial-conception procedures.

There have been 4,338 gay marriages in the past 11 years, according to AFP. In the earlier years, gay men were more likely to take advantage of the partnership law but recently more lesbians than gay men have gotten married.

Hanne Moeller, spokeswoman for Denmark's National Association for Gays and Lesbians, speculated: "Women in the beginning were a bit skeptical of registered partnerships. They did not want to be too much like heterosexuals. They did not like to be 'normalized.' ... But now we have a new generation of lesbians who find it natural to have a family and to raise kids."

## Ukraine gay group denied registration

Ukraine's Our World Gay and Lesbian Center is being denied government registration.

The group's application forms have been sent to the national Ministry of Justice for further review after local officials—who should have approved the request—declined "to give a conclusion about the legality of the existence of citizens with anomalous sexual orientation."

"Gays and lesbians were singled out into a separate group of persons

and doubts were cast on the legality of their existence and the possibility for them to establish public associations of citizens," said an Our World spokesman. "It was evident discrimination of Ukrainian citizens on the grounds of sexual orientation."

Our World invites faxed letters urging the group's application be approved to Minister of Justice Suzanna Stanik at 011-380-44-226-2416 and to Lugansk Region Department of Justice Director L.I. Pavlova at 011-380-642-538-128. Fax a copy to Our World at 011-380-642-479-422, or e-mail it to ourworld@cci.lg.ua.

## Australian Federal Police extend benefits

Australia's Federal Police extended workplace benefits to employees' same-sex partners last week.

The decision followed a request from the partner of the force's Rome-based liaison officer, Alan Scott.

The Australian Council for Lesbian and Gay Rights greeted the news with a demand that the military immediately follow suit.

"While the military takes into account the relationships of heterosexual service personnel who are periodically re-located great distances from their former posting, it doesn't give a damn about homosexual service personnel in similar circumstances," said ACLGR's Rodney Croome. "This is unfair on the soldiers involved because they may have to choose between their relationship and their career. It is also bad for the military because it has an adverse effect on both morale and the retention of highly trained personnel."

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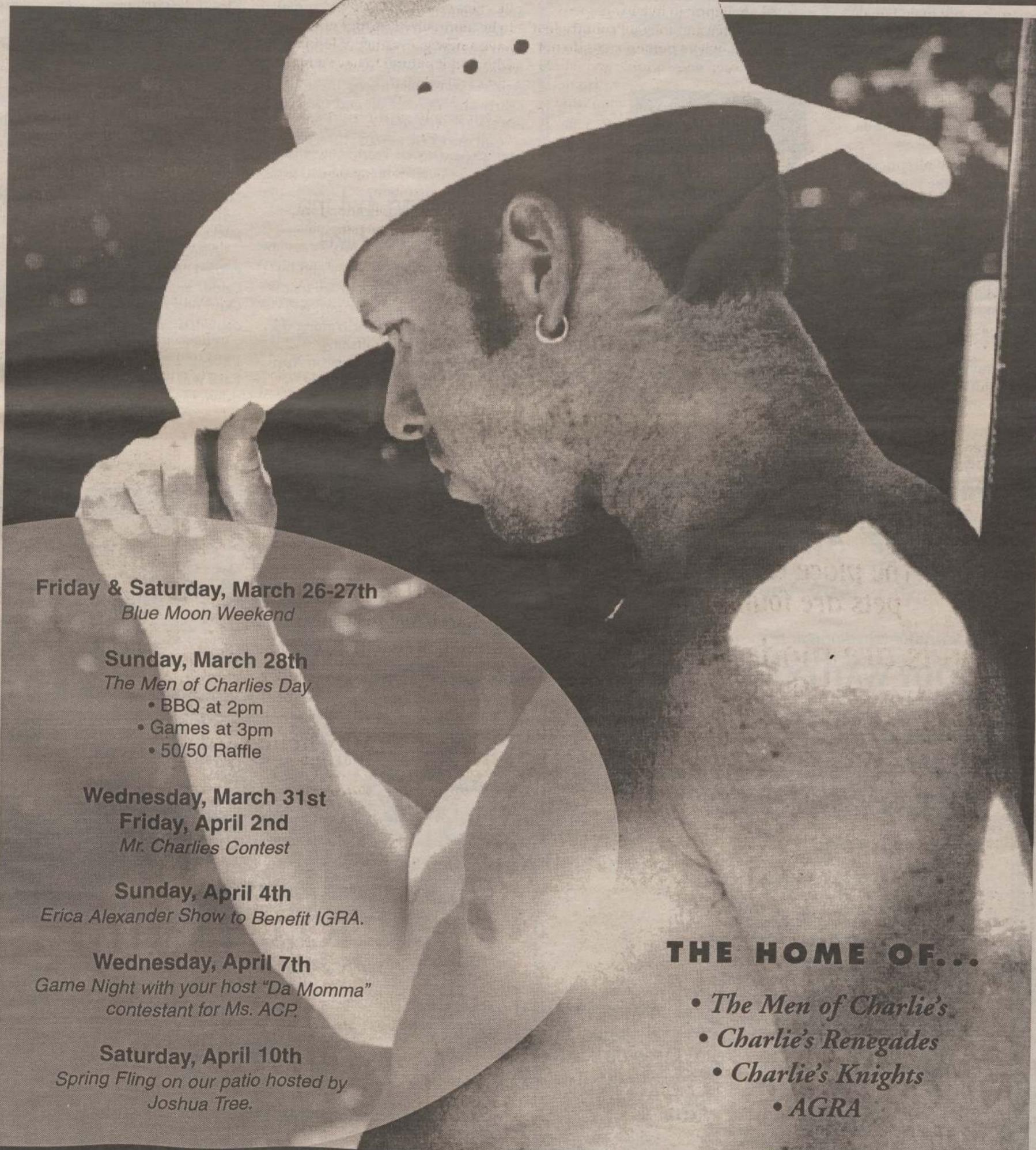
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# Goings On

## Center's Annual Meeting April 6

The Community Center in Phoenix (formerly the Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center) will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 6 at 6:30 pm. A recap of 1998 events, activities, successes and areas needing improvement will be presented, along with the 1998 Annual Report.

The meeting, like all Center board meetings, is open to the public. For more information, call Lyle Miller at (602)265-7283.

## March 31 theatrical event will benefit Aunt Rita's

On Wednesday, March 31, Aunt Rita's Foundation will partner with Arizona Theatre Company's Rainbow Night to offer a benefit performance of *How I Learned to Drive* by Paula Vogel.

A hosted pre-show reception featuring an auction/bake sale/raffle drawing will begin at 6 pm in the Pavilion Lounge of the Herberger Theatre Center at 222 East Monroe. Following the 8 pm performance of the play, Amsterdam will offer a 50% first drink discount to theatergoers at a post-show party, where the raffle winners will be announced at 10:30 pm.

Uniglobe Travel has provided two of this year's raffle prizes: round trip tickets for two anywhere in the conti-

### News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

national U.S., and a weekend for two to San Francisco. Molina's has donated a watch as a raffle prize. Tickets for the evening are \$35—the price includes the reception, the performance, and two raffle tickets.

To order theater tickets, call Sue Tormala at (602)371-8868. Raffle tickets are \$2 each and may be purchased at the time of the order or until 7:30 pm the night of the event. They are also available at local bars and businesses until March 29.

## Mercury player to appear at Mill April 1

Basketball player Jennifer Gillom, one of the Phoenix Mercury's shining stars, will be the chief draw at a celebrity fund-raiser slated for April 1 at The Mill Steak House & Saloon in Tempe.



Jennifer Gillom

The joint venture will raise money in honor of WNBA player Kim Perrot of the Houston Rockets in her battle against cancer.

The event will begin at

6:30 pm with a no-host cocktail reception and silent auction, followed by dinner at 7:30. Tickets are \$150 and available by calling (602)756-2480.

The Mill is located at 3300 South Price Road in Tempe.

## Cactus Cup #6 April 10-11

The Phoenix-hosted Cactus Cup has become one of the hottest annual gay and lesbian sporting events in the country, thanks to great weather and continued organizational support from the city's league, the Cactus Cities Softball League.

This year the sixth edition of the popular softball tourney will take place April 10 and 11 with play at several fields throughout the Valley and in four divisions: Men's A, B & C; and a Women's Divison.

More than 60 teams are expected from throughout the U.S. for the weekend. Depending on the degree of Arizona sunshine present, those shirts nearly always come off and spectators are always welcome.

Call the CCSL at (602)848-8562 for information.

## DA planning 4x4 trip, Canyon Lake hike

Desert Adventures, a gay and lesbian social group in the Valley that emphasizes outdoor activities, will take a rip-roaring road trip along the ridge spanning the Bradshaw Mountains north of Phoenix on April 10.

Those interested should meet in

front of the food court at the New River Outlet Mall at 8:30 am. The cost is \$4 for members and \$6 for guests. Bring your four-wheel drive vehicle, or ride with someone else.

For day hikers, DA will host a cavort & caper at Canyon Lake on April 3. Meet the group at the Tortilla Flat restaurant at 11 am. The trip cost is \$2 for members and \$4 for guests. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a hat, water, sunscreen and snacks, and expect a 3 hr trek with some exhilarating views.

For more information on either of these events, call the DA hotline at (602)266-CAMP. The group recently set a membership record high, with 304 registered members.

## Jody Watley on Deck: Less than a month 'til Pride '99

Arizona Central Pride, the committee that produces the Phoenix area's Gay Pride events, has announced the acquisition of singer Jody Watley for this year's pride festival, scheduled for April 17, 1999.

Known for the '80s megahits "Looking for a New Love," "Friends," and "Everything," Watley is no stranger to gay audiences and packed dance floors.

Also set to perform at the festival, entitled "Millions of Lives, 1 Voice in Pride," are perennial favorites Men Out Loud from L.A. and comedian/singer Linda Lavner.

The festival in downtown Phoenix's Margaret T. Hance Park will once again follow a parade down Central Avenue, slated to step



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"Looking for a New Love"  
"Friends" "Everything"

Comedian - Singer  
**Lynn Lavner**

Back by popular Demand  
**MEN OUT LOUD**

Friday, April 16, 1999

3MGP PAGEANT  
8:00 pm - Midnight (Margaret T. Hance Park)

Saturday, April 17, 1999

8:30 am - 5K race  
For more info, contact: Team Arizona (602) 264-2645

10:00 am - Parade Begins

(parade steps off from the vicinity of Central and Osborn proceeding South on Central and dispersing at Portland)

10:00 am - Festival Gates open - Ticket Sales begin  
(Entertainment and Beer Sales begin at Noon)

For Information on: Parade, Vendor or Entertainment Applications.

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Applications are also available at:

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Ronda Johnson-Freeman

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off at 10 am.

Grand Marshal for this year's parade will be former Army Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom, a lesbian activist who was honorably discharged from

the military in 1976 for truthfully answering questions pertaining to her sexuality.

New this year will be a 5k run sponsored by Team

Arizona, kicking off the day with a 5:30 am start. A number of fund-raisers have already been held to drum up interest and support for the Mr./Ms./Miss Gay Pride Pageant held each year as part of the festivities. This year's pageant will take place at 8 pm on Friday, April 16 in the Deck Park.

Tickets for the festival are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate, so remember the date, make your plans early, and call (602)279-1771 to get involved.

## Coronado District tour April 18

The Greater Coronado Neighborhood Association in central Phoenix will present its 12th annual tour of historic homes on Sunday, April 18. This year's tour will feature 10 beautifully restored historic homes surrounding picturesque Coronado Park, at 12th Street and Palm Lane.

A photo exhibit entitled *Coronado*

*Neighborhood: Then and Now* will be featured in the park. There will also be a display of vintage cars from the Arizona Lambda Car Club, as well as other displays.

Tickets are \$10, \$9 with a canned food donation. Trolley service will be available. Call (602)252-0173 for more information.

## AGRA poster contest underway

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association -Phoenix chapter is sponsoring a poster contest for the 2000 Road Runner Regional Rodeo. The rodeo will take place in Phoenix January 14-17, 2000.

Judging for the contest will be by vote of the members present at the monthly AGRA meeting on June 13. Entries may be delivered in person or by mail to "RRRR Poster Contest" c/o Charlie's Phoenix, 727 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona, 85013 by 5 pm on June 13. Entries must be 17" x 22" finished size with the only lettering being "2000 Road Runner Regional Rodeo". Exception to the size requirement will be made for computer generated artwork, with the original art being on a Macintosh-compatible CD or Zip disk.

Sufficient space must be left within the design for dates, hotel information and sponsor logos. Entries must be received with the artist's name and phone number in the upper right-hand corner of the back of the design. Entries received with the artist's name on the front of the design will be disqualified. The winning design and artwork become the property of AGRA -Phoenix Chapter. The artist of the winning entry will be awarded \$200.

