

Heat Stroke

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There are decorated trees in the living rooms, ribbons on the doors and evergreen centerpieces on the tables at two group homes in east Phoenix owned and operated by A Place Called Home (APCH), Arizona's largest non-profit provider of housing for homeless people with HIV/AIDS.

Holidays at these group homes are special, according to APCH Executive Director Richard Difino. That's because for many of the organization's 18 male residents (half living in the two east Phoenix homes, the rest in two more homes located in the West Valley),

A Place Called **home— for the holidays**

by Allen Kalchik, editor

their housemates and case managers have become their families.

"We try to let the residents decide how they want to celebrate for themselves, and we kind of stay out of it," said Difino, explaining that the tree trimming and house decorating were all done by the residents.

A Place Called Home was founded in Phoenix approximately five years ago to fill a gap in HIV/AIDS care by providing permanent housing for HIV-positive people and those living with AIDS who have no money and nowhere to live.

The organization started with one home on East Osborn Road, which it at first rented with an option to buy. After a few months, that home was purchased and remodeled with funds granted to APCH by the federal program, HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS), and administered through the city of Phoenix.

One of "about 20" original founders of the organization, Difino said that the initial plan was for APCH to increase its facilities at 18-month intervals. But that changed when the home next door went on the market, and when the two homes APCH owns on the West Side—already set up for group living situations because they had been used as juvenile detention centers—were put up for sale.

Having two group homes right next to each other is ideal, Difino explained, because one resident manager can take care of two properties. The non-profit agency employs one person at its West Valley houses and another at the two homes on Osborn, which is also where the agency's offices are located.

"You very quickly learn that you take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves," stated Difino.

In the case of each new purchase, the APCH board of directors made a pitch to the city, and more HOPWA and HUD money came the organization's way. "They looked at the properties and at what we wanted to do, and said, 'Write the grant. We'll give you the money.'"

In next-to-no time, APCH went from being a new non-profit agency writing its first grant to becoming the state's largest provider of housing for the HIV/AIDS homeless population.

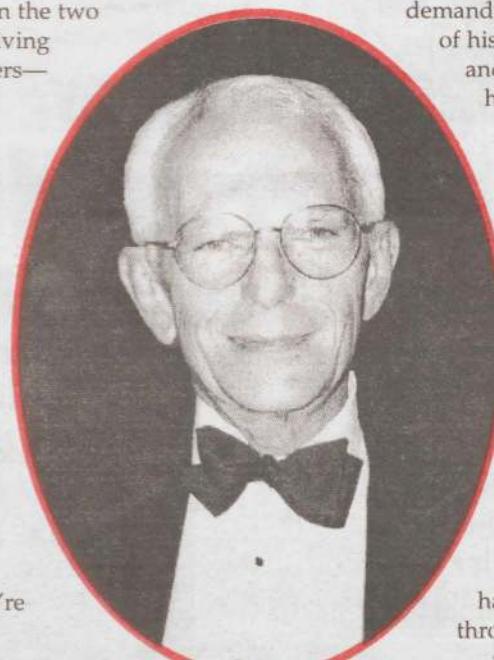
And now APCH's reach extends far beyond the four group homes, which are strictly for single men with HIV "whether they're straight, gay, bisexual—or not sure what they are."

The organization also operates numerous apartments that it makes available to women and families where the parent is living with HIV. "We learned that women do not want to live in group homes," Difino explained.

But the face of the AIDS population was changing, with an increase in diagnoses among women. So APCH entered into a partnership with Mercy Housing, the second-largest owner of affordable housing in the Valley (after the City of Phoenix).

"We told them, 'You have the housing, and we have the people,'" Difino stated. And so they said that they would give us all the apartments we needed as long as we could get the grants to pay the rent."

A partnership between Mercy and APCH began with ten apartments for families. Shortly after that, the two non-profits partnered again to ask for HUD 811 money (federal funding earmarked for AIDS housing) that led to the purchase of eight townhouses in central Phoenix.



Richard Difino is the executive director of A Place Called Home.

Since then, APCH and Mercy have broken ground on 14 new townhomes being constructed on West McDowell.

With a paid staff of just six people (including the two group home managers), APCH continues to grow and serve clients to a degree beyond anything Difino and the organization's other founders would have believed possible only a few years ago.

Difino never expected to be managing so demanding an operation at this stage of his life. A former professional chef and cooking instructor who starred in his own televised cooking shows in the Chicago area, Difino moved to the Valley with plans to retire.

He got involved in the AIDS effort by volunteering when he lived in Chicago, and continued to volunteer after moving to Phoenix. Through the contacts he made in helping fight AIDS, he and several others came together to start what became A Place Called Home.

"I made a lot of money as a chef," he recalled. "I met celebrities, traveled the world, appeared on television, and I had a lot of fun. But it wasn't fulfilling. I never felt like I was making a difference."

Now he feels he is. "With the holiday season, you probably want to know about this seriously," he said. "And in all seriousness, as much fun as all that was, I have never felt more excited about what I'm doing than doing this."

Leading a tour through the East Osborn houses, Difino said he has learned a great deal about the generosity of his fellow man through his work at APCH. "Half this stuff, I don't where it comes from," he laughs. "But it's all donated."

There are big screen TVs in the front rooms. New tile throughout. Each bedroom has a TV set with cable. Original artwork hangs on the walls, and a there is a \$1400 rug beneath one of the three coffee tables. "People constantly want to give us stuff," Difino explained. "It amazes me. We pay for none of this."

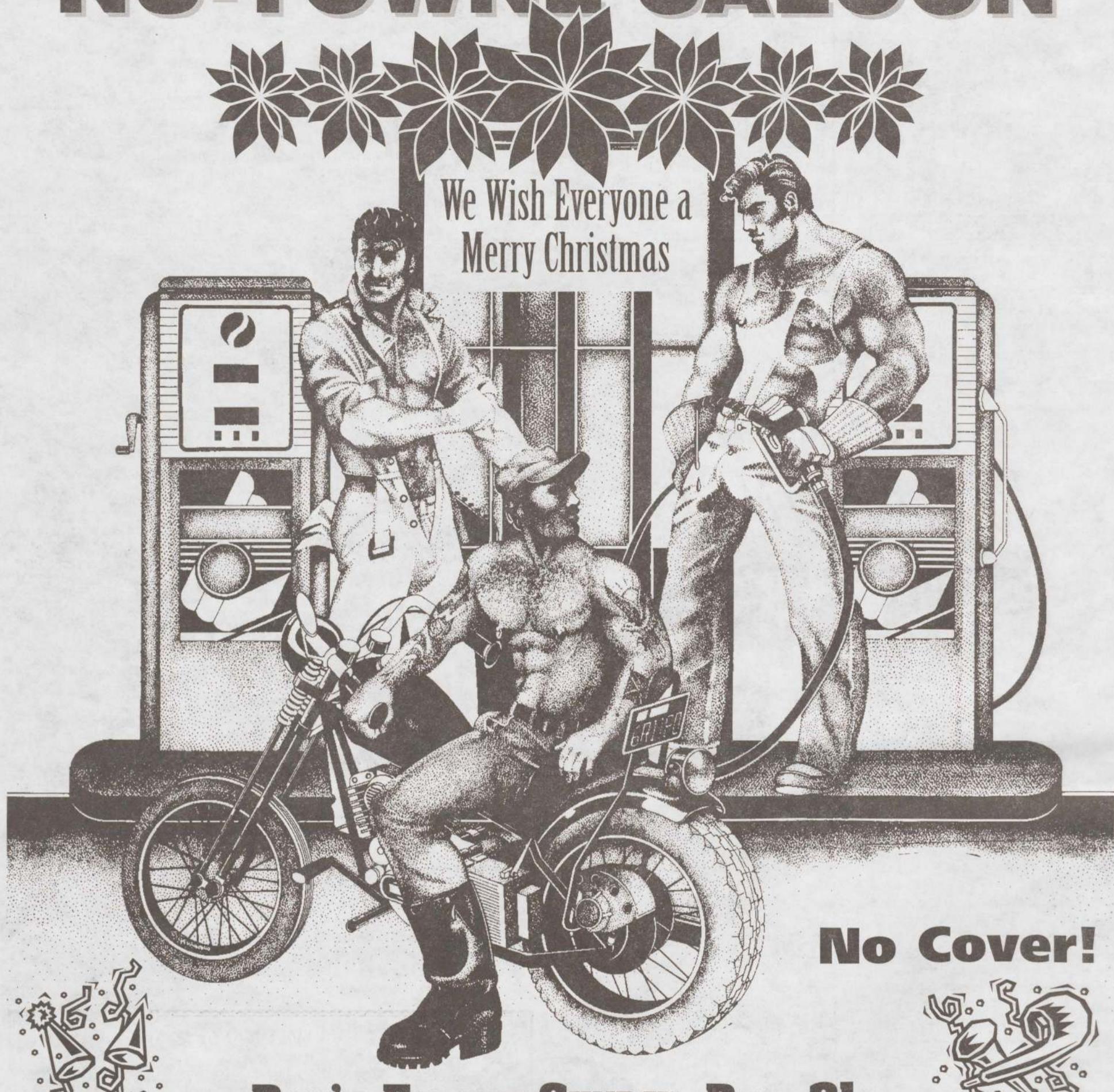
The rooms are clean and comfortable. There's a new, near-Olympic proportion pool (courtesy of California Pools) in the back yard. There's also a poolhouse, and each of the houses rests on nearly an acre.

"This entire setup could not have worked out better," Difino acknowledged.

Applicants to the group homes must be homeless and have incomes of less than half the federal mean income. They must go through an interview process, during which they are told that they will be living in a racially diverse environment, as well as with men whose sexual orientations may be different from their own.

See "Holidays at Home, page 14

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From our Readers

Columnist's Screech Insulting to Large Men

Editors:

I like your paper, for the most part. The column on gay and non-gay sections of restaurants (*Slouching Toward Gomorrah*, issue #106, Nov. 30 - Dec. 10) was funny. However, I have a major point of contention. Namely, in the sex advice column called "Need Wood" by Woody, his response to "sitting around the house" was rude, dismissive, and an insult to big men everywhere.

I particularly objected to the comments: "no one wants to have sex with guys who can sell shade"; "experts agree this is the best position for lard ass sex"; and "it might be the only way you can plug the beast if you can't lose the weight". Aware that his so-called advice would offend people, he tells us to skip the protest letters, because he doesn't care "how politically incorrect it is to say that no one wants to have sex..." with big men.

Hasn't he ever heard of Girth and Mirth, *Bulk Male* magazine, which has a popular website www.bulkmale.com and of the Bear Movement? His rude, cold, dismissive comments insulted every big man across America and around the world. Go to a Bear Festival and you will find hundreds of men eager to go to bed with men who weigh over three hundred pounds. This is not an underground fringe fetish of a few perverts who crave fat men, it is a large, growing movement of people fed up with the prejudice against larger men.

I am a model for www.bulkmale.com and guess what, guys. I have a lot of men calling me, e-mailing me, and cruising me for sex. I get laid plenty and I weigh 360 pounds. This big bear gets all the men he can handle, and they are eager for more.

I question the editorial policy of a paper that prints such garbage without prefacing it with a comment that Woody doesn't speak for anyone but himself. For those guys who like skinny guys, more power to you. But to say that NO ONE wants to have sex with a big guy is ignorant and rude.

I don't speak for anyone but myself. And you know what? Neither does Woody. If he wants to run to the gym and sweat over every extra inch and live in terror of ever being bigger than a 32-inch waist, fine. Too many gay men are living in fear of being less than perfect. Too many older gay men are afraid that they can't get laid by young guys, too.

I have a close friend who loves

Daddy Bears, and a white beard and a big belly get him hard every time. So, Woody: realize that you are growing older every day, and you might—God forbid—gain some weight someday. How horrible for you. It would obviously be the end of everything.

For those who realize that men of all sizes can be sexy and desirable, an attitude like Woody's is unenlightened, narrow, and just more of the same old societal prejudice regurgitated onto us. Can we hear something new, please?

Rev. Andrew Brooks
Gay Pagan Circle
Tucson

Advice for Ann Landers from a PFLAG Mom

Editors:

A recent Ann Landers column made me so mad that I sent her this response:

Dear Ann Landers:

I am very upset at your answer to Ambivalent Parents in LA who asked whether they should let their 40-year-old son know they think he is gay. I am angry about two things: your advice was terrible; and the headline for that column "Parents best ignore son's sex life" was poor. First, I will address the headline. Equating homosexuality with sex perpetuates society's image of gay people being only about sex. Are heterosexuals just about sex? No, they are multi-dimensional, as are gay and lesbian people. Homosexuality is not about sex, it is about who you love.

