

was jesus gay?

PHOENIX RESOURCE • VOLUME 7 NUMBER 7 • MARCH 29 - APRIL 11, 1991

directory

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Phoenix 85060

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234-2752

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919 N 1st St
Phoenix 85004
420-9396

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Phoenix 85012
230-1881

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PO Box 32903
Phoenix 85064
265-2437

Community Care Center
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Phoenix 85004
340-1111

Flagstaff AIDS Outreach
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Flagstaff 86002
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Phoenix 85006
271-0008

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Phoenix 85014
George: 277-PLAN

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Phoenix 85011

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HIV Coordinator & Educator: Lee Hood
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963-0984

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6829 N 21st Ave
Phoenix 85015
249-1257

Alcoholics Anonymous

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Phoenix 85014
264-1341

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3003 N Central Ave
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Phoenix 85012
264-7432

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967-2570

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525-1199

Gay and Lesbian Discussion Group
870-9597

Gay and Lesbian Seniors
241-1604

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Arizona State University
Tempe 85287
968-3703

Lesbian and Gay Community Switchboard
234-2752

Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project
PO Box 60881
Phoenix 85082
827-0819

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
PO Box 37525
Phoenix 85064
949-9152
AIDS Related:
939-7807

Phoenix Gay Youth Group
PO Box 1075
Mesa 85211
897-8989

Phoenix Pride Planning Committee
631-0350

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Tempe 85282
275-9148
924-2358

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279-5815

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957-3476

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PO Box 40374
Phoenix 85067

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Phoenix 85067
246-8277

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254-4179

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957-7770

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253-7887

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244-1577

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275-3534

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396-6950

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258-2556

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Phoenix 85069
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275-0506

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258-2388

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267-8707

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248-0065

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258-9477

BS West
7125 5th Ave
Scottsdale
945-9028

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138 W Camelback
266-0875

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727 W Camelback
265-0224

Cruisin' Central
1011 N Central
253-3376

Durango's
1517 S Black Canyon Hwy
271-9011

Levi/Leather

Apollo's
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277-9373

Bum Steer
4620 N 7th Ave
279-3033

Nutowne
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I was raised Catholic. Until I saw fit to question what my imposed faith signified, it mostly meant that I had to go to church every Sunday, no matter how much I wanted to sleep in, and that I couldn't eat red meat on Friday. No big deal.

By the time I reached pubescence and was ready to come out queer, I had begun to question the non-answers I'd traditionally received regarding the stories of the Bible and their meaning. Explanations like "We're not supposed to understand that" and "It's a mystery" were beginning to sound disingenuous, and "I don't know" was always an

answer I considered suspect—particularly coming from either of my parents, who are omniscient.

When I discovered the Catholic Church's contempt for lesbian and gay people, I bolted. Agnosticism provided a safe haven without obligation. No commitment: I was *undecided*.

Then I fell in love with and married a dashing Christofascist whose post-coital Bible readings lulled me to sleep and, eventually, sent me to divorce court. His overzealous religiosity made its mark: I embraced atheism and have developed new

respect for my parent's unobtrusive spirituality.

I still have unanswered questions, but I think I understand why gay and lesbian people want to pursue Christianity. After hearing all of our lives that we are evil and wrong in our desires, the pursuit of God's approval is merely another way for us to validate ourselves.

I sleep in on Sundays.

—Pela

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on the cover

"Was Jesus Gay?" Photograph by L.E. Vanderbeek. Design by Lou Clemente.

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Date and Location Set For "Phoenix Pride"

Phoenix Event to be Held in Tempe Park

by Ellen M. Young

The Phoenix Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee has announced that the 1991 Gay Pride Festival will take place on June 2nd at Kiwanis Park in Tempe. According to committee chairperson Beth Verity, the selection of this year's venue was a long, drawn-out process complicated by governmental restrictions. In addition, the committee was attempting to meet community expectations, based on a survey taken in the fall of last year.

"In looking at the surveys, we started at the top of the list and talked to Encanto Park," Verity explains. "They really didn't want to even talk to us. They told us to go talk to South Mountain Park. At the same time, number two on the list was the State Fairgrounds. And although they were more than happy to have us there, it became cost-prohibitive. The event would have cost well over \$10,000, and the Committee decided that money could be better spent in the community than on a venue for gay pride."

The Committee then began negotiations with South Mountain Park, the third most favored location on the survey. The group's proposal was well-received by park officials and it appeared to be the perfect venue. "Then they started throwing more and more restrictions at us. There were more and more permits we had to get. And all along, they kept suggesting we might want to talk to Tempe or Mesa about one of their parks."

need permits for the awnings or the tents for the staging. And location-wise, it's not really any farther away than Papago, and probably even easier to get to. It's right off the freeway."

Verity adds that another positive aspect of working with Kiwanis has been the attitude of park officials. "They've been wonderful in negotiating, and the price is very reasonable. They've been more than accepting of everything we wanted, including allowing us a beer permit for just two dollars. They've pretty much said, 'You sign this paper and you can do what you want there.'"

Verity explains that while the availability of alcohol was not a deciding factor, it was taken into consideration based on the survey results. "We had a significant number who would attend if there was no alcohol, but in finding a park that only wanted two dollars for a beer permit, it made it feasible to offer at least beer without a problem. I don't think it was a major consideration, but now we have that option."

Verity also points out that while the festival will take place within a fenced-off area, no one will be turned away, including the media. As for non-gay picnickers who may wander over to the festival from other sections of the park, Verity says, "There will be security at the gate all day long, and we will advertise what kind of an event it is. If they still choose to participate, I doubt

Kowalski's Sister Says Family Hasn't Given Up

HIBBING, MN—The sister of Sharon Kowalski says her family has not given up its attempts to bring the severely injured woman back to Hibbing for permanent care.

District Court Judge Robert V. Campbell is expected to rule in about two weeks on the guardianship of Kowalski.

Karen Thompson, a St. Cloud State University teacher who says she and Kowalski had a longstanding lesbian relationship prior to a 1983 car accident that left Kowalski physically and mentally impaired, is seeking guardianship of the 34-year-old woman.

The hearing was the third which Campbell has held to gather information.

Debbie Kowalski says her parents, Don and Della Kowalski, had decided not to attend any more hearings because of health problems and the stress caused by the court battles over her sister's guardianship.

"I got tired of reading all the reports in the paper that her family didn't care anymore," Debbie Kowalski says. "It's just that there have been so many hearings, and what we've said has fallen on deaf ears."

She outlined several reasons why she thought Thompson would make a poor guardian.

Debbie Kowalski says Thompson was too busy with gay rights activities

to take care of her sister, and that Thompson may take other lovers whose presence would be "devastating for Sharon."

Debbie Kowalski also questions where all the money Thompson has received as contributions to pursue the guardianship has been spent.

"Did it go for her house or her new car? I think people should know because it might be a lot of motivation behind all of this."

M. Sue Wilson, Thompson's attorney, rebuts Debbie Kowalski's allegations and says all of the money Thompson has collected has gone for legal fees or for gifts for Sharon Kowalski.

Debbie Kowalski says her preference was for Sharon to be brought back to an Iron Range health facility with Karen Tomberlin as her co-guardian along with a social worker.

Tomberlin, a track and volleyball coach who coached Sharon Kowalski in high school, has not filed a petition to be Kowalski's guardian, but has filed an affidavit with Campbell saying she would accept guardianship.

Also testifying were physical therapists and occupational therapists who treated Sharon Kowalski at the Leisure Hills Health Center in Hibbing during the late 1980s. All of them testified that she showed steady improvement during her stay at the facility.

Hong Kong to Decriminalize Homosexuality

HONG KONG (AP)—The government says it will present a bill next month to the law-making Legislative Council to decriminalize homosexual acts committed in private between consenting adults.

Such acts are currently punishable by life imprisonment, although according to government figures the maximum sentence handed down in 40 cases prosecuted in 1990 was four months.

The proposed legislation would continue to ban homosexual acts between those under the age of 21 or involving more than two people, the statement said.

The bill's intention is "not to encourage homosexuality but to remove unjust and unenforceable punishments against adults which are out of keeping

with modern life and thinking on this matter," said the statement.

The bill was welcomed by some gay men and lesbians of the British colony.