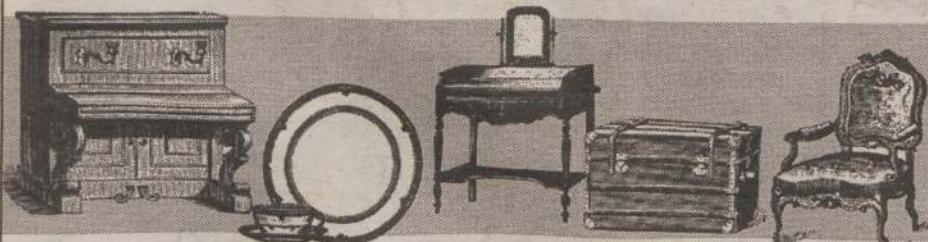


Jody Watley

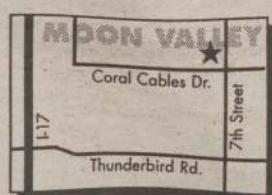
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Fri:	Country Western Music with DJ "AJ"
Sat:	Country Western Music with DJ "De"
Sun:	Steak & Chicken Fry \$3, 6-8pm; DJ & Country Western Dancing until 11pm.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### *Friday*

**March 26:** Ladies with an Attitude perform at 9pm—with special guests Charlie's Renegades.

#### *Sunday*

**March 28:** Indian Ruthie's "Oldie's Reunion Party," 4-11pm.

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# Cartoonists draw on NYC's gay ghetto for new strip

Continued from page 1

For the writer/illustrator team of Neuwirth and Hanson, *Chelsea Boys* is their way of contributing to the current dialogue. Their characters are out, diverse, and their sexuality is incidental to the storyline—something many readers and editors find both refreshing and entertaining.

Just what is a *Chelsea Boy*? The strip offers those of us who live beyond the Manhattan skyline a few clues.

Take the lead character, Nathan. He's fortyish, Jewish, a native New Yorker with four passions in life—boys, baseball, Barbra, and Baskin-Robbins.

Then there's Soiree. Now in his late twenties, he was tossed onto the streets at the age of 14. He learned many of life's lessons through his Vogue mother at the House of Fuschia. Now he's in Manhattan bars and clubs nearly every night, promoting himself as an underground recording artist.

Sky, an aspiring sculptor, grew up on a farming commune in Vancouver. This 22-yr-old golden boy has the body of a Greek god and the innocence of a lost child. He could have any man he wants, but daydreams instead about the short, dull and older Art History teacher at his swanky art school.

These unlikely roommates, along with Nathan's perky pooch, Miss Marmelstein, comprise the core cast of *Chelsea Boys*.

Neuwirth, 43, writes, directs, produces and designs for a wide range of media with a strong emphasis on comedy and animation. Hanson, 33, grew up outside Toronto and is an award-winning designer, illustrator, writer and art director.

The men have been "pretty much best friends" for a number of years. *Chelsea Boys*, which premiered last

things that happen to us every day, into our work."

*Chelsea Boys*, he says, gives both men the perfect opportunity to do that. "It's almost cathartic at times. As gay men, so much stuff happens to us all the time and this is a perfect outlet. It makes the strip a joy."

The plot revolves around Nathan, who met his two new roommates after posting a notice at Cafe O Lay, the local coffee shop. Nathan lost his

we lay out the strip together. Both of us are artists and both of us are writers. It's all shared up until that point."

Then Hanson sits down and actually puts pen to paper. But first he does a sketch for Neuwirth to review, which gives his elder partner the opportunity to change things.

"There are times when I might get an idea for a funnier angle, and he'll say, 'draw it for me' and I do. But

Glen is the visual genius behind the strip. The main reason our strip stands out from so many others is because of Glen's incredible visual talents and skills."

Hanson's credits include having illustrated for prominent periodicals such as *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *The New York Times*. He's also contributed character designs to the animated TV shows *Daria*

Do the close collaborators ever fight?

"Of course we fight. I have learned that you can't be involved in a creative pursuit with a partner without having differences of opinion."

He adds, "Glen and I fight like cats and dogs sometimes and eventually one of us will give in. It depends how strongly the other one feels about a line, or joke, or piece of business. But yeah, we've gone at it."

Both men first produced original comics at a very early age. "I think I started at the age of five," Neuwirth recalls, "and Glen did the same thing. He showed me primitive drawings he did as a kid. Obviously, he grew more skilled very quickly. But the stories are there—the dialogue is there—it's hysterical to look back at this stuff."

He adds, "It's something that he and I have always been doing, only now we just do it for our peers. And it's spreading all over the country, which is really gratifying."

*Chelsea Boys'* atmosphere was humorously defined in the very first installment when Nathan posted his "roommates wanted" notice in a packed coffeehouse pointedly similar to the renowned Big Cup, a muscle-filled Mecca considered by many to be the celebrious gay ghetto's social epicenter.

"You can't go to Chelsea and not visit The Big Cup. It happens to be a fun place to hang out." Neuwirth says the popular venue is "purported to be a very relaxing coffeehouse, but in fact it's primo cruising ground."

Every gay boy who walks through the door, he adds, gets the immediate once-over by a million pairs of eyes. "No matter what people are doing, they look up and check out the fresh meat walking in through the



NATHAN

longtime lover Paul to AIDS and needed to find some roommates after the insurance money ran out.

Upcoming plot lines include a series of "dates from hell" for Nathan, Sky's introduction to the glitz world of modeling, and a run-in between Soiree and his natural father, an Evangelical minister he hasn't seen in 15 years.

Neuwirth says he and Hanson view the strip as being more than humorous. "In time, we will be tackling just about everything we'd like to comment on. As human beings, we can't help but react to everything that goes on—you know, the political extremists hammering us all the time, gay bashing, all the injustices."

He explains, "We're viewing this thing as more than just the easy laugh," then adds quickly, "although we're obviously not above going for the easy laugh!"

Neuwirth, whose work has appeared on Nickelodeon, the

and *Bettlejuice*, among others, and has won numerous awards in the fields of both advertising design and comic book writing and design.

Future plans for the *Chelsea Boys* creators include wider distribution of the strip and a short, animated cartoon featuring the characters to be produced later this year. The duo also plans to write a stage show based on the strip. As Neuwirth puts it, "We have a lot of ambitions."

The men have never been a romantic couple, though they are such good friends that it might appear otherwise to an outsider. "Oh no," Neuwirth says with a laugh. "If there were a nuclear holocaust and we were the last two gay men alive, then we would probably be lovers. I mean, we love each other, but . . ."

Neuwirth explains that he is involved with someone at present, while Hanson, who had a boyfriend from South America for "about a year," is currently single.



MISS MARMELSTEIN



SKY

summer in several East Coast gay publications, is the team's first gay-themed collaboration.

"Glen and I both have done a lot of mainstream work for film and television," he says, "and none of it was really talking to our peers directly. We couldn't put our life experiences, the

Cartoon Network and in DC Comics, and who has designed opening title sequences for such popular TV shows as *20/20* and *ABC News Nightline*, explains his partnership's collaborative process:

"First we hatch the ideas together. Then we write them together. Then



front door. It's a very funny sight."

That, he says, is another reason he and Hanson decided to do the strip.

"There's so much humor. There's so much to lampoon and make fun of—and have fun with—around us. Especially in Chelsea. It's like a gay Disneyland down there."



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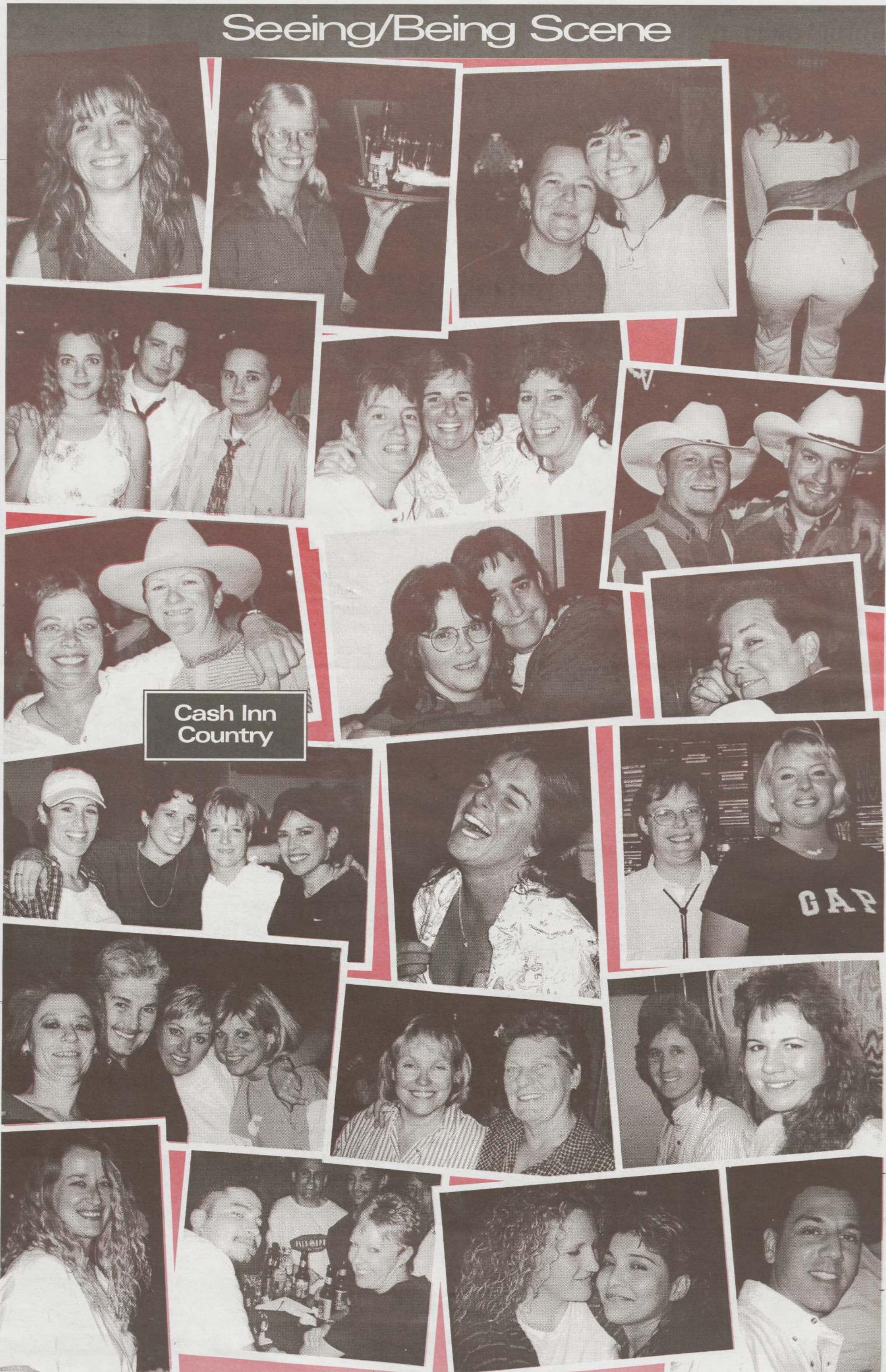
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"genuine and genuinely disturbing" -Village Voice

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JAMES CARPENTER AND KATE GOEHRING  
PHOTO BY TIM FULLER



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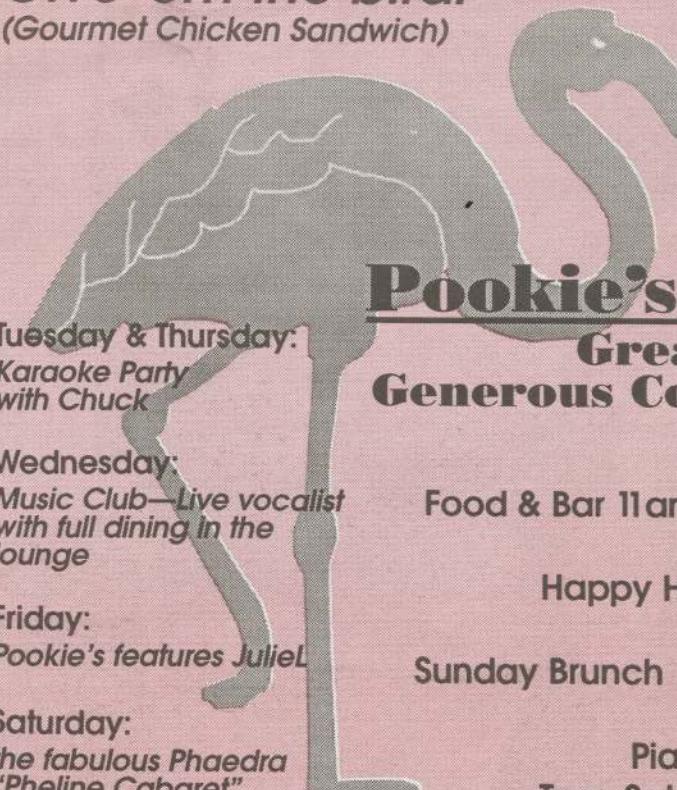


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Kenny Thames



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## Lessons of the road: Pulitzer winning play gets its Phoenix premiere

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"I think that this play is about overcoming—but not trying to amputate—your past," says actress Kate Goering of Paula Vogel's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *How I Learned to Drive*, opening March 27 at the Herberger in downtown Phoenix.

The production is part of Arizona Theatre Company's 1998-99 season.

Goering plays Lil' Bit, a not-so-Belle-ish Southern woman who, through a series of flashbacks and memories, tells the audience of the extensive tutelage she received on the subjects of both sex and automobiles from her much older uncle, beginning when she was around 13.

For the role, the actress must portray her character in a variety of ages and life situations, ranging from her preteens through her college days, then on to about age 35.

Oakland-based actor Jim Carpenter portrays Uncle Peck, the man whom Lil' Bit trusts, loves and maybe later resents as the play unfolds.