Second, you advised these parents to not get involved with their son's "business". Well, their son's "business" is who he is. A better answer would have been honesty. These parents could either visit their son, call him, or write him a letter telling him just what they wrote to you. That he isn't married, never talks about female companions, that they saw evidence of someone living with him, and

that they think he is gay. They can continue by telling him that if he is gay, it is okay with them. They love him and always will and they want him to be happy. They hope he has someone special to share his life with and would be pleased to meet that person. Anyone he loves, they will love because he is their son.

There are many reasons why gay people do not come out to their parents. It is not always because they do not wish to be open about their relationships. More often it is the opposite. They would love to be honest about their relationships, but many fear rejection and disappointment by those that mean the most to them, their parents and family. Most gay people would love to be acknowledged, accepted, and loved unconditionally by their families. Gay people want their relationships validated just as straight people want their spouses to be accepted and included in family gatherings.

Ann, you could have told these parents about Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), a support group for parents and gay people. There are PFLAG chapters in over 400 major cities. My husband and I have three adult children, two non gay and one gay. I am so glad my gay child came out to our family so that we can be part of her life not apart from her life. She has a wonderful partner. They both have professional careers and live full and busy lives. They are included in every family event just like her siblings and their families. We vacation together and enjoy being with them very much. I feel blessed that she is happy and has someone to share in her life.

With some honest communication, perhaps Ambivalent Parents can become part of their son's life. If he does not want to include them, that will be up to him. I would hope that all their lives would be enriched by their honesty and love for each other.

Bunny Tarquinio
Phoenix

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Deb Price

Gay Couples are in Legal Limbo under U.S. Tax Laws

Gay couples with intermingled finances are more visible than ever before. Like our married counterparts, we own property together. We run up shared expenses and often pay them out of a joint checking account. Money flows freely between the partners' wallets.

Yet to Uncle Sam, gay couples are invisible. The federal tax code treats us as if we don't exist. And that has serious tax consequences that most of us grasp very poorly—if at all.

With George W. Bush's tax-cut plan likely to be high on the agenda when Congress begins its new session early next year, the tax-writing committees will have an ideal opportunity to begin focusing on the inequities and confusion created by the tax code's failure to recognize the reality of gay lives. The odds are, of course, that the tax-writers will just keep ignoring gay couples' legal limbo.

To Uncle Sam, gay couples are invisible. The federal tax code treats us as if we don't exist. And that has serious tax consequences that most of us grasp very poorly—if at all.

But that shouldn't keep fair-minded Americans from alerting lawmakers to the problem.

"The (tax) code presumes that persons are either married or live their lives with a fair degree of financial separation from others. The reality is that many same-sex, committed couples do not live in a world of financial separation. The tax laws, in effect force them into a reporting stance that is not reflective of their day-to-day lives," notes Patricia Cain, a University of Iowa law professor in a 16-year lesbian relationship. She's taking a leading role in spotlighting the extra burdens that gay couples must shoulder because the tax code insists on the fiction that we are "single":

• **Estate tax:** A legal spouse inherits tax-free. Yet the surviving partner in a gay relationship pays federal taxes on anything above \$675,000. That means plenty of people who don't think of themselves as rich will face a sizable tax bite. The lesbian survivor of a 35-year relationship who inherits a house, life insurance, retirement plans and stocks totaling \$1 million would owe \$125,250, for example. (Bush wants to repeal the estate tax.) Property owned as "joint tenants with

right of survivorship," a common way for couples to share a house deed, is taxed as if it had been purchased solely by the gay partner who dies first—unless the survivor has the record to prove otherwise.

• **Gift tax:** When a married taxpayer gives his or her spouse a gift, it's tax-free. But within a gay relationship, gifts totaling more than \$10,000 per year are taxable.

• **Health benefits:** When a company provides health-care benefits to a worker's domestic partner, those benefits count as taxable income. For married workers, spousal health benefits are tax-free. Besides obviously being unfair, the difference discourages companies from doing the right thing because it complicates the bookkeeping.

• **Employee freebies:** A multitude of benefits isn't taxed when they're provided to employees and their spouses. For

example, some motel managers receive free housing because their job requires them to live on the premises. "That benefit is free so long as it is you and your spouse," Cain says.

• **Unpredictability:** "The biggest complaint I have about the IRS is the silence," says Cain. She points out, "There are no published revenue rulings, IRS publications or official

guidelines of any sort that relate to a single tax issue affecting same-sex partners." So, how does Cain suggest that we gay couples attempt to protect ourselves, despite the tax code's ambiguity and unfairness?

1. Keep good records.
2. Consult a tax attorney about whether you should own property as joint tenants with right of survivorship.
3. If you do own property as joint tenants with right of survivorship, be prepared to prove who paid what for the purchase of the property. It is not enough to make payments out of a joint account. You must also be able to prove whose money funded the joint account.

We shouldn't have to wait until gay couples can legally marry for the federal tax code to reflect the reality of shared gay lives.

Deb Price of The Detroit News' Washington bureau writes about gay civil rights in this column, which is distributed by Gannett News Service and syndicated by Tribune Media Services. Write to Price at GNS Features, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22229-0001.

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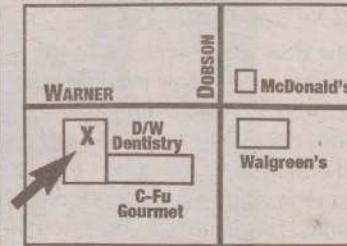
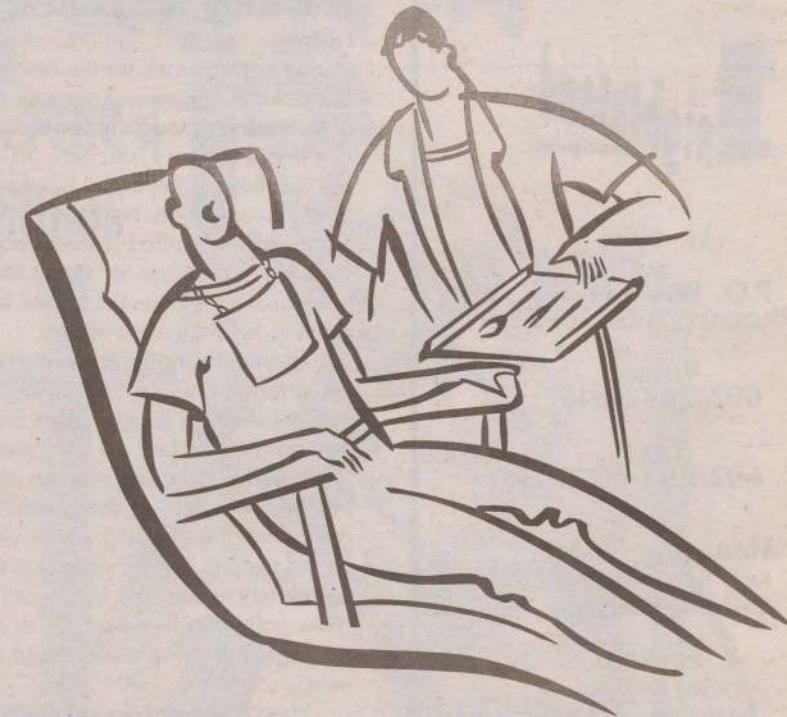


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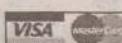
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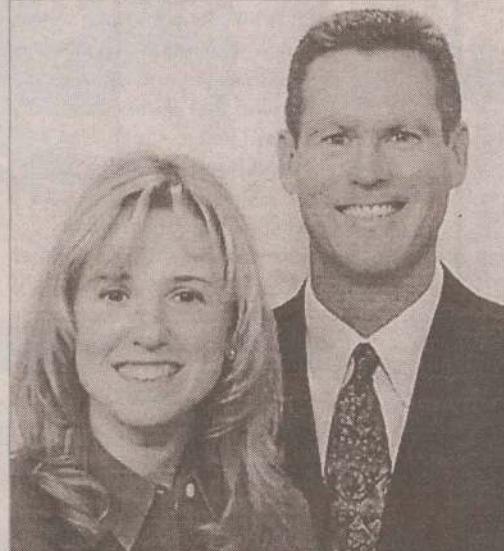
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SLOUCHING THROUGH Gomorrah

BY MICHAEL ALVEAR

I'm Dreaming of a White Hanukah

How do you get four Jewish kids to stop celebrating Christmas?

You don't. Not when they were brought up Christian.

My brother, two sisters and I were four Catholic peas in a Jewish pod. We were Jewish by law but Catholic by upbringing. According to Hebrew law, if your mom is Jewish you're Jewish, never mind your infidel visits to the mother church. Which makes me a freak.

I'm the only Jew I know who's had his first communion. And a gay one at that.

Other kids had Christmas in New

I've been to church and I've been to temple. Temple is a lot more fun. How fun-loving Jews came up with a ritual more boring than repressed Catholics is an epistemological mystery.

England; we had Christmas in Quito. As in Ecuador, a South American country so backward when its president says "GNP" his cabinet says "Gesundheit".

I grew up in the accepting, joyous, warm glow of Roman Catholicism. Which means I'm still in therapy 40 years later.

Fortunately, I also grew up in a big,

boisterous Latin family, where cousins were best friends and meals were at least a ten seat affair, with someone always yapping at me for drinking up all the Coca-Cola.

There aren't many things to make you smile if you're Catholic in South America, but Christmas is one of them. Latin families know how to spoil their kids. We pilaged and looted like a Los Angeles riot.

My parents divorced when I was ten. Mostly for the irreconcilable differences that come with assault and battery. My mom literally spirited us away, convincing my father we were just visiting her folks. She told me on the jet to Miami we weren't going back.

And we never did. I can't honestly say I missed my father—his fists made sure of that—but I missed his big, meandering family that loved his kids to pieces.

Family means something different in North America than it does in South America. Here, it means nuclear, there it means dynamite.

Latin children are constantly surrounded by explosively extended

families—grandparents who live downstairs, cousins who live across the street, uncles who live to see you. It's a cauldron of love and excitement that few American children experience. Especially at Christmas.

At ten years old, I experienced my first

Christmas without my Latin family. I missed them terribly and wanted to go back. I remember thinking "Damn, there's never a banana boat when you need it."

That first "American" Christmas was a

heartbreaker: A divorced mom with four kids she couldn't support living with a Jewish grandmother who resented her daughter for marrying a goyim.

What a way to start a new Christmas tradition.

My mom insisted we keep celebrating Christmas, even though we were now living in an all-Jewish household. The kids had enough trauma, she told my grandmother who lived to make homemade matzo-ball soup.

"Yes, yes," Nana impatiently dismissed her daughter, the traitor. "But what's the harm of celebrating a little Chanukah, too?"

And Thus Spake Zarathushtra, a spiritual philosophy and worldview every kid dreams about: More presents. But like all good things, we had to sit through the bad to get to them. Like those lame drab games.

I've been to church and I've been to temple. Temple is a lot more fun. How fun-loving Jews came up with a ritual more boring than repressed Catholics is an epistemological mystery.

And one present at a time, one day at a time for eight days? It's true; Jews are obsessive-compulsive by nature. And darkly so.

I loved lighting the Menorah, though. That was

cool. It was beautiful and it wasn't gaudy like so much of Christmas. It was the first time I experienced holiday reverence as a kid.

We celebrated Chanukah and Christmas every year from then on, even when my mother married a Jewish man. I guess you could call us spiritually promiscuous, exchanging gifts indiscriminately and always forgetting who gave you what. But better you should call us spiritually ambidextrous and save my mother the traitor from having a stroke.

After all, does it really matter whether you exchange gifts under the lights or under the flames? Are the sentiments any different? Are the hopes, the dreams?

And more importantly, the presents?



Michael Alvear lives with Zoey & Zack, his lesbian Labrador and girlie-boy Vizsla. He can be reached at mikealvear@aol.com

Dining Out Tonight?

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Opponents of Tempe Mayor Claim Nearing Goal on Recall Signatures

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Opponents of Tempe's mayor say they are close to getting the signatures they need to force a recall.

Recall organizers said they have 3,867 valid signatures, 115 short of what they need and well below their goal of 6,000.

Recall leader A.J. LaFaro said opponents of Mayor Neil Giuliano will keep gathering signatures until Jan. 15.

"We want to make sure every Tempe citizen will have a chance for their signature to be counted," LaFaro said.

