

HeatStroke

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Heroine Chic



By Allen Kalchik, Editor

The promotional poster for *High Art* calls the new October Films release "a story of ambition, sacrifice, seduction and other career moves".

Thankfully, it stops short of also labeling writer/director Lisa Cholodenko's brilliant debut feature "a story of lesbianism".

Yet the movie's slick trailers appear aimed (at least in part) at enticing moviegoers—whether straight or gay—into theaters by promising us a glimpse of femme/femme lovemaking.

On that basis alone, it's tempting to characterize the film as the hot new "lesbian movie".

And then there's *High Art*'s star, Ally Sheedy, who's been addressing her character's sexuality by discussing her mother's lesbianism—and even opening up about her own experiences with women—on the morning talk shows and in national magazines.

Good for her. And good for filmmaker Cholodenko—her stylish, ideological movie has received great reviews in a number of cities (it opens here July 10) and the publicity it's already generating has helped increase both Hollywood awareness and general media discussion of gay issues in much the same way *In & Out* did last summer.

But *High Art* is neither a light comedy or a star vehicle.

The movie features one time

Breakfast-Clubber Sheedy as Lucy Berliner, a talented photographer in New York who's had it with looking for fame and/or commercial success. Lucy prefers instead to hole up in a dark loft with Greta (Patricia Clarkson), her heroine-addicted lover, and their small group of directionless hangers-on.

Aussie newcomer Radha Mitchell plays Syd, the impressionable young magazine editor who lives downstairs. Syd falls first for Lucy's art and then for her person, and whether the two young women will get what they want from each other makes for some powerful storytelling.

Like last year's acclaimed indie hit *Bound*, a violent thriller that starred Gina Gershorn and Jennifer Tilly, *High Art* is representative of a tiny but growing number of films that feature lesbian or gay lead characters in movies that, in and of themselves, are actually not "about" homosexuality or lesbianism at all.

Writing ten years ago for the revised edition of *The Celluloid Closet*, his groundbreaking book on homosexuality and the movie industry, the late Vito Russo called for studio releases that included gay characters that could theoretically be interchanged with heterosexual ones without altering the movies' plots or premises.

High Art is such a film, and if its box office success approaches what Cholodenko has accomplished stylistically as well as politically, there will

almost certainly be more like it on the way—and that's not a bad thing, by any means.

If there's a down side for the community at large to a film like *High Art*, it's the way its script fogs an already blurry issue—that of self-identified sexual orientation. It does this by featuring yet another "real" lesbian who rather easily becomes involved with a feminine, previously straight girl—a character who can best be described as "somewhat bi" by the time the lights come up.

It doesn't do much to promote true sexual diversity, either, when the

Cholodenko has crafted a fine piece of celluloid that is as provocative and sane as it is visually stimulating. High art, indeed.

The following interview with Lisa Cholodenko reveals more about the writer/director's motives, and the inspiration behind the story and characters she created.

Why did you decide to set *High Art* in the photography world?

I've always been interested in photography, particularly the genre of personal photography, made by people who work with friends and non-professional models.

I've been friends with JoJo Whilden, who shot the photos that were used for Lucy Berliner's work, since the early '80s when we were students at San Francisco State, and I've been the subject

of her photographs for many years, as were most of her friends and lovers through the past decade and a half. JoJo's work is very much a part of that aesthetic.

When I moved to New York, that kind of personal photography had become the reigning vogue in the fashion world. Artists like Jack Pierson and Nan Goldin and Larry Clark had pioneered a style that

It's ironic that a movie ultimately about the losses incurred by "selling out" is so heavily exploiting the current vogue for lesbian chic in order to sell itself.

actresses cast in these lesbian roles must first meet what amounts to a heterosexual male standard of marketability before the big studios will back the flicks.

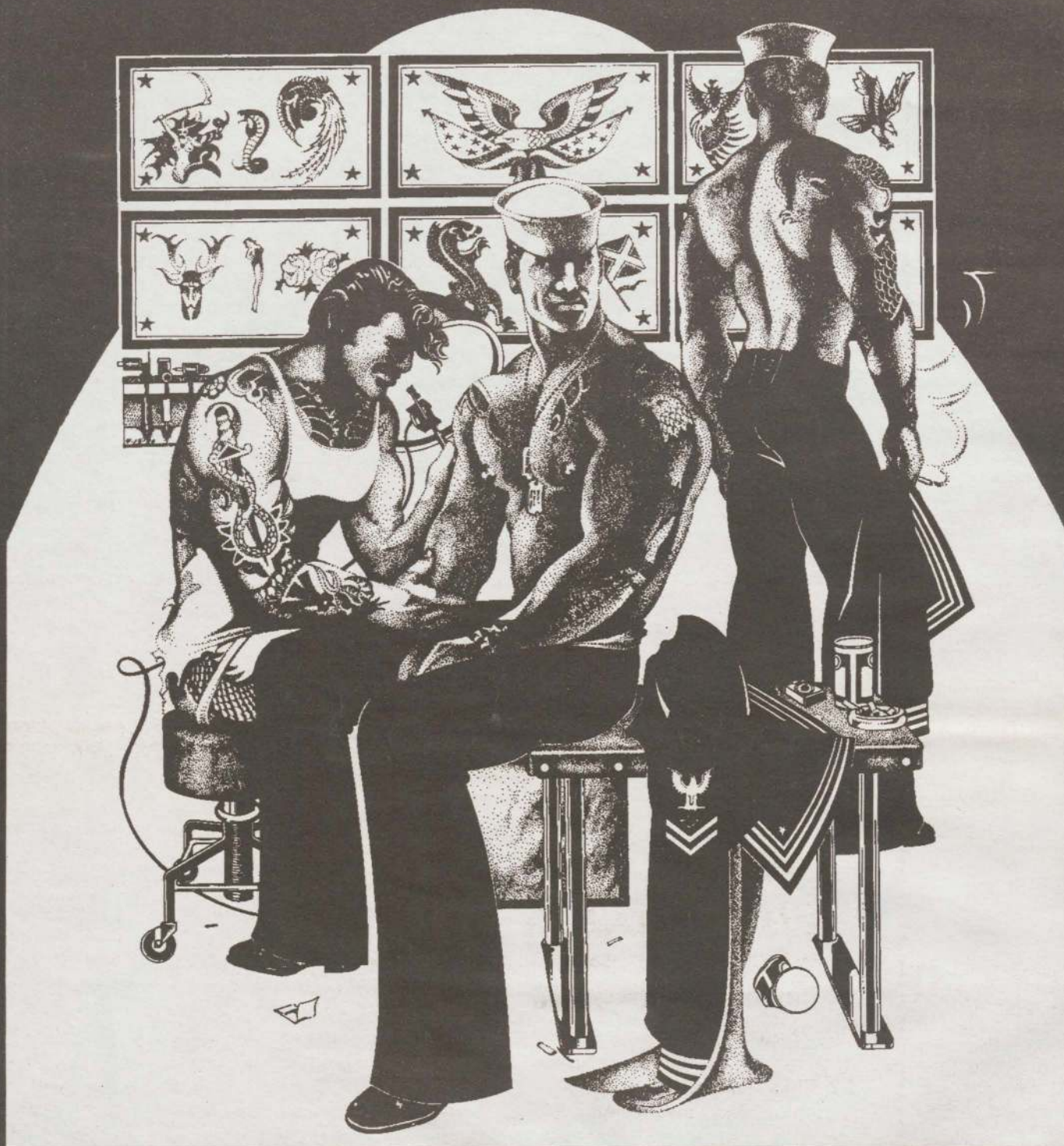
It's ironic, then, that a movie that is ultimately about the losses incurred by a talented person when he or she is forced to "sell out" is so heavily exploiting the current vogue for lesbian chic in order to sell itself.

And yet, despite these perhaps unavoidable shortcomings,

See "Director," page 18

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Managing Editor

Kelly Justin Reidhead
reidhead@idt.net

Editor

Allen Kalchik
alkalpx@aol.com

Contributors

Alison Bechdel, Eric Orner,
David Horowitz, Karyn Riedell,
Andrew Collins, Deane Jaye,
Tim Dougherty, Ty Robins,
Mario Rodriguez, Michael Thomas Ford,
Molly McCloy, Dave Brousseau,
Wally Straughn, Rex Wockner,
Romeo San Vincente

National Advertising Sales

Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc
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Horowitz:

"Candidate" Horowitz perhaps?

I've been thinking.

Several recent events have caused me to spend much time reflecting on and contemplating my life. My mother turned 70 last week. I had minor surgery and spent significant time away from work recuperating. I read the want ads in Sunday's paper.

I received an invitation to a family reunion/picnic from my oldest brother. Another brother refused to let his teenage son visit my mother because I would be around, and he's a moral person who doesn't approve of my "lifestyle".

It's been four months since a breakup, and I'm dating. It's hot outside.

There's just a lot to think about.

My mother is in reasonably good health and reasonably good spirits. Yet someday—perhaps even soon—she may require care. I can see the effects of aging on her mind, body and spirit. I'm too young to have an elderly parent.

Even though I'm the youngest of five children, no one else is interested or willing to take responsibility for Mom's care. Either because I'm the youngest, or gay, or both, the expectation is that I will handle it.

Mom's greatest fear is that she will end up in a nursing home. I don't know which one of us would be more upset if she required that level of care. She still drives on her own, travels a great deal, and does water aerobics regularly, but who knows what's next. Her small pension and social security certainly won't go very far in any long-term care process.

A friend told me this week that the definition of minor surgery is the kind that happens to someone else. No matter how minor the procedure, I always wonder about my own mortality. Would I be happy with my own legacy? Would people attend my memorial service? What will HeatStroke say?

I also took the opportunity to read the want ads and—miraculously—nothing appealed to me more than my current job. My life today ranks as terrific, yet I

also know that I want more. While I do a lot of volunteer work, I know that I eventually want my career to more directly serve my community.

Growing up, I never dreamed that I would be a gay rights activist. Now the gay and lesbian civil rights movement dominates my thoughts and actions.

No civil rights movement has ever failed in the United States. Those of us in the prime of our lives now have an amazing opportunity to contribute in a big way to a legacy that will outlast all of us.

I don't know if I'm being immodest, grandiose or foolhardy, but I believe that I, along with several other Arizonans, can be a major player. Who among us will be the next Gandhi, King, Parks or Mandela?

I'll dream big, but it still comes down to the fact that my educated, middle-class older brother won't allow me to have a relationship with his children because I'm openly gay. Someday the history books may include his name as an inspiration for a major advance in gay and lesbian civil rights. I would love to see the day when his current opinion embarrasses him.

But it's also about my oldest brother who accepts me exactly for who I am. It's about all of the family members who proudly discussed my testimony before Congress.

It's about people in my office who feel safe coming out because I did it first. It's about other mothers like mine who still have the chance to teach our generation to love our children unconditionally.

By the time you read this, I'm back to work, engaged in routine daily activities. Yet, reflection and contemplation have renewed my inspiration to make a difference. I may be soliciting campaign contributions very soon. One of my primary platform issues will be adequate care for the elderly.

I've thought about it a lot.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and President of the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project

Send it Back

New Times' hands gay community undercooked breakfast slam

Many regular readers of *New Times*—including this one—were profoundly insulted and disgusted by an ugly illustration published in the fat Phoenix weekly's June 25 edition.

The quirky rendering in question was credited to an artist named Camille Garcia. It accompanied a "humorous" piece on the late-night atmosphere at the 7th Street Denny's (popularly known as "Gay Denny's") penned by columnist Barry Graham.

The illustration features a (very scary) uniform-clad waitress slamming a platter of eggs onto the counter as her (equally scary, and possibly trouserless) lone male customer looks up from some sort of men's porno mag—that he actually appears to be masturbating behind.

Mmmmm. Sounds tasty, doesn't it?

This, apparently, is *New Times'* idea of how to best represent an obviously gay man. I get it. They consider themselves pretty progressive downtown, and most likely they didn't want to fall back on that tired old "drag" thing.

Since I'm no longer a swishy stereotype, the only readily discernible difference between me and

the straight guy at the next booth is that I'm the one jerking myself while waiting for Lisa to deliver my Moons Over My Hammy.

Sure, guys. We homos are all so permanently oversexed that we can't even keep our things in our pants long enough to finish a meal. And anyway, all that weenie-waving is a BIG part of what helps the waitstaff remember our orders.

Hell, I'm probably seeing something that isn't there, the same way Graham did when he researched the column ("...two fem dykes stand kissing as they wait in line for a table...").

Maybe what I'm seeing isn't meant to be a porno mag at all—maybe Graham and/or Garcia were issued menus quite different from the ones the rest of us get. Yeah, that has to be it. And the word "hard" on the back simply refers to the fried eggs.

The column itself is mildly unnerving. When straight men delve into this sort of "Lookit 'dem Queers" territory in search of insight and humor, it's generally pretty charmless. I can get around the insults in the column because they're unintentional, and because I genuinely admire Graham's talent.

But I've been reading the articulate weekly for almost 12 years and the drawing that accompanied this column is the grossest, most blatant anti-gay item I've ever seen the

paper print. It's inexcusable.

I urge you to join me in telling *New Times* exactly that. Write your own letter, or clip this editorial and ad your name next to mine.

Ask Editor Jeremy Voas to apologize in print and to get the paper's art department on track. Let him know that Camille Garcia's inappropriate illustration has thoroughly insulted and alienated a major segment of *New Times'* readership.

It also wouldn't hurt to let writer Barry Graham know we weren't happy with the way his editors chose to decorate his June 25 column. I hear he's quite approachable, so I'm hoping to run into him myself at Gay Denny's this Saturday night.

I figure I won't need an insulting, stereotypical illustration of a Scotsman by which to recognize Graham. It should be easy.

He'll be the guy with egg on his face.

Allen Kalchik, Editor

Write: Jeremy Voas, editor, *New Times*, PO Box 2510, Phoenix, AZ 85002— or e-mail to flash@newtimes.com

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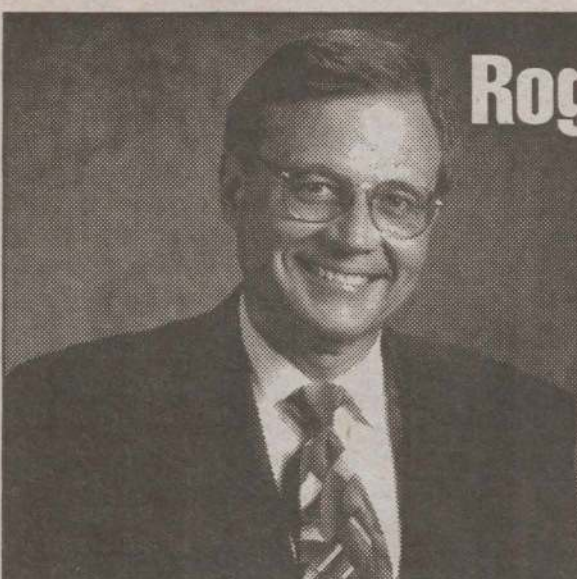


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Hefley bill would "neutralize" Clinton's order on gay workers

WASHINGTON (AP)

U.S. Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colo., wants to "neutralize" President Clinton's executive order protecting homosexual federal workers from job discrimination.

The order, signed last month, gives homosexuals special status as a protected class throughout the federal government, Hefley said June 24.

He said he has proposed an amendment to the 1999 Treasury-Postal Appropriations bill that would prevent any of the funds appropriated in the bill from being used "to implement, administer, or enforce" the order.

"Bill Clinton has added a new category to the nation's civil rights laws,"

the Colorado Springs congressman said. "With this action, the president effectively established institutional quotas for homosexual employees."

The amendment would "neutralize this order," Hefley said.

A White House spokeswoman said the amendment reflects comments made by Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., who earlier this month said homosexuality should be treated "just like alcohol ... or sex addiction ... or kleptomaniacs."

"This is about discrimination," said Nanda Chitre, the spokeswoman. "If this is what the Republicans want to focus on, we're willing to engage on this issue because we are anti-discrimination."

NYC Council backs formal rights, benefits for domestic partners

NEW YORK (AP)

A proposal that would cement the rights of domestic partners in issues from health benefits to parking permits cleared the New York City Council June 25.

"I think the impact will be very far reaching," said Councilman Thomas Duane, a Manhattan Democrat who led supporters. "It is another step toward full equalization of benefits for non-traditional family members."

The legislation, which is intended to ensure that the city treats unmarried couples the same as those who are married, has been touted as an important advance for gay couples. It was crafted by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in cooperation with Council members and gay advocates.

New York for years has been recognized for its accommodating policies toward gay and lesbian couples. A series of directives, some of which date to the 1980s, extended to domestic partners the rights once reserved for spouses and family members, such as visitation in city jails and hospitals, child-care leave and succession for city-supervised housing.

Approved 39-7 with one abstention, the legislation would make those policies permanent by writing them into law. It would apply to heterosexual and homosexual domestic partnerships registered with the City Clerk.

The mayor is expected to sign it promptly.

Since the settlement of a lawsuit in 1993, the city has provided health and dental benefits to the domestic partners of city workers. Under the bill, labor negotiations would be required to extend to employees' partners the same benefits provided for employees' spouses, potentially opening the way for those benefits to be expanded.

But the legislation also would venture into new areas, like allowing domestic partners of police and other uniformed employees to be eligible for death benefits if the employee is killed

in the line of duty.