The actor sees Peck's relationship with Lil' Bit as a loving one and believes the play is written so well that audiences won't be tempted to simply dismiss his complex character as an abuser.

"It's a relationship that is manipulative," he explains. It's important to bear in mind, Carpenter adds, that Uncle Peck is the one person who is really responsible for making Lil' Bit into the person she eventually becomes, "and yet he is the very same person who took advantage of her."

In praise of Vogel's script, Carpenter says, "A lot of times as actors we only get to entertain people. Occasionally, we get to inform. And occasionally we get to both entertain and inform—and change lives."

Goering heartily agrees with Carpenter that Vogel has written exactly that type of play. Perhaps the

most exciting thing about *How I Learned to Drive*, says the woman who's playing the lead character, is the way it touches upon so many issues and opens up a lot of questions without providing concrete answers.

"I don't think it's about one right answer. . . I think that with the way that Paula Vogel has written this play, what you don't get information about is as deliberate as what you do get information about."

Acting in *How I Learned to Drive* reminds both actors of roles each has had in other powerful, life-changing dramas.

For Carpenter, the performance strikes a chord similar to what he felt while working in Larry Kramer's AIDS drama *The Normal Heart*.

For Goering, the emotional responses and buttons pushed are not unlike what she experienced playing Harper in Tony Kushner's epic, *Angels in America*.

Like Kushner and Kramer, Paula Vogel is openly gay. Goering isn't certain whether the author's lesbianism shows up in her text. The actress points to a pair of scenes in which Lil' Bit hints that she may have had at least one sexual relationship with a female.

"Does Lil' Bit turn out to be a lesbian? I think that's for you all to decide," the actress says. Paula Vogel, she explains, isn't allowing us to have the security of knowing where we stand with these people on label levels, so that what it really comes down to is a love story.

But given the opportunity to sit down with Vogel for a few minutes, wouldn't Goering want some solid answers in regard to the sexual and moral ambiguity the playwright has woven into this particular play and the characters?

Goering's answer is no. "I don't think I'd ask her any of the questions I had to ask of myself in order to play this role, or any of the questions the

audience is asking at the end. Because I don't think it's relevant."

She says that if she were to meet Paula Vogel, "I'd just massage her feet with peppermint oil and thank her for writing it."

Both actors say it neither phases nor influences them that the award-winning comic/drama is one of the most—if not the most—produced plays this season, nationwide.

Goering says, "What does influence me in my work—about the fact that it is being done all over the country—is the joy that I have over the fact that a play that is ostensibly about an incestuous relationship is

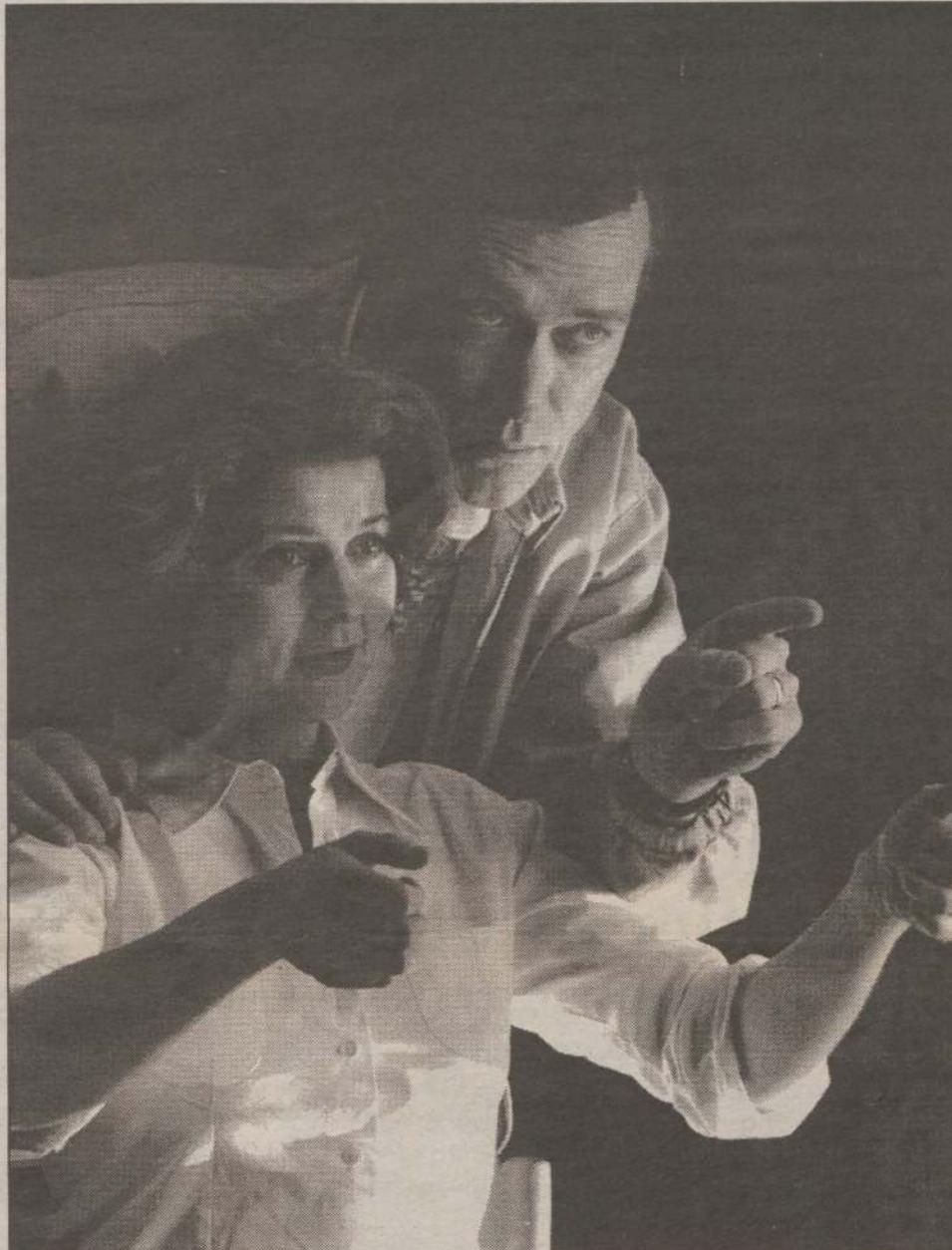
something that people are considering important to see."

Why should that bring the actress joy?

"Because it reminds me what audiences are willing to step up to. And I think what they find—and this is also I think one of the brilliant aspects of this play—is that they don't have to step very far."



*How I Learned to Drive* runs through April 11 at the Herberger Theatre Center, 222 East Monroe Street in Phoenix. Call (602)256-6995 for tickets and information.



## Jean Stapleton to share Eleanor Roosevelt's secrets

Renowned Broadway actress and star of the seminal '70s sitcom *All in the Family*, Jean Stapleton will be bringing her inimitable portrayal of America's ballsiest First Lady to Scottsdale from April 1-3 in *Eleanor—Her Secret Journey*.

The play, written by Rhonda Lerman and directed by John Tillinger, is a heartfelt and haunting one-woman performance that reveals how Eleanor Roosevelt transcended the class and gender prejudices of her era to claim her own power and help change the world.

Tickets are \$30-\$34 and available by calling (602)994-ARTS.

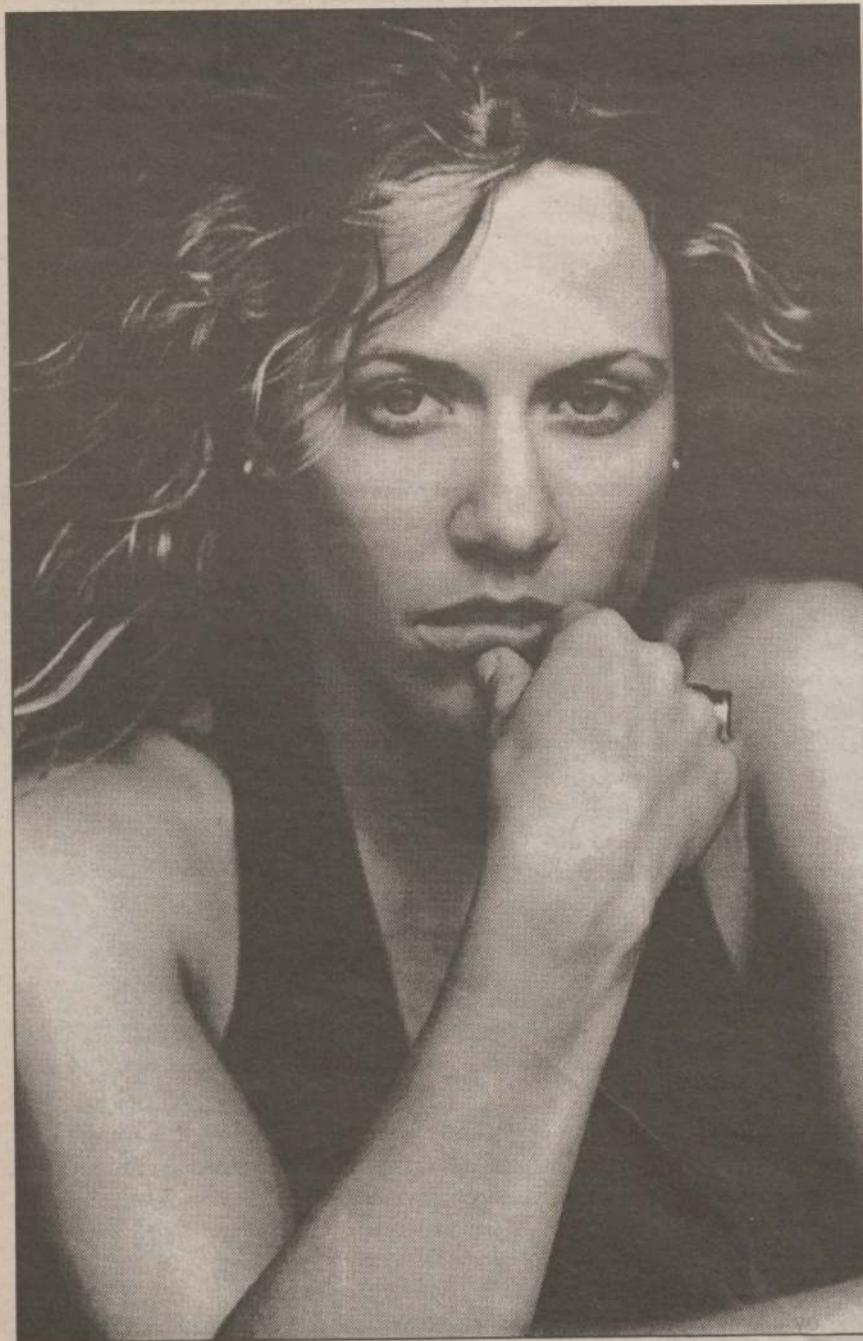


## Diversity emphasized via ASU festival

The Season-long Untold Stories Festival: *Celebrating Campus and Community*, culminates at ASU's Gammage Auditorium April 9-11 with a weekend festival of theatrical, storytelling, dance-theater and performance art events.

All season, nationally renowned artists have worked in residency with community groups throughout Central Arizona to create performances that give voice to local communities' untold stories.

Now, all five national residency artists will showcase their work in collaboration with their Arizona community partners. Contact the Gammage Box Office at (602)965-3434 for the full schedule of events.



## Sheryl wants to have some fun at Union Hall

With one show sold out and a second concert added, multi-Grammy winner & nominee Sheryl Crow must have decided that adding a Phoenix stop to her current tour was *not* her favorite mistake.

The newly shorn songstress will perform at Union Hall March 30 & 31. Eagle Eye Cherry will open at 7:30. Tickets are \$31 in advance and available through Dillard's, or \$36 at Union Hall on show night.



## Jo Watson at Tempe club on Mondays

Ask lithe and lovely vocalist Jo Watson whether she's a Diva and she laughs, then answers, "They say I am."

The "they" in question would be Watson's newfound following within the Valley's gay community, growing in number due to her recent performances at a couple of local gay piano bars.

"We have a good time," she says of

her gay fans. At one appearance, she had "the whole place" breaking into a conga line.

Watson and Rick, her accompanying pianist, can be found at Millennium 2001 after 8:30 pm on Mondays, starting March 29.

The singer's style ranges from R&B to contemporary pop. Trained in classi-

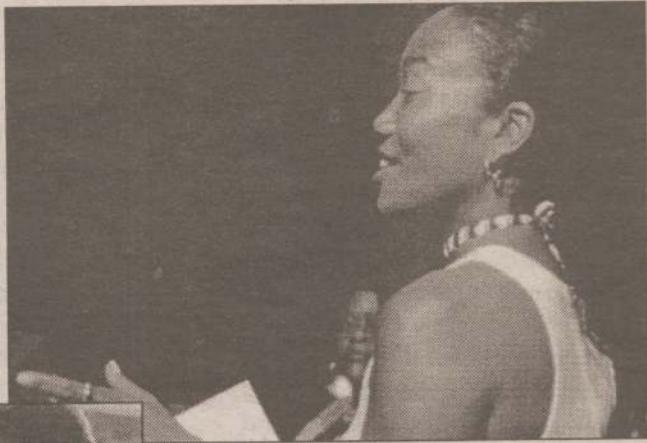
cal and raised on gospel, she plans her sets based on the response of her listeners, though pop is her personal preference. "I get in touch with my audience and try to give them what they want," the Phoenix native says.