"We have been waiting for more than twenty years for (the) law to be repealed. It comes a bit late, but better late than never," said a gay man who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The bill is expected to pass because the Legislative Council last July voted 31-13 to endorse the government's plan to decriminalize homosexual acts between consenting adults.

Although such acts were decriminalized in Britain 24 years ago, this British colony's conservative, predominantly Chinese population has been more reluctant to tolerate homosexuality.

Het Couples Only at High School Prom

WEXFORD, PA—Only heterosexual couples will be allowed to attend this year's prom at North Allegheny High School in suburban Pittsburgh. The restriction has angered some students and parents.

But North Allegheny officials say they only want to prohibit students from attending the prom without dates.

"I thought it was discrimination at its finest," said student Laura Watson. "The prom is for senior year. It's your last big thing. If you can't happen to find a date, they're shutting you out."

The school district mailed a letter to seniors announcing plans for the 1991 senior prom and post-prom party. The letters said both events will be limited to "heterosexual couples only."

"This is not a statement about other lifestyles," says Judi Boren, North Allegheny public relations director. "The high school feels that this sort of event

is better off in the traditional sense of boy-girl couples."

Principal Francis Barnes said the letter was not meant to be discriminatory.

"We don't want stags to come because sometimes stags are harder to control," he said. "When people come by themselves, they act a little bit different than when they come with a date."

Seniors who plan to attend the prom must register their dates by giving their name and telephone number and that of their partner.

Cassandra Reitmeyer says students should be able to attend the prom with whomever they want, regardless of gender.

"I think that statement was very rude, and they had no right to do it," she said. "People who have an interest in the other sex should be able to go."



The fourth most requested location on the survey, Phoenix Civic Plaza, was ruled out for financial reasons. Number five was the El Lienzo Charro Rodeo Grounds, the site of the 1990 festival. According to Verity, "although the Rodeo Grounds scored rather high on the survey, most of the comments from last year were very negative about the Rodeo Grounds. So, when we realized parks had a very high percentage, we continued in that direction."

When committee members approached the City of Tempe about Papago Park, they were again well-received, but it was suggested that Kiwanis Park might be a better venue for the type of event being planned.

"The only reason we opted for Kiwanis over Papago was because of the facilities available. We can do a lot more there. We have our own fenced-in area with control over the gates. We can provide our own security. We don't

that we would turn anybody away."

In addition, the park resides in what Verity describes as a "very safe" neighborhood near a Tempe Police station.

The festival date of June 2nd was chosen on the basis of park availability. Verity explains, "We actually had an April date and a May date that we were targeting and that we tried to get before we ever went to the June date. But we went with June because that was the first available month, and it turned out to be that way in every park we dealt with."

A major complaint about last year's event was a lack of publicity. "We're getting business cards printed with the Committee address and voice mail number, with the event date and location printed across the top. We'll be handing them out all over the place as reminders of the event."

Gay Couple Denied Wedding License

FLINT, MI—Two men have been denied a marriage license by a Michigan official who told them their union would be illegal.

"We're not being treated as first-class citizens," Michael Burton said in a telephone interview. "We deserve to have our relationship legally recognized and to have the same rights as any married couple. This is the 1990s."

In a letter, clerk John Trecha said his office would not issue a license to Burton and Jim Patterson, who applied last week. Trecha said Michigan law forbids same-sex marriages.

"Based on my interpretation of Michigan law, I would not issue a license to these two gentlemen to marry," Trecha said.

None of the 50 states recognizes

same-sex marriages.

Gay rights advocates say the lack of legal standing denies gay partners medical benefits, ability to inherit when no will exists and the right to make medical decisions for incapacitated partners.

But Burton, an antique dealer, and Patterson, a banker, would not say whether they would press their case in court, although they have retained lawyer Marcia Ledford.

Denmark is the only country that recognizes same-sex marriages, Ledford said.

"We want to get married because we're in love. We love each other and we want to spend our lives together," Burton said. "We want to be able to say to people that we are partners and it's legal."

Lawmakers Call for End of Military Bias

WASHINGTON, DC—Forty House members are calling on President Bush to "end the military's shameful discrimination" against homosexuals based on what they said was the service of 50,000 gay American troops in the Persian Gulf War.

The lawmakers are urging an end to the military's policy of barring gay men and lesbians from the armed services and discharging those found to be gay. The letter was circulated by openly gay Rep. Gerry E. Studds (D-MA).

The number 50,000 used in the letter is based on the theory that 10 percent of the U.S. population is gay and therefore 10 percent of the 560,000 uniformed men and women who served in the gulf region would have been gay.

Maj. Doug Hart, a Defense

Department spokesman, said that Pentagon policy regards homosexuality as incompatible with military service.

"We are not aware of any homosexuals who have served in Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert Storm," Hart said. "If we were aware, the people would be separated from the military."

In the letter, the lawmakers argue that blacks were finally given equal status in the military in 1948 despite Pentagon claims that integration would cripple the armed forces.

"You have praised our service personnel. We urge you to afford our gay and lesbian troops that same well-deserved respect and to end the military's shameful discrimination," the lawmakers said in the letter to Bush.

Anti-Gay Adoption Law Declared Unconstitutional

KEY WEST, FL—A county judge ruled unconstitutional a state law barring homosexuals from adopting children, a move which could make it easier for gay people throughout Florida to start families.

Monroe County Circuit Judge M. Ignatius Lester ruled that the 14-year-old law violates the state and federal constitutional rights to privacy, equal protection and due process.

"The statute suffers from the trite notions of homosexuals' unsuitability as fit parents and evidences discrimination through archaic stereotypes associated with homosexuals," Lester said.

"Homosexuals have been proven to be capable, loving parents whose sexual orientation is not necessarily adopted by their children."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida had challenged the law on behalf of Edward Seebol, whose application last May to adopt a "special needs" child was rejected because he is gay.

The state Department of Health and

Rehabilitative Services neither defended nor challenged Seebol's complaint.

Lester's ruling invalidates the adoption ban in Monroe County only, but it could persuade other judges in Florida to follow his lead.

"I think it will open the door to lesbians and gay men throughout the state of Florida who want to adopt, and will have a positive impact nationwide," said William Rubenstein, director of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project in New York.

The ACLU said New Hampshire is the only other state that explicitly forbids gay men and lesbians from adopting.

Seebol is a 23-year resident of Key West and director of AIDS Help Inc. He has been a court-appointed guardian for several years, helping mentally and physically abused children through the court system.

Children "will be the real winners" as a result of the ruling because "they may find homes and become part of a loving and nurturing family," he said in a statement.

It's OK to Be Gay at Penn State

STATE COLLEGE, PA—Penn State's Faculty Senate has bypassed the recommendation of the school's president and okayed an anti-discrimination policy that includes distinct protections for homosexuals.

"We need to point out where there has been specific discrimination and eliminate it," said Leonard J. Berkowitz, a senator from Penn State's York campus, speaking in favor of the resolution that passed on a 93-12 vote.

President Joab Thomas had wanted only a generic policy "without reference to personal characteristics that are not related to academic ability or job performance."

The faculty senate's recommendation will be forwarded to the university's board of trustees, spokeswoman Vicki Fong said.

Protecting gay men and lesbians from discrimination was brought up by a campus study group in December 1987, but the matter wasn't taken to the trustees. Thomas scheduled a board discussion for last November, but the item was withdrawn so the faculty senate could discuss it first.

The result was that the 11-member committee recommended changes in Thomas' original statement to include a specific reference to homosexuals and bisexuals.

"The University Faculty Senate commends the promise of President Joab Thomas that The Pennsylvania State University will take appropriate measures to protect all of its students and all of its employees from harassment, abuse or assault," read the recommendation that passed. "In addition, the University's Faculty Senate recommends that the University's non-discrimination policy be amended to include the specific phrase 'sexual orientation'."

Committee chairman Donald Rung said the senate would leave it to university lawyers to add "sexual orientation" to the list of other groups that could become victims because of their "race, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, age, or status as a disabled

or Vietnam era veteran."

"If the university feels the need to protect veterans from a war that ended 20 years ago, it needs to protect homosexuals now," said engineering senator Robert Heinsohn.

Part of the discussion concerned published reports that Penn State women's basketball coach Rene Portland has discriminated against lesbians. If she has, it wasn't against university policy.

"It's not clear what impact this would have on her," Rung said after the meeting. "Clearly all people need to be judged on their merits and not on some irrelevant issue."

Portland has declined to discuss what she considers "training rules."