A domestic partner would also have the right to be buried with a partner in the city-owned Canarsie cemetery, a right now reserved for spouses. Other changes involve rights to parking permits and disclosure statements filed by city employees.

Councilman Michael Abel, a Queens Republican who voted against the bill, called it another nail in the coffin of the institution of marriage.

"What you are doing is setting yourself up to give an economic incentive not to get married," Abel said. "It's anti-societal to the extent that it's an anti-marriage bill, and I still believe most New Yorkers favor marriage."

There are about 8,700 registered domestic partners in the city, and at least 55 percent are heterosexual couples, according to the mayor's office.

Similar issues have been debated around the country, including in Philadelphia, where the City Council approved a measure to extend health and pension benefits to same-sex partners of city workers.

The Council vote was preceded by an unusual demonstration on the City Hall steps, in which a group of Hasidic Jewish rabbis and rabbinical students invoked a biblical curse on legislators and officials supporting the bill. They prayed, held candles and blew into shofars, a ram's horn used in religious ceremonies.

"Almighty God, the arrogant officials who run this city, New York, have declared war against you and your biblical law," said Rabbi Yehuda Levin, a vocal opponent of gay rights.

"Strike down the hands that are raised in support of this bill. Silence the voices that speak up in favor of this bill," he said.

When asked about the protest, Duane said, "I don't think any religious person would ever believe God would ever punish a person for standing for fairness and equality."

US Supreme Court says Americans with Disabilities Act covers HIV

WASHINGTON (AP)

In a decision praised by advocates for AIDS patients and the disabled, the Supreme Court ruled June 25 that people infected with HIV are protected by a key anti-discrimination law even if they have no visible AIDS symptoms.

The 5-4 ruling said a woman whose dentist refused to fill a cavity at his office because she was HIV-positive is covered by the Americans With Disabilities Act, the 1990 law that protects the disabled against discrimination in jobs, housing and public accommodations.

"HIV infection, even in the so-called asymptomatic phase, is an impairment which substantially limits the major life activity of reproduction" and therefore qualifies for coverage under the disability law, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote for the court.

It was the high court's first ruling involving the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS.

President Clinton praised the decision, saying it "reinforces the protections offered by the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act for Americans living with HIV and AIDS."

Jennifer Middleton, of the American Civil Liberties Union's AIDS Project, predicted the decision will help people with other disabilities—such as cancer, epilepsy and diabetes—who sometimes have had trouble convincing lower courts they are covered by the disability law.

And Daniel Zingale of AIDS

Action, a network of organizations that provide health care and services to AIDS patients, called the decision HIV patients' "greatest legal victory since the beginning of the epidemic."

The decision set aside the ruling of a Boston federal appeals court, which said dentist Randon Bragdon of Bangor, Maine, violated the anti-discrimination law when he refused to fill Sidney Abbott's tooth at his office because she carries the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

While the justices ruled that Abbott was covered by the ADA, they ordered lower courts to reconsider whether Bragdon violated the law.

Those courts previously had said Bragdon did not show the treatment would have been unsafe.

Bragdon's lawyer, John W. McCarthy, said he was pleased Bragdon was being given a new chance to make that argument. "This is not to say ... that dentists shouldn't treat HIV-positive patients,"

McCarthy said, adding, "If there's a risk, they should get to decide for themselves what they want to do."

Bennett H. Klein, an attorney for Abbott who argued the case before the Supreme Court, said at a news conference in Boston that though the case only applied to Abbott, the decision was "an enormous victory for the nearly one million people affected with HIV."

Abbott, also at the conference, said that despite improved medical treatment for people with HIV, "The old fears are still around."

"I decided to take legal action because what happened to me was wrong," she said. "I am grateful for the U.S. Supreme Court decision."

The Act says people are disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that "substantially limits one or more major life activities."

But it also says disabled people can be treated differently if they pose a "direct threat to the health or safety of others."

In deciding whether a health-care

deviating from the accepted norm," he said.

Public health authorities say there is no documented case of a dentist contracting the AIDS virus from a patient. But Bragdon contended he should be allowed to use his own judgment on how to safely treat such patients.

Bragdon's lawyers also argued that bearing children should not be considered a major life activity similar to seeing, walking and hearing.

Nonetheless, the court ruled that, "Reproduction falls well within the phrase, 'major life activity.'" A person's HIV infection limits that activity because of the risk that she may infect her partner or the child, he said.

Kennedy's opinion was joined by Justices John Paul

Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer. In a separate opinion, Stevens and Breyer said they would have gone further and ruled that Bragdon did violate the law by refusing to fill Abbott's cavity in his office.

Dissenting in part were Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Sandra Day O'Connor.

"HIV infection, even in the asymptomatic phase, is an impairment which substantially limits the major life activity of reproduction."

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy

provider has violated the disability-protection law, "courts should assess the objective reasonableness of the views of health care professionals without deferring to their individual judgments," Kennedy said.

The views of public health authorities such as the U.S. Public Health Service "are of special weight and authority" but not conclusive, Kennedy said. A health care professional who disagrees with such a medical consensus "may refute it by citing a credible scientific basis for



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AzAPA looks at finished session, honors lawmakers at June meeting

By Allen Kalchik, Editor, and Wally Straughn, HeatStroke Contributor

The statewide group that was organized one year ago to impact public policy on behalf of Arizona's AIDS/HIV community delivered its annual report and honored supportive state legislators on June 18 in Phoenix.

At its annual meeting, the Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance (AzAPA) honored State Representatives Susan Gerard, Ken Chevront, Herschella Horton and Andy Nichols for their efforts in obtaining funding for the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

Also receiving awards from AzAPA were Governor Jane Hull,

Debi Wells of the Governor's Office, and Phoenix Body Positive.

"We feel very proud of everyone in the HIV community for helping AzAPA have a very successful year," said B.J. Peters, AzAPA's Executive Director.

AzAPA was established in early 1997 by the leaders of several AIDS organizations in Phoenix and Tucson. The idea was to combine forces in order to more clearly present AIDS/HIV drug funding needs to the state legislature and to lobby lawmakers on behalf of the AIDS/HIV community.

Peters reported that AzAPA had a positive impact on the legislature last year and said she is very happy with

the way the 1997-98 session went.

In particular, she said, the organization was successful in getting a total of \$2.6 million for the ADAP program and also in helping to pass an AHCCCS omnibus health care bill. "Also, the HIV felony transmission bill died, and we did a lot of work behind the scenes including a lot of phone calling and letter writing on that."

When AzAPA officially began operations last year and Peters was tapped to direct the organization, she hoped the fledgling group would be able to hire an experienced lobbyist.

However, in the interest of maintaining a low overhead, Peters soon added "Registered Lobbyist" to her list of professional titles and jumped directly into legislative fray herself.

"I practically lived there," she joked, "but I learned a lot in just one year and there are many people to thank for that." Peters expressed her gratitude to professional lobbyists David Landrith, Gaspar Laca, Mike Williams and Rich Bitner.

"Rich took me under his wing," she said of Bitner, a lobbyist for Abbot Laboratories and an Emergency Physicians group. "He was a real mentor to me."

Representative Ken Chevront was full of praise and admiration for both B.J. Peters and her organization.

AzAPA was, he said "Highly effective in promoting legislation" and overall was very successful.

About 50 people attended the annual meeting and Peters said she was pleased to see that support from the community is growing. She explained that there will be a great deal of work to do in the 1998-99 session if the momentum that AzAPA established in its first year is to continue.

Obtaining more funding for ADAP will be the number one priority, because funding allocations that the drug assistance program has received thus far are for one year only.

Also on AzAPA's 1998-99 agenda: legislation that affects housing, prevention, HIV tracking and other issues important to the HIV/AIDS community.

Members of the house and senate as well as the Governor's Office will be lobbied on behalf of the community in order to promote favorable amendments and bills and to work to stop harmful legislation from passing.

Peters hopes the group will continue to garner community support and stresses that AzAPA is a membership-based organization. "We really need members, and money is still a major problem for us," Peters said.

To join AzAPA or to learn more about how individuals can help this new organization continue to impact state policy, call (602) 279-4805.



B.J. Peters, Executive Director of AzAPA.

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Optimism, frustration mix at world's largest AIDS conference

GENEVA (AP)

The largest AIDS conference ever began June 28 with a mix of optimism and frustration: Cheer over potent new virus-killing drugs was tempered by despair that AIDS still spreads explosively in parts of the world that cannot afford these medical breakthroughs.

About 13,200 scientists, doctors, advocates and journalists gathered for the 12th World AIDS Conference to hear 5,400 presentations on new treatments, insights into the basic workings of the virus and how the disease affects everyone from pregnant women to prisoners to "commercial sex workers," the conference euphemism for prostitutes.

During the weeklong meeting, scientists are expected to discuss newly developed treatments that may offer alternatives to protease inhibitors, the class of drugs that have revolutionized AIDS care. Moreover, experts believe they are closing in on simpler regimens that will require people to take far fewer than the 20 pills a day which is now common.

Doctors also will hear encouraging reports on preventing the spread of the virus from infected mothers to their babies during birth. Already, researchers have shown that brief treatment with the drug AZT cuts this hazard in half, while longer use coupled with a Caesarean delivery virtually eliminates the risk.

Despite such progress, "there is news so devastating that few in this room could have predicted or imagined it a decade ago," Dr. Peter Piot, head of the United Nations AIDS program, told the opening session.

His organization estimates that 12 million people world-wide have died of AIDS, and another 31 million are alive but infected. Each day, 16,000 more people catch the virus.

Since the last international AIDS conference in Vancouver two years ago, 10 million people have contracted HIV, said Piot. "That represents a col-

lective failure of the world."

Sunday's opening ceremonies were briefly disrupted by chanting, horn-blowing demonstrators protesting the high cost of AIDS drugs. A year's treatment with protease inhibitors and other drugs can cost \$10,000 or more. More than 90 percent of HIV-infected people live in parts of the world where these medicines are too expensive to be widely used.

"We forget that of the millions of people living with AIDS, most are condemned to death because of the absence of care," said Peter Lamptey of Family Health International, an anti-AIDS organization in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

In the United States, Europe and other wealthy parts of the world, the epidemic has leveled off or is declining. After explosive spread, it is also beginning to abate in some poorer areas, such as Uganda, Senegal, Brazil and parts of Tanzania.

However, Piot noted that "this epidemic is truly out of control in many countries," including some parts of Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. One-quarter of the population is infected in Botswana and Zimbabwe. Four million people have HIV in India and 3 million in South Africa.

Ruth Cardoso, wife of Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, told the conference that governments should "stop the self-defeating attitude of downplaying the problem's urgency" and make AIDS a major priority.

Many experts believe that developing an AIDS vaccine is key to controlling the epidemic. The first large-scale testing of a possible vaccine began last week.

On June 28, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, a nonprofit group, announced a plan to try to focus spending of between \$350 million and \$500 million on vaccine development over the next nine years. The group said Microsoft founder Bill Gates had contributed \$1.5 million to its effort.

Local advocate to present Geneva update

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

When Phoenician Mark Hoffman returns to the Valley this month after attending the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva, he'll be bringing back new information that he hopes will help people here who are most affected by the disease.

"I think I know what people who are living with HIV want to know about, and I can help sort out the information in a language that people who are not doctors can understand," Hoffman told *HeatStroke* before leaving for the conference.

Hoffman is currently the Health Educator and Treatment Advocate at Phoenix Body Positive, a local HIV/AIDS service organization. He also works part time for A Place Called Home, a local organization that provides housing for people with HIV.

Until this May, Hoffman worked for Being Alive, the early intervention program of AIDS Project Arizona. Because of his experiences at a number of agencies, Hoffman has many

friends in the HIV community who came through with funding when it looked like he would be unable to make it to Switzerland.

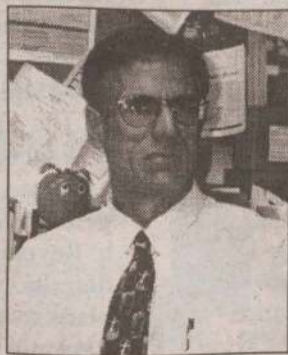
"I had applied for a scholarship, and I didn't get it," he said. But when people learned that he probably

wouldn't be going, they began to offer him money for the trip. Soon, his expenses were covered.

"The main reason I'm going is to bring information back to the people of Phoenix so they get a more down to earth interpretation," he said. This will be Hoffman's first trip to the international conference.

Hoffman will be presenting an Update from Geneva, together with Doctor David Payne, on Thursday, July 16 at the Cullen Auditorium on the campus of St. Joseph's Hospital in central Phoenix. The free seminar is a joint production of AIDS Project Arizona and Phoenix Body Positive.

The event will be held from 6 to 8 pm and a light dinner will be provided. To register, call Mark at (602) 265-2437 or Brett at (602) 955-4673.



In cooperation between
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A Community Forum

12th World AIDS Conference Update from Geneva

featuring
DR. DAVID PAYNE
and
MARK HOFFMAN
HIV HEALTH EDUCATOR

Thursday
July 16, 1998
6:00-8:00 pm

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Cullen Auditorium
350 West Thomas, Phoenix
Lite dinner will be provided

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Funding for this Community Forum is made available as a result of awards from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health Services.

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Mexican Gays Challenge INS Report

Mexican gay activists have sharply denounced a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service report which states that since 1995 "there have been no further reports that homosexuals have been murdered with the apparent complicity or tolerance of government authorities."

"[It's] a U.S. tactic so that they don't have to give asylum [to Mexican gays]," said Jose Maria Covarrubias of the Mexico City gay group Circulo Cultural Gay. "You can't say that there is no homophobia in Mexico, that these murders are not happening."

Research conducted by Mexico's Citizens' Commission Against Homophobic Hate Crimes found 38 anti-gay killings nationwide in 1995, 42 in 1996, 37 in 1997 and eight so far this year.

The statistics were based on news reports in one Mexico City newspaper "where the sexual orientation [of the victim] is clearly indicated by the journalist, neighbors or police."

But the author of the INS report, World Policy Institute Latin America Specialist Andrew Reding, told the Washington Blade he stands by the accuracy of the document.

Mexican gay groups are "crying wolf when there's no wolf there," he said. "When [violent anti-gay attacks are] occurring, there's no mistaking it. It's not like you've got to hunt. ... Recently in Mexico, that's not been the case."

Britain lowers age-of consent to 16

Britain's House of Commons voted June 22 to lower the age of consent for gay male sex to 16, bringing it in line with the laws for heterosexual and lesbian sex. The vote was 336 to 129.

An amendment that would have kept the gay age of consent at 18 when one person is in a position of trust or authority over the other was defeated 234 to 194.

The bill now moves to the House of Lords, the unelected upper house of Parliament, where it is expected to meet resistance from Anglican prelates.

"Theoretically, yes, the Lords could screw it up, though it is highly unlikely and almost unprecedented," said Tim Teeman, editor of London's *The Pink Paper*. "Also, the government is looking at massive reform in the House of Lords, so the HOL would be unlikely—and unwise—to pick too much of a fight on this. But, yes, there will be some opposition."

Correspondent Chris Granlund

added: "Technically the Lords could suggest amendments, send it back for revisions, delay it, etc., but it would be almost impossible to block completely given that it passed with such a huge majority."

"It will be an interesting debate because the upper house is currently being stuffed with Blair-appointed 'working peers' [who] are not hereditary and ... have only become peers on the understanding that the upper house will be fundamentally reformed and democratized in the near future—in fact they have been appointed with the aim of voting the current Lords out of existence."

London gay pride cancelled, partially resuscitated

Pride Events UK cancelled London pride June 24, saying they were out of money. The events were rescheduled for Aug. 15.

But community organizations plan to go ahead with the parade itself as scheduled on July 4.

Pride Events was brought to its knees by Lambeth Council's decision to charge an additional \$41,800 on top of the \$83,600 already requested for use of Clapham Common, by the Metropolitan Police's decision to charge \$33,446 for security, and by slow ticket sales for the post-parade festival.

In previous years, the festival was free and, as a result, so were police services. This year, admission was to cost 5 pounds (\$8.36).

According to the lobby group Stonewall, marchers will assemble in Hyde Park's Carriage Drive at 11 a.m. and proceed to Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, Parliament Square and Victoria.

Canadian Feds let 'spouse' ruling stand

Canada's federal government decided June 22 not to appeal an April ruling by the Ontario Court of Appeal that rewrote the federal Income Tax Act to recognize same-sex couples.

The April decision came in a case where Canada's largest union had been prevented from paying pensions to same-sex couples due to Revenue Canada's heterosexist definition of "spouse." Pension plans must be registered with Revenue Canada to be tax-free.

The decision not to appeal likely will result in other federal laws that define "spouse" being rewritten as well.

Toronto Mayor raises gay flag, makes goofy speech

Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman raised the gay flag over City Hall June 22 as gay activists cheered him on.

"Everyone's belief has to be respected," Lastman told the crowd at Nathan Phillips Square. "I'm not asking you to believe what others believe, but I'm saying they have the right to feel the way they do and they have the right to do what they want. There's nothing wrong with what they're doing to each other. [pause] I always do that — I always mess up!

"Human rights are important and that's what's behind all of this," Lastman continued. "It's the right thing to do. We all have to have pride in ourselves—if you don't like yourself, how can anyone else like you? And what do you tell kids who are gay? Not to like themselves? It's wrong."