The recall effort began earlier this year after Giuliano attempted to prevent city



Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano faces a recall effort over funding for the Boy Scouts of America.

employees from donating to the Boy Scouts through the United Way because the scouts bans homosexuals in leadership posts. He later backed away from that position.

Opponents said Giuliano, who is openly gay, abused his power to push a personal agenda. Other complaints that led to the recall effort include lack of development around Town Lake and airport noise.

Giuliano said he was not surprised by the amount of signatures the group has collected.

He said he is taking the effort seri-

ously enough to accept \$3,500 in contributions if he has to fight at the polls for the office. He also has \$50,000 in contributions left over from the last city election.

He said the number of signatures is not large, considering the recall group canvassed polling places on election day.

"Look at it this way: 33,000 people went to vote on election day, which means 30,000 people walked right by them," he said. "About 90 percent chose not to sign. I think that's a pretty strong showing of support for me."

White House says Clinton didn't call anti-gay policy 'dumbass'

WASHINGTON (AP)—*Rolling Stone* now says President Clinton didn't use offensive language to describe the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gays.

The misquote, printed in *Rolling Stone*'s latest issue, lent humor to the White House briefing Dec. 7 when a

reporter asked: "When did the president decide that 'don't ask, don't tell' was a dumbass thing to do?"

White House press secretary Jake Siewert reassured reporters that the president didn't use the unsavory language when discussing the policy allowing gays to serve in uniform as long as they don't

reveal their sexual orientation.

The *Rolling Stone* article based on interviews with Clinton by the magazine's founder, Jann Wenner, quoted Clinton as saying: "And it was only then that I worked out with (former Joint Chiefs of Staff) Colin Powell this dumbass 'don't ask, don't tell' thing..."

Robert Love, managing editor of *Rolling Stone*, said it was a typo.

"Due to a transcription error, the words 'don't ask' were printed as 'dumb ass' in our interview with President Clinton. We regret the error," Love said in a statement.

San Francisco mayor a big loser in supervisor election

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—In the words of one of Mayor Willie Brown's most steadfast supporters, the insane are now running the asylum.

Brown put it a bit differently several months ago when he pleaded with San Franciscans not to surround him with "crazy people" on the city's Board of Supervisors.

Now his nightmare has come true—Brown not only lost his majority on the board in the Dec. 12 runoff election, his opponents may just have enough votes to override his vetoes, possibly bringing sweeping changes to City Hall.

With all precincts reporting, seven Brown adversaries won their races and two incumbents who often sided with Brown were in races too close to call. Two others, including his nemesis, board president Tom Ammiano, were elected outright on Nov. 7.

Brown won't know just how little support he'll have on the 11-member board until about 10,000 absentee and provisional ballots are counted Dec. 13.

But Brown's resounding defeat brought joy to campaign parties all over town as activists celebrated what they hope will be a new era of openness and accountability in city government.

"It's all about checks and balances, and that's what people want," said Ammiano, the gay former schoolteacher who for the first time will have fellow supervisors who are even more left-lean-

ing than he is.

"As we often say in the gay community ... 'Ding dong the witch is dead!'" Ammiano proclaimed at a post-election party as he introduced Gerardo Sandoval, a deputy public defender who beat Brown's most reliable ally, Amos Brown.

Ammiano's improbable grass-roots write-in campaign against Brown inspired the movement to take back City Hall. The mayor's fund-raising abilities and Democratic Party machine saved him then, but Ammiano and his allies have since persuaded many San Franciscans that Brown is to blame for spiraling housing costs, traffic gridlock and other side effects of the booming Internet economy.

Brown, who appointed six of the previous 11 supervisors, had been able to count on a solid majority of the board as he pursued his pro-growth agenda. But the entire board was up for re-election on Nov. 7 as the city switched from at-large to district representation.

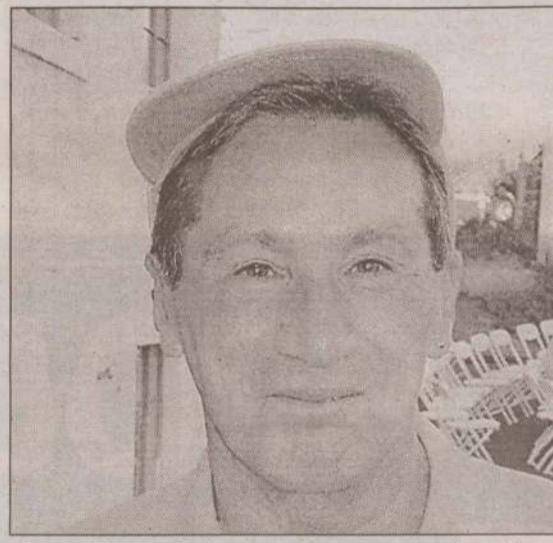
Now, he may not have enough support to make his vetoes stick.

"If these numbers hold, it's pretty bad for the mayor. Expect a lot more vetoes. But with eight votes they can override a veto," said Frank Gallagher, a political consultant with Solem & Assoc.

Still, Brown is a master politician, who dominated state government as California's longest-serving House speaker and held onto his leadership even when Republicans had a majority.

Gallagher noted.

"If anybody can work in this kind of situation, it's Willie Brown. He's the quintessential dealmaker," he said.



"As we often say in the gay community, 'Ding dong the witch is dead!'" crowed San Francisco supervisor Tom Ammiano Dec. 12 after Mayor Willie Brown's supporters were defeated.

Incumbent Mabel Teng, one of Brown's most reliable allies, was trailing folk singer Tony Hall by 157 votes.

"So far, the results show that the people want change on the board and they are making their statement in a clear way," Teng said.

Voter turnout was "pitiful," Elections

Department spokeswoman Christiane Hayashi said.

Barbara Joseph, 55, was determined to reach the polls. She works two jobs to survive the astronomical cost of living in the city, and fears those costs will swell more if the city doesn't get a handle on growth.

"Pretty soon, no one will live in the city except the dot-commers," she said.

Developers, construction companies and downtown corporations led a soft-money campaign in support of Brown, pumping in almost \$2 million since July.

The new board will likely decide on 724,000 square feet of new offices, mostly proposed for dot-com businesses currently exempt from having to pay into the city's affordable-housing fund.

Brown supporter Joe O'Donoghue, head of the powerful Residential Builders Association, funneled some \$70,000 into the campaign, according to documents filed with the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

"You have this whole dichotomy where the insane are in charge of the asylum," O'Donoghue said. "This Board of Supervisors should be brought out and given a two-week orientation on economics."

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Incog Event Raises Funds for Food Pantry

A sidewalk fair and garage sale at Incognito in Phoenix on Dec. 10 raised money and awareness for the Food Pantry, a program of AIDS Project Arizona. The "Ab/Fab Extravaganza" included massages, a haircut booth, refreshments, giftware, and drink specials.



APAZ's Tate Eldridge (above left), spearheaded the work of volunteers at the Dec. 10 fundraiser for the Food Pantry held at Incognito.

Team Arizona Takes On Sedona

By Allen Kalchik,
Editor

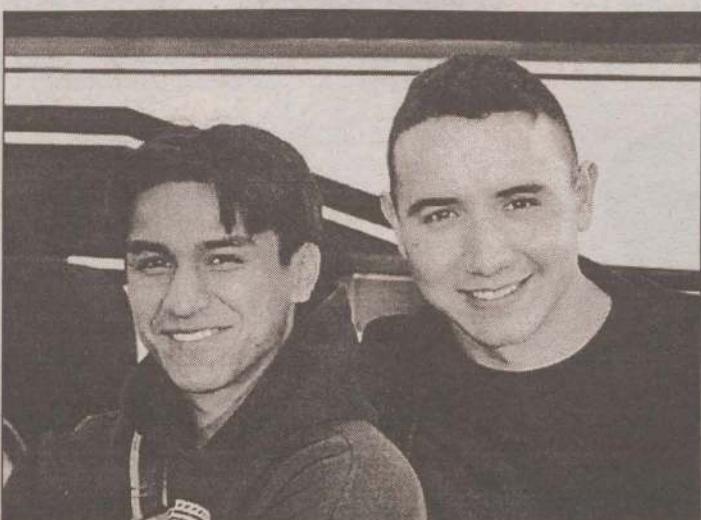
Approximately 40 members and supporters of Team Arizona, a Phoenix-based organization for gay and lesbian athletes planning to participate in the Gay Games in 2002, enjoyed a fund-raising bus tour to Sedona on Dec. 2.

"It's an opportunity to have fun



and shop while finding out what Team Arizona is all about," said Stan Hewitt, who organized the trip for the group.

Festivities included a shopping tour of the Tlaquepaque marketplace, a group dinner at a Mexican restaurant, and a walking tour of the competitive holiday light displays at Los Abrigados, an adjacent resort complex.



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VATICAN DENOUNCES EURO RIGHTS DOCUMENT

The Vatican Dec. 2 denounced the European Union's new Charter of Fundamental Rights, which was proclaimed at the EU summit in Nice.

The church said the charter is "godless" because, among other things, it will cause moral and social destruction by sanctioning gay unions and gay adoption.

The charter bans discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation, among other characteristics.

BUNDESTAG APOLOGIZES TO GAYS

Germany's lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, officially apologized on Dec. 8 to gays who were imprisoned by the Nazis.

"The parliament is convinced that the honor of the homosexual victims of Nazism must be rebuilt and apologizes for the harm done to homosexual citizens up to 1969 in their human dignity, their coming out and their quality of life," the deputies said in unanimously adopting a motion introduced by the Social Democrats and Greens.

Gay sex was illegal until 1969 under Nazi-era Penal Code Paragraph 175. The law also banned kisses, caresses and smiles between gay men.

Up to 10,000 homosexuals were sent to the concentration camps, scholars believe.

students, artists and architects.

"Our main goal is to give people a chance to meet, to be friends, to exchange information, to organize evening parties," said spokesman Daivarus Urbonas. "We deeply believe that this is something totally new in Lithuania. The only force that drives us is devotion and love. We don't want to be the most visible club in Lithuania. We don't want to be the coolest around. We just want to help them [gays] feel good in this life."

Urbonas called Lithuania "a conservative country where people look at us as eccentric persons."

"They hate us, want to put us in prison," he said. "There are few tolerant people here. There are no positive laws. So we are like in the underground here."

The club has rented an office and obtained a computer, Internet access, some books and some music. They are seeking donations of literature, music, a digital camera and a video camera.

Contact Daivarus Urbonas, Geroji Viltis, P.O. Box 581, 5813 Klaipeda-13, Lithuania.

CANADA BANS IMMIGRANTS WITH HIV, HEPATITIS

Canada will reject would-be immigrants who carry HIV or hepatitis B from now on.

In the past, only people with tuberculosis or syphilis were turned away.

Health Canada says each immigrant

LITHUANIAN GAYS ORGANIZE

Gays in Lithuania's third-largest city and main port, Klaipeda, have founded an organization called Geroji Viltis.

It has about 40 members including teachers, doctors,

with HIV ends up costing the nationalized healthcare system up to \$169,000 (in U.S. dollars).

POLICE ENCOURAGE GAY COPS

The Sussex, England, police department inserted a flyer with paychecks last month encouraging minority groups within the force, including gays, to form networking associations.

Not everyone was pleased, reported Brighton's *Evening Argus*.

Writing in the force's monthly magazine, *Patrol*, employee Simon Hills complained: "I don't care what people do as long as they don't do it in the street and frighten the horses. The payslip insert amounts to horse-startling of quite a severe degree. I really do not want to hear about this unless and until equality works both ways and there is talk of a heterosexual networking group (whatever that may mean)."

Assistant Chief Constable Tony Toynton responded that staff networks "are the key to celebrating diversity in the workplace. ... We believe that an appreciation of the diversity of our staff will help us break down some of these barriers."

BRITAIN TO PAY FOR MORE SEX-CHANGE OPERATIONS

In response to increased demand, Britain's National Health Service is tripling the number of sex-change operations it pays for.

Most publicly financed gender-reassignment surgery is performed at London's Charing Cross Hospital, which will now do three such operations a week, up from one per week.

Each three-hour operation costs about \$14,500.

Some politicians denounced the change, saying the NHS has long waiting lists for surgical procedures that are more important than sex-change surgery.

ELTON SELLS CLOTHES FOR AIDS CHARITY

Elton John sold 15,000 pieces of his clothing in London Dec. 8 and raised about \$615,000 for his AIDS foundation.

"Whatever you bought I hope it will bring you pleasure and you have fun wearing it," Elton told fans who queued outside the shop that held the sale.