The dozen detractors in the final vote said Thomas' words sufficiently addressed the needs of gay men and lesbians.

"Thomas' statement is all-inclusive. It's the statement we can all stand behind," said Barton W. Browning, representing the college of liberal arts.

"Education is the only way to eliminate discrimination. The list in itself does not protect," said E. Emory Ensore Jr., an engineering senator whose attempt to restore Thomas' original statement failed on a 25-68 vote.

Thomas is in Europe. His press office issued a statement saying the university accepted the vote and would present it to the trustees, who next meet in May.

A non-senator who opposed any protections for homosexuals addressed the senate for 10 minutes, decrying protection of sodomy and a "galaxy of deviant behavior" with other groups that are "morally neutral."

"Consensual sodomy is a felony in most states," said Barry Kroeker, an assistant professor of music.

After the meeting, Rung conceded Kroeker probably helped the issue pass by a wider margin.

"It underlines the kind of virulence that exists (toward gay men and lesbians)," he said.

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Was Jesus Gay?

While considering the question "Was Jesus gay?" I wonder: How close can I come to theological heresy while remaining true to the faith I profess? Thinking of Jesus in any type of sexual context is for me akin to thinking about what one's parents do in their bedroom. We know that they "do it," but we seldom discuss it.

Many people have attempted to research the true sexuality of Jesus. From celibate to heterosexual to homosexual to bisexual, the accusations are abundant. The truth is that Scripture does not provide a clear-cut answer to questions about Christ's sexuality; it is

There are those who say that Jesus swung both ways. Reportedly, He had a wife who stayed at home and took care of the house and His personal needs, a woman who died prior to His three-year road trip as a prophet. It has been speculated that while on the road He may have had relationships with Mary Magdalene and John and whoever else came along.

Finally, there is the contingency that insists that Jesus was celibate, that he did not practice his sexuality either by choice or by mandate of God. This theory suggests that He was not sexually active and therefore did not "suffer the sin of

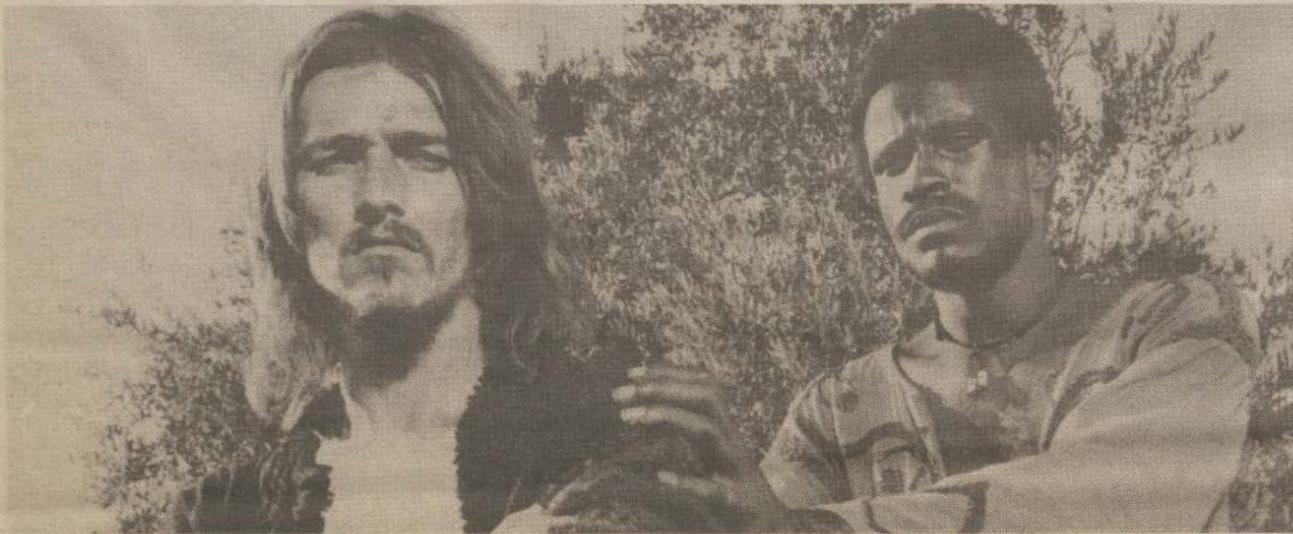
found some deep, dark secret in Jesus' sexual activity which caused that section of the Bible to be deleted. Or maybe Jesus was a man who focused on forming intimate friendships rather than sexual relationships.

So far I've tried to elude my personal answer to the question "Was Jesus gay?". My personal opinion is that he was not sexually motivated. With such a monumental ministry, how could he have had the time and energy to be devoted to a meaningful, sexual relationship with a man or a woman? Having personal knowledge of what it takes to maintain a personal relationship and a viable Christian ministry, I cannot imagine that anyone in his or her right mind would be willing to share Jesus with twelve men and a harlot.

I believe that Jesus required neither male nor female sexual companionship. I personally believe that He subdued His sexuality by directing His energy into being a true friend, a savior, a messiah to all people. In holding on to this belief, I refuse to get caught up in dissecting the every move, word, thought and sexual orientation of Jesus Christ.

While ours is the capacity to wonder, to think and to imagine, we must also come to accept that our finite imagination will never be able to totally grasp the infinite wisdom of God. In accepting this truth, we come to know the true meaning of God and God's purpose in our lives.

Reverend Charlotte Strayhorn is pastor of Oasis Metropolitan Community Church of Phoenix.



Stand by your man: Judas gets behind his Savior in the 1973 motion picture Jesus Christ Superstar.

possible that Jesus could have been all or none of these things.

Some would have it that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married or at least lovers. While it is evident from the synoptic gospels that Jesus did have a special relationship with Mary Magdalene, it is not clearly evident that they were married and/or bedfellows. On the day of his resurrection from the dead, Mary saw Jesus in the garden. She was so moved that she wanted to hug him. But Jesus told her, "Don't touch me yet," which would lead one to believe that at some time prior Mary had been accustomed to touching Jesus. It could even be inferred that their relationship was intimate, although it is not clearly indicated that it was anything other than platonic.

There are some who believe that Jesus and John—and perhaps Jesus and Peter—were lovers. The Bible says that He talks to them in intimate ways, and Jesus always tolerated Peter's foolish actions more than those of the other disciples. What about the fact that the Bible clearly states that John was the "disciple whom Jesus loved?" And why else might Jesus travel the countryside with twelve men?

sexual lust." To be sure, when Jesus became human, he suffered all the temptations that assail humanity. It would therefore be safe to say that in some way Jesus was sexually tempted and/or aroused.

When we examine the lives of other great men and women in history, there is clear information—or at least innuendo—about their sexuality. From Caesar and Cleopatra to George and Barbara Bush, it has been documented with whom they cavorted and how often. This is not true of Jesus. His true sexuality is a mystery. There is no written proof in Scripture that clarifies his sexuality, nor is there anything written that shows that Jesus spoke in favor of or against any particular sexual orientation.

I perceive Jesus as a man who took away the overly legalistic environment of the Jewish theology of his time and replaced it with a love of God. He had little time for romantic relationships, but rather formed deep personal friendships with those close to him. Thus, his relationships with Mary Magdalene and John.

Attempts to affix any particular sexual orientation to Jesus might create a barrier to those who want to know Him or understand what His ministry was all about. Perhaps there is some deep theological meaning behind why the sexuality of Jesus was omitted from Scripture. It's possible that early scholars

Jesus Who?

by doug mcneil

the question shouldn't be "Was Jesus gay?" but rather "Was Jesus?".

Other than the Bible, there are no contemporary references to a historical Jesus. There are two references that are commonly passed off as contemporary to Jesus. One is Tacitus, who lived circa 55-117. His reference is to followers of a *christus* or messiah who was persecuted for allegedly starting Rome ablaze in Nero's time. The second reference is by Jewish historian Flavius Josephus (circa 37-95). Josephus wrote *Jewish Antiquities*, which commonly includes a paragraph describing Jesus. But

McNeil, page 9

by reverend
charlotte
strayhorn

interview with a

GAY

Lou Clemente talks to Don Sanders, national director of American Gay Atheists. C'mon, Don. Tell us what you *really* think...

LC: What do "gay" and "atheist" have to do with one another?