Gay City Councillor Kyle Rae called the event "a great day to be queer."

First Finnish gay discrimination case won

A British man living in Finland has won the nation's first anti-gay discrimination case under a 1995 law that bans bias based on sexual orientation.

Tim Bedford, a high-school teacher in Oulu, filed suit after he was roughed up and kicked out of a predominantly gay bar for kissing his boyfriend on the dance floor.

The court fined the doorman who assaulted Bedford and ordered him to pay court costs.

"This shows that the law exists and that laws are worth more than the paper they're written on," said Rainer Hiltunen, head of the national Finnish gay-rights group SETA.

Denmark nixes lesbian insemination

The Danish Folketinget (parliament) voted 70-57 June 19 against lifting the nation's ban on artificial insemination of single women.

The ban applies to state-run and private clinics but not to arrangements that take place outside of a medical setting.

Proponents of the ban argued that lesbian motherhood is unnatural and that children are harmed by not knowing their fathers.

Ironically, in 1989, Denmark became the first of the six nations that grant gay couples nearly every right and obligation of matrimony. Danish registered partners lack access only to adoption, church weddings and artificial conception.

50,000 march in Paris

About 50,000 gays and lesbians marched from Paris' Latin Quarter to the Place de la Nation June 20 in the city's 17th gay-pride parade.

Chief among their demands was passage of the proposed Civil Solidarity Pact granting gay and straight registered partners many of the rights of matrimony.

Organizers said the parade was smaller than usual because of conflicts with the World Cup soccer tournament. Several events were cancelled due to "security issues" or lack of sponsorship, they said.

Amnesty demands Cyprus repeal new anti-gay laws

Under pressure from the Council of Europe and the European Union, Cyprus legalized gay sex May 21 but Amnesty International said last week the new laws are unacceptable.

Behind-the-scenes negotiations with the Orthodox Church resulted in anti-gay amendments that ban advertising for a gay partner, prohibit gay "indecent" proposals, and attach higher penalties to sex offenses that are homosexual in nature. In addition, the age of consent for gay sex is set higher than for straight sex.

"The application of the revised Article 171 which carries a sentence of up to five years imprisonment for 'unnatural acts between males performed in public or which involve one of the persons being aged under 18' and which includes in its definition of acts performed 'in public' those which take place 'between more than two people or in presence of a third party,' could continue to lead to the imprisonment of male adults solely for engaging in consensual homosexual relations in private," Amnesty said.

"Amnesty International is also concerned that the wide scope of the provisions of the recently adopted Article 174(A) (which carries a sentence of one year's imprisonment for 'indecent behavior or invitation or provocation or advertisement aimed at performing unnatural acts between males') could lead to the imprisonment of individuals solely for having exercised their right to freedom of expression and to freedom of assembly and association."

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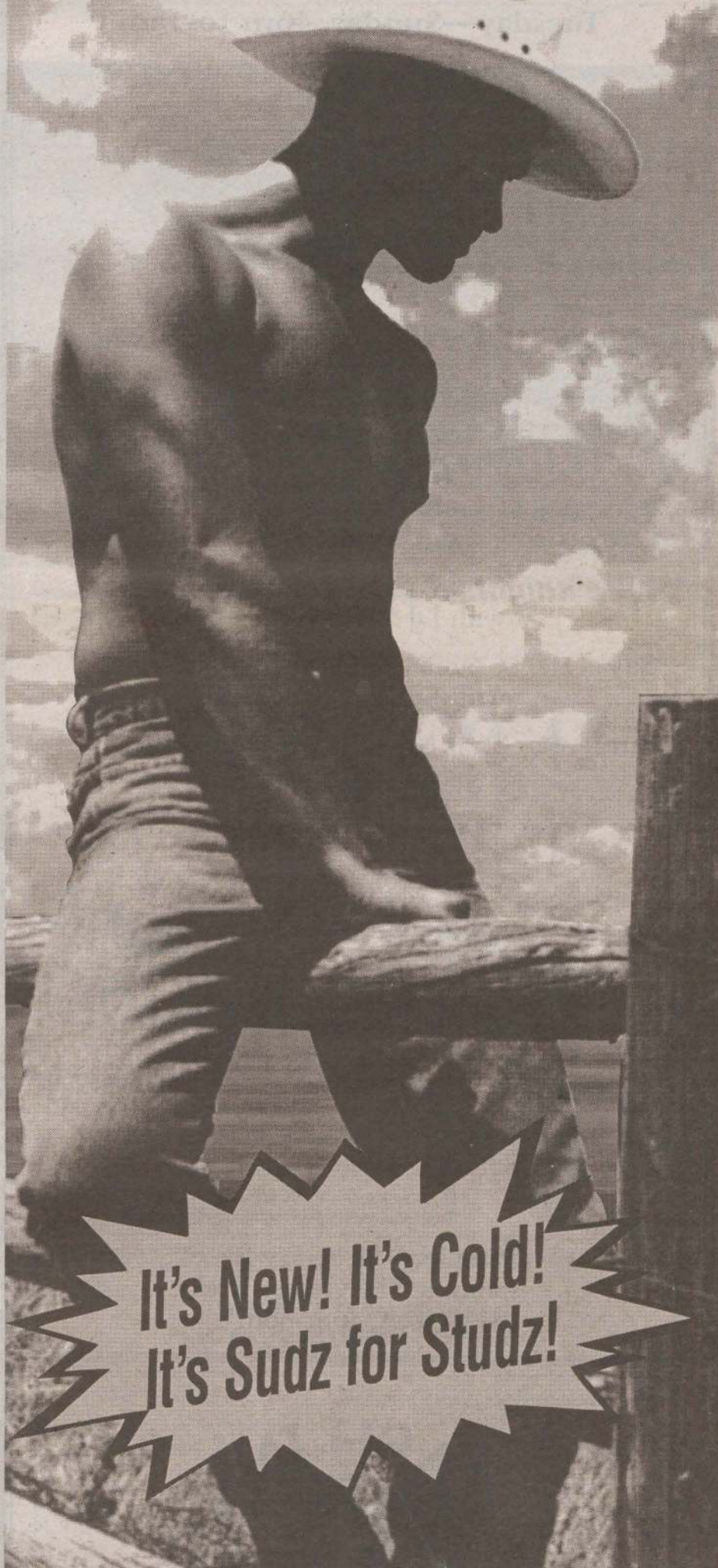
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Goings On

Artie party

Artie Michaelis, longtime AIDS activist and volunteer extraordinaire, will celebrate "The Third Anniversary of his 65th Birthday Party" on July 17 at Charlie's in Phoenix.

The party will last from 7:30 to 11 pm as a special fund-raiser for Joshua Tree, the Phoenix-based HIV/AIDS feeding program that Michaelis helped to found.

More than 12 entertainers are scheduled to perform, including male singers and a number of popular female impersonators. Emcee for the evening will be Virginia Sacrifice.

Artie asks that in lieu of birthday gifts, attendees bring a "roll of toilet paper" or a non-perishable food item for Joshua Tree.

VOIT seeking contributions for youth

The Phoenix gay and lesbian community's only programs designed to serve gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth are facing an uncertain future.

One program, Valley One in Ten (VOIT), joined the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center in 1993. The other, called Horizons, began providing services in January of this year.

VOIT serves kids aged 14 to 17, while people aged 18 to 22 are served by the meetings and programs of Horizon. These are The Center's largest and fastest growing programs. Combined, it is expected VOIT and Horizons will serve more than 600 young people in 1998.

In order to cover the cost of rent, salaries, utilities and supplies, as well as regular weekly meetings, postage and printing, these programs must raise about \$5,000 each month. To contribute a tax-deductible donation, make your check payable to VSGLCC and mail it to: PO Box 33367, Phoenix, AZ 85067. Or contact The Center at (602) 265-7283.

Positive outlook is goal of POZ Expo

Hundreds of men, women and children will join together for Phoenix's first ever POZ Life Expo, an inspirational day of learning about HIV, on Friday, July 31 in Phoenix.

The POZ Life Expo is an opportunity for people impacted by HIV to learn more about the latest treatment options, discover the broad array community services and get some pampering—all for free.

The empowering atmosphere will feature a wide variety of activities and services. HIV-positive Playboy Playmate Rebekka Armstrong will be applying temporary tattoos to visitors and will sign copies of the June issue of POZ magazine, where she appears on the cover. Other free services include back and body massages, product samples and HIV specific educational workshops.

Ty Ross, HIV positive grandson of the late AZ Senator Barry Goldwater, will also be on hand for the Expo. Ross came out as positive on the cover

of the first issue of POZ.

"The message of the POZ Life Expo is that information—about healthy living, new treatment options and positive attitudes—can save and extend lives. The atmosphere is joyous, but the information is serious," commented POZ Executive Editor and Founder Sean Strub.

Over 15 workshops—such as Nutrition & HIV, Laughter & Healing and Women & HIV—will be presented. The workshops, to be led by community experts, are coordinated by AIDS, Medicine & Miracles, co-host of the 1998 POZ Life Expo Tour.

AIDS, Medicine & Miracles is a non-profit organization based in Boulder, Colorado, which educates, nurtures and empowers people confronting HIV and AIDS. Through educational and holistic programs they create a dialogue to promote health, growth and social action.

Over 30 exhibitors are expected to participate in this historic event including: Expo sponsors—Roche Pharmaceuticals, Roxane Laboratories, Inc., The Playboy Foundation, Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology and Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., in addition to local AIDS service organizations.

The city of Phoenix has experienced over 3,846 cases of AIDS, according to recent data from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Estimates of the number of people living with HIV in Phoenix are even greater.

Phoenix is the fourth stop on the 1998 POZ Life Expo Tour. Other stops on this ten city tour include: Houston, Cincinnati, New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco and Washington, DC.

The event will be held from 11am to 7 pm at Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 West Greenway Road. For directions call (602)375-1777.

DA July activities outdoors

Desert Adventures, a social group for men and women in the Phoenix area that plans and promotes a number of outdoor activities and other events, has several fun "things to do" coming up.

On July 10-12 the group will travel to the San Francisco River area in western New Mexico for a weekend campout and hiking excursion. The visit will include an exploration of the old ghost town of Mogollon and a hike through Whitewater Canyon. The fee for this event is \$3 for members and \$5 for guests.

The club's annual Christmas in July party and gift exchange will be held Sunday, July 12 and the Desert Adventures Anniversary Party will take place on July 19 at Charlie's in Phoenix.

Then DA members will head to San Diego for the annual pride festival and parade, to be held there the weekend of July 24-26. Instead of camping out this year, the club has booked rooms at the Hillcrest Inn. The trip fee is \$125 for members (\$140 for a couple) and \$135 for non-members (\$150 per couple).

For information on joining the club or on any DA activity, call the event line at (602) 266-CAMP/2267.

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

Annual "Night of Comedy" slated for August 29

The Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center has scheduled its annual summer fundraiser for August 29.

"A Night of Comedy" will feature comedians Kate Clinton and Jason

Stuart at the beautiful Orpheum Theater in downtown Phoenix.

Clinton's new book, *Don't Get me Started*, was just released and is already climbing the bestseller lists. She is currently writing for Rosie O'Donnell's talk show.

Watch coming issues of *HeatStroke* for more information or call The Center at (602) 265-7283 to find out more about this event.

Final phase of HIV vaccine trial begins in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Dr. Mark Watkins volunteered to try out a possible AIDS vaccine to contribute to science.

Petr Pronsati wanted people to know that scientists are making inroads in the fight against the virus that causes AIDS.

Both men are gay and have been chosen as the first of 5,000 people who began rolling up their sleeves and receiving injections June 23 in the first large-scale human test of an AIDS vaccine.

The three-year trial of VaxGen Inc.'s AIDSvax is designed to show whether it can protect people from infection with the AIDS virus. The testing is the final step before Food and Drug Administration approval.

Trials will begin later this year in more than 30 U.S. cities, including New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and St. Louis.

Volunteers will be injected with either a placebo or AIDSvax, which scientists say is not dangerous because it is not a live strain of the AIDS virus.

The test is open to people who are considered to be at high risk of contracting the AIDS virus.

Many of the volunteers are already veterans of the fight against AIDS.

Watkins, 38, was the first participant in the nation to receive the injection. He is among 150 volunteers in Philadelphia.

"In treating HIV patients, I realize the devastation this disease causes, and I thought this was a worthwhile trial," Watkins, who specializes in patients with AIDS, said as reporters and camera crews looked on.

Pronsati, who works for the AIDS awareness clinic Philadelphia FIGHT, said he volunteered and agreed to the media spotlight to "give hope to people."

"I think it's great that people see there is something being worked on and people see the faces of people involved," Pronsati said.

Volunteers will be given a series of shots, undergo periodic blood tests and discuss their sex lives with researchers.

Some 25 potential vaccines have been tested worldwide, but none has advanced to this larger-scale testing, known as a Phase III trial.

VaxGen is using copies of the outer coating of the AIDS virus to try to stimulate the immune system to fight off the most common subtypes of the AIDS virus. Two different formulas will be used to fight strains found in the United States and those that are predominant in Southeast Asia.

Many U.S. scientists are skeptical because AIDSvax is based on gp120, a vaccine the National Institutes of Health decided was too weak to study in 1994. But VaxGen said AIDSvax improves on gp120.

Smaller AIDSvax tests showed 99.5 percent of vaccinated people produced strong levels of antibodies, immune system cells that can target and kill infection, said VaxGen chief operating officer Daniel T. Reiner.

Study organizers are also seeking permission from the Thai Health Ministry to inject 2,500 high-risk people in Thailand.

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250 meet Louganis in Phoenix

With his year-old Jack Russell terrier on his lap and a friendly smile on his face, Olympic diving champ Greg Louganis greeted approximately 250 people at Obelisk book store in Phoenix on June 27.

Louganis was in the Valley to promote sales of his latest project, the video diary he has just produced called *Looking to the Light*.

The Phoenix trip was a quick one for Louganis. The Malibu resident had to get back to Los Angeles on Sunday to take part in Pride Festival happenings there.



Denver Pride draws 65,000

DENVER (AP)

An estimated 60,000 to 65,000 people attended Denver's PrideFest parade and rally June 29, making it the city's largest annual gathering of gays and lesbians, organizers said.

"We have 220 vendors and exhibits and had to turn people away. The parade had more than 100 contingents, and they come from five or six different states," said Mike Smith, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual Community Services Center.

"It is the largest PrideFest in the region and certainly among the top 10 in the nation," he said.

Although Sunday's event was the eighth official PrideFest, unofficial gatherings have been held since the late 1970s. The event marks the 1969 riot between homosexuals and police

at New York's Stonewall bar, starting the modern gay-rights movement.

For Yvette Trujillo, the festival is unlike any other day.

"We're free. We're out. This is our day," said Trujillo, who is a lesbian. "You can walk down the street holding hands. We don't do this any other day."

Smith said PrideFest raises money for the community center's programs. About \$30,000 was raised last year.

The parade's grand marshals were members of a group of gay and heterosexual students at Smoky Hill High School in the Cherry Creek school district. The students went to court to challenge the high school's administration of the group.

The district and students reached an agreement.

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"Sick City:" AZ Republic's homophobic review of French video offends gay readers

By Karyn Riedell, Staff Writer

In January, *Ma Vie en Rose* (*My Life in Pink*) won the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film. But Alan Levine, *Arizona Republic* video reviewer, dislikes the French film so much that he handed it a no-star rating—not even worthy of his one-star (bomb).

In his June 26 video review in the Phoenix daily's weekend Preview section, Levine describes the movie as "Sick City". He advises readers, "If you want to see cross-dressing and not end up barfing, rent *Mrs. Doubtfire*."

What film could inspire such a visceral response?

Ma Vie en Rose tells the story of Ludovic, a 7-year-old boy who wants to be a girl. Looking at the world around him, he observes that he does not fit the male stereotype because he likes to play with dolls and wear his mother's clothing. He also wants to grow up and marry his best friend, Jerome. He thus concludes that he must

really be a girl.

In depicting society's punitive treatment of Ludovic, the film addresses larger issues of gender stereotyping, sexual identity and homophobia—issues the *Republic's* reviewer would all too obviously rather avoid.

Calling the film "offbeat" and "disturbing," Levine has no sympathy for the boy: "It's Sick City, as this kid keeps embarrassing his parents and siblings by donning dresses and acting like a lunatic. He ends up getting thrown out of school, gets his dad fired, and his family ostracized from its close-knit community."

Diane Porter, *Republic* arts and entertainment editor, says that she encourages her staff to respond personally, telling them, "Don't go with the status quo, but tell me what you think."

Even so, she says that she "probably" would have called Levine and asked him some questions had she been in the office that day. "Probably—if I'd been there—I would have called him up and said, 'Do you really want to say that?'"

However, Porter says she has been editing Levine's reviews since September and has not noticed any homophobic tendencies. Had there been a problem, she would have noticed, Porter says, because "those kinds of things kind of get me going myself."

Porter notes that each video review contains a section called "Home View Considerations" that addresses such issues as profanity, nudity and violence.

In the June 26 video review, Levine mentions that *Ma Vie en Rose* contains adult themes and one F-word. Levine also reviewed several other films, such as *The Replacement Killers* and *Retroactive*. Despite mentioning the graphic violence of these films—*Retroactive*, for example, contains ten scenes of graphic violence—Levine gives both

action films two stars and mentions no overriding compulsion to "barf."