John has staged two previous rummage sales, one of which raised about \$480,000.

IGLHRC ISSUES RIGHTS GUIDE

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission Dec. 8 released a guide to international human rights mechanisms for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people.

Making the Mountain Move: An Activist's Guide to How Human Rights Mechanisms Can Work for You offers theoretical and practical advice along with details on use of United Nations, Inter-American, European and African human rights-protections systems.

"As we celebrate the fifty-second anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we are committed to making the promises in this document come alive by ensuring that everyone can take practical actions to fulfill them," said Executive Director Surina Khan.

"Human rights aren't like a fire extinguisher to be kept under glass in case of emergency," said IGLHRC's Scott Long, author of the guide. "Nor are they something to celebrate on one day a year and forget the rest. They are there for everyone to use, and to defend. This guide is meant to give everyone the means to use them fully. IGLHRC hopes this can make international human rights a little more user-friendly for everybody."

To obtain a copy of the guide, visit <http://www.iglhrc.org/news/factsheets/unguide.html>, e-mail iglhrc@iglhrc.org or phone 1 (415) 255-8680.

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Church of Hope

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

Teddy Bear Christmas

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

Joshua Tree Show

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

Feliz Navidad! In Mexico

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

Charlie's Employee Show

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

Gay Pride Show

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

Desert Valley Squares

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Candlelight Ceremony &
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!
OPEN AT 6PM!**

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

AZ Central Pride Royalty Show 10pm.

**December 31st, 2000
New Years Eve!**

PARTY! PARTY! PARTY!

Party Favors & Champagne!

**Monday, January 1st, 2001
The Party Continues**

NEW YEARS BABY!

Underwear Night!

Charlie's

HOME OF THE • MEN OF CHARLIE'S
MEN IN MOTION • AGRA

Goings On

Community Center needs your help

The Center is moving on Dec. 28 to its new address at the Parkway Inn, 8617 North Black Canyon Highway. The Center will be housed at The Parkway in the rear building on the lower level. If all goes as hoped, the new Center will be open on Jan. 1.

The new mailing address is P.O. Box 33367 Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367. The phone numbers will stay the same: 602/234-2752 for general information, 602/234-0873 for fax, 602/265-7283 for the AIDS information line, 602/264-5437 for Youth Services and 602/234-2752 for the Center Manager. Center information can still be obtained via the web site at www.phxcenter.org. Youth Services (both VOIT & Horizons) will be meeting as of Thursday, Jan. 4, at the Community Church of Hope at 4400 North Central Avenue in Phoenix.

With this big move pending, Center volunteers need help. Most of the work required will need to be done between the Dec. 17 and Jan. 2nd. If you have a skill in one of the following areas, or you are willing to learn, please contact Center Manager Nadine Wells as soon as possible at 602/234-2752.

The skills needed are in Drywall/Trowel work; Painting; Wall Construction; General Carpentry; Electrical Work; Packing Boxes; Basic Cleaning; and Moving.

Leathermen holding clothing drive

The sponsors of the Southwest Regional Drummer Contests announce

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

Keyth Fitzgerald's (Mr. Southwest Drummer 2000) "Thanks for Giving Project."

During December, clothing and personal grooming items will be collected at approximately 20 locations throughout the Phoenix metro area. All items will be donated to VIDA (Volunteers in Direct AID), an all-volunteer organization that assists people living with HIV/AIDS.

For information, contact Tuff Stuff at 602/254-6651 or Chute at 602/234-1654.

GCMC CD on sale now

The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale is celebrating its 10th anniversary with its first CD, *Southwest Seasonings*. It's available at Unique On Central and Obelisk, as



well as from choir members.

ACP's annual logo contest is on

Arizona Central Pride is calling for

entries for the Phoenix organization's annual Pride Festival Logo Contest. The theme chosen for the 2001 parade and festival is: "What part of equal don't you understand?" The event is scheduled for April 21, 2001.

ACP is looking for artwork that represents this theme. The winner of the logo contest will receive a \$100 cash prize, two festival tickets, and two of each item (such as hats and t-shirts) that utilizes the logo.

Entries must be postmarked by Dec. 29, 2000. Entries can be submitted as either an 8" x 10" hard copy, or on disc in a pc-compatible format (.tif, .bmp, Photoshop, or .jpeg). Mail to: Arizona Central Pride Logo Contest, PO Box 16847, Phoenix AZ 85011.

PFLAG's Dec. & Jan. programs

Counselor David Hudson, MSW will join the Phoenix Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays to discuss "Six Steps to Reduce Stress During the Holidays" for GLBT folks and their families. Come and share in the pre-holiday festivities on Monday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 p.m.

A special guest at PFLAG-Phoenix's meeting in January will be Arizona's openly gay Legislative Chaplain, Rev. Charley Coppinger. Coppinger will share his personal and public story on Monday, Jan. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Both these meetings will be held at the Palo Christi Presbyterian Church, southwest corner of Lincoln Dr. and 36th St. in Phoenix. PFLAG's West Valley program and support group will not meet in December. The East Valley group will next meet on Friday, Jan. 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pyle Adult Center, 655 E. Southern in Tempe. For information on these meetings and to learn about PFLAG, visit www.pflag-phoenix.org or call 602/843-1404.

Women's Social Network

The Women's Social Network (WSN) is a weekly program presented by the Women's Center, Inc. Join them every Friday for fun, games, movies, refreshments, networking, and some surprises. It's a great alternative to meeting people at the bars.

WSN meets at the Community Church of Hope, 4400 N. Central (NW corner of Central and Turney), from 7:30-10:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00. For more information, contact WomensCenterInc@aol.com.

AGRA Gears up for 2001 Rodeo.

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association-Phoenix Chapter's 2001 Road Runner Regional Rodeo will take place on January 13 and 14. Royalty competition begins on Thursday, Jan. 11 and contestant registration is on Friday, Jan. 12.

The rodeo depends on hardworking volunteers who donate their time over these days to make sure the Phoenix gay rodeo is a success. Volunteers are needed in all areas, ranging from contestant registration on Friday to chute and arena work on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers receive free admission to the rodeo along with other gifts.

It's a great way to experience gay rodeo and to help the community at the same time. Proceeds from the Road Runner Regional Rodeo always benefit non-profit charitable organizations.

There are also several sponsorship available. Information is available by contacting the rodeo hot-line at 602/265-0618. Volunteer forms can be obtained by contacting the rodeo hot line at 602/265-0618, or visit the website at www.agra-phx.com.

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11

mondays - "queer as folk"

10

wednesdays "skary-oke"

9

men in undies

8

good times at
the bunkhouse!

7

5 rings

6

4 pucker shots

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12 DAYS of BUNKHOUSE CHRISTMAS

-best sung at "skary-oke"

6 men in undies

5 rings

4 pucker shots

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New book explores gay Italian priests

ROME (AP)—A papal biographer has broken a taboo, exploring homosexuality in the ranks of Italy's Roman Catholic clergy.

Marco Politi's newly published book *La Confessione—The Confession*—presents the testimony of a priest struggling to balance his homosexuality with his commitment to a church that considers homosexual acts a sin.

The priest, who is never identified, discloses that a network of homosexual priests is active in the Italian church. It is described as an informal "self-help group" that lives in the "catacombs" of the church—the underground.

"There are always those who fear

being discovered by superiors and listed as partners in a homosexual corporation. It's incredible how the fear is so widespread," the priest says through the author in the nonfiction account, written in the first person.

The book's publication follows an intense public discussion of homosexuality in Italy, generated by July gay pride festivities in Rome that were denounced by the pope. Some public figures began to talk about their homosexuality, something previously unheard of in Italy.

Politi, who covers the Vatican for the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*, was co-author, with American journalist Carl Bernstein, of *His Holiness*, a biography of

Pope John Paul II.

He said he had difficulty finding a publisher for his new book because "there was a certain amount of fear" to overcome in the Vatican's backyard.

The gamble paid off, he said. The first edition of 5,000 copies, published by Rome-based Riuniti, sold out in three weeks and even won some praise in the newspaper published by the Italian Bishops Conference.

The review in *L'Avenir* complimented the author for an account that doesn't "spy through a keyhole on the intimate and everyday behavior of a person." But it took issue with the suggestion that the church shows little understanding for

priests struggling with their homosexuality.

The Rev. Antonio Mazzi, a prominent Italian priest who runs a drug rehabilitation community called Exodus, recently spoke of knowing homosexual priests "who live a tormented life."

"Many are young. It's a phenomenon that's spreading, above all in seminaries," Mazzi told the newsweekly *Panorama*.

Despite John Paul's hard-line position on homosexuality—he called the gay pride festival offensive to Christians—Politi's priest expressed admiration for the pope.

"He's something like my ideal that I am unable to realize, or to realize in a very mediocre way," he said.

ACLU asks judge to dismiss suit against NAMBLA

BOSTON (AP)—Civil liberties lawyers say an organization that advocates sex between men and boys is being "sued for their ideas"—and the case should be dismissed.

The American Civil Liberties Union has stepped in to defend the North American Man/Boy Love Association from a lawsuit filed by the parents of a murdered Cambridge boy.

The family charges that NAMBLA is a "criminal organization" whose activities led to the 1997 death of 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley.

The family's lawyer

says the organization has stepped over the line from simply advocating acts to participating in crimes. He has said the lawsuit is about attempting to protect America's children.

But the ACLU filed a motion last week with U.S. District Judge George O'Toole asking him to throw out the \$200 million lawsuit.

"What they don't like is what NAMBLA stands for," said John Reinstein, legal director of the Massachusetts ACLU. "They don't like their ideas or the notion that someone else would have accepted them."

Portland Police Chief Apologizes for Anti-gay Slurs

PORLAND, Ore. (AP)—Police Chief Mark Kroeker offered an apology for anti-gay remarks he made a decade ago.

"I am very sorry for the effect that my words have had on this community," Kroeker told a public forum organized Dec. 11 by Portland's gay community.

The chief said his views have changed in the decade since he made the anti-gay comments before a Christian police officers' group.

"I want your trust," Kroeker said.

Angry community members, however, continued to call for the chief's resignation during a question-and-answer period following his brief remarks.

Mitch Gould said many gays in Portland were concerned that Kroeker's anti-gay comments could provoke violence against homosexuals here.

Referring to the Christian group Kroeker addressed in the late 1980s, Gould asked: "How much combined firepower were they packing? How

many were involved in gay-bashing because of your tapes?"

Tapes of the remarks made by Kroeker, a born-again Christian, were sold on a Web site and were publicized in October by the alternative newspaper *The Portland Alliance*.

In other recordings, Kroeker urged wives to be submissive to their husbands and talked about how he disciplined Christian campers with a boat oar.

During the question-and-answer session, Kroeker was asked whether he believed striking children with a boat oar was an acceptable way to discipline them.

Kroeker replied, "Child abuse and hitting children is wrong."

The chief said he would continue to listen to community concerns and suggested the department could do more to alert residents of the importance of reporting hate crimes.

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KARAOKE with Denise and Shyla 8PM-???