Millennium 2001 is located at the southwest corner of Price and Southern in Tempe. Call 756-2445 for information.

## Scottsdale festival spanning a month of Sundays

The Scottsdale Center for the Arts will roll out the first Scottsdale independent Film Fest beginning Sunday, April 4 and continuing every Sunday through May 3 at 7 pm.

Four Indies will be featured, beginning with Tony Bui's *Three Seasons* on April 28. This acclaimed movie was shot on location in Viet Nam, stars Harvey Keitel, and took the



1999 Sundance Grand Jury Prize, Audience Award and Cinematography Award.

Also coming are Eric Digman's *Loved*, Marc Levin's street poet drama *Slam*, and *Who the Hell is Juliette?*, a Cuban film by Carlos Marcovich.

A four film pass is \$28 and individual films are \$8. Call (602)994-ARTS for ticket info.



## Happy taps at Orpheum

Those homoerotically irrepressible hoofers from down under, Tap Dogs, are scheduled to return to the Valley for another eye-popping performance run from Tuesday, March 30 through Sunday, April 4.

Downtown Phoenix's Orpheum Theatre will house the talented sextet. They'll be performing their rhythmic routines under the direction of Nigel Triffit.

Tickets are available by calling Dillard's at (602)503-5555.

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## Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out.

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"If he was gay, he sure never showed it. He never flaunted himself as being gay or talked about it. And whether he was or not, it don't make me love him any less. He was my young'un. ... If he was gay or not, that still didn't give them no right to kill him."

—Lois Gaither, mother of Billy Jack Gaither, who was beaten to death and incinerated on a pile of tires by gay-bashers in Sylacauga, Alabama, to the *New York Times*, March 5.

"Watch your back, be careful who you come out to. I've been with my partner 10 years, but I'd never hold his hand in public—because in Alabama it's a death wish."

—Alabama Gay and Lesbian Alliance spokesman David White to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 7.

"I think it's great to be part of something that becomes iconic. How amazing! What an awesome experience in life! That doesn't happen to many people. It's never made me uncomfortable. I know a lot of lesbian and gay people, they're as fine as any people I've ever met. Maybe better human beings! Why would I be embarrassed to be playing a role that they identify with so strongly?"

—Lucy Lawless, TV's *Xena: Warrior Princess*, to the *Advocate*, March 2.

"The Log Cabin Club's ability to see light in the darkness is one of the most impressive optical feats of our lifetime. The Log Cabin Club used to defend Gingrich. Then when Gingrich left, they said, 'This is good. Things won't be as bad as they were.' But they never acknowledged how terrible Gingrich was when he was here."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., to the *Boston Phoenix*, Feb. 19.

"I've had a very powerful relationship that ended in June. But time heals. I'm dating. End of conversation."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., on his breakup with lover of 11 years Herb Moses to *George Magazine*, February issue.

"The barebacking trend is a cold douche only to those who promote the sentimental PC view of gays as saintly humanitarians or angels of America. I saw the early signs of gay boredom with 'safe sex' even before 1992, when I had a very unpleasant exchange over the matter with a prominent British gay activist (a Foucault idolator, naturally) on the stage of the Institute of Contemporary Art in London. Sexual desire, I have argued in my work, is intensified rather than quelled by boundaries and taboos. Transgression is hot."

—Author Camille Paglia in her Feb. 22 *Salon* magazine column.

"The map of the gay community is as balkanized as Eastern Europe."

—Veteran activist Larry Kramer speaking Feb. 24 at the Midwest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Campus Conference in Madison, Wis.

"Between 1839 and 1842 Abraham

Lincoln and Joshua Speed loved each other. ... For years they shared a bed and their most private thoughts. They fell in love with each other and slept next to each other for four years. [Speed wrote of Lincoln], 'He often kisses me when I tease him, often to shut me up. ... He would grab me up by his long arms and hug and hug.'

—Veteran activist Larry Kramer speaking at the Midwest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Campus Conference.

"People like Flip Wilson, Boy George and Sylvester definitely paved the way for me, and I pay homage to them."

—RuPaul to *San Diego's Buzz magazine*, Feb. 11.

"I was never going to say this but, here's the real deal, all right? When I was pregnant with my baby and couldn't work they had this fucking asshole who wrote for my show. He really brought my show down because he made it all about weenie jokes but I had to let it go because I was confined to bed for three months. You know, I had learned a lot by that time about what was important and I decided I was going to put my energy into my baby. But this guy! This is the same fucking guy they sent over to Brett Butler's show and ruined her show and drove her fucking nuts. Then they sent him over to *Cybill* and ruined that show and drove her fucking nuts. He caused injury to all these women and then they sent him to *Ellen* and I told her don't fucking take this guy because he's going to ruin your show and he did."

—Roseanne to L.A.'s *Lesbian News*, February issue.

"She didn't control her men well enough. She had straight guys writing that show and what she got was a straight man's show. How straight men see gay women."

—Roseanne on *Ellen DeGeneres* to L.A.'s *Lesbian News*.

"I put my fucking career on the line to portray gays realistically on my show and I had to get lawyers ... I had people calling and threatening me. I used the press to save 'The Kiss' show and because there was interest in it, it ended up to be one of the highest-rated shows I ever did. I called the lawyers in New York and I told them, 'If you pull it you're going to miss a big, fat rating, and when that fat rating came in, and all the money, that changed their heads at ABC!'

—Roseanne to L.A.'s *Lesbian News*.

"You know what will be cool? Okay, here's what I hope for. In 20 years they'll look back on my show and say, 'What was the big deal? Why did somebody have to push that hard to portray gay people as human beings?' I was glad to do it because that's what we're supposed to do on this planet, but that's what I hope for."

—Roseanne to L.A.'s *Lesbian News*.

"My girlfriend bonds with all living things except people. We [the cocker spaniel and I] fight over my girlfriend's attention, and he wins. They're joined at the ankle."

—Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer to *Phoenix's HeatStroke*, Feb. 25.

"In Jack I wanted to create a character to represent my sexuality, which is my greatest asset in life. ... I wanted to explore the complexities of a young boy coming to terms with his homosexuality, very much the way I did in a small town."

—Dawson's Creek Executive Producer Kevin Williamson to the *Advocate*, March 16.

"Untrammeled homosexuality can take over and destroy a social system. If you isolate sexuality as something solely for one's own personal amusement, and all you want is the most satisfying orgasm you can get — and that is what homosexuality seems to be — then homosexuality seems too powerful to resist. The evidence is that men do a better job on men, and women on women, if all you are looking for is orgasm. ... I'm convinced that lesbians are particularly good seducers."

—Leading anti-gay activist and discredited psychologist Dr. Paul Cameron, founder of the Family Research Institute and the Institute for the Scientific Investigation of Sexuality, to *Rolling Stone* magazine, March 18. Cameron was ousted from the American Psychological Association following complaints from other scientists about the quality of his research.

"People in homosexuality are incredibly evangelical. It's pure sexuality. It's almost like pure heroin. It's such a rush. They are committed in almost a religious way. And they'll take enormous risks, do anything. ... Marital sex tends toward the boring end. Generally, it doesn't deliver the kind of sheer sexual pleasure that homosexual sex does."

—Leading anti-gay activist and discredited psychologist Dr. Paul Cameron, founder of the Family Research Institute and the Institute for the Scientific Investigation of Sexuality, to *Rolling Stone* magazine.

"To me, Tinky wasn't a star, or a political football, or some sad English actor suffocating inside a dumpy purple blob suit: he was hot. I didn't just watch Tinky's TV show; I bought the books, each title more arousing than the last—'Dipsy Dances', 'Four Happy Teletubbies', 'Go Po Go!'—culminating in the inevitable erotic explosion of 'Tubby Custard Mess.' I wanted Tinky, I wanted him bad, as he group-hugged and cavitated through the greensward of Teletubbyland, swinging a red patent-leather purse, or as his producers have dubbed it, his 'magic bag.' My mind reeled: Just what was in that bag? Pills? Kleenex? Magic cosmetics? I had to know."

—Paul Rudnik writing in the March 8 *New Yorker*.

"I'm a middle-class, educated, Jewish professor who cares about people and loves gay men. But that's not going to turn most men on. When I go to bars or sex spaces, leather and otherwise, I like to put on this image of a tough, blue-collar, rough, Italian-over-Jewish kind of badass. That turns men on. They want the illusion that they might get used or hurt. I check in with people in subtle ways to let them know I'm caring but in ways that don't destroy the illusion, the illusion that they're taking a risk by even getting into a car with me."

—Veteran gay activist Eric Rofes, in the March issue of *OUT magazine*.

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Photo by Rosira Correia

# Deep Inside Hollywood

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

## Ethan Green, Movie Star?

Eric Orner, the gay cartoonist and creator of *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life Of Ethan Green*, has a deal in the works to bring a live-action version of his Boston-based comic strip to the big screen.

Orner will be creatively involved with the project, which will have the



The hero of Eric Orner's gay comic *The Mostly Unfabulous Life of Ethan Green* may be headed for the silver screen.

same fatalist-but-funny tone as his cartoon. While the plot is hush-hush, gay comedian and *Openly Bob* author Bob Smith will most likely write the script.

Director George Bamber, who worked on the gay Sundance hit *Happy, Texas* will helm the project, which is expected to go into production in about a year.

The strip appears in more than 80 gay and alternative publications around the country, and was the winner of the 1998 Sappho Award for Creative Expression (part of the Vice Versa Awards).

No word yet on who will play Ethan, but his doppelganger Robert Downey Jr. seems to me like a good fit.

(Editors' note: *HeatStroke* has featured *The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green* in every issue since we began publishing. Check out page 26 for the latest installment.)

## Master and Servant

Move over Mr. French, there's a new butt, er, butler in town and this one's hot! Gay actor Rupert Everett

has convinced Paramount Pictures to pony up a pretty penny to option the book *Servile on Sunset* for him to star in.

Everett will play a wealthy British aristocrat whose fortune goes bust. In order for him to live in the manner to which he's accustomed, he must take a job as a butler for a "new money" American family in the decidedly down-home setting of Texas. During the fish (and chips)-out-of-water tale, the shallow snob discovers that true worth is found (you guessed it) within.

The project won't get rolling until Everett finishes up acting chores on *The Next Best Thing* with Madonna.

## Hippie Chick

Remember that long-in-the-works Janis Joplin biopic that was supposed to happen with dyke chanteuse Melissa Etheridge starring and Etheridge's wife Julie Cypher directing?

Well the project is back on track, this time with *Clueless* actress Brittany Murphy set to play the bisexual rock icon who died at age 27 from a drug overdose. Director Gary Fleder (*Kiss The Girls*) will bring the project to the big screen.

Rumor around town is that Etheridge's screen test proved disappointing and, despite her strong vocal ability, forced the studio to search for a new leading lady.

Enter the talented (and more age-appropriate) Murphy, who should be able to pull off the Texas-born singer's twang, since she voices the character of "Luanne" on *King of the Hill*. Murphy is expected to sing some Joplin songs in the feature.

## Scream in the New Year

Cashing in on what could be the most lucrative horror franchise of all time, Miramax has shored up a deal with queer scribe Kevin Williamson to write the screenplay for the third installment of the *Scream* series.

While details of the plot are sketchy, the story is rumored to focus on Neve Campbell's character moving to Los Angeles to begin an acting career.

The film will reunite Campbell with fellow *Scream*-ers Courteney

Cox and David Arquette; and it will begin shooting in late spring or early summer to accommodate Cox's and Campbell's television production schedules. Look for *Scream 3* in theaters December 10th.

## Is a Kiss Still a Kiss?

That's the question actor-playwright David Drake must be asking himself as he prepares to bring his Off-Broadway hit, *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, to the big screen.

The semi-autobiographical one-man play, which was the talk of the town when it opened in 1992 and netted its boyish creator an Obie, charted a naive gayboy's growing political awareness—from showtunes and the Village People to back rooms, AIDS, and Larry Kramer's ACT UP.

fantasy segment envisioning a Queer Revolution in the late 1990s. Oh, well, we've still got a few months left.

## Mission: Impossible to Make?

While überhunk Tom Cruise's latest film *Eyes Wide Shut* took forever to finish, his sequel to *Mission: Impossible* is having a hard time getting started.

The \$80 million film, which is to be directed by action auteur John Woo (*Broken Arrow*), was supposed to be in production already. But the start date keeps getting pushed back until an acceptable script can be finalized.

Some members of the *M2* production crew have been laid off while the problems are resolved. Cruise is standing by in Australia (where the film will shoot) waiting for the project to begin, and Ving Rhames remains firmly committed to co-star.

Also still fuzzy is whether gay actor-cum-knight Sir Ian McKellan will join the film's cast. He's been offered a role, but has not yet accepted. No word yet on what that role might be, but after his chilling turn as a Nazi in *Apt Pupil*, my bet is they want him to be the villain.