Porter also notes that *Republic* film reviewer Bob Fenster wasn't "real crazy" about *Ma Vie en Rose* either. "Bob thought it was a disturbing movie in some ways, but more than that, he thought it wasn't very well done."

In addition to winning the Golden Globe, the film also won the Best Picture award at Seattle's 1997 gay and lesbian film festival. Even so, the film failed to win an Oscar nomination. The director has said he believes the film was snubbed because of its subject. In the past 15 years, 11 films that won Golden Globes for best foreign films also won the Oscar.



Jean-Claude Lother

George du Fresne (l) with Alain Berliner, the director of *Ma Vie en Rose*.

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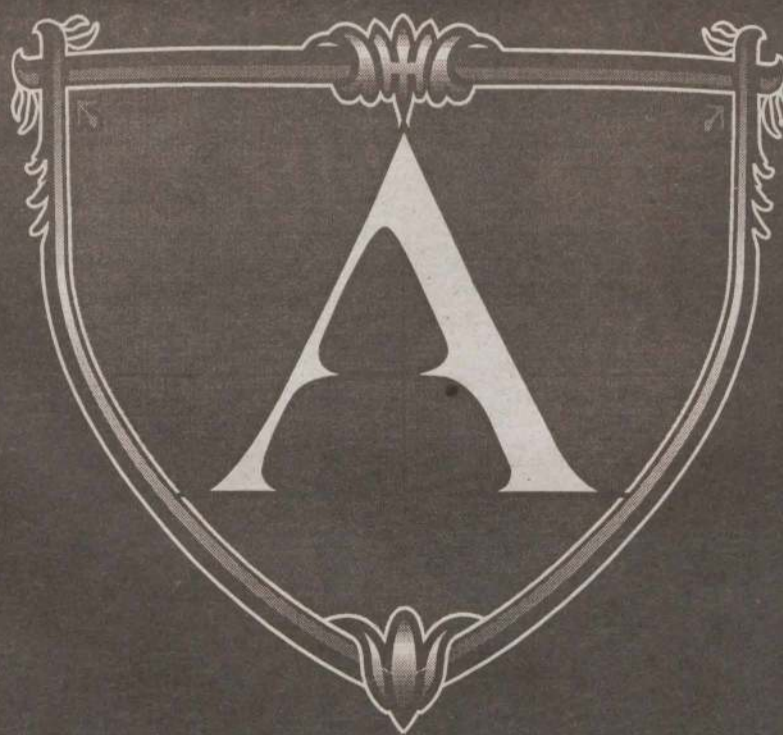
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My Queer Life Viagra Falls

By Michael Thomas Ford, HeatStroke contributor

"Hey, guess what this is," my friend Sarah says. I look over. Sarah's tongue is sticking straight out of her mouth. "Your tongue?" I answer, thinking maybe it's a trick question. "No," she says "It's a lesbian on Viagra."

I groan, not because the joke is bad, but because I'm all Viagraed out. It's all anyone talks about now. It's on television. It's in the papers.

Why, even Bob Dole went public and announced that taking it had spiced up his and Libby's sex life. She must be so relieved that she can throw out all her Al Gore dildos now.

I guess I should be happy that I live in a country that has managed to give men back both their hair and their erections in the same year. I mean, we wouldn't want a bunch of balding impotents to suffer any longer while all of those selfish women with breast cancer are out partying up a storm now, would we?

And gee, I guess the fact that 85-year-olds are scampering around with newly-aroused stiffies must be a great consolation to the folks who can't afford health care for their kids. Little Timmy still needs that inhaler, but at least Grandpa can get it on again.

Luckily for the poor, however, Congress is diligently working on passing legislation that would make Viagra covered under Medicare and other insurance plans. And then that nice man donated a million dollars to buy Viagra for the underprivileged. Thank heavens.

At ten bucks a pill, Viagra is one of those wonder drugs whose soothing pleasures might have remained within reach of only those with deep pockets. Now at least everyone in this country will have equal opportunities for erections without having to pirate their children's college funds. Isn't that what democracy is all about?

I suppose I shouldn't be surprised about all the fuss being made over this silly pill. This is, after all, a country where billions of dollars are being spent investigating just where Bill Clinton, who clearly does not need the aid of Viagra, has been putting his

erection. The American public is absolutely in love with the penis, and especially with penises that stand firmly at attention. Why, I've even heard rumors that certain members of the government are actively campaigning to make the erection the national symbol, replacing the bald eagle.

Where once that baldpated creature accurately represented our nation of overweight, thinning-haired citizens perfectly, now that we have hair restorers and Viagra, we need something more potent to signify our collective return to randy youth.

In fact, I think a monument is in order. What better way to commemorate the restorative powers of the century's greatest medical achievement?

That clever young woman who did such a nice job on the Vietnam veterans memorial could work something up, say a phallic-shaped tower of rarest blue-veined Italian marble.

Beginning at the bottom and spiraling up toward the turgid tip would be the names of all the men whose sagging love lives had been saved by Viagra.

Visitors would flock to this important site for years to come. Circling it slowly, they would scan the sides for the names of friends and loved ones. "There's uncle Ken!" smiling children would squeal in delight while taking licks at their Viagra-pops bought from

of Viagra would grow to miraculous proportions. An entire religion would spring up. Worshipers would gather in their temples to rejoice in the God-given gift of eternal erections.

Communion would consist of receiving the little blue triangle on outstretched tongues. After con-

saves us from the horrors of performance anxiety.

Surely it will only be a month or two before Andrew Lloyd Webber pens *Viagra: The Musical*.

And what does it say about our notions of sex that we define love-making by whether or not a man can get hard?

If someone invented a pill that ensured that women had orgasms every time they had sex (let's call it Niagra), you can bet there wouldn't be a parade or legislation to make it available to everyone. It's only when wieners across America are able to function properly that we call it a national holiday.

In this day and age, where everyone is taking some kind of pill for



something, you'd think these scientists would be able to use their skills for more worthwhile purposes. I'd be more impressed if someone could invent a medication that did something really useful, like make men suddenly feel an uncontrollable urge to clean the house. Or how about a pill that caused the taker to crave commitment.

Personally, I would be first in line for anything that would enable me to read the newspaper without feeling nauseous. I like to be informed, but too often knowing what's going on in the world leaves me a little dizzy.

But no. What we get are pills that make our hair and our erections both grow. I suppose for some people that's enough, but I wouldn't want to know any of them.

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Michael Thomas Ford, who currently takes no prescription medications, is the author of *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me & Other Trials from My Queer Life*. He welcomes e-mail at Shopiltee@aol.com

I guess the fact that 85-year-olds are scampering around with newly-aroused stiffies must be a great consolation to those folks who can't afford health care. Little Timmy still needs that inhaler, but at least Grandpa can get it on again.

nearby vendors. Once every fifteen minutes the fountain cleverly concealed within the monument would erupt, showering everyone within a fifty-foot radius with life-giving waters. Drenched, they would clap and cheer at the wonder of it all. Eventually, of course, the marvels

never get that bad. But honestly, what does it say about us as a people that we're making such a big deal over all this? We can't manage to educate our children enough so that everyone can read. We can't feed all the people who don't get enough to eat every day. But we can invent a pill that

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Gay & lesbian pride parades mark celebrations in two California cities

WEST HOLLYWOOD. SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

With a purple fedora perched on his head, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown joined hundreds of thousands of people who celebrated the annual gay and lesbian pride day at two California cities June 28-29.

In West Hollywood, more than 350,000 people participated in a two-day 28th annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival, which included a parade Sunday. The parade was preceded by a 5- and 10-kilometer run led by Olympian Greg Louganis.

In San Francisco, festivities began Sunday morning with loud whoops and cheers for hundreds of women on motorcycles who led the parade down Market Street, which was lined with rainbow flags.

Brown marched along, sporting a purple fedora, bright orange jacket and rainbow-colored shirt. He said it marked his 28th appearance at the annual event.

"(The parade) represents almost a Super Bowl for the city, from a commercial standpoint," he said. "It (also) represents the spirit of this city ... the creativity that is this city and the diversity that is this city."

The cyclists were followed by an array of dancers, marching bands, drag queens, politicians, military veterans, unusual floats and a police-escorted riderless horse—representing deaths in the gay community.

Organizers estimated the crowd in the hundreds of thousands.

In the Southern California parade, Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan joined city officials from throughout

the region in a two-hour, 200-organization strong parade led by Grand Marshall Wilson Cruz of the Broadway musical *Rent* and canceled TV series *My So Called Life*.

Community groups and about 13 corporate sponsors drove floats and marched in the parade to this year's theme of "Freedom to Love, Freedom to Choose."

The West Hollywood parade is touted as the third-largest in California, behind the Rose Parade and the Hollywood Christmas Parade, organizers said.

Chris Ramirez, president of *Christopher Street West*, one of the organizers of the festival that lasted until 11 p.m., said the celebrations continue to grow.

"In many ways this event is turning into a family event," Ramirez said. "It's about our customers coming out here and being who they are, and many times they bring their families along."

Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team, AIDS Project LA and other AIDS service groups joined gay and mainstream businesses in hosting the more than 300 vendor booths around the festival's site at West Hollywood Park.

One booth had a computer set up with an ongoing chat room for participants to share their experience with people at gay and lesbian celebrations this weekend in other cities across the nation, including Chicago and New York.

Participants got their exercise as well. Organizers put on a 5-and 10-kilometer Run for Pride—with Louganis as the honorary race starter—and dancers sweated on the 14,000-square-foot disco dance floor, while others learned line dancing in another area.

Louganis is an openly gay diving legend who is HIV positive.

On Saturday, about 100 couples participated in a Commitment Ceremony, in which they became domestic partners.

West Hollywood is the only city in Southern California that recognizes domestic partnership benefits, thanks to an ordinance passed in 1996, Ramirez said.

Twenty people arrested at NYC's annual Pride march

NEW YORK (AP)

As they danced and sang their way down Fifth Avenue, gays and lesbians welcomed everyone to join the Gay Pride Day parade—all except the mayor.

Twenty protesters who chained themselves together in an attempt to block Mayor Rudolph Giuliani from entering the march were arrested June 29 for disorderly conduct.

"We're quite upset Giuliani is marching in our parade when he has done quite a lot of harm to the lesbian and gay community," said Joneil Adriano, a protest organizer.

Some gay groups blame the Giuliani administration for ignoring an increase in anti-gay violence and inadequate AIDS education in the

city's public schools.

Giuliani, a Republican, defended his record on gay issues, citing his recent proposal to grant domestic partners the same legal rights as married couples. That legislation was seen as a victory for gays, many of whom praised the mayor for his support of the measure.

The protest did not appear to dampen spirits along the parade route. In all, some 600,000 people participated or watched as the celebration moved down to Manhattan's Greenwich Village.

Drag queens led many of the floats and techno was the music of choice. A young boy and girl aboard one float tossed condoms into the crowd.

"I just wanted to show my pride,"

said Kim Kanesky, 31, who drove her roommate to the parade. "We're proud to be who we are. And we're proud to be together."

Georgette Burns, 37, of Danbury, Conn., said she has seen the parade every year since she became openly gay in 1993. "I came down here to support the community," she said. "You get to be free for a day."

More than 50 politicians joined in Chicago's 29th annual gay and lesbian parade, featuring floats from the police department and corporations.

"The militant days of the march seem to be gone," said spectator Thomas Bannon. "We used to be petitioning for specific issues and rights; now it's mostly community empowerment."

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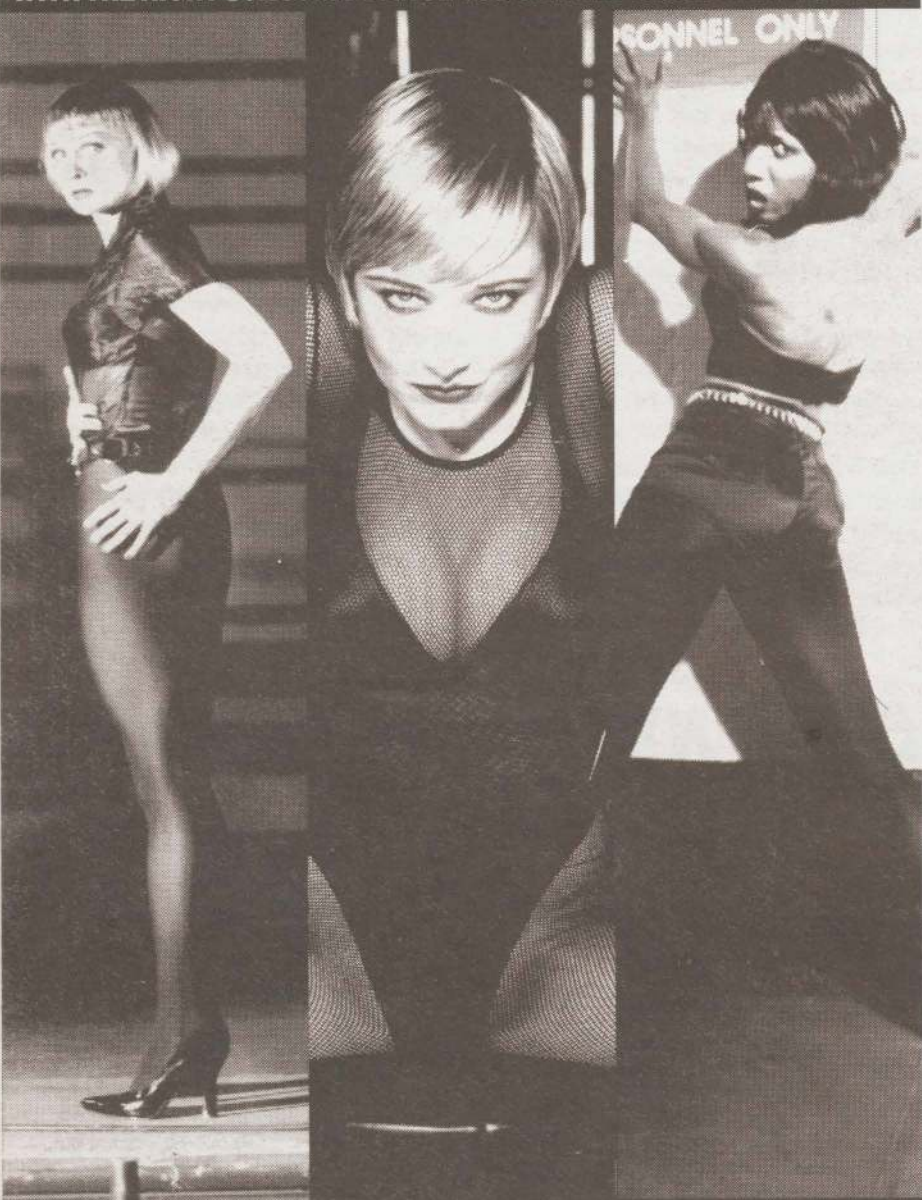
July Events

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- Sat.. 4th... Red Party
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- Sat.. 11th... Bud Night
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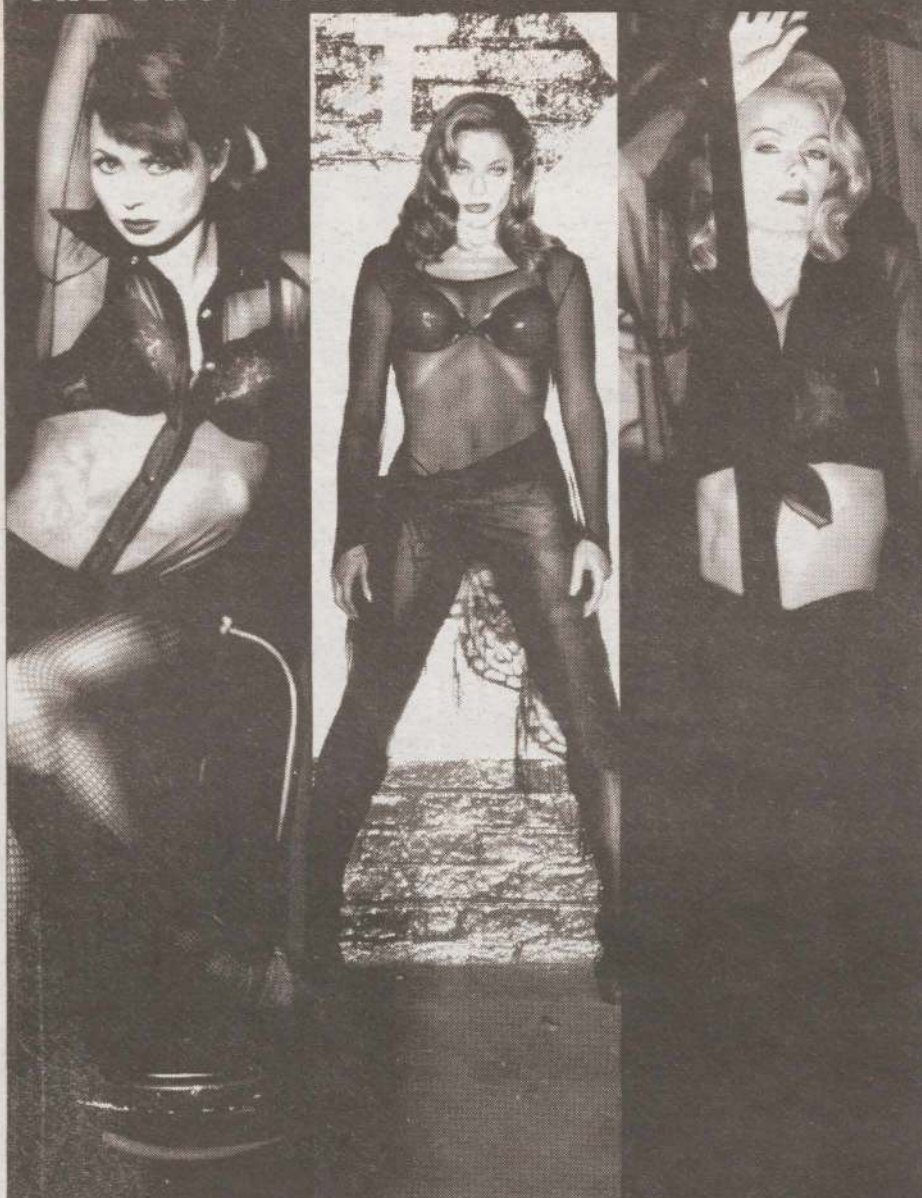
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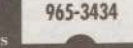


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MASTERCARD
 VALLEY BROADWAY SERIES

Gay version of Leopold/Loeb included in PT's 1998-99 season

Never the Sinner, a new play by John Logan based on the famous mid-century Leopold and Loeb murder trial, will be presented in Phoenix this autumn by Phoenix Theatre as part of its 1998-99 Mainstage Season.