THURSDAY
Clogging Lessons for Beginners 6:15-7:30PM
Country Western Dance Lessons 7:30-9:30PM

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SUNDAY
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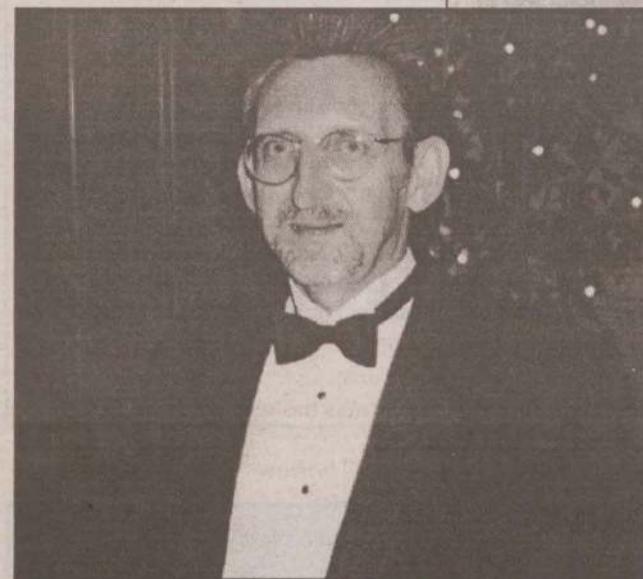
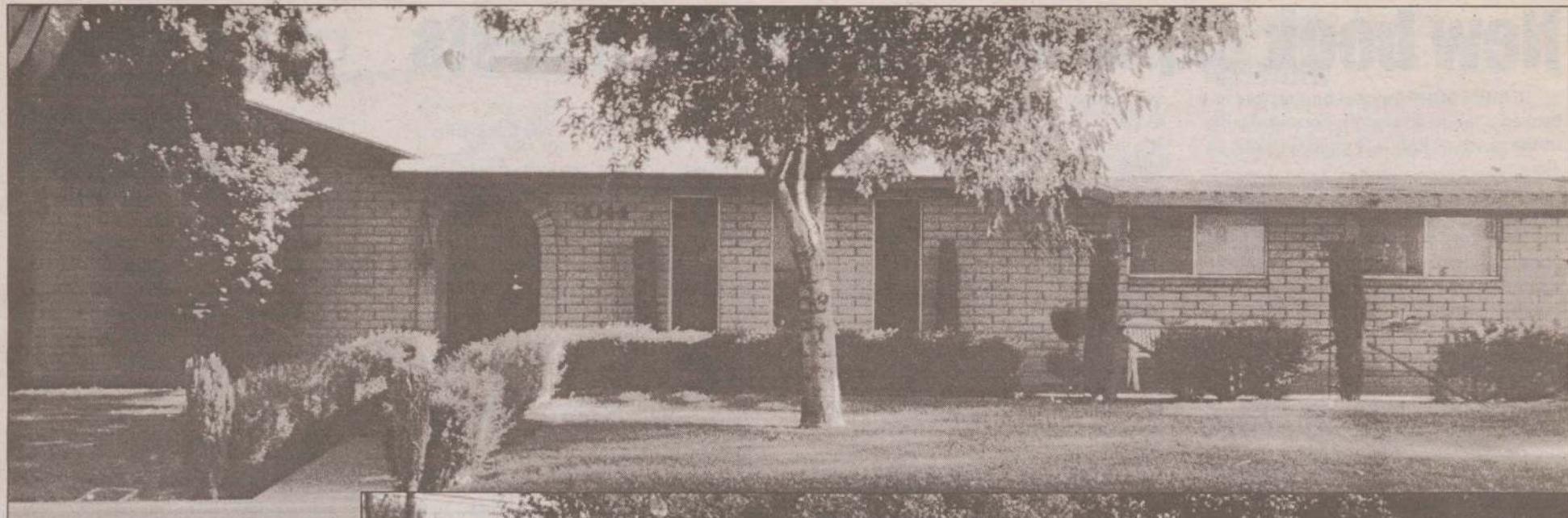
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Get ready to do it all over again!
Tickets ON SALE NOW! See Bartender.



An understated ranch house (top) in the West Valley houses HIV-positive men. Amenities at the APCH properties include big-screen televisions and swimming pools (above). Malcolm Nason (left) is one of two resident managers for the organization.

("Home . . . , " continued from page 1)

"They all know this going in, so we have never had a problem [with gay/straight men not getting along]," said Difino. Clients range in age from 23 to 77. All that is required of them is to keep their rooms and common areas clean, and to be receptive to working with the various case workers that APCH provides.

"We can point them to whatever they need," Difino said. "We work with all the [AIDS service] agencies, so we can help them manage their lives and take away the worry of wondering, 'Where am I going to sleep tonight?'. That way, they are able to concentrate on their health."

Residents are encouraged to work and to improve their job skills or advance their schooling while living in the APCH residences. "And then they may be able to carry on without us," Difino added.

Food boxes arrive daily, and the residents themselves recently got into the giving spirit by sharing some of the bounty they have received.

"I didn't even know about this until after it happened..."

Difino began the story. It seems one of the East Osborn residents realized that a donated bread delivery was far more than the 18 APCH clients could eat. The resident convinced the other clients to help him make 150 peanut butter sandwiches. They corralled the use of the agency truck and redistributed the charitable donation to homeless people in parks and outside shelters all over downtown.

"That shows you that we are really getting a message through—when we've changed someone's life, and then he, in turn, has an idea to change the lives of others," Difino reflected.

And the furnishings, foodstuffs and clothes continue to arrive. Someone giving, someone else receiving—and the two parties will probably never even meet. A just-dropped-off box of canned peas and new sweat socks resting on a chair in the APCH office is a gentle—and needed—reminder that in some parts of the Valley (and you probably don't have to look far outside your neighborhood for more evidence), Christmas comes every day.



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A Season of Firsts

VSCC celebrates its first Christmas & one-year anniversary

By Dennis Scott-Bush, Contributor

Baby's first Christmas. A couple's first Noel spent together. Folks fill photo albums with idyllic documentation of their many special Yuletide moments.

This holiday season, members of the year-old Valley of the Sun Community Church (VSCC) will delight in making those same kind of joyful memories as they celebrate their first Christmas together.

Pastor Jerry Cook notes that there are many exciting plans for the 70-member congregation in the coming weeks. Founded in January of 2000, the planned holiday activities are just the beginning of a series of events that will include its one-year anniversary celebration on January 14, 2001, the addition of a minister of music and the beginning of an increased schedule of services.

From its inception, the church has taken the "community" in its name very seriously. Each week, they collect donated supplies for Volunteers in Direct AID (VIDA), a Valley direct-service organization for people leaving with HIV and AIDS. At last year's Pride parade, member of the church carried a 50 x 100 ft. American flag and used it as the receptacle for donations to AIDS Project Arizona (APA). They obtained the flag—the largest American flag in our state—with the assistance of Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign organization. This coming year, they plan to carry the flags,

again, and divide the money raised between APAZ and breast cancer research.

Pastor Cook is on the Board of Grand Canyon Men's Chorale and has joined the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, as well. He sees his personal community involvement as a way to be of service and to reach out to those people who may need a church family or other kinds of emotional or spiritual support.

The church, which meets at the Parkway Inn on North I-17 between Northern and Dunlap, will hold a special candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 11:00 p.m. Pastor Cook promises, "It will be the one of the most—if not the most—touching services you could ever attend." There will be holiday stories and music and will culminate in a candlelight procession at midnight.

The holidays are often a time when people who don't regularly attend church services, during the year, seek out a religious connection. Pastor Cook views that as an opportunity for his congregation to provide a warm and welcoming environment for everyone. "My desire is to know any way we can be of greater service to Arizona's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community," Cook expresses.

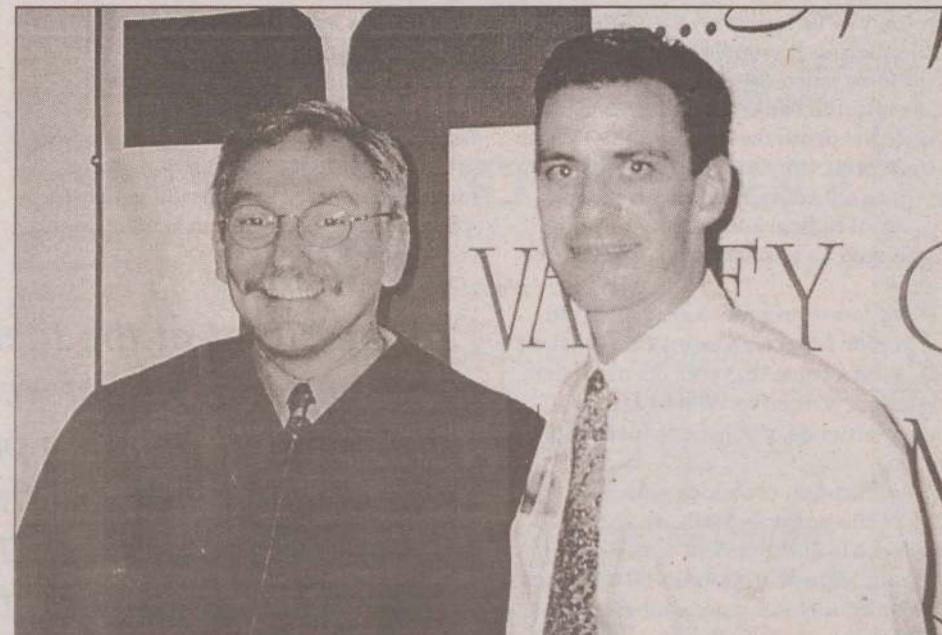
The growth of his congregation has been encouraging for Cook and his assistant pastor, Joy Haupt-Black. Kelly Siebeck will become the minister of music, as the church celebrates its

anniversary. Siebeck, a noted keyboard player and vocalist, will perform a solo concert at 6:00 p.m. on January 14.

Beginning January 21, the church will hold two worship services each Sunday, to meet the needs of Valley folks who prefer an evening service, due to work conflicts or other reasons. The new schedule will include 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. worship services. Both will feature uplifting music.

churches represent nearly every one of the United States, as well as three other countries. Cook co-founded the organization seven years ago, and looks forward to the chance for his new Phoenix-area church to welcome their counterparts from around the country and the world.

The Valley of the Sun Community Church encourages everyone to join them for the holiday season and beyond as they celebrate their first Christmas together,



Pastor Jerry Cook (left) with his partner Jim Schoenky.

Looking farther ahead than their anniversary, VSCC is excited to be hosting the 2002 gathering of the Alliance of Christian Churches, a 100-member organization of independent churches that minister to the gay community. Member

their one-year anniversary, their expanded staff and service schedule and much more.

For more information, call (602) 564-7895.



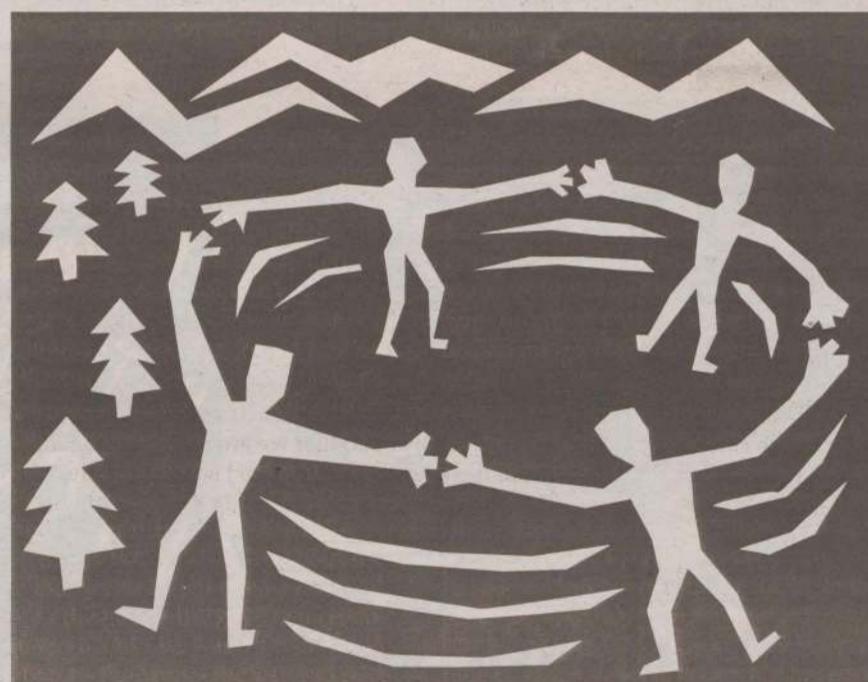
Outside the Christmas Box: A non-Judeo/Christian take on the holiday season

By Andrew Brooks, Contributor

I am a Pagan. I celebrate Midwinter, or Yule, as the rebirth of light. I grew up in a Christian household, but was always drawn to Judaism. I later, as an adult, found out both my grandparents are part Jewish. My grandfather was half Jewish, in fact. So, I always liked lighting the candles and celebrating the miracle of the rebirth of light. For Pagans, Yule is similar to Hanukkah, and we honor the return of the Sun. It may be the height of Winter, and the night is at its longest, but we know Spring is coming and that the power of Winter will not endure forever.

We believe that the Goddess gives birth to the young Sun God at this time. In my tradition, we have a legend of a Frost Maiden, a Goddess of the Wintertime, who returns the light to us. We meditate on drinking light into our beings, of connecting to the spark of light that is reborn in the dead of a wintry night. We light candles, burn incense, and hold open circles to honor this time.

I am part of the Gay Pagan Circle in Tucson, and we are having an open Saturnalia, the Roman Festival of Winter, on Dec. 17 in Tucson. We gather at a local park (Ft. Lowell), and there, near the lovely riparian area, we honor nature. We pagans don't generally have churches or worship indoors, though some of



us have Temples to Isis and other Goddesses and Gods. We like to be out in the open, enjoying nature.

For us, Yule is a time of connection and family.