## Fairy Godfathers

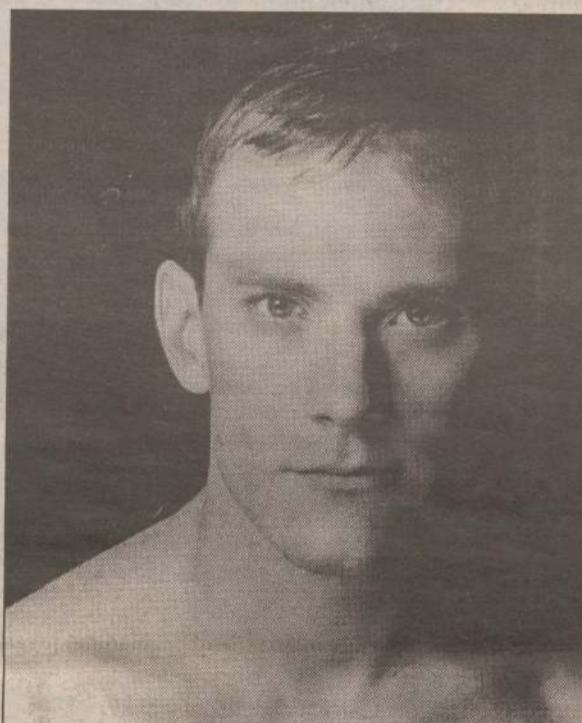
Gay and lesbian filmmakers have two new fairy godfathers. Clive Barker and Bill Condon, who last teamed up on *Gods And Monsters*, will collaborate again, this time on a series of 15 short films by gays and lesbians called *Love and Taboo*.

San Francisco-based Turbulent Films will finance and distribute the project, which Barker will executive produce.

The films are intended to bring to light queer directing talent as each filmmaker creates a piece inspired by a work by a gay composer. While Barker and Condon will each direct a segment, there is no word yet on who the other lucky 13 filmmakers will be.

Barker, who directed the *Hellraiser* films, will then tie the shorts together with a "wraparound" to make them suitable for theatrical release.

Romeo San Vicente has never kissed Larry Kramer. You can contact Romeo in care of *HeatStroke* or e-mail to RomeoDeep@aol.com.



David Drake, Creator of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, will reprise his performance on film for director Tim Kirkman.

In May, the New York-based Drake heads down to his hometown of Baltimore to film the show after a two-week run on a local stage. The final product, to be directed by Tim Kirkman (*Dear Jesse*), will be a "live performance" film (a la *Spaulding Gray*) incorporating certain cinematic effects.

AIDS is still painfully with us, of course, but the issues around the epidemic have undergone a sea change since 1992—so I'll be curious to see what sort of update Drake does, if any.

After all, he ended his play with a

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# Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



## Atlanta by Day

Atlanta is the ultimate melting pot of Southern cultures, tainted—or spiced up, depending on how you look at it—by myriad Northern influences. No longer is it the land of Rhett and Scarletts, nor are residents mired in the Old South mentality that is sometimes attributed to them.

This rapidly booming metropolis is as sophisticated and tolerant as most major urban centers and has over the past two decades developed into a world-class city, hosting the Olympics in 1996 and luring countless corporate headquarters from across the nation.

With the population boom, the city now has one of the largest gay communities in the country, and also one of the most visible; an astounding number of cars have pink triangle and rainbow decals.

Although it possesses a fascinating mix of early-and late-20th-century buildings, Atlanta's Downtown provides little you can't find in safer, cleaner, and greener parts of the metro area.

Five Points, where Edgewood Avenue and Peachtree, Marietta, and Decatur streets converge, is the commercial and spiritual center of the city—just north is a large shopping and entertainment district called Underground Atlanta.

A short walk south you'll find the campy World of Coca-Cola, a shame-

themed gift shop.

Just east of Downtown is the Sweet Auburn historic district, a series of landmarks—most of them relating to the city's rich African-American history—stretching along Auburn Avenue. Here you'll find the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, which documents the life and times of the martyred civil rights leader who grew up in the neighborhood and is entombed here.

To the north, Midtown—where the counterculture nested three decades ago—has Atlanta's highest concentration of gays and lesbians. The neighborhood has recently become expensive, and many gays have migrated southeast, where several historic neighborhoods remain affordable (not for long, one suspects).

Culture mavens should check out the esteemed Woodruff Arts Center, home to the Alliance Theatre and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and the adjacent High Museum of Art, whose respectable collection competes with the walls that contain it—a striking, white-porcelain-paneled building designed by Richard Meier.

One of the city's most distinctive buildings, the Moorish-and-Egyptian-inspired Fox Theatre, was built in 1916 and nearly demolished in 1978 to make way for an office building; it now presents touring musicals, shows, and performers.

Budding Scarletts mustn't miss the nearby Road to Tara Museum, which

contains enough *Gone with the Wind* memorabilia and costumes to satisfy even the most dedicated fan.

Up the street is the Margaret Mitchell House, the re-created former home of the book's author (this year

marks the 50th anniversary of her untimely death; she was struck and killed by a car as she crossed

Peachtree Street a few blocks north of here).

On the eastern edge of Midtown, lovely Piedmont Park feels miles away from city life, except for its views of Atlanta's skyline. It's common to see dykes and queens merrily blading, jogging, sunning, reading, and cruising just about everywhere. The park's northern edge is bordered by Atlanta's spectacular 60-acre Botanical Garden.

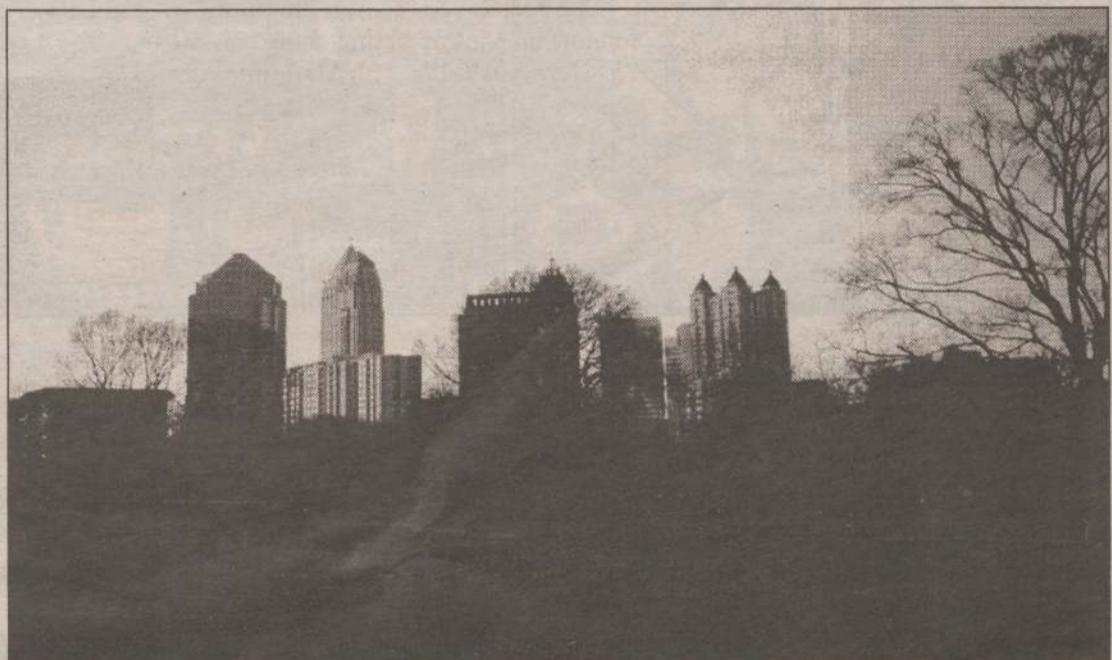
In northern Midtown, the rather tony and quite gay residential neighborhood of Ansley Park has many houses dating from the early part of the century. Here, at the intersection of Piedmont Avenue and Monroe Drive, is a small but concentrated gay entertainment district, anchored by the Ansley Square shopping center,

dents. It's not particularly gay, although Elton John owns a high-rise condo nearby.

But the two most fashionable—and cruisy—malls in Atlanta are in Buckhead: Lenox Square Mall and, across the street, Phipps Plaza. Both have enough homo traffic to qualify unofficially as America's fanciest gay community centers.

A number of neighborhoods great for exploring are situated just east of Midtown. Virginia-Highland is a funky yet gentrified residential and commercial district that's hot with guppies and yuppies. Just south of here, the Dekalb Farmer's Market is the best dyke-cruising ground in the Atlanta metro area—maybe even in the whole Southeast.

Nearby, Little Five Points is the



Midtown's sleek postmodern skyline looms over Piedmont Park, the gay community's favorite spot for blading, jogging and sunning.

which is packed with community-oriented shops, bars, and eateries.

In the northern reaches of the city, posh Buckhead is far removed from Downtown, both geographically and psychologically. For a great sunny-day activity, drive around Buckhead's winding, wooded roads and gawk at the mansions; West Paces Ferry Road and Northside Drive are two of the better routes.

A highlight here is the Atlanta History Center, a 32-acre wooded spread with several historic buildings, including the sumptuous Swan House, a furnished 1928 Palladian mansion.

Buckhead commercial district is where the chic go to be seen. On weekend nights, this section is overrun with yuppies and college stu-

ents. It's not particularly gay, although Elton John owns a high-rise condo nearby.

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# HeatStroke's Funny Page

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner



www.StonewallInn.com EricOrner@aol.com

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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Dear Cowboy,

Last month I attended the wedding of a straight co-worker who is quite a bit younger than me. He has known about my sexual orientation for a long time and has been a good friend, but to most of the other people we work with I'm still in the closet.

Speaking of which, at the reception we both got pretty drunk and he and I ended up making out—literally in the closet. The bride doesn't know. As far as I can tell, neither does anyone else. I'd like to forget it ever happened but he's told me three times already since he got back from his

honeymoon that "we should talk." He wants to go to lunch and I keep making up reasons not to. What would you do?

Signed, The Male Monica

Dear Mr. Monica,

You aren't the first cowpoke to get a little frisky when he's feeling his whiskey. Neither is your young buddy the only guy in history to deal with wedding-day jitters by sneaking down a forbidden trail with someone other than the new Missus.

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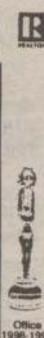
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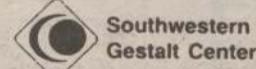
**Michael Sacks**

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Diane E. D'Angelo, M.C., C.P.C.

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- Care for Caregivers
- Abuse Recovery
- Chemical Dependency Issues



Member American Counseling Association

1855 E. Northern  
Phoenix, AZ 85020  
(602) 997-8199  
Fax: (602) 264-0914  
E-mail: [dedangelo@aol.com](mailto:dedangelo@aol.com)

Maybe he'd prefer to forget it happened, too. Or maybe he feels like he's really gay, that he made a mistake, and you are the only one he can talk to about that.

Keep your ears open, your mouth shut and your hands out of his saddlebags until he's said his piece. You're older than he is—so now let's see if you can be more mature.

Dear Cowboy,

Every time I'm around my girl-friend's parents, they ask me when I'm planning to move in with their daughter. Her mom keeps asking me if we're going to have a wedding, or "holy union" as she puts it. We haven't even seriously discussed it between ourselves.

I love the fact that they are so supportive of their gay daughter, but their pushiness bugs me and I never know how to respond. Our current

level of commitment is really none of their business. My girlfriend thinks it's funny but sometimes I feel like they are really coming down on me. What can I do?

Signed, Feeling Pressure

Dear Pressure,

I agree it's great that her folks are accepting, and if they want to ask their own daughter where a relationship is going, fair enough. But they shouldn't be asking you.

Next time your possible future in-laws put you on the spot, act real shocked and flustered. Spill the ketchup or something. Then apologize by saying, "I'm sorry—I'm not used to such personal questions. Then mention the weather or the WNBA. Try that a couple times, and they ought to start directing the conversation down a more general trail.