ATHEIST

DS: I think they go hand in hand. Atheism offers the ultimate liberation: freedom of the mind. No minority can ever really consider themselves free until they shake loose from religious ideas and notions. Atheism is the only concept that offers that; without it, no one is truly liberated.

Why do gay people want to incorporate Christianity into their lives, when Christianity seems to be largely homophobic?

Like most people, many gay men and lesbians were reared in a religious household. Because religion is such a psychologically debilitating force, it captures the minds of people. It's difficult for people to break loose from that stranglehold. Gay religious people still wish to cling to something spiritual.

Along the way, they find ways to sidestep the clearly homophobic Scriptures. They do this by making excuses for (the Scriptures) as well as avoiding the history of religion itself.

I got a letter from a gay Christian who was attempting to explain the misinterpretation of the Scriptures, specifically Leviticus and Romans. He was actually trying to convince me that these homophobic passages in the Bible were not referring to *homosexuals* but rather *bisexuals*. I found this to be horrible. This guy was telling me that the Bible says that homosexuals shouldn't be put to death for their sins, but that bisexuals should. That bisexuals are unnatural, because they are acting sexually outside their "natural sex." Placing the blame elsewhere. Horrible.

Why are gay people quick to overlook the hatred in Christian religions while simultaneously embracing them?

I think that gay people assume that embracing some kind of mainline, denominational religion will somehow give them a kind of legitimacy.

So gay religiosity and "holy unions" are just other ways for gay men and lesbians to license sex?

Very much so. Marriage is another device used by the church to control its followers. It's a wonderful control mechanism. It's been used for centuries. One of the things that the church latched onto early on is the human sex drive. By putting restraints and restrictions on sexual activity, people could be better kept in line. This is exactly what the gay and lesbian community is doing today by sanctioning holy unions, which essentially perpetuate a patriarchal control system.

Is there one religion which is more homophobic than any other?

I think the gold star has to go to the Roman Catholic church. Throughout the ages, that organization has probably killed, tortured, mutilated and maimed more persons in the name of religion than any other. They're incredibly harsh.

What about "gay" churches?

I think that the Metropolitan Community Church is the greatest detriment to the national lesbian and gay civil rights movement. They're throwing lots of money down the toilet. In Dallas, for example, the MCC church is trying to raise several million



dollars to build a church building. In Houston, they're trying to raise a million dollars for the same purpose. Meanwhile, our community is in desperate need of finances to support civil rights, to elect gay and lesbian candidates to office...we have an AIDS crisis gutting our population, and they're hoarding building funds so that a couple of hundred people can worship a deity.

What about historically documented acts of violence against gay men and lesbians, presumably done in the name of Christianity?

Some of Christianity's early founders prescribed certain laws and pogroms aimed specifically at gay men and to some extent lesbians. But really, the history of religion is not only anti-homosexual, but anti-sex. Judaism, the mother religion, includes reference to Original Sin, also. Like Adam and Eve discovering that they had sexual organs and didn't know what to do

with them. Religion is basically erotophobic. Especially when you consider the teachings that say that sex must be for procreation only.

What's your favorite Bible passage?

I hate them all.

You've read the Bible?

The whole thing. There are some well-written passages, some nicely translated passages. But I find little redeeming value in that book. I say it's worthless overall and should be dumped in the trash.

Name three famous atheists.

Margaret Sanger. Abraham Lincoln. Thomas Jefferson.

How many atheists does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

One. No intervention is necessary.

Know Thy Enemy

Everyone is entitled to justice in this country, but it's not free. If you can't afford it, you often don't get it. In the end, Sue Laybe couldn't afford it.

Indicted in February as part of the "AzScam" legislative sting, former state Rep. Sue Laybe had no choice but to cut a deal with the County Attorney's office. On March 14, she pleaded guilty to felony charges of bribery and attempted bribery. This was the only plea agreement offered by the County Attorney, even though these were the most clearly unfounded charges (you can't bribe a legislator to vote for something she was already planning to vote for). But Rick Romley, the County Attorney, and Phoenix Police Chief Ruben Ortega wanted to nail Sue with the most serious offense.

Mike Crusa, a former aide to U.S. Sen. Dennis DeConcini and a longtime Laybe confidant, couldn't afford justice either, and his back was up against the same wall. His price for avoiding a severe penalty was to sell Sue Laybe out. Those who heard Crusa's testimony against Sue in the House ethics hearing, who were familiar with their relationship in politics, heard Mike Crusa lie about that relationship. Because a lie is what Sue's accusers needed to put her away.

Since the airing of Sue's infamous "fag" videotape, I have sensed a great deal of resentment among members of Phoenix's lesbian/gay community, except, of course, among her most stalwart supporters and friends. This last group will tell you, as they told *New Times* last month, that Sue's private remarks to undercover agent Joseph Stedino should be put in perspective. It's true that while the rest of us rankle at the sound of two heterosexuals glibly talking about fags and limp wrists, we should remember that one of those heterosexuals has been a real friend to Phoenix's lesbian/gay community. This fact is indisputable.

We now share another sort of kinship. Sue was victimized by the same man who has been a scourge to our community for a long time.

What do we do with a police chief who would rather pursue political power than criminals? What do we do with a police chief who seems bent on emulating the Los Angeles police force's attitude toward race relations? What do we do with a police chief who would rather keep a file on suspected homosexuals for the purposes of protecting his officers from AIDS, rather than make the effort to

educate his force about real protection against exposure to HIV?

Ruben Ortega's tenure as Phoenix's chief of police has been marked with power plays, a predilection for sting-type operations that create crime, and a penchant for personal vendettas that have left a long trail of sundered careers. He has made innumerable enemies among honest citizens, and he has subjected many of these enemies to an almost unrelenting torment.

As a defender of average citizens, Ortega falls short. What possible benefit to the well-being of Phoenix residents is a stakeout of cruisy parks? Or a roundup of casual drug users? There's no benefit when you weigh crimes such as illicit drug use and sexual liaisons in public parks against real crimes that involve actual, unwilling victims.

A few days before the first "AzScam" indictments were announced, Rev. Oscar Tillman of the Phoenix chapter of the NAACP launched a drive to remove Ortega on the grounds that his department had repeatedly harassed and mistreated African American citizens who had not broken any law. While not claiming the degree of racism now being documented in the Los Angeles police force, Tillman believes a body of evidence exists sufficient to call Ortega's policies (or his tacit policies) into question.

Of course, Ortega's legislative melee blew Tillman's charges out of the water. Now that Ortega has made his mark on state government, these questions should be raised again.

Just as shaky as his record on race relations, Ortega's profile in the gay community demands attention. Having a homophobic police chief presents a host of problems, not the least of which is the Phoenix Police Department's woeful record on pursuing anti-gay incidents in or around gay establishments. With anti-gay violence apparently on the rise, we need a law enforcement agency that intends to protect citizens regardless of their sexual orientation.

We also need a police department willing to hire openly gay officers; now, under Ruben Ortega, that prospect is literally impossible.

This city, whose crime problem is undeniable, needs a police chief who will pursue that problem without a blithe disregard for the rights of law-abiding citizens and without a compulsion for personal aggrandizement and headline-mongering.

Ortega's legislative adventure, whether by design or not, claimed several of our community's biggest supporters in the Legislature. While we cannot necessarily forget the indiscretions committed by our

friends, neither should we lionize the man who exposed them. Ruben Ortega is and has been a much bigger threat to our well-being than any politician.

McNeil from 6

early versions of his manuscript do not include this passage; it only appears around 320, when Eusebius rewrote the history of the church.

When we do look to the Christian Bible for information on the alleged personage of Jesus, we find a confusing mess. (Of course, looking in the Bible to see if the Bible is true is a circular reference: "Of course it's true, it's in the Bible" only proves that it is in the Bible, not that it's true.) Christ's genealogy, hour of death and last words are all contradicted *within* the Bible.

Consider a character who is supposed to be the incarnation of God, born on December 25th of a virgin mother. At his birth angels sang and shepherds surrounded his cradle. His birth had to be concealed from the then-ruler who wanted him dead. It had been prophesied that he would come to redeem his people. He baptized his followers and performed miracles. He had twelve disciples and died between two thieves. Sound familiar? This is the myth of Krishna who allegedly was born 1200 years before Jesus.