Christmas has a lot of lovely customs, such as the tree, the lights and the presents, all borrowed from Paganism. Jesus being born to Mary and Joseph at Yule time was started by a Christian Roman Emperor who decided to have Pagans and Christians celebrating at the same time.

Yule is a Norse holiday, and has many of its roots in the Scandinavian countries of Norway and Sweden. Finland has its own unique pagan pantheon and customs. For us, the commercial aspects of Christmas are secondary to the spirituality. The mistletoe and holly are Celtic customs, and we Celtic Pagans honor Yule with our own unique customs also. The wren is a bird of Christmas, and the mistletoe a symbol of the Otherworld.

Yule is a special time for me each and every year, and I always light a candle to honor the return of light.



Rev. Andrew Siliar Brooks represents the Gay Pagan Circle, Fellowship of Isis. He receives e-mail at eyeofsokar@hotmail.com.

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Letters reveal private side of enigmatic Oscar Wilde

LONDON (AP)—"To be great," wrote Oscar Wilde, "is to be misunderstood."

By that reckoning, Wilde must stand among the greatest writers of the last few centuries.

Playwright, poet, novelist and essayist, Wilde wore a confounding number of guises—the young aesthete who wowed America on a lecture tour; the glittering wit conquering London's West End; the ruined man, jailed for homosexual acts; and, finally, the bankrupt exile.

Since his death on Nov. 30, 1900, Wilde has been both worshiped and reviled, held up as a prototypical celebrity, style guru, social radical and gay icon—and rediscovered as a sparkling social observer.

These facets and more are present in *The Complete Letters of Oscar Wilde* (Henry Holt), a thick tome that collects more than 1,500 letters written to Wilde's family members, friends, publishers, lovers and enemies.

Its publication coincides with the centenary of the writer's death, an anniversary marked—in testament to our continuing fascination with Wilde—by a plethora of events, including an exhibition running until Feb. 4 at the British Library and a staging of Wilde's moving prose piece, *De Profundis*, at London's National Theater.

"In the context of his century, he represents something really quite extraordinary," says Merlin Holland, the book's editor and Wilde's grandson. "There's a modern appeal about him which continues to make him fascinating."

"You can never quite make him out. Once you think you've got him, he eludes you."

Holland, who assembled 300 previously unpublished letters for the collection, says this sense of mystery is the key to the

world's ongoing interest in his grandfather.

"Bits of him are very contradictory," he says. "There are the obvious ones, like being a married homosexual, but there are other things. There are so many conflicting opinions about him. Some people said he was a dreadful, odious character, and other people said he was utterly charming and wonderful."

"I think the truth is probably both. There was this sense of enormous self-assurance, of egotism, of arrogance even. And when you get through that, you come down to a warmhearted, generous-spirited human being. That is what comes out of these letters."

"An awful lot of the literary letters published today reinforce vague rumors about people's private lives. With Oscar Wilde, all the skeletons fell out of the closet in 1895. His whole life was paraded before the world in all its gory detail. His letters are an antidote to the literary scandalmongering, rather than a reinforcement of it."

Holland says the letters reveal hitherto neglected sides of Wilde, from the young graduate who seriously considered an academic career to the lonely exile who could write, with surprising tenderness, "I often find myself strangely happy."

The first letter in the book is from a 13-year-old Wilde to his mother ("The hamper came today, I never got such a jolly surprise.") The last—a demand for money—was written nine days before he died of cerebral meningitis in a Paris hotel room at the age of 46.

He had left Britain in disgrace in 1897 after serving two years in prison for "gross indecency" following a failed libel suit against the Marquis of Queensberry, father of Wilde's lover, Lord Alfred Douglas.

Like Wilde's plays, the letters drip with epigrams. Toward the end, they frequently plead for money. They are increasingly moving as they shift from ebullient self-confidence to sorrowful stocktaking.

"In a way, the letters counterbalance the sparkling superficiality of his life," Holland says. "They show him as the proud father of a baby boy. ... The family side comes out more strongly than ever."

"An awful lot of the literary letters published today reinforce vague rumors about people's private lives. With Oscar Wilde, all the skeletons fell out of the closet in 1895. His whole life was paraded before the world in all its gory detail. His letters are an antidote to the literary scandalmongering, rather than a reinforcement of it."

Holland—whose grandmother,

Constance Wilde, changed the family name in an attempt to protect her sons—has spent two decades researching his ancestor, correcting what he sees as misrepresentations of Wilde and his legacy.

Part researcher and part guardian, he refers to himself as a conduit linking Wilde, academic researchers and the general public.

"I think he has occasionally been ill-served by publishers who have been less than scrupulously honest," Holland says. "Oscar Wilde without scandal is not Oscar Wilde."

"My role is to bring a new view of Wilde to the public, partly through my own research and partly through what's going on in the academic world. It's a very privileged position."

Born 45 years after Wilde's death, Holland escaped much of the suffering and stigma endured by Wilde's wife and sons, including his own father, Vyvyan.

"He wasn't really spoken about," Holland says of his grandfather. "He lived in the background."

Nonetheless, Holland speaks of "making the most of what I have to live with," and his next book, "After Oscar," will look at the impact of Wilde's fall on his family, friends and public.

"I don't think he really is rehabilitated here, even now," Holland says. "Middle England is still slightly uncomfortable about this idea of homosexuality."

"If I am going to have to be Oscar Wilde's grandson, then rather than sitting like an animal in the zoo with a label on me, I might as well have some sort of function."

Still, he adds, "There's going to come a time when I've got to climb down and move on somewhere else. I can't just go on doing this. I've got to move on in my life."

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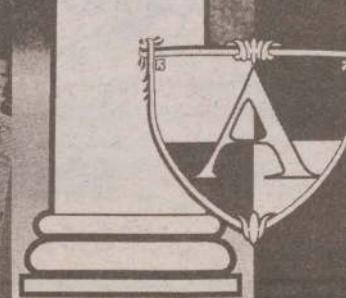
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Surrogate Mom

Betty DeGeneres discusses her new book, *Just a Mom*

By Bradley David, Contributor

Less than two years after coming out with her first book, *Love Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey*, Betty DeGeneres has already penned a follow-up. In *Just a Mom* (Advocate Books, \$21.95), the mother of the world's most famous lesbian gives important advice to parents coming to terms with their kids' sexuality.

"At the end of the last book, I had asked people to send in their questions and comments for possible inclusion in a follow-up book, and so here it is," she says. "The first book was a lot more personal, whereas this one is more about other people's experiences. I see this as more of a resource book."

DeGeneres hopes her new book will reach the people who need it most.

"It's not just aimed at parents," she

says. "They do locally, and they know that," she says. "They invited me to be on their board, but I respectfully declined because I just figure I'm doing enough, and I'd rather do what I do than sit on a board."

When the sensitive subject of her daughter's 2000 break-up with actress Anne Heche comes up, DeGeneres says, "We won't go there, will we?"

Because she had grown so close to Heche, often referring to her as "my other daughter," many people in the gay community have been concerned about how she has been coping since the much-publicized split.

"I'm doing fine," she says. "Ellen's doing fine, so I'm doing fine."

Asked if she has had any contact with Heche, she answers with a simple, "No."

The galleys edition of *Just a Mom*, which was circulated to the media in advance of the book's publication, featured numerous affectionate references to Heche, as well as photos of "the twins—my beautiful girls," as one caption read.

Asked if she went back and made changes to the book after the breakup, DeGeneres says it was too late to do much.

"The only thing I was able to change was some of the captions under some of the pictures, so I did make them less personal," she says.

The book's cover was also changed with the altering of a collection of background mantelpiece photos of Ellen and Anne.

DeGeneres says she decided against adding some sort of footnote about the breakup.

"You know, I seriously considered it and even wrote something out, but I thought, 'You know, by the time this comes out, this is going to be history,'" she says. "It's done. The world has heard way more than you know, way more than facts—lots of lies, who knows what?—but anyway, it's done."

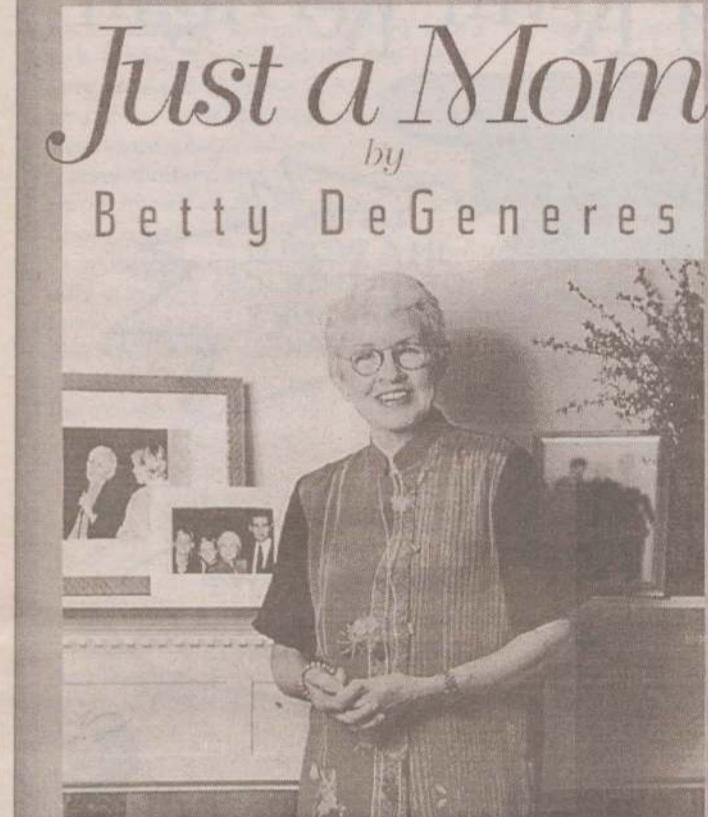
She says her famous daughter is busy working on a new TV show. Under contract with CBS, Ellen originally intended to do a Carol Burnett-style variety show, but recently changed course.

"She was advised that she would be better off doing another sitcom," says Betty. "They're getting writers together and a concept and hopefully they'll get going within a few weeks."

In the fall, Ellen and Betty recorded some non-partisan public service announcements urging people to vote in the November elections.

"I'm supporting Mr. Gore," says Betty. "Absolutely—he HAS to win!"

Asked about Republican vice presidential nominee Dick Cheney's pre-election debate response to a question about gay marriage, she says, "It would have been a great opportunity for him to proudly say that his daughter happens to be gay and that she should have these rights, but he obviously has to stick very close to the Republican party line. Just by refusing to strongly condemn gay people, he got in trouble with some of the extremists in his own party. It's ridiculous."



Heartfelt advice from a mother who understands what it means to love and support a gay child

Foreword by Dr. Dina Bachelor Evan

says, "but also at school teachers and administrators and whoever will listen and get the message."

After her daughter, actress and comedian Ellen DeGeneres, captured the world's attention in 1997 by coming out on her nationally televised sit-com, Betty DeGeneres found herself becoming something of a poster mom for gay acceptance. After giving a number of powerful media interviews in support of her daughter, she was named by the Human Rights Campaign as a spokesperson for the organization's National Coming Out Project.

Last year, DeGeneres began writing a weekly advice column on the Internet site Planet Out.

"It's called 'Ask Betty,' and I answer three questions a week," she says. "It's mostly gay men and lesbians wanting advice on coming out, but I also hear from parents wanting to know how to handle it and what they can do to help others. Every now and then, someone will write in and quote from the Bible and think they're going to educate me... I love doing the column. It's been wonderful."

As part of her current book tour, DeGeneres will speak in Portland, Oregon at a convention of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). While she enthusiastically supports the organization and has spoken to a number of local chapters, she says she's not interested in any kind of official role with PFLAG.