## Edibles

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

B. Espresso Country  
1422 N. Scottsdale Rd.  
Scottsdale 95110

## Libations

1. Ain't Nobody's Bizness  
3031 E. Indian School  
Phoenix 224-9977

2. **Amsterdam**  
718 North Central Ave.  
Phoenix 258-6122

3. **Apollo's**  
5749 N. 7th Street  
Phoenix 277-9373

4. **Boor Camp**  
3702 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 212-9888

5. **BS**  
7125 5th Avenue  
Scottsdale 945-9028

6. **The Bunkhouse**  
4428 N. 7th Ave.  
Phoenix

7. **Cash Inn**  
2140 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 244-9943

8. **Charlie's**  
727 W. Camelback  
Phoenix 265-0224

9. **Club Roxy**  
4343 N. 7th Ave.  
Phoenix 285-9200

10. **Crowbar**  
702 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 258-8343

11. **Cruisin' Central**  
1011 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 253-3376

12. **The Rose**  
44301 N. 7th Ave.  
Phoenix 265-3233

13. **Harley's Club** 155  
Harley's Too!  
155 & 125 W. Camelback  
Phoenix 274-8505

14. **Incognito**  
2424 E. Thomas  
Phoenix 955-9805

15. **JC's Fun One**  
5542 N. 43rd Ave.  
Glendale 939-0528

16. **Johnny Mc's**  
138 W. Camelback  
Phoenix 266-0875

17. **Marlys'**  
15615 Cave Creek  
Phoenix 867-2463

18. **Millennium 2001**  
3300 S. Price Rd.  
Tempe 756-2445

19. **Nasty's Sports Bar**  
3108 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 267-8707

20. **NuTowne**  
5002 E. Van Buren  
Phoenix 267-9959

21. **Paco Paco**  
3045 N. 16th St.  
Phoenix 263-8424

22. **The Park**  
3002 N. 24th Street  
Phoenix 957-6055

23. **Roscoe's on 7th**  
4531 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 285-0833

24. **Shooterz**  
998 E. Indian School  
Phoenix 266-5640

25. **307 Lounge**  
222 E. Roosevelt  
Phoenix 252-0001

26. **TRAX**  
1724 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 254-0231

27. **Waterhole**  
8830 N. 43rd Ave.  
Glendale 937-3139

28. **Wink's**  
5707 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 265-9002

29. **Scandals**  
4132 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 275-3509

30. **The Adult Shoppe**  
111 S. 24th Street  
Phoenix 306-1130

31. **The Barn Adult Shop**  
5021 W. Indian School  
Phoenix 245-3008

32. **Book Cellar**  
4029 E. Washington  
Phoenix 275-0015  
(other Valley locations)

33. **Castle Boutique**  
5501 E. Washington  
Phoenix 231-9837  
(3 other Valley locations)

34. **Obelisk Books**  
24 West Camelback  
Phoenix 266-Book

35. **Movies on Central**  
4700 N. Central #121  
Phoenix 274-0994

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

37. **ASU Art Museum**  
Nelson Fine Arts Center  
Mill Ave. & 10th Street  
Tempe 965-2787

38. **ASU Gammage Center**  
Apache & Mill Ave.  
Tempe 965-3434

39. **Blockbuster Desert Sky**  
Pavillion  
2121 N. 83rd Ave.  
Phoenix 254-7499

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

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

42. **America West Arena**  
201 E. Jefferson  
Phoenix 379-7800

43. **AZ Hall of Fame Museum**  
1101 W. Washington  
Phoenix 255-2110

44. **AZ Historical Society**  
Museum  
1300 N. College  
Tempe 929-0292

45. **AZ Mining & Mineral**  
Museum  
1502 W. Washington  
Phoenix 255-3791

46. **AZ Science Center**  
600 E. Washington  
Phoenix 716-2000

47. **AZ State Capitol Museum**  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix 542-4675

48. **Celebrity Theater**  
440 N. 32nd Street  
Phoenix 267-9373

49. **Heard Museum**  
22 E. Monte Vista  
Phoenix 252-8848

50. **Herberger Theater**  
222 E. Monroe  
Phoenix 254-7399

51. **Orpheum Theatre**  
203 W. Adams  
Phoenix 262-7272

52. **Phoenix Art Museum**  
1624 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 257-1222

53. **Phoenix Central Library**  
1221 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 262-4636

54. **Phoenix Civic Plaza**  
225 E. Adams St.  
Phoenix 262-6225

55. **Phoenix Symphony Hall**  
225 E. Adams  
Phoenix 262-6225

56. **Phoenix Museum of History**  
105 N. 5th Street  
Phoenix 253-2734

57. **Phoenix Theatre**  
100 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 254-2151

58. **Phoenix Zoo**  
455 N. Galvin Pkwy  
Phoenix 273-1431

59. **Pueblo Grande Museum**  
4619 E. Washington  
Phoenix 495-0900

60. **Squaw Peak Park**  
2701 E. SquawPeak Dr.  
Phoenix 262-6696

61. **South Mountain Park**  
1019 S. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 495-0222

62. **Tempe**  
University Dr.  
ASU

63. **University of Arizona**  
1611 N. University  
Tucson 724-6700

64. **University of Phoenix**  
1000 N. University  
Tucson 724-6700

65. **University of Phoenix**  
1000 N. University  
Tucson 724-6700

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Tucson 724-6700

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Tucson 724-6700

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Tucson 724-6700

97. **University of Phoenix**  
1000 N. University  
Tucson 724-6700

98. **University of Phoenix**  
1000 N. University  
Tucson 724-6700

99. **University of Phoenix**  
1000 N. University  
Tucson 724-6700

100. **University of Phoenix**  
1000 N. University  
Tucson 724-6700

## Staples

30. **The Adult Shoppe**  
111 S. 24th Street  
Phoenix 306-1130

31. **The Barn Adult Shop**  
5021 W. Indian School  
Phoenix 245-3008

32. **Book Cellar**  
4029 E. Washington  
Phoenix 275-0015  
(other Valley locations)

33. **Castle Boutique**  
5501 E. Washington  
Phoenix 231-9837  
(3 other Valley locations)

## Tubs

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

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

## Culture

60. **America West Arena**  
201 E. Jefferson  
Phoenix 379-7800

61. **AZ Hall of Fame Museum**<br

# Directory of Community Services

## Aids Services

AGAPE Network  
P.O. Box 32778  
Phoenix, AZ 85064 234-6143

AIDS Project Arizona  
111 E. Camelback  
Phoenix, AZ 85012 265-2437

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

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

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

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

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

Coalition of Meal Providers  
992-6593

HIV Care Directions  
1366 E. Thomas #105  
Phoenix, AZ 85014 264-2273

Indian Community Health Serv.  
1427 N. 3rd St. #100  
Phoenix, AZ 85004 254-0456

Joshua Tree Feeding Program  
P.O. Box 7056  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 264-0223

Maricopa County Health Dept.  
1825 E. Roosevelt  
Phoenix, AZ 85006 506-6900

Planned Parenthood  
5651 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85016 277-7526

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

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

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

Volunteers in Direct Aid  
P.O. Box 40476  
Phoenix, AZ 85067 279-8432

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

Arizonans for Fairness  
P.O. Box 34766  
Phoenix, AZ 85067 265-7283

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

Feminist Lesbian Activist  
Coalition  
P.O. Box 26031  
Tempe, AZ 85285 966-4521

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

Log Cabin Republicans  
P.O. Box 60994  
Phoenix, AZ 85082 428-3596

Maricopa Cty. Libertarian Party  
P.O. Box 501  
Phoenix, AZ 85001 248-8425

Tempe, AZ 85280 488-0959

Arizona Central Pride  
P.O. Box 16847  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 279-1771

Arizona Human Rights Fund  
P.O. Box 25044  
Phoenix, AZ 85002 650-0900

Arizona 2-somes  
P.O. Box 32776  
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Bears of the Arizona Desert  
4133 E. Campbell Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85018 345-8755

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Leatherlords  
254-9651

Lesbian & Gay Alanon  
2622 N. 16th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85006 548-0936

Los Amigos del Sol (LADS)  
PO Box 27335  
Phoenix, AZ 85061 997-2411

Parents & Friends of Lesbians  
and Gays  
P.O. Box 37525  
Phoenix, AZ 85069 843-1404

The Phoenix Bears  
PO Box 9627  
Tempe, AZ 85068 216-8000

Project LifeGuard  
Project Q  
TRIBE  
4700 N. Central, #204  
Phoenix, AZ 85012 266-7233

The Community Center  
and Youth Services 265-7283  
Lesbian & Gay Community  
Switchboard 234-2752

24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C  
PO Box 33367  
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

Goddess Womyn's Network  
P.O. Box 17312  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 266-4111

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

Camelback Business &  
Professional Association  
P.O. Box 2097  
Phoenix, AZ 85001 225-8444

Lutherans Concerned  
P.O. Box 7519  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 870-3611

Presbyterians for Lesbians &  
Gays  
P.O. Box 61162  
Phoenix, AZ 85082 275-0506

Southwest Miracles Center  
3644 E. McDowell  
Phoenix, AZ 85008 244-9001

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.  
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85283  
840-8400

Asbury United Methodist Church  
1601 W. Indian School  
Phoenix, AZ 85015 279-2369

AVIV of Arizona (Jewish Group)  
PO Box 66904  
Phoenix, AZ 85082 952-1612

Casa De Cristo  
1029 E. Turney  
Phoenix, AZ 85014 265-2831

Community Church of Hope  
4400 N. Central  
Phoenix, AZ 85014 234-2180

Dignity and Integrity  
P.O. Box 60953  
Phoenix, AZ 85082 222-8664

Project LifeGuard  
Project Q  
TRIBE  
4700 N. Central, #204  
Phoenix, AZ 85012 266-7233

Gentle Shepherd MCC  
7810 N. 27th Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85051 864-6404

Charlie's Renegades  
P.O. Box 17602  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 277-9142

Desert Adventures  
PO Box 2008  
Phoenix, AZ 85001 266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares  
P.O. Box 34615  
Phoenix, AZ 85067 248-0048

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

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Social  
Tennis Club 279-0709

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

Lambda Car Club  
P.O. Box 36211  
Phoenix, AZ 85067 409-3160

Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling  
Alliance (PUGBA)  
PO Box 44422  
Phoenix, AZ 85064 246-9643

Spartan Wrestling Club 340-8070  
e-mail: mattbims@aol.com

Team Arizona  
P.O. Box 36431  
Phoenix, AZ 85067 464-1461

TLC Chorale  
PO Box 37855  
Phoenix, AZ 85069 878-5430

Valley of the Sun Comm'ty Band

Jayne: 947-0907; Terry: 954-9244

Cactus Cities Softball League  
PO Box 45101  
Phoenix, AZ 85064 848-8562

## Professional Organizations

## Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Mormons)  
P.O. Box 26601

Tempe, AZ 85285

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.  
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85283  
840-8400

Asbury United Methodist Church  
1601 W. Indian School  
Phoenix, AZ 85015 279-2369

AVIV of Arizona (Jewish Group)  
PO Box 66904  
Phoenix, AZ 85082 952-1612

Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch.  
1700 W. Warner Rd.  
Chandler, AZ 85224 899-4249

Western Orthodox  
Catholic Church  
241-9776 pasiozi@cris.com

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association  
P.O. Box 16363  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 265-0618

Valley of the Sun Comm'ty Band

Jayne: 947-0907; Terry: 954-9244

Cactus Cities Softball League  
PO Box 45101  
Phoenix, AZ 85064 848-8562

## Political Action & Education

American Civil Liberties Union  
P.O. Box 17148  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 650-1967

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

Arizona 2-somes  
P.O. Box 32776  
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Bears of the Arizona Desert  
4133 E. Campbell Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85018 345-8755

Tempe, AZ 85280 488-0959

Arizona Central Pride  
P.O. Box 16847  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 279-1771

Arizona Human Rights Fund  
P.O. Box 25044  
Phoenix, AZ 85002 650-0900

Arizona Nude Dudes  
P.O. Box 32776  
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Project LifeGuard  
Project Q  
TRIBE  
4700 N. Central, #204  
Phoenix, AZ 85012 266-7233

Tempe, AZ 85285 32

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## "TV Butches"

37 Salonga of *Miss Saigon*

38 "\_\_\_ gay?" (coming-out query)

39 Brest friend

40 See 23-Across

43 Smiled broadly

44 Spews forth violently

45 Bill's partner in *Pansy Division's "Homosexual Adventure"*

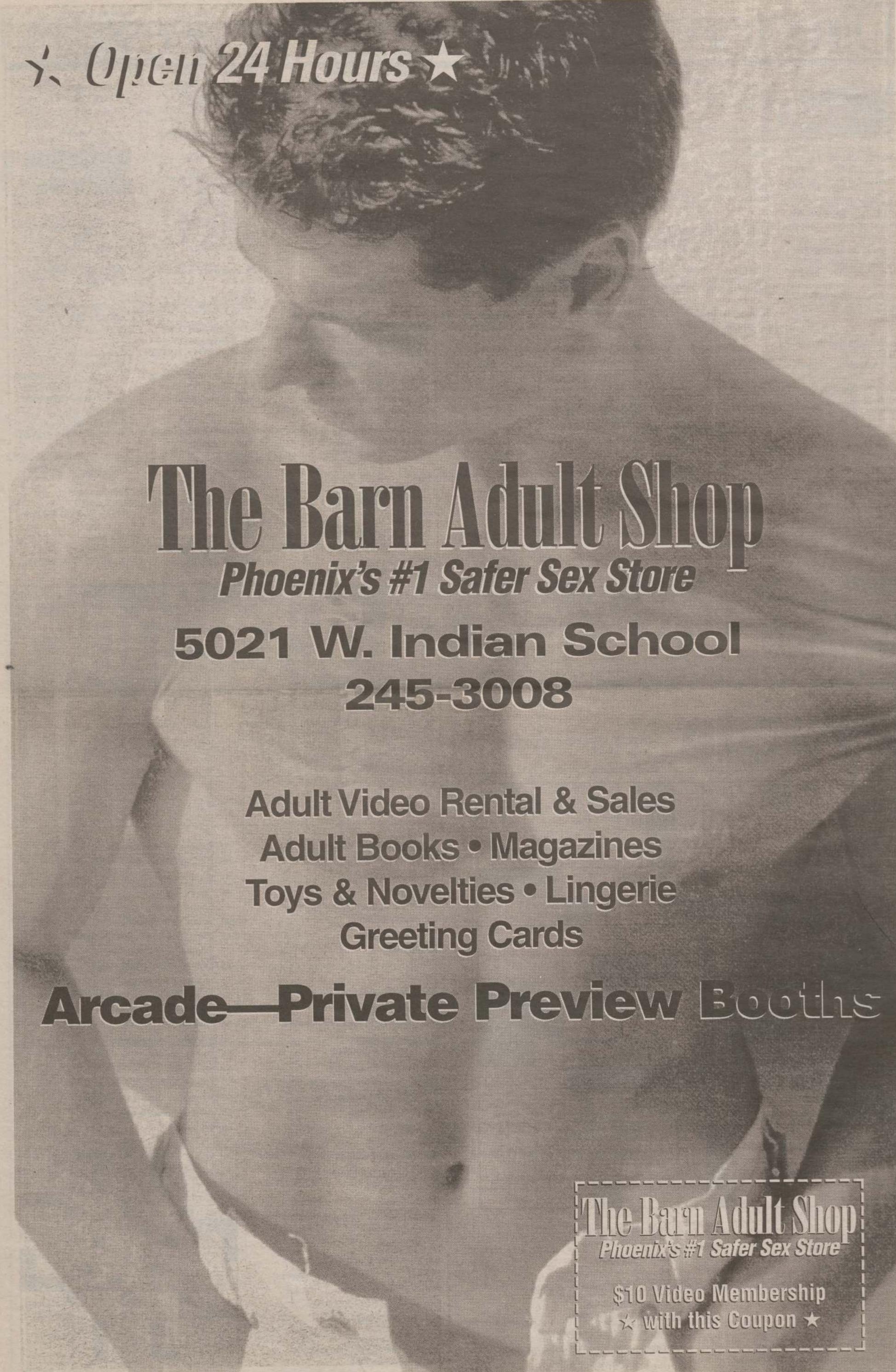
46 Old \_\_\_ (1957 Disney film)