Many of the stories in the Bible are strikingly similar to myths of other cultures. Egyptian, Syrian, Indian and Greek stories have ended up being incorporated into the Bible. The logical conclusion is that the stories attributed to Jesus are mere consolidations of myths from many cultures, adapted to the popular cult figure of the time.

Even if there was a real person to whom these Jesus myths are attributed, it does not mean any of these claims are true. Many people have claimed to be a messiah or "God's emissary on earth." Today, such people are hospitalized. Two thousand years ago the science of psychology did not exist. People thought that schizophrenics, people who had seizures, and magicians were affected by evil spirits or gods. They had no other explanation for what they saw.

Was Jesus gay? We might as well be debating whether Mickey Mouse gives good head. Both are fictional characters.

Doug McNeil is the director of the Phoenix chapter of American Gay Atheists.

by don slutes

art smart

Roberts Gallery: Through March 31, exotic feather masks and sculpture by Southwestern artist Virgil M. Walker, 34505 N. Scottsdale Rd., el Pedregal, Carefree. 488-1088

Leandra Lewis Galleries: Through April 1, "The Whole Enchilada," Paintings of Indians, Western scenes, Indian-themed subjects and portraits by former rodeo cowboy and bullfighter Bradley M. Dale. 4151 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale. 994-1162

Alwun House: Arizona Visionary Alternative Surrealist Art Exhibit, March 29-April 28. 1204 E. Roosevelt. 253-7887

Phoenix Art Museum: "4,000 Years of Chinese Ceramics" exhibit, featuring new acquisitions and major works from the museum's Wong Collection continues throughout 1991. "Swords of the Samurai" showing continues in the Asian Gallery through July 7. "Face to Face" showing selected portraiture from the permanent collections remains on view in the lower-level Art Attack Gallery through May 19. 1625 N. Central. 257-1880

Scottsdale Celebration of Fine Art: Through April 15, arts festival featuring oils, watercolors, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, glass, wood, photography and weavings, along with a restaurant and fast-food, from 10am to dusk daily. Scottsdale Rd. and Highland Ave., Scottsdale.



Ol' Blue Eyes croons the moon in June this month at Desert Sky Pavilion. Some seating still available.

Leslie Levy Fine Art Gallery: Limited Edition serigraphs by young Chinese artist Chase Chenoff. 7135 Main St., Scottsdale. 947-2925

Gammage Auditorium Designer Exhibit: Through April 8, an exhibition of work by members of Arizona Designer Craftsmen. Displayed in the main floor and grand tier galleries will be quilts, weavings, ceramics, mixed-media works and jewelry. Exhibit hours at Gammage Auditorium are noon to 4pm Mon. through Sat. except for holidays. For special tours or more information call 965-5062.

Arizona Museum of Science and Technology: Through May 27, robotic ice-age models of brilliantly crafted beasts have not been seen in the state before and will be displayed with fun, interactive exhibits about the ice age. 80 N. 2nd St. 256-9388

Scottsdale Center for the Arts: Frank Lloyd Wright "In the Realm of Ideas." New Directions Gallery, now through April 7. 7383 Scottsdale Mall. 994-2787

culture buzz

Jess Hawk Oakenstar: This singer/song-writer/guitarist from New Zealand will perform at Liza's Cafe Saturday, April 13 at 8pm. 1945 W. Baseline Rd., Southeast corner of Dobson and Baseline.

Wind Machine: This band's progressive new acoustic music has been enthusiastically embraced by New Age, bluegrass and folk aficionados alike. Saturday, April 6, 8pm. Tickets are \$12 for reserved seats, \$11 general admission, available through all Dillard's box offices. Kerr Cultural Center, 6110 N. Scottsdale-Rd. 965-5377

The Glen Campbell Good Time Hour Revisited: In an era of revivals, here's one from the obscure file. Campbell and pals Jim Stafford, John Hartford, Nicolette Larsen and the Jeff Dayton Band will join at 8pm Monday, April 8 at the Sundome. They'll serve up down-home fun with a country flair. Yee haw. Tickets are \$15, \$12, and \$9, on sale at the Sundome, Gammage, Activity Center and Dillard's box offices. 975-1900

The Kentucky Headhunters: Thursday, April 18 7:30pm. Celebrity Theatre. 440 N. 32nd St. 244-0404

Frank Sinatra with Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme: Thursday, April 18, 8pm. Tickets \$38.50 reserved, \$15 concert greens; limited number of Golden Circle and box seats available for \$75. Performing at the Desert Sky Pavilion, 2121 N. 83rd Ave. 968-2323

Shirley MacLaine: Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20, 8pm;

Sunday April 21 at 6pm. Celebrity Theatre, 440 N. 32nd St. 244-0404

Centersounds Spring Concerts: 2pm to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays, The Shops at Arizona Center Grand Staircase, 455 N. Third St.

Fountain Hills Concerts: 2:30 to 4pm each Sunday through May 5. Fountain Park. 837-9660.



Ain't Love Grand: Final performances of Grand Hotel now at Grady Gammage.

Tanya Tucker: Celebrity Theatre, Sunday April 7, 7:30pm. Tickets \$17.50. 230-9112

toe shoes

Dance-a-rama: "Rites of Spring" costume dance party and art opening, March 29, 8pm. Admission \$4 (\$3 with costume). Alwun House, 1204 E. Roosevelt. Must be 18.

ASU Dance in Concert: This year's most outstanding work by dance faculty and guest artists, Thursday and Friday, April 18 and 19, 8pm in Gammage Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 (\$6 students and seniors), on sale at the Fine Arts, Gammage, Activity Center and Dillard's box offices. 965-6447.

Fourteenth Annual Cakewalk Contest and Jazz Show: Artistic director Daniel Nagrin presents a time capsule of American dance through the years, then it's time for the audience to strut their stuff. Friday, April 26, 8pm in the Dance Studio theater. Admission is \$3, proceeds go to the ASU Dance Scholarship Fund. 965-5929.

center stage

Grand Hotel: Final Days! Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Direction and Best Choreography. Presented by ASU Public Events and PACE Theatrical Group. Through March 31 at Gammage Auditorium. Tickets on sale at Gammage, ASU Activity Center and Dillard's Box Offices or charge by phone: 965-3434.

Hamlet: Will Shakespeare's

finest concludes ASU Theatre's Mainstage Series at 8pm Thursday through Saturday, April 18 to 20 and 25 to 27 at the Paul V. Galvin Playhouse. One of the most vivid and dramatic characters of the theatrical canon, Hamlet embodies the richness of Shakespeare's language and imagination as he seeks to avenge his father's murder by capturing the conscience of the king. Tickets

are \$8 (\$6 ASU faculty and staff, \$4 students and senior citizens), on sale at the Fine Arts, Gammage, Activity center and Dillard's box offices. 965-6447

Hamletmachine: The Institute for Studies in the Arts will present Neiner Muller's adult work at 8pm Thursday through Saturday, April 18 to 20 and Tuesday through Saturday, April 23 to 27, at Drama City. First produced in 1979, this mini-epic is about an actor who refuses to play Hamlet anymore. It places the concept of the intellect-hero in brutal contrast to the realities of contemporary life. Hamlet will be played by visiting Actor's Equity guest artist Richard Grove. The material and its manner of presentation will not be suitable for all ages and tastes. Discretion is advised. Tickets are \$14, \$12, and \$10, on sale at the Fine Arts, Gammage and Dillard's box offices. 965-6447

Les Miserables: Phoenix premiere! Tickets are on sale now for the world's most popular musical, scheduled to run through June 1. Tickets from Gammage and Dillard's and ASU Activity Center. 965-3434.

Skimpies: Playwright's Workshop Theatre has extended the run of Terry Earp's new musical comedy, now scheduled to run through April 28. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sunday matinees at 2pm. Tickets are \$8 for students and seniors on Friday and Saturday, \$7 on Sundays, and adults are \$9 and \$8. Playwright's Workshop Theatre is located at 21432 N. Central Ave., one block south of Deer Valley Rd. in North Phoenix. 582-4054 for reservations.

Nonsense: Acclaimed "Best Musical"! Winner of five Zory Awards! Held over through April 28. Wednesday through Friday 8pm; 6pm and 9pm Saturday; 2pm Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday shows; \$17 Friday and Saturday. Actors Lab, 7223 E. 2nd St. 990-1731

larfs

A.M.U.S.E.: The Adobe Oven Coffeehouse offers original improv performances via the Improvisational Theatre Society. 8pm, 9:30pm and 11pm every Saturday. 5520 N. 7th Ave. \$5. 242-2808

other stuff

The Magic of David Copperfield: Monday, April 1, 5:30 and 8:30pm. Symphony Hall. Tickets \$22, \$20.50, \$19. 965-3434 or 829-5555.