"I'm sort of doing on a national level



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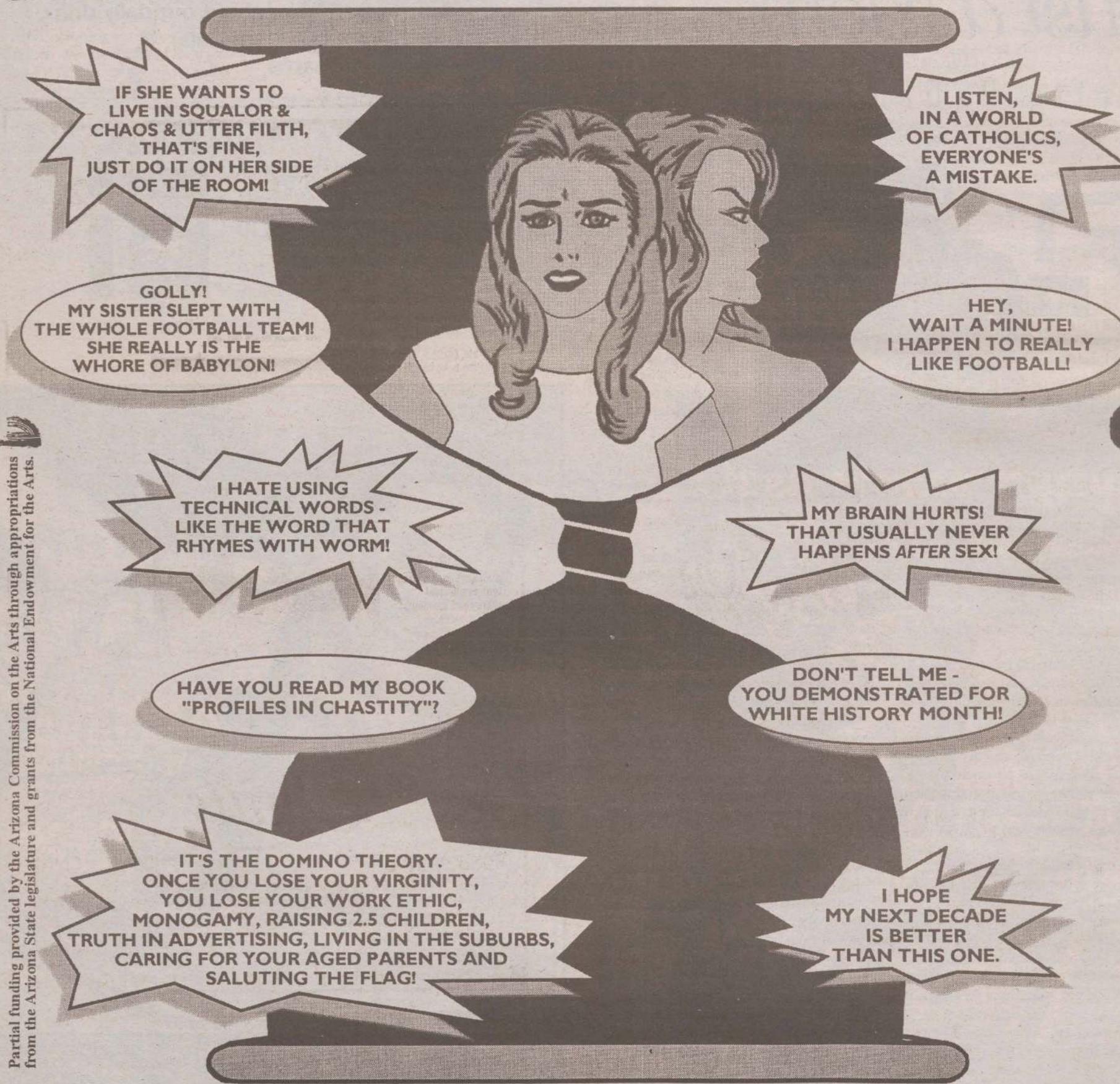


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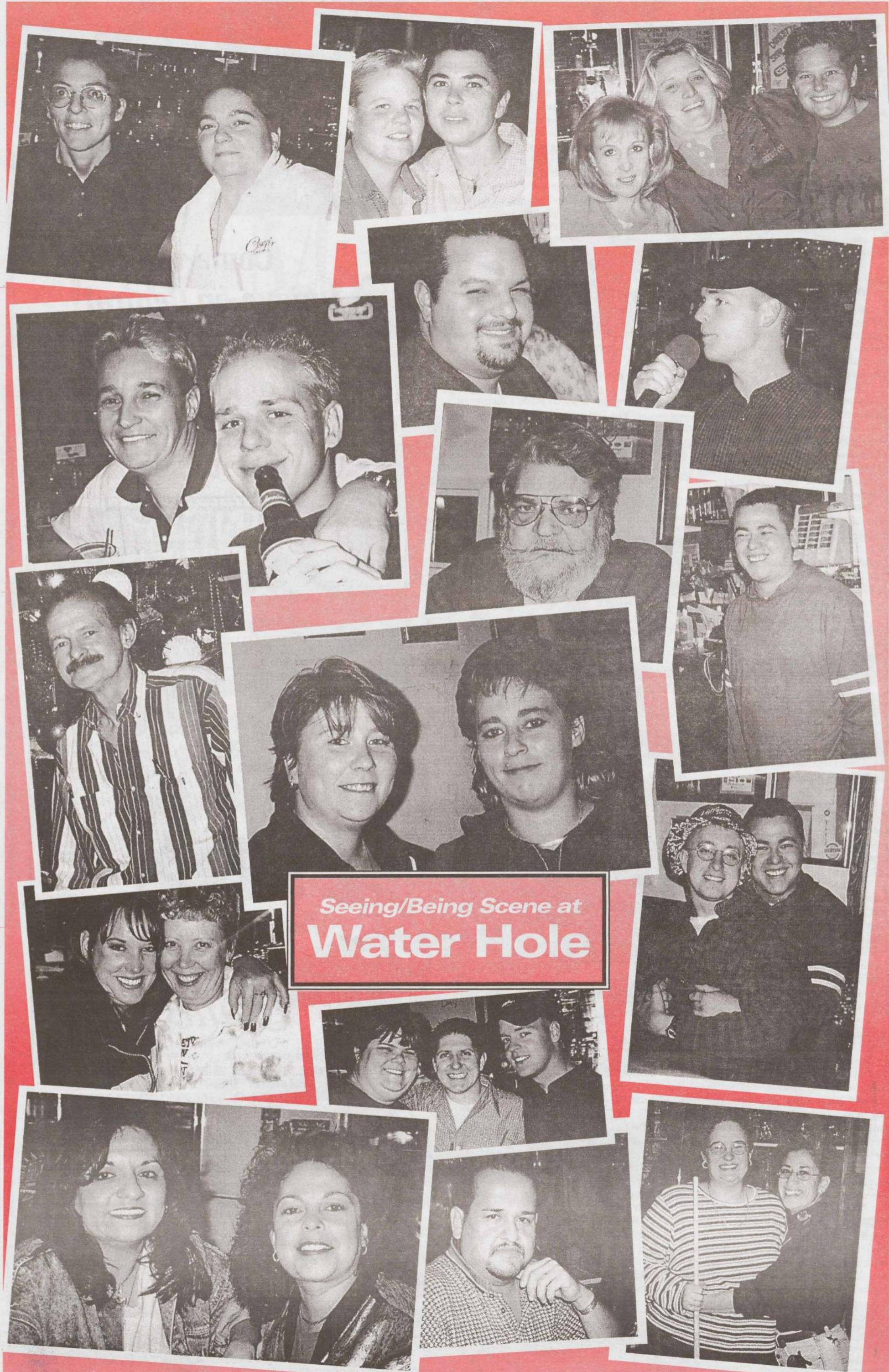


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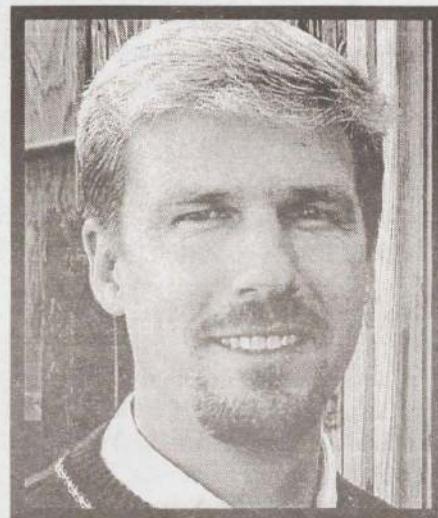
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Sandy Duncan's career has spanned many entertainment genres, including three Tony nominations for the musicals *Canterbury Tales*, *The Boyfriend* and *Peter Pan*.

Remembered by many for her TV comedy series', *Funny Face*, *The Hogan Family* and the miniseries *Roots*, Duncan recently completed her role in Broadway's *Chicago* as Roxie Hart, the nightclub dancer who kills her lover.

Duncan comes to the Sundome on Dec. 22 to present Arizona with a special evening of show tunes and holiday music. She'll be appearing with her husband, Broadway veteran Don Correia, and award winner Guy Stroman.

As a veteran of the entertainment business, Duncan is glad to see that being gay is no longer an issue in that world. She considers it much more inclusive regardless if you are black, white, gay or whatever. *HeatStroke* had a chance to talk with the star from her home in the Big Apple about her life in theater and her upcoming show here.

HeatStroke: Is this your first visit to Arizona?

Duncan: No. Actually way back in '79 or '78—something like that—I was doing nightclubs, because that's when nightclubs had more room. It was in Scottsdale and there was a hotel there that we performed at. And then we were at the Phoenix Symphony about two years ago.

HS: Where has your show taken you this past year?

SD: Places you never would have thought! We have done most of the major cities, which means I have gotten certainly to states that I have never been to in my life. But then there are all these wonderful little theaters that have been restored, or symphony halls all over.

I ever wanted to do. I was doing a Broadway show at the time. CBS—whoever the big mucky mucks were—happened to be in the audience one night and asked if I would come out and do a television series, of all things.

I got a film out of it, a Disney film. It just happens that way, you never can plan these things. So I went to California and stayed for six years or seven years—never intending to stay that long. I was going to do my work and come back to New York.

Personal things happened that kept me out there. I got married and I got very ill at the time. I had a brain tumor. A lot of stuff happened. Then I came back to New York again to work. Then television work took us back out [to Los Angeles]. My husband and I and our kids were there another six years and we just moved back five years ago again—because this is what I really consider home, New York. I'm not leaving again! They're not going to drag me out to California.

HS: With the many things you have done over the years, television, theater, is there one you are most proud of or consider your best?

SD: No. I think a career is a collective body of work. There are aspects of each thing that you've enjoyed and that you are proud of. No, not one single thing pops into my mind.

HS: Are you as squeaky clean as you are perceived, considering some of the roles you've played, or are you more dimensional than that?

SD: One would hope!

HS: Is there anything in particular that stretched you artistically?

Hey Look, She's singing

*Sandy Duncan on life in the entertainment world
and her upcoming show at the Sundome*

by John Lotardo



Sandy Duncan will be appearing at the Sundome with her husband, Don Correia (right) and Guy Stroman.

Like a little town called Bartlesville, Oklahoma. You go to the middle of nowhere and you think, "what kind of symphony are they going to have?" And they have this amazing group of musicians and it's totally attended by the public because they don't get so much in their area. It's neat! Because you just think, it thrives. Wherever there's a bunch of people getting together, there's going to be music and dance. It's great.

HS: People in major cities assume that Small Town USA doesn't have an arts culture.

SD: Well, I came from a smaller town—it was smaller then—Tyler, Texas. We had everything. In fact, my closest friend when I was a kid—he lives in London—his Dad was the conductor, and we had a full symphony. He's gone on to be a Cellist. But they would take classes from school and go to the Symphony. Mr. [Kirschbaum], who was the conductor, would explain about all the instruments and how it was done and so forth. Then we would have an arts lady that would come around with a different painting each week and talk about the artist. Far more culture than my kids get in New York City at their schools.

HS: Where did you begin your career?

SD: I started lessons and stuff when I was about five in an even smaller town than Tyler, a place called New London, Texas. It was just a little oil-field town with one street, and that was where I started taking dance classes. Then, my first job, when I was 12, was at the big Dallas summer musicals. They did six shows every summer that they would completely cast and produce there. They didn't say, 'send us a national tour,' they created these shows. So I would work there every summer from the time I was 12 until I left for New York when I was 19.

HS: How did your own comedy series, Funny Face come to be?

SD: It was kind of a fluke. I came to New York to be in the theater. That's all

SD: I guess the show I just did here in New York, *Chicago*. It's not so much that it stretched me, it's more that it stretched, when people come to the show, it stretched their minds about their preconceived notions about what a person does. It just happens. A lot of people would come completely unaware. Some people did not know that I danced or sang because they only saw me on television. A lot of people said, "I didn't think you would play this sort of murderess." It was just fun to change perceptions.

HS: You mentioned dancing earlier. As host of the annual Ballroom Competitions, it seems you have a, I apologize for the pun, a ball with it. Is it as exciting as it seems?

SD: Oh, yes! Those dancers are amazing. Having been a dancer my whole life, I love seeing the things that they do with partners. I did a ballroom number at Carnegie Hall about three years ago with one of the lead dancers from New York City Ballet.