50 Its capital is Valletta

51 Youngest-ever heavyweight champ

52 *International* \_\_\_ (fashion catalogue)

53 Give off



Open 24 Hours ★

# The Barn Adult Shop

*Phoenix's #1 Safer Sex Store*

**5021 W. Indian School**  
**245-3008**

**Adult Video Rental & Sales**  
**Adult Books • Magazines**  
**Toys & Novelties • Lingerie**  
**Greeting Cards**

**Arcade—Private Preview Booths**

**The Barn Adult Shop**  
*Phoenix's #1 Safer Sex Store*

\$10 Video Membership  
★ with this Coupon ★

# HEATSTROKE SCOPERS

By Deane Jaye, *HeatStroke*  
Contributor

#### **Aries (March 21 - April 20)**

Clean out your ears and clear your head. You can learn a lot by listening this month, Aries, and there's no better teacher than your own past experience to point the way to some important lessons. What at first appears to be a solo situation is not nearly as bleak as you perceive. Friends can and probably will—pitch in to help before all is said and done. Hungry mouths will appreciate your limited kitchen talents on the weekend.

#### **Taurus (April 21 - May 20)**

Things are definitely coming up roses and daffodils and hollyhocks for you this month—not to mention sunshine and Santa Claus, whatever the hell that means. Someone who really trusts you may seek your wisdom and advice early in the month, so avoid the temptation to make a joke of their plight. Plan an unusual, even kinky evening with that special someone around the 7th, and it's a safe bet neither of you will be disappointed.

#### **Gemini (May 21 - June 20)**

Step on the gas and put down the top, you're cruising along at freeway speed now. You may have a few apologies to get out of the way, but once forgiveness has been granted you should be able to get down to the business of fun. Not everyone is willing to share your enthusiasm—don't pressure others unnecessarily. A Cancer friend who's been hiding out at home could benefit from your encouragement to get involved.

#### **Cancer (June 21 - July 20)**

You are in a grudge-holding mood when the situation clearly calls for an overture of forgiveness. Prove yourself the bigger person and be the first to step up to that line. Then take your time and see that things are categorized, sorted and back in place. Travel is a good idea once you get things established at hearth and home. Not everyone will agree with your planned itinerary, however. Accept their right to dissent and move on.

#### **Leo (July 21 - August 20)**

You're rambling and ranting and raving all over the place these days and it seems as though you're about to burst open like a candy-filled piñata. This agitated state is so unusual for you Leos that you're friends (and you do have two) are beginning to worry. Settle yourself into a river, lake or hot bath for some relaxing comfort. Travel and financial opportunities should arise when things calm down a little, perhaps after the 8th.

#### **Virgo (August 21 - September 20)**

Nighty night, little Mousketeer. Now it's time to say good-bye to all your company. You've been the hostess with the mostess for some time, and burden of your household duties is about to be lifted at long last. Enjoy your newfound freedom for as much as it's worth, 'cause it ain't gonna stay this quiet for long. Let insults roll off your back if things turn nasty over the next few weekends.

#### **Libra (September 21 - October 20)**

It's like a permanent Burger King! You have been getting things done your way for quite some time and you love it. All that satisfaction is tied directly to your sex drive, which is pretty much in overdrive and probably will be through the middle of the month, at minimum. Play it carefully after the 2nd when April Fool's paybacks could kick in. Look to an Aquarius associate for sensible financial advice.

#### **Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)**

Spring is in the air, and a young Scorpio's fancy could very well be turning to a fancy young Scorpio. Self indulgence shouldn't be confused with self reliance, especially if you find yourself hooking up for one of those "emotional" moments you're fond of sharing with your horny soulmates. Colder climates are calling around the 6th, so see what kind of room you can make in your schedule for a non-sexual outing.

#### **Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)**

Mountain climbing is for goats and social climbing is for Capricorns, so why are you suddenly worried about how you're seen by others? You should know better, and you should drop the act as soon as possible. Calm down, be yourself and learn to say "No". Be careful with your health—you could be particularly vulnerable to foot and leg problems this month. A distant relative wants to get closer.

#### **Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)**

Don't sweat the small stuff, Grand Mammy Jaye used to always say. The stars are taking things a step further with you Capricorns this month and warning you not to sweat at all. Watch those workouts—diving too deeply into any routine tends to lead you to frustration. A festive lunch meeting or other daytime adventure around the 4th could help to change your attitude. A Sagittarius native may wish to join you.

#### **Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)**

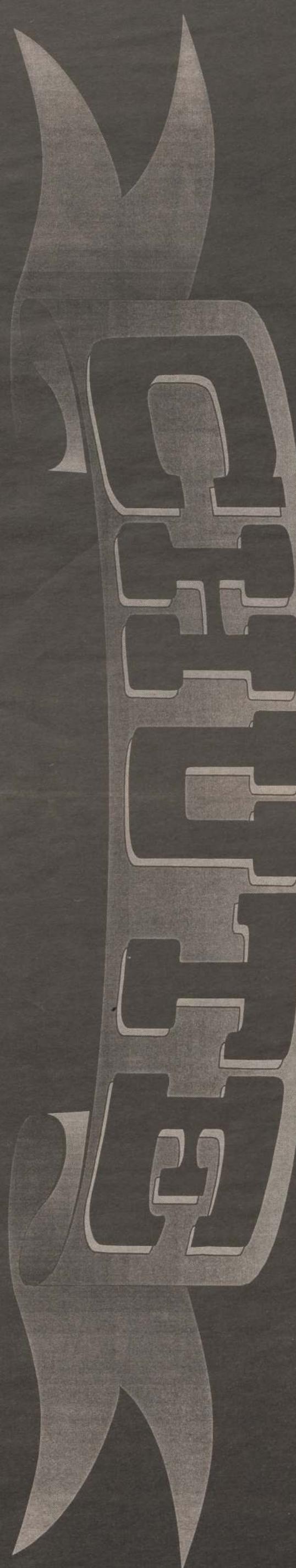
It's time to clear out the closet, dust off the tops of the door jambs and get rid of the hang-ups you have collected over the last year. Spring cleaning can apply to your relationships too, so polish what ought to be polished and eighty-six what you never needed in the first place. Offer apologies whenever necessary on or near the 31st, then get out and mingle with some like-minded revelers. A Scorpio confidante may be working against you.

#### **Pisces (February 21 - March 20)**

Hell, even Cyd Charisse used a ton of makeup. So remember, everything is not quite as pretty as it seems at first. If some new opportunity seems absolutely perfect, you need to look beyond the cover stick and find the pits and pustules that lurk below the surface. Well, yeah sure. Yuk! but you know what I mean. Sporting events will prove a great way to meet new people on or around the 3rd.