Mr. Leather Arizona: Tuff Stuff Leathers and the Mr. Leather Arizona Committee host an entire weekend in Tucson, April 5, 6 and 7. \$2,000 in prizes including sponsorship in the 1991 International Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago over Memorial Day Weekend. Friday, April 5: Contestant intro at the Graduate, 23 W. University, 9pm. Saturday, April 6: VIP Reception, 6-8pm at the French Quarter, 1239 N. 4th Ave. 882-8224. Invitation or Donation only. Sunday, April 7: Community Lifestyle Fair Noon-4pm at Hours, 3455 E. Grant, no cover.

Adult Acting Workshop: Actors Lab Arizona, home of the Actors Lab School for the Performing Arts, will hold a beginning Acting workshop for adults through April 8, 7-9:30pm. The six-week class will cover theory, techniques, improvisation and character development. Call Actors Lab for registration info at 990-7898.



Paul Rhys stars as Vincent Van Gogh's brother, Theo, in Vincent and Theo, a film finally playing in Valley theatres.

big screen

Vincent and Theo: Takes a look at the failed artist Vincent Van Gogh and his interdependent relationship with his brother. Directed by Robert Altman, starring Tim Roth and Paul Rhys.

Mortal Thoughts: Would-be clothing designer Demi Moore can't seem to shake the dead-husband scenario. This time around it's her best friend (Glenn Headly), whose husband gets murdered. Imagine what Bruce Willis got paid to play the corpse. Alan Rudolph directed.

If Looks Could Kill: In a case of mistaken identity, a young man from Detroit becomes entangled in a web of European espionage, adventure and romance. Stars Richard Grieco and Linda Hunt. Directed by William Dear.

Class Action: Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio play father-daughter lawyers with vast political differences who also oppose each other in the courtroom. Directed by Michael Apted.

New Jack City: First-time director Mario (son of Melvin) Van Peebles puts his own spin on the gangster movie. Wesley Snipes is a drug lord brought down by an undercover cop (rapper Ice-T) in the very best good-guy-vs.-bad-guy tradition.

The Hard Way: A wildly successful movie star (Michael J. Fox) wants to land a tough-guy cop role. To research the part, he hooks up with an NYPD detective (James Woods) who is investigating a series of murders. Directed by John Badham.

Oscar: Sylvester Stallone gives comedy another shot (remember Rhinestone?) as Snaps Provolone, a mobster who tries to clean up his act. He starts by

moving from New Jersey to Long Island, and it's all downhill, from there. John Landis directed.

F/X 2: A special effects sequel with beefcake (Bryan Brown and Brian Dennehy) and red herrings galore. Directed by Richard Franklin.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze: Some things should remain secret. Those zillionaire turtles are back with two new mutants created by the late Jim Henson's Creature Shop.

The Long Walk Home: Sissy Spacek is Miriam Thompson, a proper Southern lady whose life is filled with parties and bridge games. She exists to be served. Whoopie Goldberg is Odessa Cotter, Miriam's housekeeper, who exists to serve. Their lives and their relationship are about to change. 1955 is the year of the Montgomery bus boycott. What started as a simple protest to win blacks the right to sit wherever they wanted on the bus ended in revolution.

video

White Palace: Can a nice Jewish boy from Saint Louis find love and happiness with a slovenly, working-class waitress from the greasy spoon across the tracks? The answer is yes—if the waitress is played by Susan Sarandon. In a story of sexual obsession and class transgression, James Spader plays the Jewish boy, but he underplays so much he is overwhelmed by Sarandon. An impressive film from Luis Mandoki that works well on a small screen.

Henry and June: After the forehead-smacking furor over the X-rating this movie nearly received, disappointed audiences anticipating either steamy sex or an ironic commentary on censorship got neither. This one's about two legendary writers who use their lovers and each other as grist for their mill. Diarist Anais Nin carries on with libido chronicler Henry Miller right under her husband's nose and then drags the poor cuckold to a brothel, where she has him pay prostitutes to engage in lesbian sex while they watch. Henry runs his tortured relationship with his wife through the typewriter even as she's screaming at him, and Anais tries to seduce her to flesh out the speculations in her diary. Who could possibly play a muse to two such world-class narcissists?

Presumed Innocent: Alan J. Pakula takes the weighty approach with Scott Turow's page-turner, foolishly abridging the ending but nevertheless providing breathing room for exquisite acting by Harrison Ford, Bonnie Bedelia, and Raul Julia.

by rey hoffman CLUB

some people

- Steven Petrow
Commissioner Gordon
Bryan Perry
Marion Anderson
Cydney Tholl
Spiro Agnew
Moses
Roger Ramjet
Judith Curtis-Mardon
Emily Kimbrough
David Copperfield
Ansel Adams
Therese Bur
Robert Shegog
Wilma Flinstone
Ingmar Bergman
Bruce Kurtz
Sophie Jean Doranzo
Nora Desmond
Vance Wilson
Scott Jacobson
Randy Dunbar
Mark Edelman
Scrooge
Jackie O.
Weldon D. McGill
Morey Amsterdam
Mary Spencer
Margaret Whiting
Lynn Houston
Allen Kalchik
Chris May
Esther Rolle
Dagmar
Robert Minor
Shawna Morgan
Uncle Sam
Judy Zuber
Manny, Moe, and Jack

some places

- The Emerald City
Lens Crafters
Haight Ashbury
Tara
Under the boardwalk
The nape of the neck
Truth or
Consequences, N.M.
Susie's Wigs
The back seat
Forty-Third Avenue
Warner Brothers
Istanbul
Under the couch
The Law Offices of
Jacoby and Meyers
Bj's house
Under my thumb
Uranus

"Diseased Pariahs" Laugh at Death

First AIDS Humor Magazine Published

There's nothing funny about having AIDS, but that's no reason to stop laughing, say the producers of a new humor magazine by and for people with the virus.

"For a long time, the whole attitude (toward AIDS) was breast-beating, horrible, 'Oh no, oh no,'" said Tom Shearer, editor of *Diseased Pariah News*.

"Then there's the 'Diseased Pariah' school, which is more gonzo and over the top. I think it's fun we've founded a new type of literature," he said.

Shearer, who has AIDS, and Beowulf Thorne, a graphic artist who recently tested positive for HIV, say their quarterly is the first and only humor magazine about AIDS.

The first issue, produced on a personal computer and secretly photocopied at friends' offices last fall, included advice columns, comics, recipes and information about resources for people with HIV.

At first Shearer and Thorne shocked friends with their sense of humor about AIDS, which has killed more than 100,000 people in the United States. They feared readers would be offended and their new publication would fail.

But the first issue went through five printings, prompting Shearer and Thorne to increase the press run for the upcoming second issue to 2,000.

"I think you'd have to be a pretty humorless person to be offended," said Alex Chee, who works at A Different Light bookstore in the Castro District. The publication sells well at \$2 an issue, he said.

Diseased Pariah News came by its very name through humor, as the caption of a cartoon that satirized a former airline policy barring travelers with AIDS. "Would you like smoking,

non-smoking or the diseased pariah section?" a ticket agent asks.

In its first issue, *Diseased Pariah News* took an editorial stand against "magic rocks" and teddy bears.

"We hate teddy bears," said Shearer. "We call them death teddies."

Shearer also offered prizes to the reader who most closely guessed his latest T-cell count, measuring a type of white blood cell critical to the immune system. Most non-infected people's tests range from 500 to 1,800, and the winner guessed 65. Shearer's actual count was nine.

Shearer's response? "I'm going to start a baseball team," he said. "Who knows? Pretty soon it will be a bridge club, then a shuffleboard team."

Shearer, a former technician and writer for Silicon Valley high-tech firms before he retired last year, runs the quarterly from his apartment in San Francisco's mostly gay Castro district. He refers to himself in print as "Your Serene Editor."

"I am probably going to die of AIDS relatively soon, but relative is a relative concept," he wrote in the editorial for the upcoming second issue. He was told he probably had three years to live when he learned he had AIDS seven years ago.