The Leopold and Loeb case (where a pair of gay college students killed a

young friend in order to prove they could commit a perfect crime) inspired three films: Alfred Hitchcock's *Rope*, *Compulsion* and the gay arthouse flick, *Swoon*.

This new version includes seduction, deception, murder and courtroom drama. The provocative play is currently running off Broadway and was picked in 1997 as one of the year's best plays.

But first, the Sharks and the Jets will be dancing and singing around Maria and Tony in *West Side Story*. The classic American musical will kick off the new season, opening September 18 and continuing through October 11.

Then *Never the Sinner* will run November 6 through the 22nd, fol-

lowed by *Golf with Alan Shepard* which will open January 15, 1999 and run through the 31st.

In February, the professional Phoenix company will present *Sister Amnesia's Country Western Nunsense Jamboree*, followed in April by gay American playwright Edward Albee's classic tale of alcoholism and academia, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Closing the season next May will be the spunky, smart new musical *Inside Out*. All productions are scheduled for the Phoenix Theatre main stage at 100 East McDowell in downtown Phoenix.

For season ticket prices and information, call the box office at (602) 254-2151.



Laughter is Back (above), and *Ghetto*, from Phoenix Theatre's 1997-98 season.



ATC bringing Vogel's Pulitzer-winner to Phoenix next March

Out lesbian Paula Vogel won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her hit comedy, *How I Learned to Drive*.

And now the Arizona Theatre Company plans to present the acclaimed play in Phoenix and Tucson as part of its 1998-99 season.

Opening the Phoenix season in October will be the regional premiere of Steve Martin's smash hit off Broadway comedy *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, to be followed by the towering American classic, *Long Day's Journey into Night* by Eugene O'Neill.

The holidays will see a new musical celebration opening at ATC before moving on to Broadway, *The Gershwin's Fascinating Rhythm* conceived by Mark Lamos and Mel Marvin.

In February, Pearl Cleage's *Blues for an Alabama Sky* will open, followed by *How I Learned to Drive* in March.

Closing the season will be the exu-

berant and touching winner of the 1997 Tony Award for Best Play, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* by Alfred Uhry.

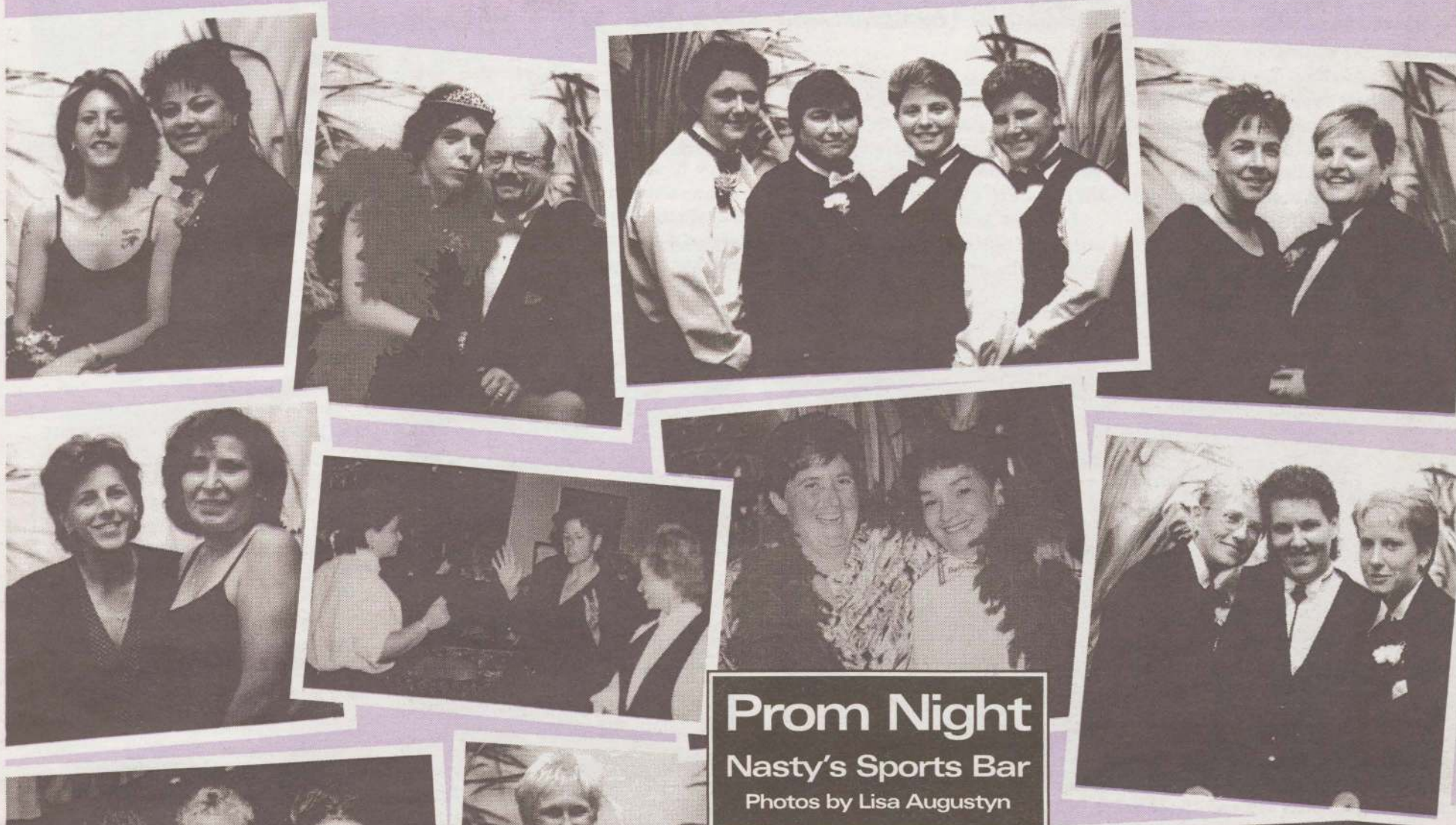
ATC performs in Tucson at the Temple of Music and Art and in



ATC presented *Five Guys Named Moe* during its 1997-98 season.

Phoenix at the Herberger Theatre Center, 222 East Monroe.

To inquire about season tickets and for more information, call (602) 256-6995.



Prom Night
 Nasty's Sports Bar
 Photos by Lisa Augustyn

Seeing/Being Scene



TRAX
 Photos by
 Mario Rodriguez

Interview with Lisa Cholodenko, Director of "High Art"

Continued from page 1

examined their lives and their friends' lives—people living on the margins of society in a lot of cases.

And now, what had begun as a very intimate kind of photography had been appropriated and diffused by the mass media, and was being used to sell things like cologne and designer clothes.

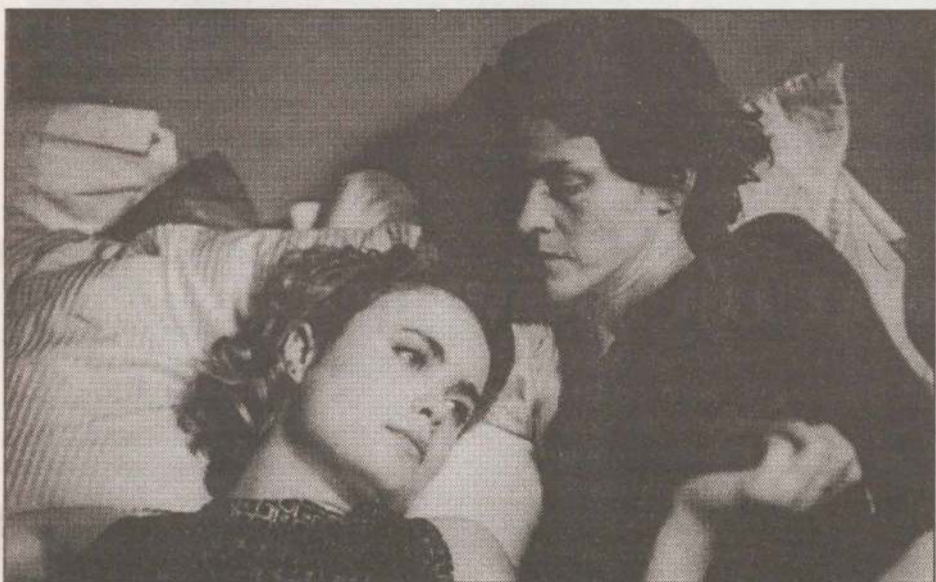
I think seeing Larry Clark's work

Was there anything in particular that inspired you to create the character of Lucy—someone who retires, disappears, sort of drops out of life in the middle of a successful career?

I wanted to make that character an archetype of somebody who was resisting the pressures of selling out. Going back to the Beats and even earlier, I think there have been a lot of

Lucy and her world. Do you think that Syd is really in love with Lucy?

I think that she is infatuated with Lucy, obsessed with her and impressed and in awe of her. And no, I don't think it's necessarily based on sexual desire, or only sexual desire. I think all those things converged and conflated in that character.



Radha Mitchell (l) plays Syd, and Ally Sheedy is Lucy Berliner in *High Art*.

was a huge sort of revelation for me, and in fact I would say that he was probably the personal photography and the drug subculture.

When I first moved to New York I remember going to the Museum of Modern Art and seeing his classic picture of a very pregnant woman shooting methamphetamines, or whatever it was, silhouetted against a window. I remember thinking it was such an interesting moment that this was on display in such a highbrow institution, that this had become a seminal piece of art.

I thought it was an intriguing phenomenon, and something I wanted to explore through a fictional story.

Were these kinds of interests the genesis for this movie? Did they lead you to start writing about them?

Yes, I think that all these things were conflated, they all sort of happened at the same at the same time. I had just moved to New York and I was hyperconscious of everything that was going on. Drug use seemed to be on the rise, especially among a lot of art types I knew.

And that sort of life style was showing up a lot in fashion photography and in literature and in films. I think the Calvin Klein ads were the best example.

people in the arts who have had that experience of just not wanting to succumb to the pressures or conventions of the marketplace—either they made an ethical choice or it was emotionally impossible for them.

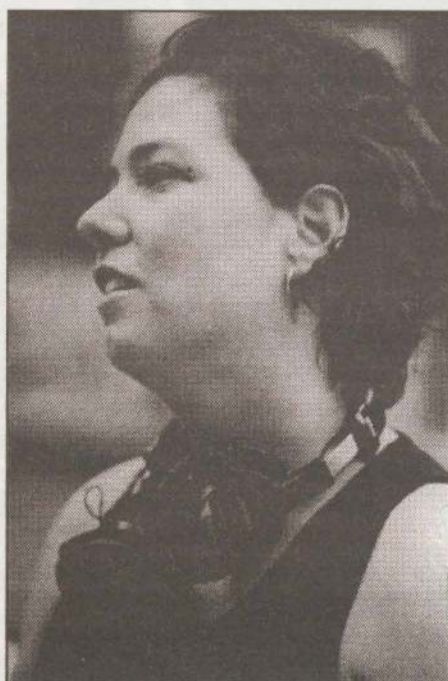
For whatever specific reason, but mainly because they weren't able to cope with the pressures of commercial success they drop out or drift into obscurity—I find that a fascinating character and, I think, and archetypal character in modern culture.

Ally Sheedy has said that when she read the script she felt a close parallel with her life.

Oh, she called me at home and was very excited about the character. She felt there were a lot of echoes between Lucy and her life—if not in the specific details, then in the way early success had impacted her life.

At that point I had no idea what her experience had been that would make her identify so strongly with the character, and I was kind of dubious. But at the same time, I thought that to get that kind of reaction from another artist, someone whose life I didn't know at all, was a huge credit to the universality of the story.

The movie is also about Syd, this young woman who gets caught up in



Lisa Cholodenko, the writer and director of *High Art*.

So Syd might not be actually coming out or becoming a lesbian?

For me, it's less about Syd's sexual orientation than the question of the source of her attraction to Lucy. In my mind her initial desire is based less on lust than on intrigue and infatuation. I wanted to explore the ways an idea about someone can turn into something libidinal.

For Syd, Lucy is someone who is iconographic, like a celebrity: just

Outonfilm

kind of above it all, or seemingly above it and detached from the world, while she herself is still in awe and caught up in the world that Lucy gave up. I thought that contrast was really interesting.

At the magazine, there's a definite contrast between the older, more seasoned staff people and Syd who is very naive and fresh faced. They are actually quite cynical in how they want to use Lucy's art.

Yes, I thought it was interesting how this sort of personal photography was being, in a sense, exploited. It was being used to sell tickets to museums and designer clothing—it was in vogue and had become part of pop culture, but it was something that at some point had been personal and intimate and even private.

I just thought that moment was very interesting, and so was the sense those editors were really capitalizing on that moment, while Syd was still idealistic about the art itself.

The sex scenes in the film seem very realistic.

For me the sex scenes are chiefly about emotions or the complexity and the ironies and the contradictions of emotion. Also, almost none of the sex in the film is ever really consummated—it's about people who are working out intimacy.

I really wanted to play that out in the sex scenes and avoid some kind of saxophone playing, smoky montage setup that has become cliché in movies. The film has a naturalism to it and I wanted to be faithful to that all the way through.

Interview with Lisa Cholodenko courtesy of October Films.

Diamond Girls

By Ty Robins, HeatStroke contributor

A cable television technician. A bartender. Two marketing company supervisors. A warehouse clerk.

Move over, Spice Girls—the women of Diamond Fire are ready to rock your world.

It's doubtful, however, that anyone in this Phoenix ensemble would suffer a nickname like "Baby" or "Posh". These are real women with real talent to spare.

They call their sound a mixture of country, pop and folk. And heir accomplished arrangements and tight harmonies can currently be heard most any night moving the dancers on the crowded floor at Cash Inn Country in Phoenix.

That's because the Cash Inn deejays have been spinning tracks off Diamond Fire's recently completed first CD, *I Bite Back*.

The band consists of Jane Joynt on vocals and both lead and rhythm guitars, Gretchen Keili on vocals and percussion, Carlie Branch on rhythm guitar and percussion, drummer Cheryl Wolfe and Val Jones on bass.

The musicians say people often confuse them for a cover band but their tunes are in fact all originals, written by Joynt and Keili.

The self-produced CD represents a labor of love for the new band. It took shape over the course of a year, during which the group's current



line-up was completed by the addition of Wolfe and Jones.

The women, who range in age from 28 through 37, cite a variety of musical influences, including Heart, the Eagles, Pat Benetar and even Johnny Cash.

Cash Inn will host Diamond Fire's CD release party on Friday, July 3 at the bar, 2140 East McDowell Road. The band will perform live beginning at 8 pm and copies of the CD will be available for purchase.

The CD will also be sold in Phoenix at Tower Records, Zia Records and Unique on Central.



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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Out in L.A.

The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (July 9-16) will include the premieres of several hot queer films, of which the most popular will undoubtedly tour the country over the next year.

Although **Outfest** is not the nation's oldest gay film festival, its strategic location in filmland gives it disproportionate impact on the future success of gay movies, performers, and filmmakers.

Outfest '98 kicks off with *Relax.....It's Just Sex*, an ensemble comedy set in L.A. featuring queer favorites **Jennifer Tilly** (*Bound*), **Lori Petty** (*Tank Girl*), openly gay actor **Mitchell Anderson** (*Party of Five*) and (*Tales of the City*) alum **Cynda Williams**.

The Sundance favorite was directed by new wave queer cinema pioneer **P.J. Castellana** (best known for his debut, *Together Alone*).

Another Sundance hit, *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*, will close the festival. Directed by **Tommy O'Haver**, the film tells the story of a young photographer who enlists the aid of a gorgeous young musician to pose for his latest project, a series of romantic stills from Hollywood classics. The photographer falls in love with his muse, but is left to figure out the sexual orientation of his object of desire.

Other highlights include the American premiere of *The Real Ellen Story*, a British production chronicling the historic coming-out episode of the late, lamented *Ellen*.