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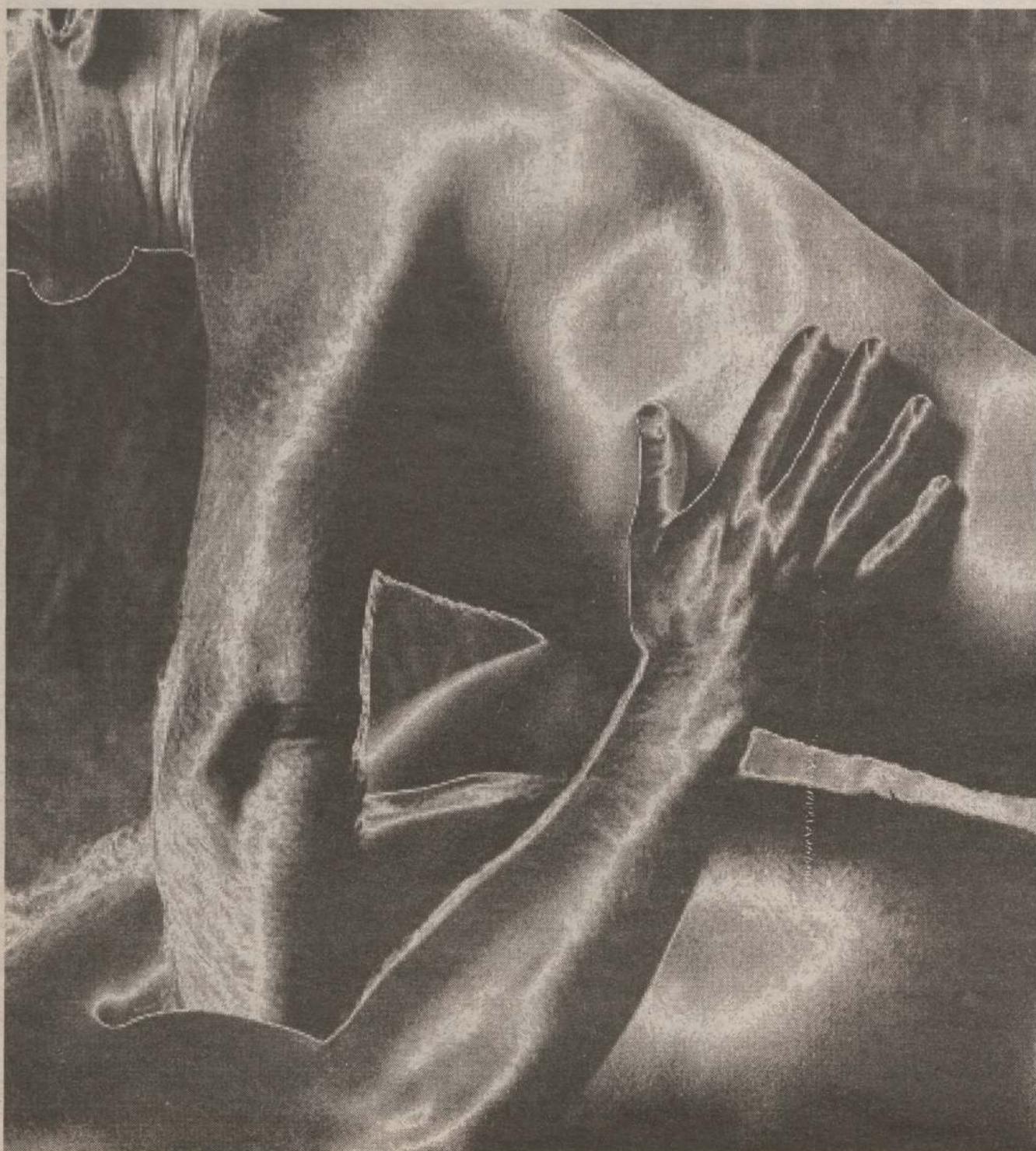
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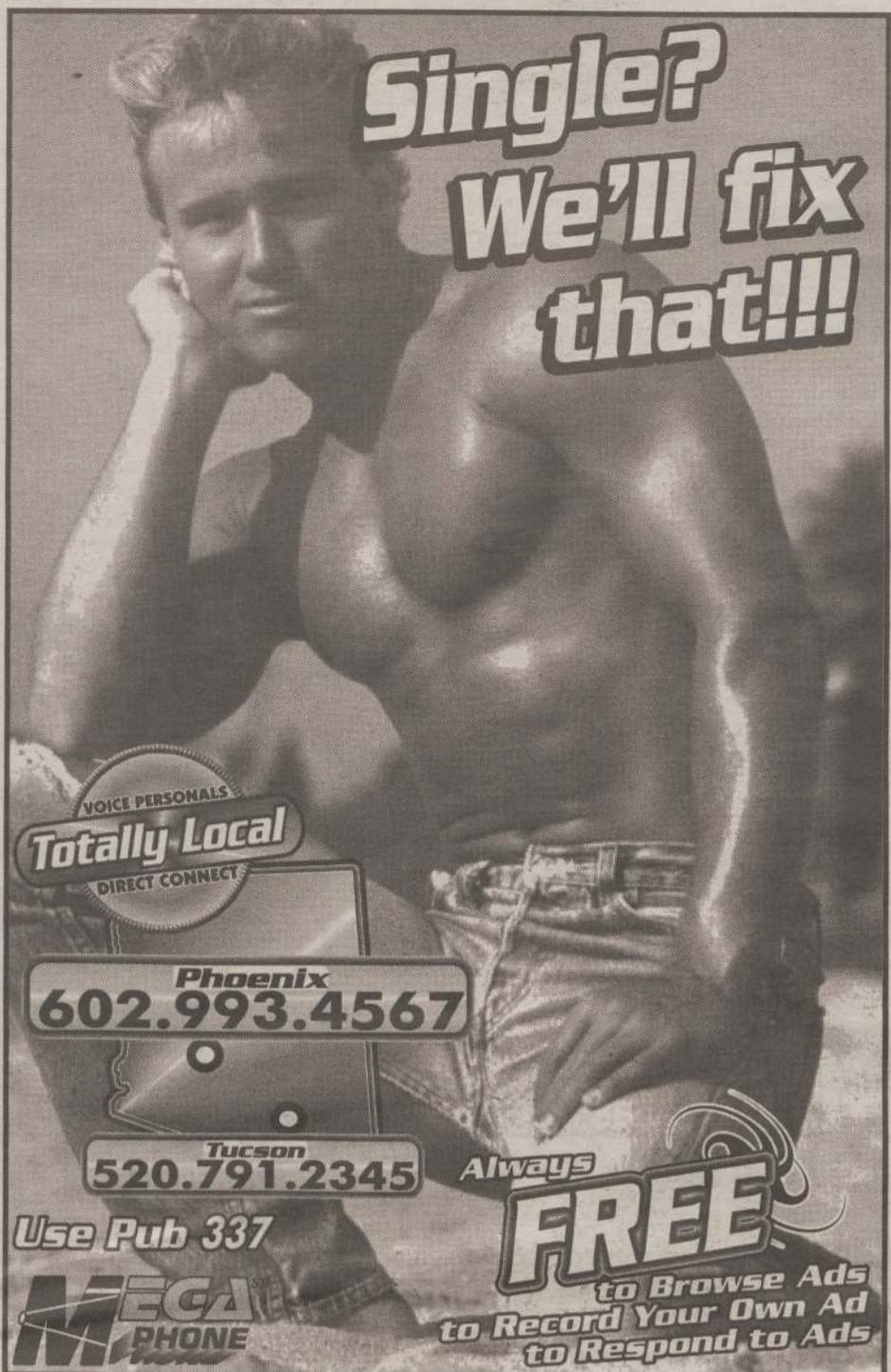
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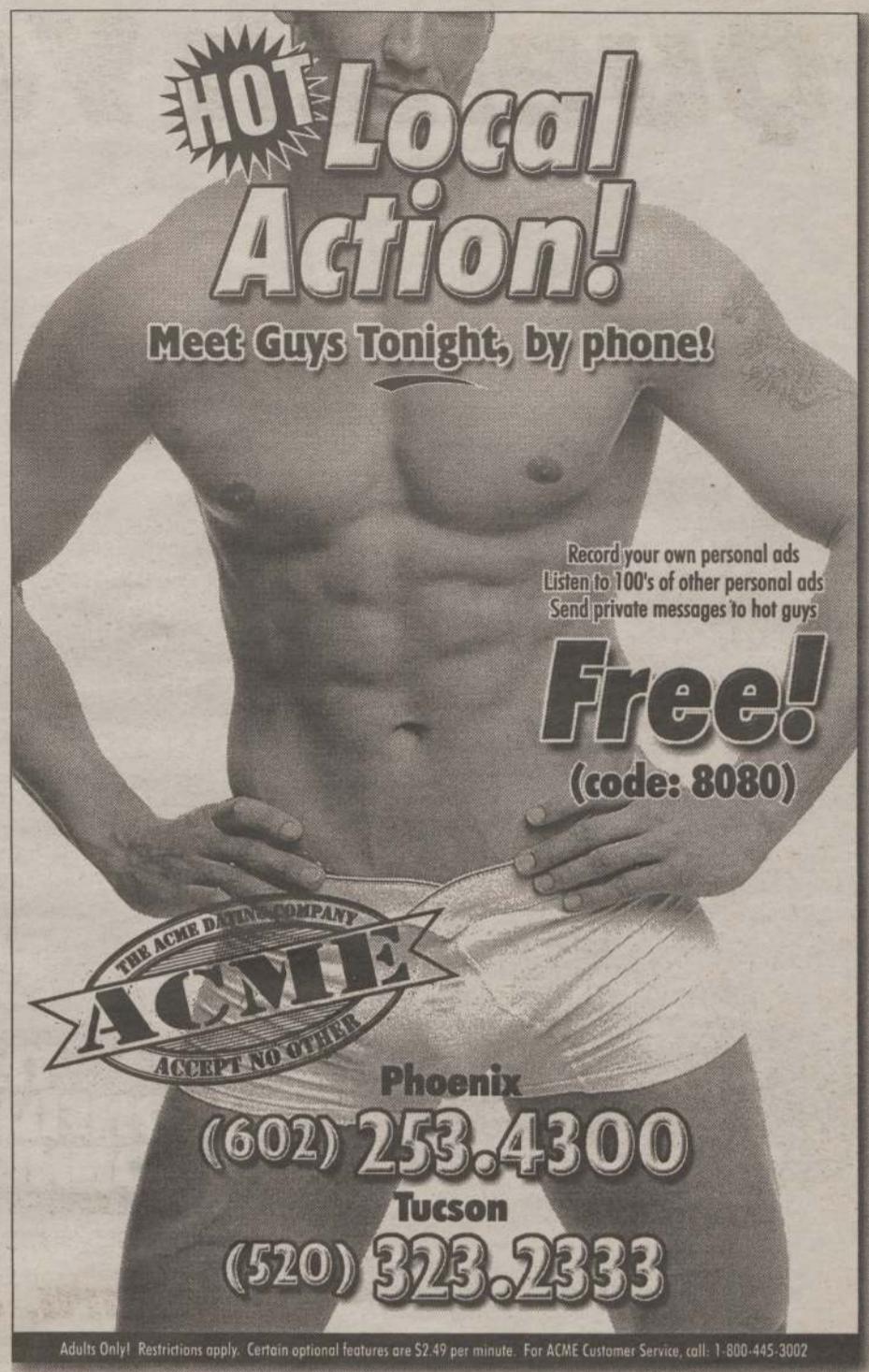
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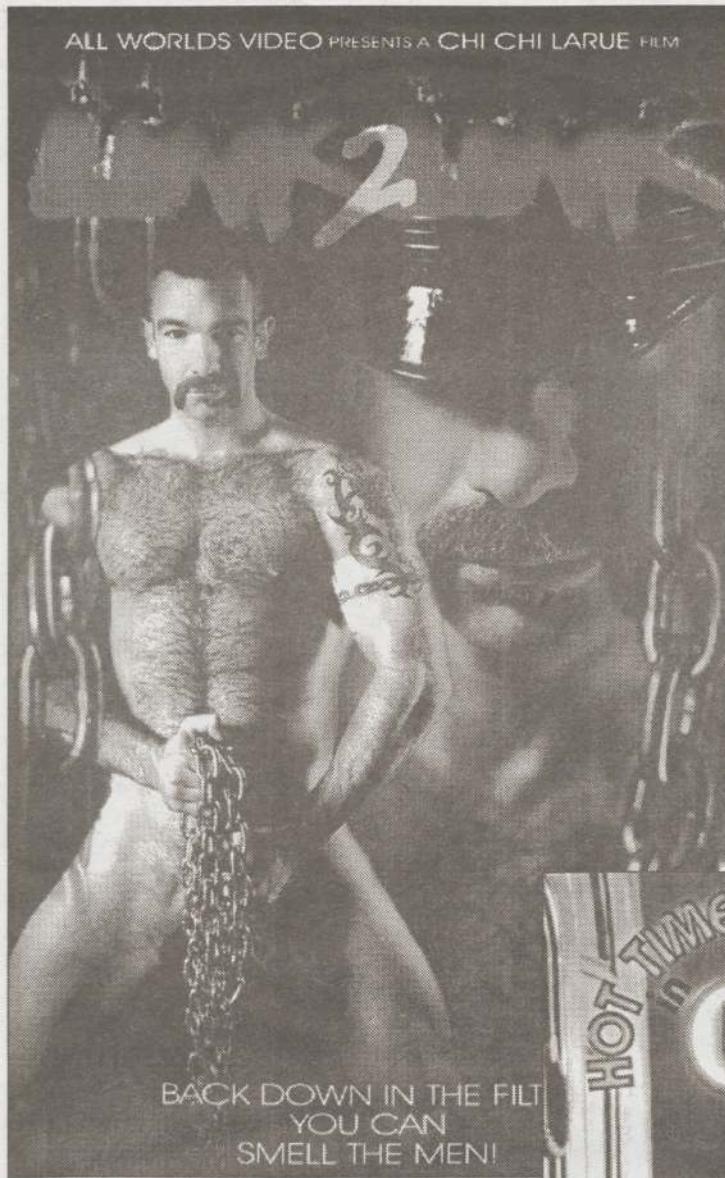
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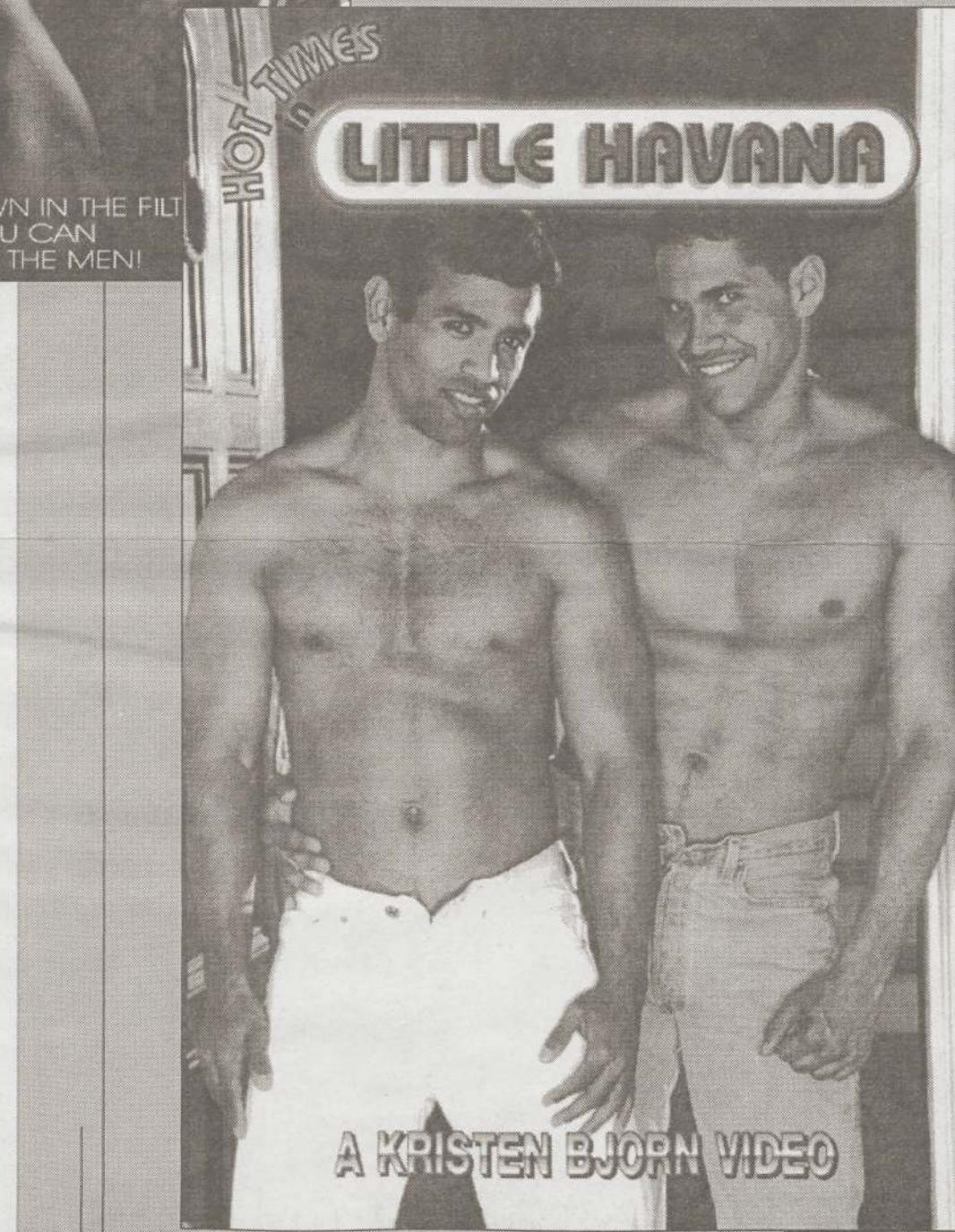


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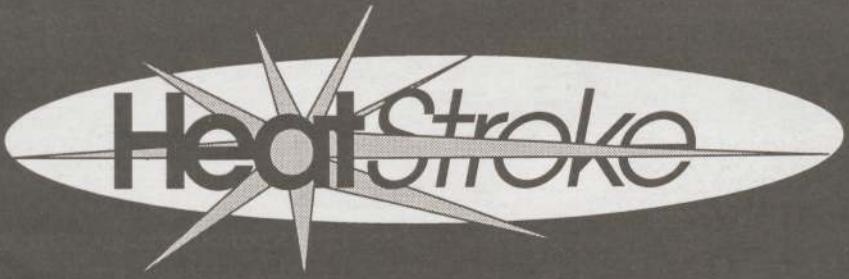
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