He and Thorne, who stopped studying molecular biology at the University of California at Santa Cruz to become an artist, believe humor exists as an end in itself, not as part of the latest power-of-positive-thinking theory.

"A lot of this is I'll-look-back-on-this-and-laugh-someday type of humor," Thorne said. "Well, if you won't be able to look back on it, you can still look back on it now."

Toll-Free Number Designed to Answer AIDS Questions

BOISE, ID—A statewide AIDS organization has begun training more volunteers for its telephone hotline service in anticipation of more cases of the fatal disease developing in the next few years—and in hopes of curbing that growth.

"There's a real need out there," said John Glaza, acting executive director of the Idaho AIDS Foundation. "This is a very rural state, and it's difficult in a rural state to obtain confidential information on AIDS."

The need for such information will continue to grow, he said. The number of people in Idaho infected with the virus is closing in on 1,000, and there are 82 known cases of AIDS in the state, up three from last month. The hotline is already running from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, and Glaza said the foundation's staff receives 20 to 25 calls a day.

About 20 people showed up at Boise State University over the weekend to begin training for the hotline.

With these volunteers, it's hoped that within a month the hotline can be staffed daily from 9am to 10pm. In one to two years, the Foundation expects to run the hotline 24 hours a day, Glaza said.

"I'd like to be part of the solution," Mary Ann Seitz-Hart said at the weekend training session. "There is so much misinformation. The heterosexual population is much more at risk than people are willing to admit."

Volunteer Amy Davis said that even if there isn't a tremendous need now for a 24-hour hotline, there will be. "The number (of AIDS cases) is getting higher and higher. This is needed to help the community," she said.

During the training session, the volunteers were advised on how to counsel callers. And they were given specific information on the disease.

Among the most common questions fielded by AIDS hotline workers is how people get the disease. Wendy Den-Herder, with the Central District Health Department, said people often get confused when told that AIDS is transmitted by "body fluids." There are only three that can infect a person: semen, blood and vaginal secretions, she said.

She said it would be possible in theory to become infected by kissing. But she said a person would have to have an open mouth wound and be exposed to at least one quart of saliva when kissed.

Second of Three Brothers Contracts Full-Blown AIDS

SARASOTA, FL—The second of three hemophiliac brothers infected with the AIDS virus has developed the disease, but says he worries most about his family and how his terminal illness will affect them.

"I knew it was coming. The only thing I'm worried about is leaving my family behind. That's the only thing that scares me," said 14-year-old Ricky Ray. "I guess I'll just live it a day at a time."

Ricky was diagnosed as having full-blown AIDS two weeks ago, when doctors examined an eye infection, the family said. Doctors last April said Ricky's 13-year-old brother, Robert, had developed AIDS.

The third brother exposed to the virus, 11-year-old Randy, has remained relatively healthy.

The boys became infected from tainted blood-clotting products they took for their hemophilia before blood supplies were routinely tested for AIDS.

When word of the boys' infection got around in Arcadia in 1986, the DeSoto County School Board banned them from attending public school. Parents Louise and Clifford Ray took the case to court and in 1987 a federal judge ordered the brothers readmitted to school.

Neighbors in the central Florida town shunned them and parents kept their children home from class. Days later, the Rays' home burned down in a still-unsolved arson and the family moved to Sarasota, 45 miles away.

All three boys and their sister, who isn't infected, have enrolled in new schools and made new friends. AIDS

support groups have helped the family. But Robert's infections forced him to drop out of school. Ricky weighs 82 pounds, a loss of more than 25 pounds from last year, and has been too tired to attend school since October.

Mrs. Ray recently left her nursing job to help care for the boys.

"Mentally, you can be prepared pretty much, but emotionally it's really hard. Emotionally, you can't prepare for it," said Mrs. Ray.

"I know there is a possibility that I could die," said Ricky, an eighth-grader. "I was getting more tired than usual. Other than that, I don't feel any different—except I know now that I could die. It doesn't really scare me."

The disease also has affected the boys' younger sister, Candy, her father said. She suffers from survivor's syndrome—guilt feelings because she doesn't have the virus.

"She's in counseling over it," Ray said. "She says she's glad she doesn't have the virus, but then she feels guilty for feeling glad."

Mrs. Ray said the family has rebounded well from the news about Ricky, largely because he is handling it well.

"He's hanging in there," she said. "He has a real positive outlook. And that helps immensely. That's not to say we don't have pity parties."

Ricky is writing a book, his father said, intended for children describing how AIDS spreads and its effect on the body. It includes cartoon depictions of the virus as a monster attacking and killing T-cells, he said.

AIDS Activists Challenge Burroughs Wellcome Patent to AZT

WASHINGTON, DC—AIDS activists who say Burroughs Wellcome Co. is charging inflated prices for its anti-AIDS drug AZT are trying to strip the company of its patent on the drug.

The company, the activists charged in a federal court lawsuit, is making healthy profits off a drug that was developed largely by the efforts and finances of the government.

"Burroughs Wellcome has taken gross advantage of an ill-gotten market monopoly to profit off the backs of people with AIDS," Derek Hodel, executive director of the People With AIDS Health Group, said.

Federal officials also are questioning the patent, saying National Cancer Institute researchers should have been named as co-inventors.

Burroughs Wellcome disputed the allegations.

"The idea that our company would engage in illegal activities to obtain patent rights is both offensive and wrong. We fully expect to prevail in the lawsuit," company President Philip R. Tracy said.

If Burroughs Wellcome were stripped of its patent, it would lose its exclusive rights to produce, distribute and sell AZT as a therapy against the AIDS virus. AZT now produces worldwide sales for the company of \$287 million, including \$175 million in the United States.

If other companies were allowed to step in and market the drug competitively, the approximately \$3,000 per year cost for a typical dose could be cut in half, said Hodel, whose group helps AIDS patients import drugs for

their personal use.

In the suit, Hodel's group and two Washington men who are HIV-positive charged that Burroughs Wellcome did not conceive or develop the use of AZT in AIDS therapy and failed to identify NCI scientists as the true developers in its patent application.

AZT was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1987. It is the only approved therapy that attacks the AIDS virus directly, slowing progression of the disease.

The drug is labeled for use in people who have AIDS or are infected with HIV but who have not yet developed symptoms.

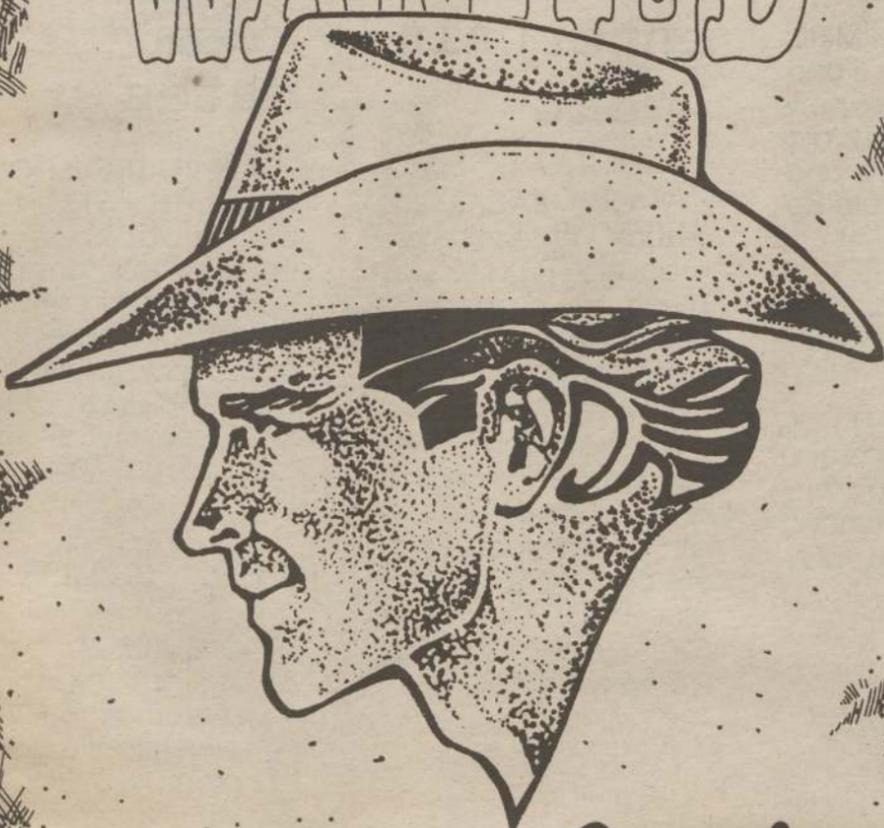
AZT is a synthetic compound that was invented in 1964 by a Michigan Cancer Foundation scientist under a federal grant, the lawsuit said. It was determined to be highly toxic and of no use at the time. After AIDS was discovered in the early 1980s, researchers became interested in the drug.