Another documentary to look for is *The Female Closet*, which examines the history of lesbian cinema.

Another feature generating buzz and sure to hit the rest of the country soon is *Edge of Seventeen*, a coming-of-age/coming-out story set in 1984. Hunky newcomer **Chris Stafford** and lesbian comic **Lea De Laria** star.

East Palace, West Palace is the first mainland Chinese film to deal with the covert life of a homosexual man.

The international flavor is also represented in the festival by *Pasajes*, a Spanish lesbian action-adventure; *Bocage: The Triumph of Love* from Brazil; *Cavafy*, about the life of 19th Century Greek poet Constantine Cavafy; and the German social come-

dy *Everything Will be Fine*.

As usual, American independents form the backbone of the festival. Highlights include *2 By 4*, set among New York's immigrant population; *Out of Season*, a psychological drama; *The Sticky Fingers of Time*, a lesbian romantic thriller; *Hayseed*, about a boy and his dog; *Mob Queen*, a gender-bending gangster yarn; and, finally, *Totally Confused*, a comedy about sexual identity.

Superdivas

The planned re-teaming of **Bette Midler**, **Diane Keaton** and **Goldie Hawn** has met a roadblock due to producers' reluctance to work with the "difficult" Hawn again.

And guess who they considered for the role of a bitchy entertainer (the role Goldie still might play)? None other than **Barbra Streisand**, who would be a perfect fit. But the producers of *Avon Lady of the Amazon* abandoned the idea and are now said to be considering **Whoopi Goldberg** for the part.

This time around, Keaton plays a meek Avon saleswoman and Midler a haughty plastic surgeon.

It Girl of the Moment

Minnie Driver is popping up in a number of new projects, including a film version of famed gay playwright **Oscar Wilde's** *An Ideal Husband*, co-starring out actor **Rupert Everett**, **Gabriel Byrne** and **Julianne Moore**.

In another project sure to be of queer interest, Driver plays a small town gal who claws her way through the beauty pageant circuit en route to her dream of becoming Miss America in *Beautiful*.

"Everywhere I Look, More Boobies!"

Somewhere out there superstar author **Jacqueline Susann** is smiling. Not only is her life getting the biopic treatment (with **Bette Midler** in the title role)

but now Fox is planning an update of her 1967 camp classic *Valley of the Dolls*.

The studio is interested in securing **Betty Thomas** (*Dr. Doolittle*) to direct, hoping she can add the same satiric spin that made *The Brady Bunch Movie* her first hit.

Ginger Does Charlie?

Retired Spice Girl **Ginger Spice** (a.k.a. **Geri Halliwell**) recently

screen-tested for a role in the film version of *Charlie's Angels* in an attempt to launch her acting career, hoping of course to be more convincing than she was as a singer.

Meanwhile, a report out of Israel says that country's transsexual diva,

Dana International, turned down an offer by the Spice Girls to replace **Ginger**. Dana says she wishes to go a different direction musically.

Speaking of different directions, a group of Thai transsexuals has formed a cover band, appropriately entitled **Spice Gays**. And not to worry. Transsexual **Ginger** is still in the group.

More Transsexual Tidbits

Danny DeVito's *Jersey Shore* Films is leading in a bid to acquire the off-Broadway hit *Hedwig and the*

Angry Inch, described as a post-punk musical.

The play focuses on the identity crisis of **Hedwig**, a German transsexual with a botched sex reassignment who flees to Kansas City, where he becomes a struggling rock star.

No word yet on whether **John Cameron Mitchell**, who wrote the musical and plays the title role on stage, will be able to reprise his duties



One of these things is not like the others: The Spice Girls shown with honorary member, Talented Spice.

for the film version.

Jersey Shore is a recently formed arthouse studio reportedly vying with at least two other arthouse divisions of major studios to acquire the project.

Untold History

Academy Award-winning documentarians **Rob Epstein** and **Jeffrey Friedman** (*The Celluloid Closet*) have begun production in Europe on *Pink Triangle* about gay survivors of Nazi Germany.

The feature documentary features first-hand interviews with those who lived through the persecution and will include footage from the archives of Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, established in 1994 by **Steven Spielberg** from the proceeds of *Schindler's List* to record accounts of Holocaust survivors, rescuers and witnesses.

The film goes beyond World War II to document how homosexual men and women were criminalized under sodomy laws—even after the Nazis lost the war.

During the war, gays and lesbians were imprisoned in concentration camps and forced to wear pink triangles.

Epstein and Friedman are also currently working on an alternative sports documentary for HBO and are in development on *Save Me*, a feature for Fox Searchlight.

Romeo San Vicente, who is in negotiations to have his life story roughed to the big screen, can be reached care of HeatStroke or at RSVicente@aol.com.



Minnie Driver is slated to star in two films with gay appeal: *An Ideal Husband* and *Beautiful*.

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Out of Town

Minneapolis/ St. Paul, by night

By Andrew Collins, HeatStroke Contributor

Although Minneapolis and St. Paul are often said to be twins, visitors who partake of their respective nighttime diversions may wonder whether these contrasting urban siblings were separated at birth.

If slick dance clubs and stylish cafes fit your bill, Minneapolis deserves your attention. At the other end of the spectrum, St. Paul offers an inviting laid-back blend of mixed-gender gay pubs and saloons, and the sorts of neighborhood eateries and coffeehouses that make outsiders feel instantly at home.

Where dining is concerned, dozens of new—and for the most part gay-popular—hot spots have opened in Minneapolis and to a slightly lesser degree St. Paul over the past few years.

For the finest Northern Italian fare in Minneapolis, head to suave D'Amico Cucina, a Warehouse District eatery with a stunning art nouveau interior and gnocchi to die for.

Across the river, in the heart of the St. Anthony Main neighborhood, Bobino's wine bar and cafe is an elegant space fashioned out of a former funeral parlor (rumors persist of friendly ghosts). It's a favorite haunt of dapper guppies and yuppies, who come for international variety of wines, to admire the handsome waiters, and to sample outstanding New American fare.

A staple of Lyn-Lake's alternative scene since 1972, the left-of-center vegetarian restaurant—Mud Pie—specializes in meatless burgers, filling tamale pies, and a terrific rendition of its namesake for dessert.

Mpls Cafe is a great choice if supping in the theater district; check out the inventive pastas, pizzas, and sandwiches complemented by the likes of steamed and herb-infused mussels, bay shrimp, and clams on a bed of basmati rice.

The quintessential cute gay cafe, Ruby's overlooks Loring Park and is attached to the excellent women's bookstore, Amazon.

Next door, the sprawling chateausque Loring Cafe comprises an avant-garde theater, a relentlessly countercultural bar and lounge (with its own cafe menu), and a more for-

mal dining room where you can try such New American treats as chilled seared rare ahi tuna.

Minneapolis is loaded with funky bean shacks, with Cafe Zev favored mostly among the guys. This garage-like space decked with old coffee bags and rotating art installations has the cruisy buzz of a gay video bar, without the attitude and the intimi-

translates to "sea bass," and you can be sure the corvina folded inside an enchilada and served with a punchy green tomatillo sauce, black beans, and sweet plantains is worth the visit.

For a couple of highly queer cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul have relatively few gay nightclubs. For some time the Twin Cities were divided by gender, with Minneapolis having

redesign, the similarly mixed Townhouse has gone from a country-western dance hall to a theme club, still with excellent two-stepping and line-dancing parties on Thursdays and Saturdays, but with live piano, cabaret, retro disco, and other styles the rest of the week.

In Minneapolis, the rambling Gay '90s complex has long been a main-

stay of the club scene,

but anti-'90s sentiment has grown within the gay community. Many regulars have deserted in the face of an invasion of straight, and in some cases hostile, patrons. Still, few visiting gay night-club-goers pass up an opportunity to party here.

A few doors down, the Brass Rail succeeds thanks to the chatty patrons and staff and the tavernesque decor. There's a small dance floor, the center of which is usually busy with a drag show.

More intimate than the Gay '90s, the popular and



Courtesy, The Bryant Lake Bowl

Cafe society, theater devotees and bowling addicts congregate at the offbeat Bryant Lake Bowl Cabaret Theater, an Uptown hangout that's equally popular among gays and straights.

dating glares.

In Uptown, lipstick lesbos and their friends flock to Cafe Wyrd, a classy comfy space with a curvaceous espresso bar, tasteful art on the walls, and a neoboho mood.

In St. Paul, queer caffeine addicts get their fix at Cahoots, an intimate storefront space of mismatched tables and chairs, a supply of mags and newspapers, and reading lamps to illuminate your perusing (or cruising).

For more substantial fare, try the Vintage Wine Bar and Restaurant, which consists of several cozy dining rooms warmed by fireplaces and exposed brick walls. Such entrees as rack of lamb with Vidalia onions, couscous, vegetables, and a red wine pomegranate glaze prove that this is as impressive an eatery as it is a wine bar.

The name of the funky gay-popular hole-in-the-wall, La Corvina,

mostly gay men's hangouts and St. Paul drawing more of a lesbian crowd. These lines have blurred in recent years, particularly among younger generations.

Case in point is St. Paul's Club Metro, which started primarily as a lesbian bar and has evolved over the past two years, on weekends especially, into the hottest overall gay and lesbian club around. You'll find a massive dance floor, patio, and several bars and lounging spaces on the main level. In the basement there's a pseudo-leather lounge that has a following among all types but is decidedly cruiser and more male-oriented than upstairs.

Also highly eclectic in St. Paul is Rumours, an oft-described queer "Cheers" of the northern Midwest, where you can walk in, grab a seat, and rather quickly you'll find yourself immersed in conversation.

Following a highly ambitious

cruisy Saloon video bar is tops in Minneapolis on Friday nights and plenty of fun the rest of the week. The space is divided into three parts: a dance floor to the right, a stand-and-model video bar in the center, and a tavern with a bar, pool table, darts, and some booth seating to the left.

In nearby Lyndale, don't miss the fabulous Bryant Lake Bowl Cabaret Theatre, one of those "only in Minneapolis" phenomena that should not be missed. This is a lesbian, gay, straight—and always chic and stylish—sports bar with a big bowling alley in the back and a theater to one side that presents wildly experimental.

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

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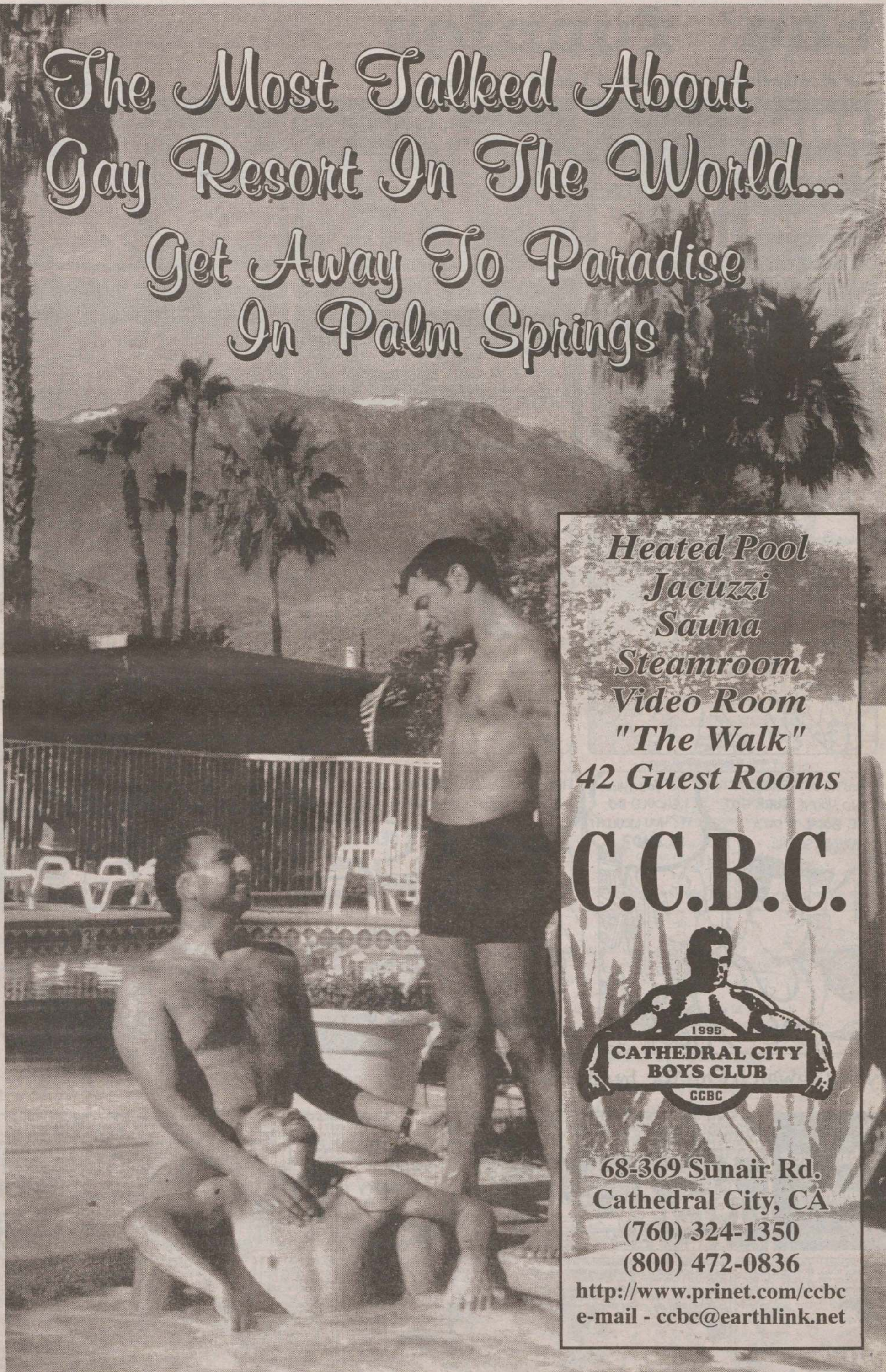
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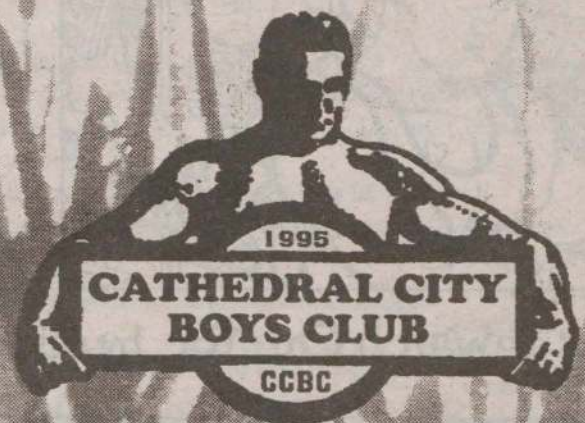
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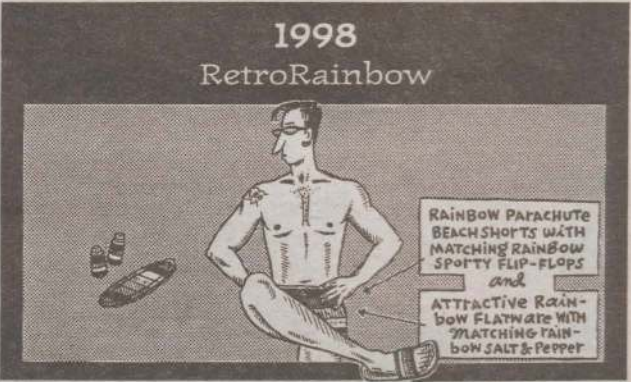
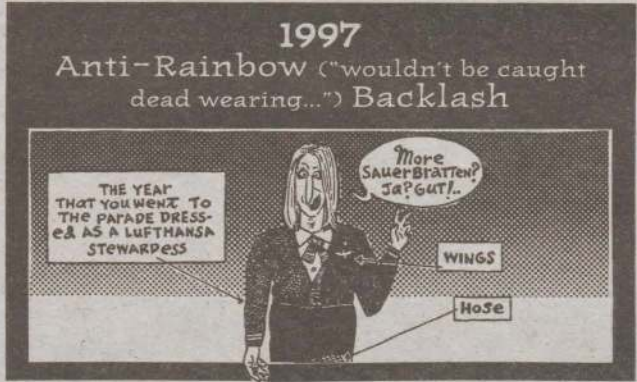
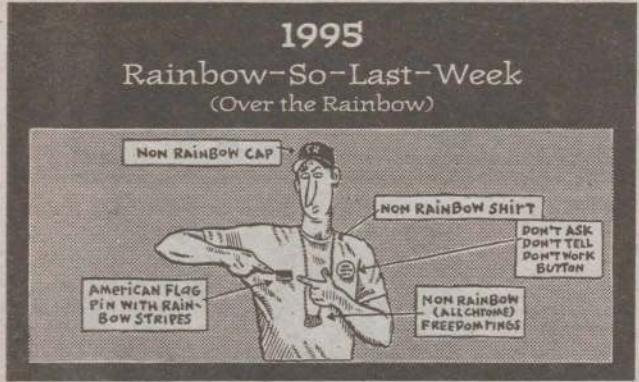
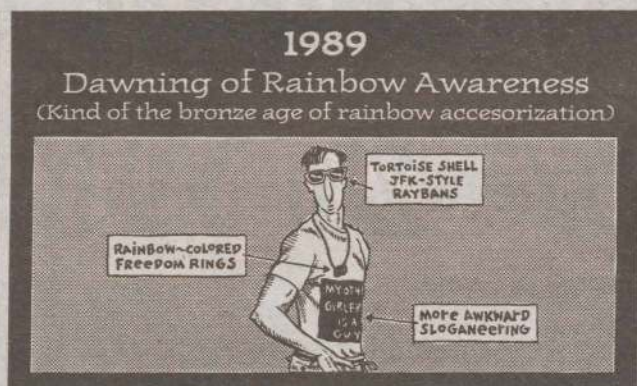
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Dear Cowboy,
I went out with this guy for about a month but it just wasn't working for me. So I told him I wasn't looking for anything heavy right now, and I moved on.
The thing is, I lied. I do want a relationship—but this guy was just too queeny for me. I know it's shallow but that's how I feel. I didn't tell him the real reason because I was trying to be nice about it.
We keep running into each other at the same places and since he's seen me out twice with other guys, he has started calling and asking for a better explanation.
I wonder if I should tell him the

truth or just ride it out 'till he gets over it.
Signed, Honesty Can Hurt

Dear Can Hurt,
If the guy wanted an honest explanation, you should have coughed it up back then—although there are nicer ways you could have put it than having said, "You're too queeny for me."
You could have just said he wasn't your type, and told him it had nothing to do with the way he acted but more to do with some personal issues you have to work out yet, as far as what attracts you to a particular cowboy. Which, I think you know, is true.