"The public paid for the development of the drug, and now the public is paying for its sale through programs like Medicaid and in higher insurance costs," said Brian Wolfman, a Public Citizen staff attorney.

Burroughs Wellcome, however, said in a statement that its scientists were the first to conceive of use of AZT as an AIDS treatment and that this was the basis of its patent.

The attempt to challenge the company's patent "could have a chilling effect on innovation in the United States and could discourage future AIDS research," the company said.

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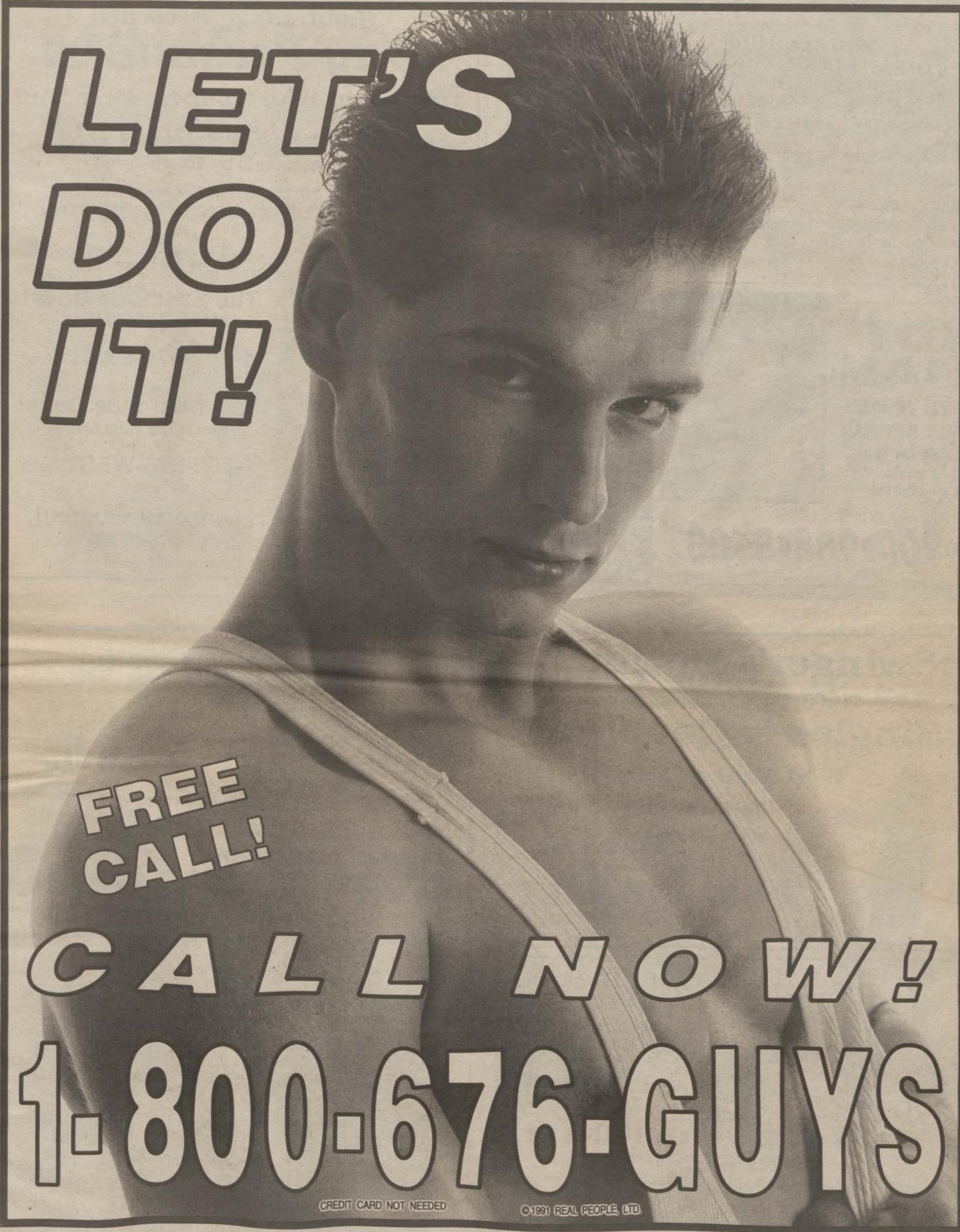
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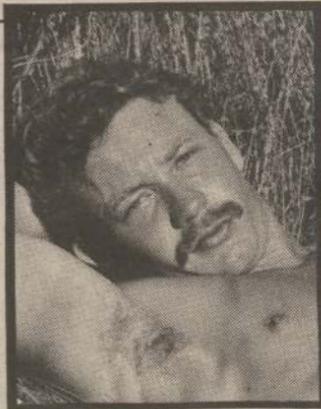
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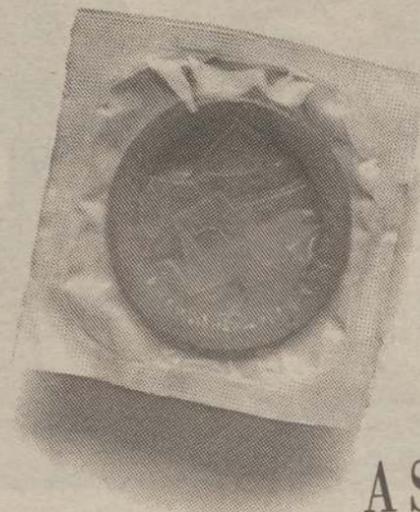
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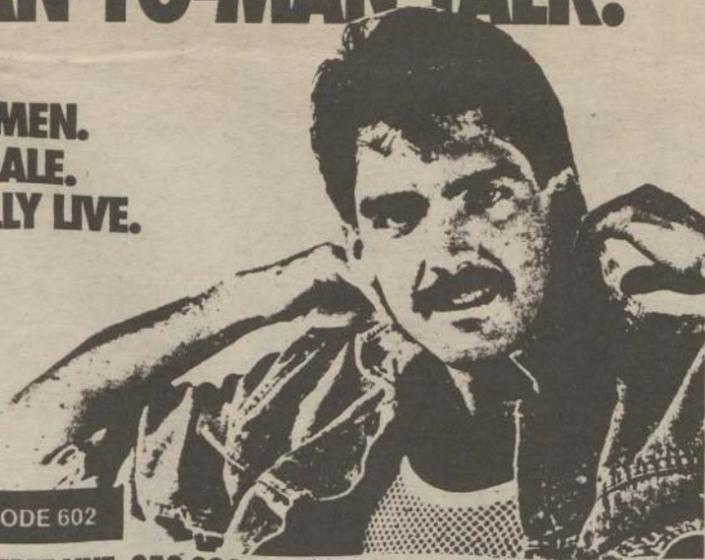
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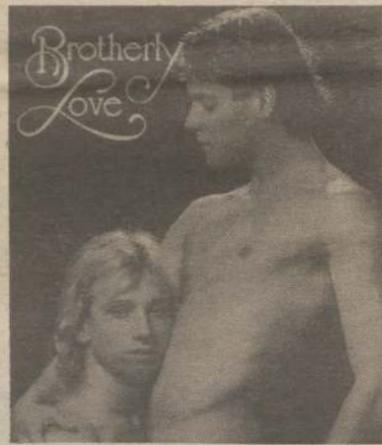
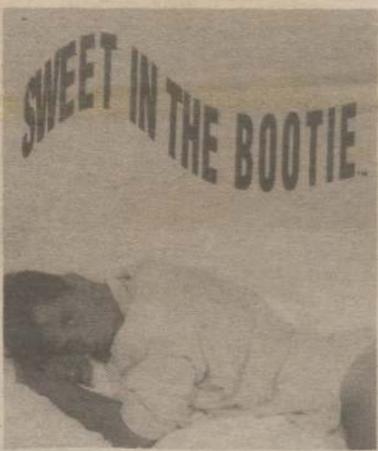
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