Now that some time has passed since the bell sounded on your relationship, it's hard to go back and say just who owes what to whom and whether a re-ride would turn out any better or worse. I suggest you let it go.
For future reference, the truth really is always better than lying and saying you'd rather ride solo. He's going to think you're a jerk either way, so it might as well be for the real reason.

Dear Cowboy,
What is the proper way to introduce a significant other (of the same sex) to other people? "This is my partner" is popular these days, but it sounds so businesslike.
"Spouse" isn't really correct because we aren't actually married, "boyfriend" sounds like we're

teenagers and "lover" sounds kind of dated. Any suggestions?
Signed, Happy Couple

Dear Couple,
Gee, I dunno. How about, "This is Bob"? Or "Mike", or "Patty Sue", or whatever the person's name is.
Whether straight or gay, when folks feel the need to qualify a relationship during an introduction, what they are really doing is signaling other people, "This is what I want you to think about our relationship."
I say to forget that load of manure (including "this is my wife" for heteros) and just be two people who know what you mean to each other. Act like a couple, and we'll figure it out on our own.

I do want a relationship—but this guy was just too queeny for me. I know it's shallow but that's how I feel.

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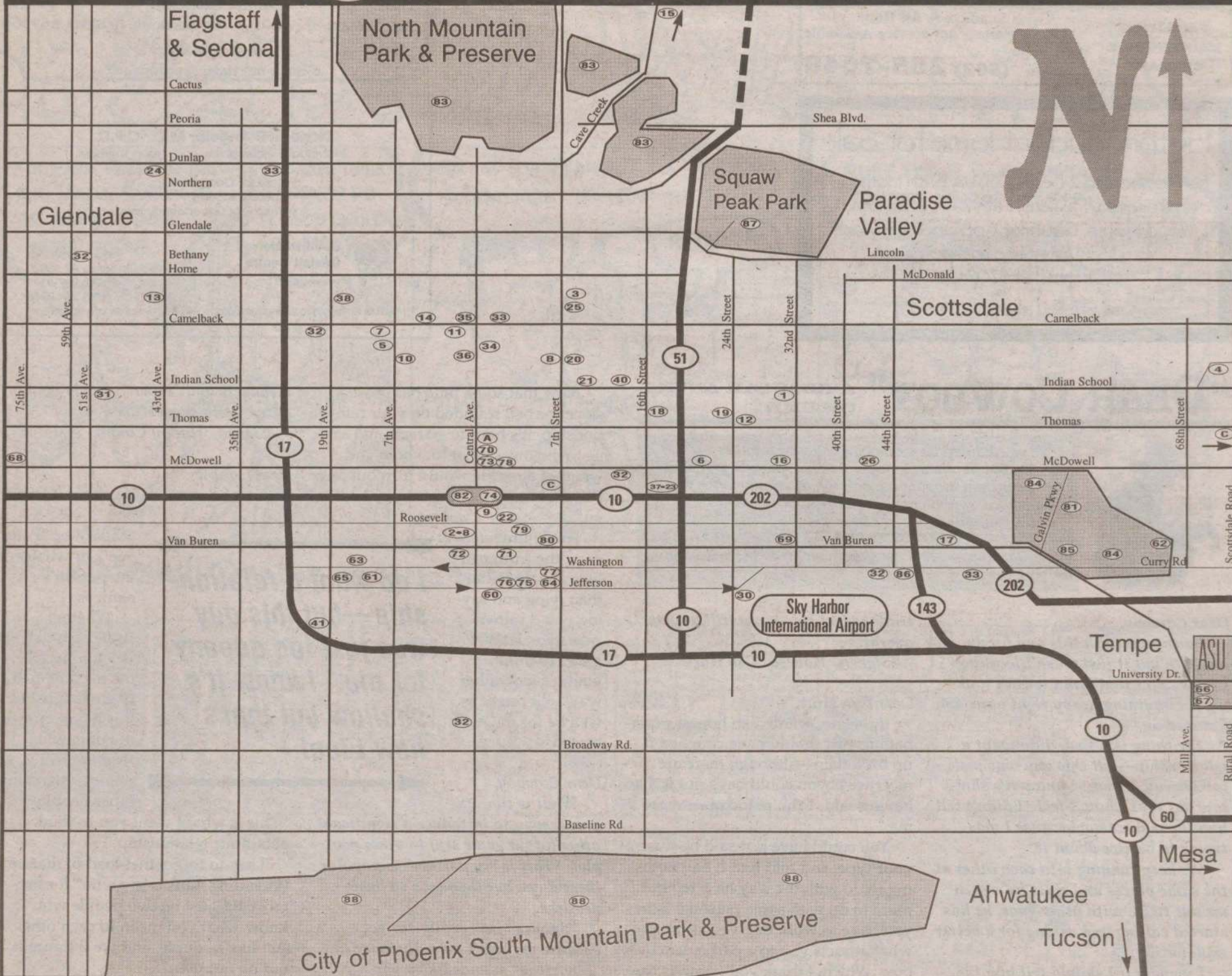
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840-8400

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Chandler, AZ 85224 899-4249

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

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Phoenix, AZ 85011 265-0618

Arizona Lambda Yacht Club
951-9481

Cactus Cities Softball League
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Phoenix, AZ 85064 241-9224

Charlie's Renegades
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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

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

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

Lambda Car Club
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Phoenix, AZ 85067 409-3160

Our Gang Bowling League
2644 E. Birchwood
Mesa, AZ 85204 969-4629

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

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Team Arizona
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Phoenix, AZ 85067 464-1461

Valley of the Sun Comm'ny Band
Jayne: 947-0907; Terry: 954-9244

Q Puzzle

"The Play's the Thing"

	1	2	3			4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
11				12		13						14		
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			52	53				54	55			56	57	58
59	60					61	62					63		
64						65						66		
67						68						69		

ACROSS

- 1 Yank
- 4 Like a baby boy after a bris
- 7 Nearly closed
- 11 With 30-Across, Pulitzer-winning play by 16-Across
- 13 Surrounding sense
- 14 Impose legally, as a tax
- 15 Rust, for one

- 16 With 18-Across, American dramatist whose works often explored gay themes
- 18 See 16-Across
- 20 Part of UCLA
- 21 Sumac with a five-octave range
- 22 Place for sweaters
- 24 Gabor of Green Acres
- 27 Confer knighthood on
- 30 See 11-Across

- 34 Sitcom canceled for being "too gay"
- 36 Rudely brief
- 37 GI who didn't say "bye"
- 38 Winter woes
- 39 Lesbian writer/activist Schulman
- 40 Go back to square one
- 41 The Shirelles' "___ Him on a Sunday"
- 42 Stevie Wonder's "___ She Lovely?"
- 43 Kind of salami
- 44 A *Streetcar* ___ (Pulitzer-winning play by 16-Across)
- 47 Barney on *The Simpsons*, for one
- 48 Dir. from San Francisco to Salt Lake City
- 49 Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis* ___
- 50 Jaw-dropping feeling
- 52 "Gotcha!"
- 54 With 59-Across, play which launched 16-Across's career
- 59 See 54-Across
- 63 "We ___ please!"
- 64 34-Across and Anne Heche, e.g.
- 65 Fixation of a beige hanky wearer
- 66 Females, to some feminists
- 67 Colored
- 68 They're shot from air rifles
- 69 Piggy, so to speak

- 22 Low clouds
- 23 Essential part
- 25 Witchdoctor's craft
- 26 Drifting at sea
- 27 Explain to your straight friends what "rimming" means, e.g.
- 28 Tracey Takes On... star
- 29 Evil creature in *Yellow Submarine*
- 31 *Juno and the Paycock* playwright
- 32 Doesn't go straight
- 33 Like a man who's never masturbated
- 35 Punta del ___ (Uruguayan resort)
- 39 *Boys on the ___*
- 43 Trinket
- 45 Ru Paul's specialty
- 46 Actress ___ Dawn Chong
- 51 Cats librettist, practically
- 53 Ready for the condom
- 54 Sites for some clamps
- 55 Straight, for short
- 56 68-Across, e.g.
- 57 Eyelid problem
- 58 Jason Gould, to Barbra Streisand
- 59 Speedometer abbr.
- 60 ___ Claire, Wisconsin
- 61 Tide type
- 62 Engage in frottage

DOWN

- 1 47-Across's way home, hopefully
- 2 Water Works or Electric Co.
- 3 Pious
- 4 Hustlers' sticks
- 5 Capacious coffeepot
- 6 Cigar lover's hanky color
- 7 *The Sun* ___ Rises
- 8 1936 Berlin star
- 9 "___ Maria"
- 10 Pumpernickel source
- 11 Mad ___ disease
- 12 ___ Marcus (big name in mail order)
- 13 Bread machine?
- 17 Joie de vivre
- 19 Sigh of satisfaction

A	A	D	A	M	A	H	A	E	A	S	Y		
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Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle: "Type Casting"

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H O R O S C O P E S

By Deane Jaye, HeatStroke contributor

Cancer (June 21 - July 20)

The full moon in your sign always provides you moon children with a very grounding and introspective period, so decide well in advance how you want to spend the 9th, and with whom. A relaxed, healthy atmosphere for both mind and body is recommended—crowded venues and strange surroundings are definitely not. Look to your family and those who've known you longest for advice—use their language to articulate your needs if you have to.

Leo (July 21 - August 20)

Your recent actions may have caused quite a bit of controversy, and it's hard to say whether an attempt to explain things at this point will only dig you deeper into trouble. It might be better to simply laugh off your detractors and forge ahead with what you started. A fancy event taking place over the next weekend or two may actually bring out your worst exhibitionist tendencies, so pack two suits and don't act too surprised if others appear shocked.

Virgo (August 21 - September 20)

You have been so misunderstood lately that you're beginning to wonder if some of these relationships are even worth the effort. Remember that what Garbo (also a Virgo) really said was not, "I want to be alone", but rather "I want to be left alone." Well, duh! Contemplate the difference and perhaps you'll find it less necessary to explain yourself. Avoid long hikes or climbing—you may be prone to foot and leg problems later in the month.

Libra (September 21 - October 20)

Whenever you place the goals you have for the common cause ahead of your own desires, you advance emotionally but fall back financially. It's okay to give in some areas if it makes you a better person, and you've probably learned that respect from others means much more to you than money does. Take your successes in small increments and stop worrying about what's further down the road. A small gathering around the 11th could provide helpful insight.

Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)

Your often-fragile self confidence has been jeopardized by recent criticisms and the only way to build yourself back up may be to spend some time alone. Your willingness to take on new causes will be at a high early this month, so think things through very carefully before you step forward to volunteer. A new relationship may be developing more quickly than you're comfortably used to, so don't jump all the way in unless you're prepared to get soaked.

Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)

You've been traveling so much (if not physically, then emotionally) that you're beginning to feel like home isn't even home anymore. Take a step back, pool your resources, and see if this isn't an opportune time to make that big move. Concentrate more on the spiritual aspects of the new locale as opposed to the material considerations inherent in your decision. Bear in mind that lovers or friends who don't understand your humor are rarely worth explaining it to.

Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)

It's a knuckle-down, buckle-down world all around you and all you really feel like doing is playing. You need a heavy dose of adventure or excitement to keep you interested in the job at hand and something along those lines could be heading your way around the 5th. Don't be too eager for change—remember what happened the last time you announced that you were bored. A gentle Cancer native may have something interesting to show you inside his/her house.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)

Your strong sense of individualism may soon rear its independent head and you could find yourself staring at those around you as if they're an unblinking gang of Stepford wives planning their next tea party. If you really want the others in your sphere to snap out of it and see things your way, you'll need to instigate an event or activity that will shake them up and put some life into the group. The weekend of the 10th should prove excellent for the task.

Pisces (February 21 - March 20)

Now is definitely not the time to be planning a move, so try to funnel your dissatisfaction with your present living quarters into something constructive. A little inexpensive redecorating might do the trick, so slap on a coat of paint or move some furniture around and see if that sparks a flame of contentment for at least the time being. A sensible Capricorn native may provide assistance with longer term plans on or around the 9th.

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

Now that springtime fun has given way to summertime heat and those dreaded extralong afternoons, all you Arians have on your adventurous little minds is your next vacation. Remember, you have to earn that time off, so apply yourselves now and the others will miss you even more when you're gone. Trips to mountainous areas or underground caverns could provide needed insight, while beaches and lakes should be avoided.

Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

You want fairness. You want dependability and honesty. But you aren't sure you're ready to invest that private side of yourself, even if you know that's what it'll take to get what you crave from others. Well, it's not going to happen until you do so shut up and learn to share. Your natural gullibility may find you being lead down an odd path around the 13th, so stick to your original plan and avoid mind-altering substances—and that includes the charm of Scorpios.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

When someone quite close to you urges better communication early this month, what he or she is probably really saying is, "Listen to me for a change". If you can't relate now, a relaxing dip in a pool or (better yet) a natural pond on or around the 6th might clear things up and point the way to a higher level of understanding. Romance is in the air and experimenting with unusual cuisines or spicy dishes could lead to further experimentation after those dishes are put away.

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HEALTH

GLAAD Alert

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

GLAAD Media Round-Up: not a Lott of support

The week after Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss) compared homosexuality with "alcohol... or...sex addiction...or kleptomaniacs," and after House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas) seconded the notion, a number of media outlets and commentators weighed in on their comments and responses to them.

The media generally recognized the distinction between the appropriateness of Lott's expression of personal religious beliefs and his inaccurate scientific assertions about homosexuality as an illness or "problem."

Furthermore, most outlets were critical of Lott for using religious convictions and medical ignorance as the foundation for his discrimination towards openly gay ambassadorial nominee James Hormel. Below are some representative examples of journalists' commentaries on Lott's remarks:

- A June 19 *Dallas Morning News* editorial states: "It's hard to see how the two majority leaders qualify as the nation's moral ministers. They are elected to pass legislation and to oversee government operations, not issue moral pronouncements about very private matters they cannot affect."

- King Features syndicated columnist Carl T. Rowan whose column was recently featured in the *Houston Chronicle*, the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *New York Post*, said, "Armey and Lott talk as though they are making the Bible the bedrock of public policy

in America... If they really intend to take the Bible literally, not only will they have to make fornication a capital offense, they will have to ask every nominee for anything whether he or she has ever committed adultery.... They could clear out a majority of both the House and the Senate."

- The usually right-wing *Washington Times* featured a June 19 column by editor-in-chief Wesley Pruden, which criticized White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, who denounced Lott not on moral grounds but for likening being gay to a mental disorder akin to kleptomania. Pruden wrote, "Who are you going to believe in matters spiritual, your neighborhood witch doctor [meaning the American Psychiatric Association] or God?... Father McCurry trumped the Bible with his catechism from the American Psychiatric Association. You can't find a higher authority than that."

- A June 24 *Los Angeles Times* editorial says, "Lott and his fellow anti-Hormel crusaders are entitled to their beliefs.... But Hormel is entitled to have his nomination judged by the entire Senate, not vetoed by a few senators on the basis of how they interpret certain biblical passages.... It's time to end this embarrassing display of bigotry."

ABC to air "missing" Ellen episodes

On July 15 and 22, ABC will air the two "missing" *Ellen* episodes which were initially intended to lead up to the finale.

On April 15, ABC decided to not air these two already completed episodes from its May sweeps lineup, opting instead to run episodes of *Two Guys, A Girl and a Pizza Place*.

Throughout the summer, ABC has been airing *Ellen*, including the episodes featuring the developing relationship between Ellen Morgan and her girlfriend, Laurie. The network has also, unfortunately, continued to place a "parental warning" on the show.

Please let ABC know how you feel about the two episodes, and encourage them to have more programs with prominent lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters in the future.

Contact: Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, LA, CA 90037, e-mail: netaudr@abc.com, or call ABC at: 310.557.7777 and ask to be connected to the audience response line.

Sex, Sports, on HBO

Recently, two HBO shows, *Arli\$\$* and *Sex in The City*, have featured positive lesbian and gay inclusion.

The June 7 *Arli\$\$* ("My Job Is to Get Jobs") humorously portrayed the difficulty sports agent Arliss Michaels (Robert Wuhl) has getting a star football player signed to a team when everyone assumes the player is gay.

Arliss finally decides that it is "no one's business," and sets it up so his client is arrested in a hot tub with two half-naked, underage girls. The player is then besieged by offers.

Arli\$\$'s message is clear-the sports industry thinks that it is better for a professional athlete to have sex with underage girls than be a gay man.

On June 21, *Sex in the City* featured lesbian and gay characters and subplots. When Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker) and her gay male friend run into a gay couple on the street, the couple ask Carrie for one of her eggs for their surrogate.

Another character, Miranda, is then fixed up with a woman named Syd by a co-worker who mistakenly assuming she is a lesbian. They become good friends anyway, and Miranda, frustrated she can not find Mr. Right, kisses Syd, which only reaffirms for both of them that Miranda is indeed straight.

Sex in the City puts the search for love on an equal ground for both gay and straight people alike.

Please thank HBO for featuring the two programs. Also, encourage *Arli\$\$* to further explore the issue of homophobia in sports, and ask *Sex in the City* to continue to explore the diversity of relationship issues for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Contact: Dave Baldwin, Programming Senior Vice President, HBO, 1100 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 10036-6712

I want my K-CI and JoJo

A music video currently in heavy rotation on MTV features a number of loving couples and happy families, including an affectionate lesbian couple.

The video for the R & B song "All My Life" by K-CI and JoJo, already a favorite on the radio stations nationwide, splices shots of the duo singing the chorus "All my life/I prayed for someone like you/and I know you feel the same way too," to loving shots of mothers and sons, a man and woman with a newborn baby, and numerous heterosexual couples.

Also featured for a few seconds, is

a lesbian couple affectionately holding hands and staring tenderly into one another's eyes.

Please thank MCA Records and K-CI and JoJo for recognizing that lesbian couples are part of a vast mosaic of important, loving and noteworthy relationships.

Contact: David Renzer, President, MCA Music Publishing, 2440 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 100, LA, CA 90064

New Jersey press does justice to gay marriage

Articles in both the *Star-Ledger* on June 18 and *The [Hackensack] Record* on June 21 highlighted the holy union of Jon and Michael Galluccio in New Jersey recently. The Galluccios, who first made headlines for becoming the first couple in the state to jointly adopt a child, recently held a public marriage ceremony.

Both newspapers provided balanced, moving coverage of the occasion. The *Star-Ledger* article begins, "All week, Jon Galluccio has been taking care of all the usual errands befitting a typical groom-to-be. He visited the tailor for a final fitting. He dropped by the jewelry store to check on the ring. He met with his priest. Then he checked in with the local police to find out when the bomb-sniffing dogs would be searching the church on Sunday morning."

Reporter Matthew Futterman's piece continues to say that, "The Galluccios' Holy Union, the first to be held at their [Episcopalian] parish, comes at a time when nearly every religious denomination is wrestling with the issue of gay marriage."

The article quotes radical religious leader Anthony Falzarano of Transformation Christian Ministries, an "ex-gay" group, claiming God would not bless gay relationships. The *Ledger* noted, "And yet, said the Rev. Kevin P. Coffey of the Church of the Atonement, God will do just that when the Galluccios exchange their vows.... 'Right now, I'm just hoping everything goes okay,' Jon Galluccio said." Futterman concludes: "Spoken like a true groom."

Meanwhile, *The Record* featured a touching Father's Day article by Ruth Padawer highlighting the relationship between Michael Galluccio and his dad, Adolph Galluccio. "Over the years, Adolph Galluccio, like any proud Italian-American patriarch, has rejoiced at each of his children's weddings, till only his oldest son, Michael, remained. Today will finally be Michael's turn, but the ceremony will not be of the sort Adolph Galluccio once imagined for his boy," it begins.

The end of the article quotes Michael: "It turns out he really is the dad I had when I was a little kid: a conquer-the-world, limitless dad, someone I've come to really love and respect. . . .He's gone that extra mile, for me.."

Please thank both the *Star-Ledger* and *The Record* for their outstanding and poignant articles on the Galluccios.

Contact: • Rick Everett, Managing Editor, *The Star-Ledger*, 1 Star Ledger Plaza, Newark, NJ 07102-1200, fax: 973.877.5845, e-mail: eletters@starledger.com • Vivian Waixel, Editor, *The Record*, 150 River St., Hackensack, NJ 07601-7156, fax: 201.646.4135, e-mail: newsroom@bergen.com

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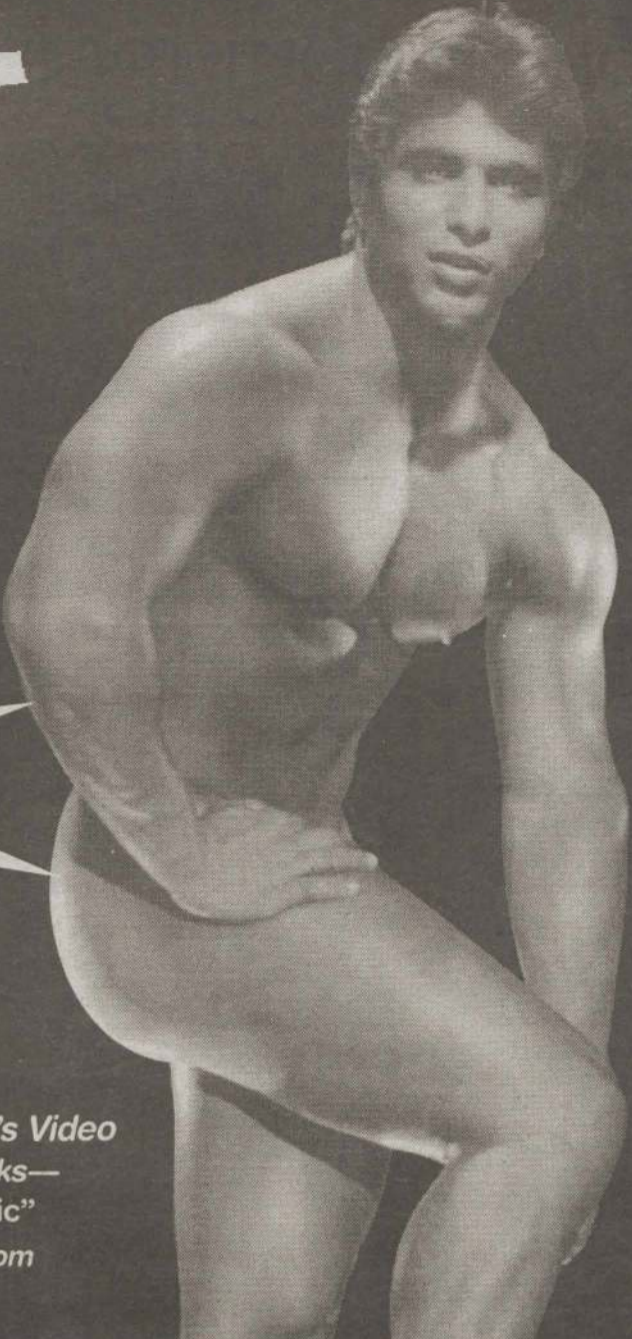
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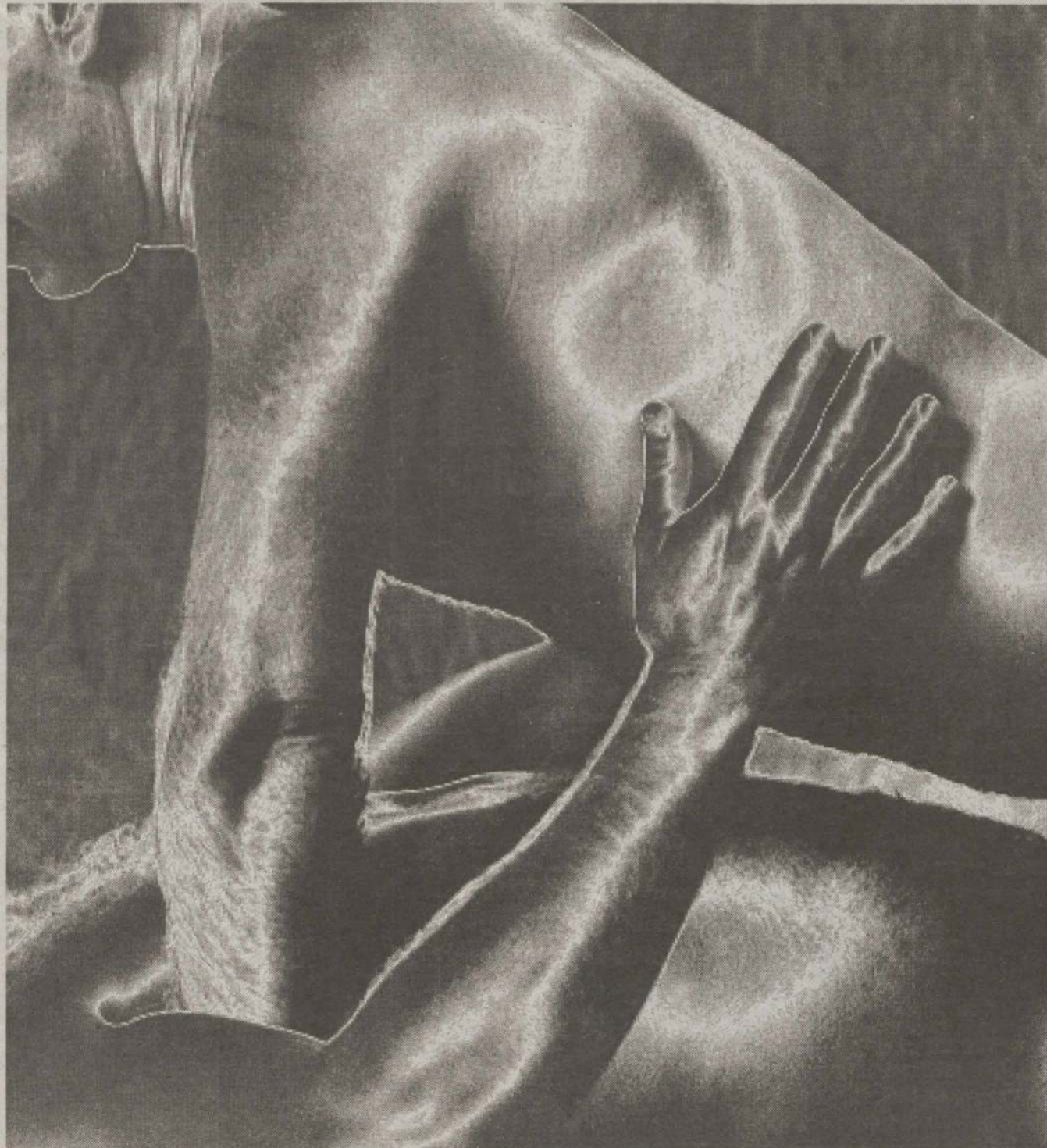
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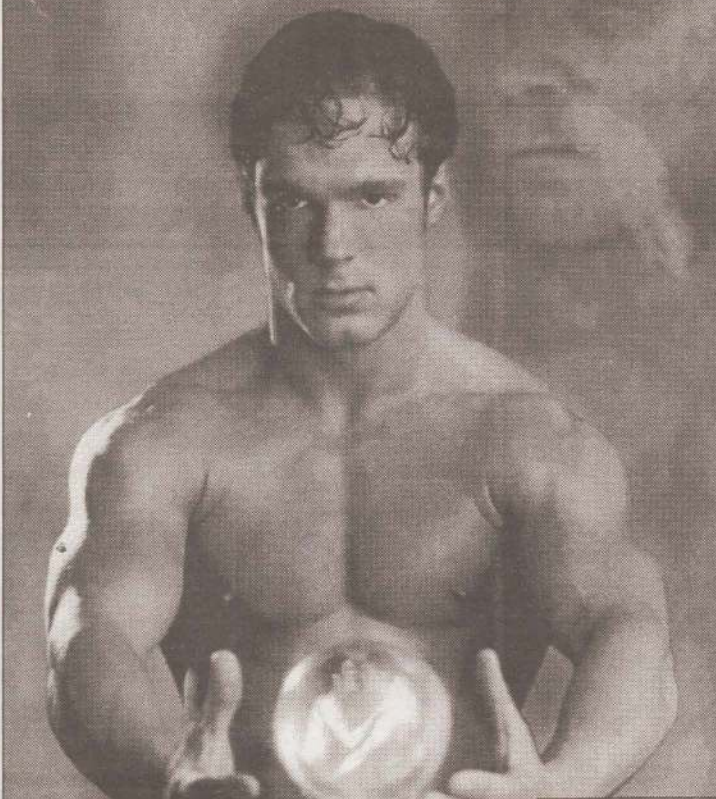
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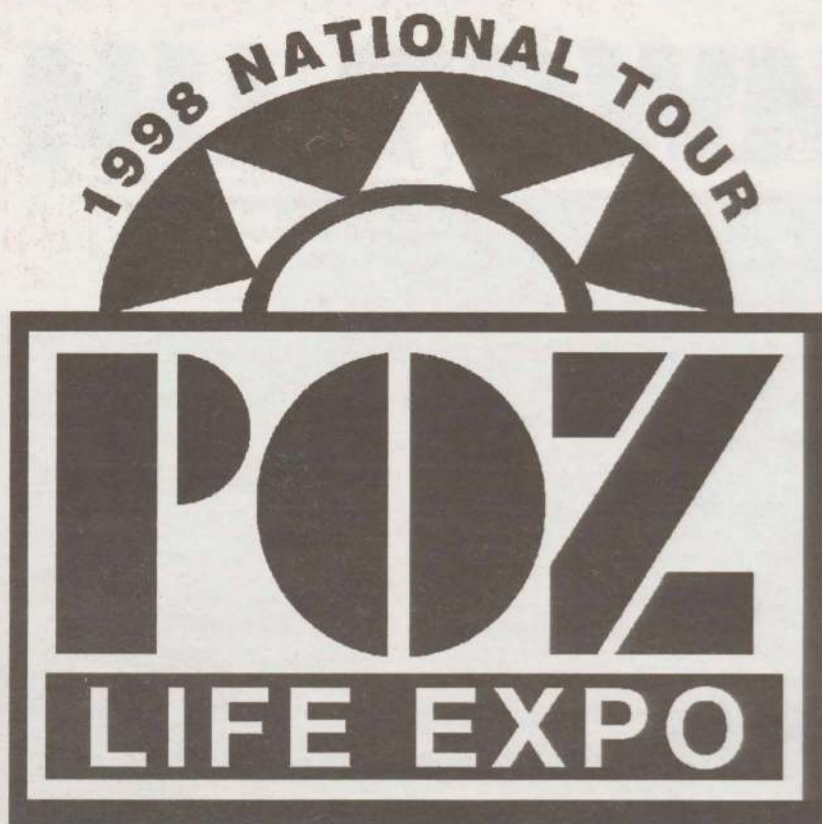
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- 6527 N. 59th Avenue

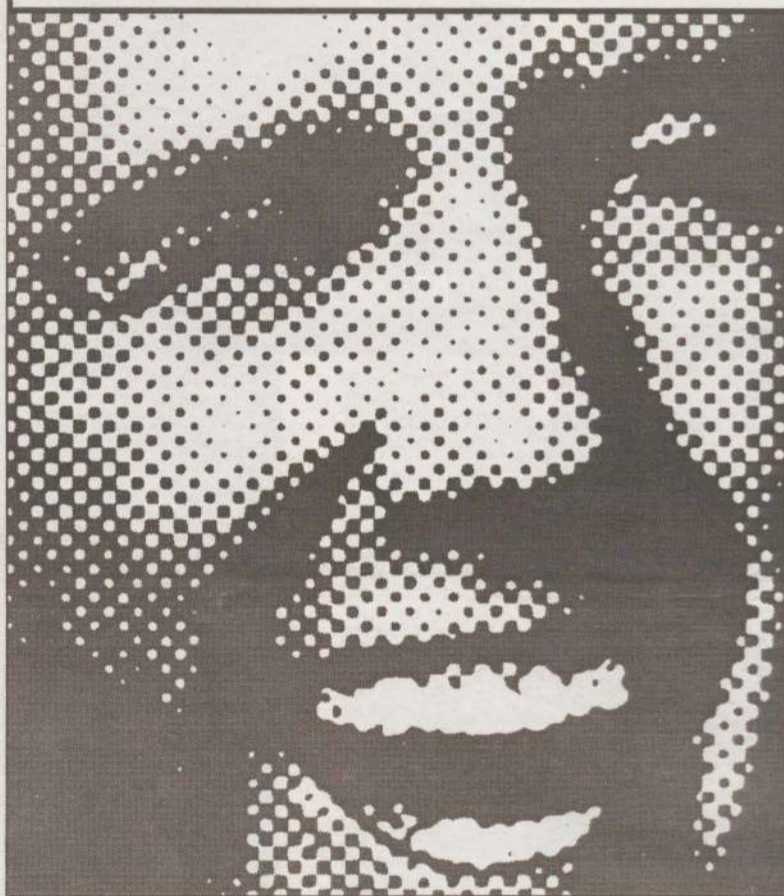
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