There was a big benefit and they had one of the famous ballroom people, Pierre [Allaire] there. It was a little show they did called *Jubilee*. It had an all-star cast and stuff. He choreographed a number for Damian Woetzel and me. I'm telling you, I have never—the kind of training I have, you just sort of muffle you way through everything. Dancers, you do a lift. You just do it. Well, ballroom dancing is so organic and goes with the flow of energy and momentum as supposed to fighting it. So you do these amazing things with far less effort. I don't know how to explain what I mean except it is just a much more natural way to dance. When I go see these dancers and the things that they do there, it just blows my mind! And I am a dancer, so it's really special.



Duncan assures us that the Sundome performance will be a real treat, with a slew of wonderful musical numbers. The show is set for Friday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m. The dome is located at 19403 R.H. Johnson Boulevard in Sun City West. Tickets are \$14 to \$39. For more information or to charge tickets by phone, call the Sundome box office at 623/975-1900 or Ticketmaster at 480/784-4444.

I had not intended to get drawn into the hoopla and fray over the new cable television drama, *Queer as Folk*.

But the stupid response to the show by so many of America's TV critics has me too pissed off to stay out of it.

Now airing Sunday nights on Showtime, *Queer as Folk* is an American adaptation of the highly acclaimed British television series of the same name. Although the American version will consist of 22 episodes while the British original was a mere eight, the two dramas have at their core not only the same characters but also the same themes.

As someone who watches very little television, I had originally opted not to

version beefs up the roles of a lesbian couple vital to the story line. The camera shows a slice of life as seen by these young gay men still in their 20's, with one even younger—a teenager in the throes of rebellious self-discovery and coming out. (In the British version, this character was 15. The Showtime remake bumps his age to 17 to assuage the feared backlash we Puritanical Americans have about the notion of underage kids having sex with adults.)

Given the set of characters the series aims to

Note to TV Critics: Get Over the Sex

By Mubarak

Dahir

view the Showtime remake of *Queer as Folk*. It's not that I am a TV snob—I just don't watch enough of the tube to justify getting cable, much less a premium channel like Showtime. I couldn't imagine subscribing for the sake of a single show.

Furthermore, I had the pleasure of seeing the remarkable British television production. Part of me didn't want to be disappointed by a remake that I was convinced could never live up to the genius of the original. So I opted to keep my video copies of the British version and revisit them whenever I had an itch for *Queer as Folk*.

And then I began reading the remarkably ignorant reviews being spewed in papers all across America.

As a gay journalist, I subscribe to about a zillion online list servs relating to gay and lesbian issues. In addition, my e-mail box is filled with press releases and action notices and hotly voiced opinions from activists working on behalf of everything from AIDS to marriage.

A couple of the lists that fill my e-mail box are news clipping services, which cull stories about gays and lesbians that are published in "mainstream" papers. After the Dec. 3 airing of the first installment of Showtime's version of *Queer as Folk*, my e-mail box was flooded with reviews of this groundbreaking miniseries.

The show revolves around a group of young gay men, although the American

examine, it's not surprising that their TV lives largely revolve around going out to gay bars and getting laid.

Of course, that is just the setting—the mechanics, really—for exploring a lot of the deeper issues that beset these young gay men, such as their fears of aging, the universal desire for sincere love, the temptation of lust, the meaning of friendship, and much more.

But you'd never know that from the reviews that jammed my e-mail and clogged the pages of America's newspapers.

"When they're not having it, they're thinking about it," was the opening line in a review from the *Denver Post*. "When they're not just thinking about it, they're making bad puns about it," was the follow-up line.

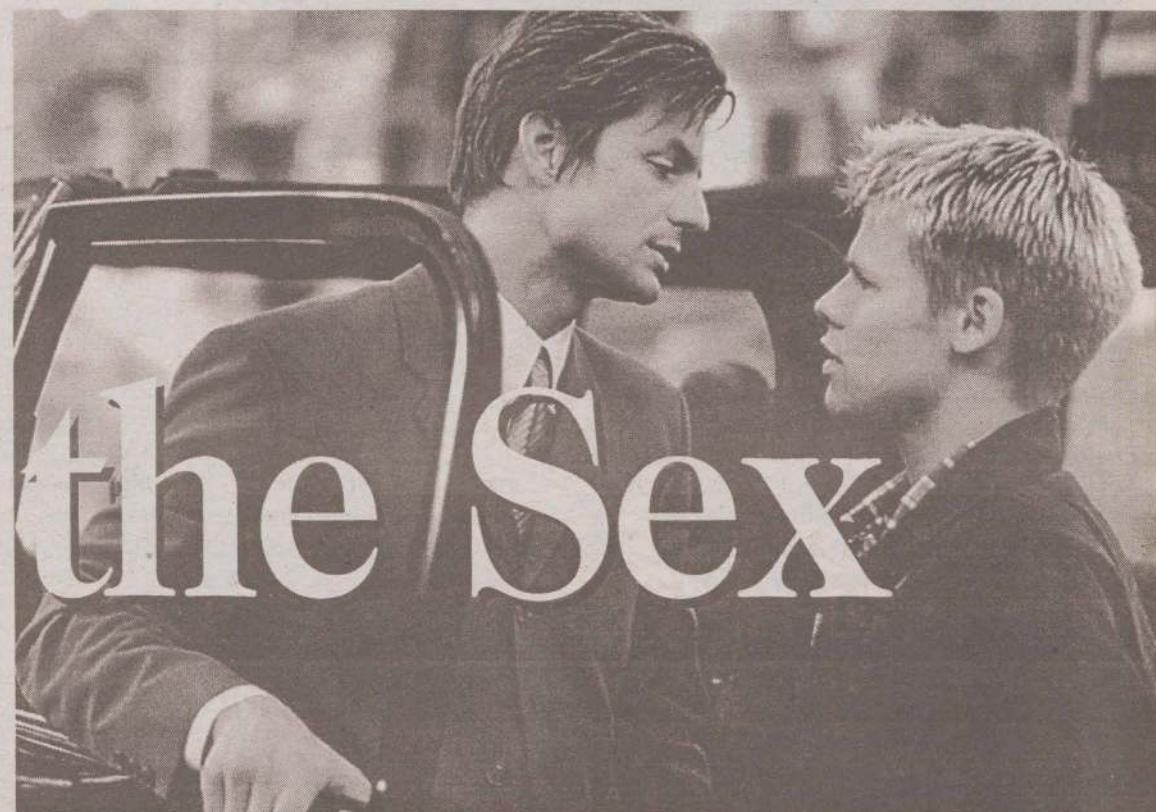
And the *San Diego Union-Tribune* complained that "Queer as Folk" (which could be dubbed *Sex in the Burgh*) has a quartet of cronies who talk to each other about their sex lives before and after the TV audience sees them engaged in sex." The critic went on to describe the show as one that "plays like a sophisticated gay porno film."

Perhaps one of the most stinging (and angering) reviews comes from the *Post-*

Gazette in Pittsburgh, the city where the Americanized version of the show takes place.

The *Post-Gazette* writer—like dozens of other critics I had the displeasure of reading recently—criticizes the series specifically for "hairy legs akimbo in multiple graphic sex scenes between

The critics who are naysaying Showtime's *Queer as Folk* would have us believe there is nothing homophobic in their rants. Indeed, they claim, one after the other in artery-splitting annoyance, they simply expect more "substance" from a groundbreaking show about gay people. Too much sex, they are saying,



Showtime's version of the British hit *Queer as Folk* features actors Gale Harold (left) and Randy Harrison.

men." He goes on to complain about the "random hookups and rampant promiscuous sex. This isn't a series about people in loving, committed relationships."

Duh. It's not supposed to be.

But of course, all straight Americans see of gay and lesbian characters are sanitized versions where sex is not an issue at all, because those characters barely get the chance to talk about sex, much less act on it. Even a mere kiss between members of the same sex is cause for much hand wringing in the rest of America's TV land.

I hate those other gay characters, like Will and Jack on the popular but mind-numbingly vacuous *Gay 101* show, *Will & Grace*. In my opinion, Will and Jack are no better than modern versions of an *Amos n' Andy*. They are popular with the sitting public because they are trite and pose no threat whatsoever to the dominant straight culture's concept of not who we are as gay people, but of who they can be comfortable with us being.

obscures the rest of the program.

Forget the fact that what *Queer as Folk* portrays rings true to many of us. What is so maddening about this fake search for high art by America's TV critics is that no one makes the same complaints when shows are fraught with straight sex. Indeed, just about everything on TV—up to and including commercials—is an overdose of straight testosterone in search of a bulging bosom and a firm female fanny. What these critics really object to, regardless of their denials, is not frank and frequent portrayals of sex. It's the frank and frequent portrayals of gay sex.

It's not the show that can't seem to get beyond the explicit gay sex scenes. It's the TV critics.

For me, that's enough of a reason to watch. Showtime just won a new subscriber.

HeartStroke

Mubarak Dahir receives email at MubarakDah@aol.com

entertainment

Barenaked buddies at Celebrity Dec. 16

Barenaked Ladies were formed by some nerdy high school pals in Toronto who achieved cult status in Canada by their mid-20s, due to their quirky onstage antics and lyrical pop/rock licks.



The cubby musicians are more popular than ever in the U.S. and were recently the subjects of a feature documentary by fellow Canadian (and former 90210 hotie) Jason Priestly.

Check them out on Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Celebrity Theatre. Show time is 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$29 - \$45.

IMCO's The Mineola Twins continues

Myra and Myrna are twin sisters, and their political and personal differences are the crux of the social comedy



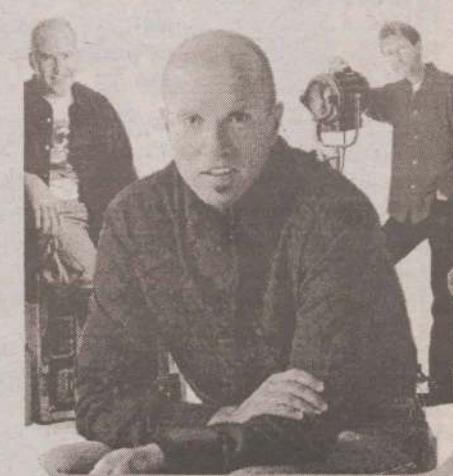
that is Paula Vogel's *The Mineola Twins*. It's the latest offering from In Mixed Company running through Dec. 23 at Phoenix Theatre's Little Theatre.

IMCO Artistic Director Kevin Kerrigan helms the production. Cathy Dresbach handles the dual title role of Myra/Myrna.

Those familiar with the openly lesbian Vogel's work will find *Mineola Twins* more over-the-top and light hearted than her Pulitzer-winning *How I Learned To Drive* or her touching family study, *The Baltimore Waltz*. The social satire is as sharp, but the pace is more frenetic and the comic characters and situations are painted with a broader brush.

The Mineola Twins also stars Razel Wolf, T.J. Bigbee, Jessica Hunt and Edis Donaghue-Chavez. Phoenix Theatre's Little Theatre is located at 100 E. McDowell in Phoenix. Tickets are \$18. Show time is 8:00 p.m. Call 602/254-2151 to order.

Sawyer Brown in town Dec. 22



Nearly two decades of solid country hits have proven one-time *Star Search* winners Sawyer Brown to be more than a flash in the Nashville pan. The seasoned quintet will headline at KMLE's Christmas show on Friday, Dec. 22 at the Celebrity Theatre in Phoenix.

Tickets to the 8:00 p.m. show are \$18.50 - \$75 and proceeds benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Call 602/267-1600.



Celebrate with a festive fiesta at the Orpheum

"Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Campo" will present *Fiesta Navidad*, bringing Hispanic Christmas tradition and history to the Orpheum stage in downtown Phoenix on Dec. 16 & 17.

In existence for more than 30 years, Mariachi Los Camperos is considered to be among the world's finest mariachi ensembles. The *Fiesta Navidad* program features voices, dances and instruments celebrating true Hispanic holiday traditions sure to be appreciated by Latinos and non-Latinos of all ages.

The show on Saturday, Dec. 16 is at 7:00 p.m. and the Sunday, Dec. 17 show is a 2:00 p.m. matinee. Tickets are \$28 and \$36, available through Tickets.com or by calling the Civic Plaza Box Office at 602/262-7272.

Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"My father said it on numerous occasions. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. If we exclude and discriminate against any group of people it affects us all. And it's really that simple. The civil rights movement that I believe in thrives on unity and inclusion ... and so, absolutely, the gay rights movement fits very much into the concept and reflection of what the dream is."

—Yolanda King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., to the Michigan gay newspaper *Between The Lines*, Nov. 2.

"There's too much advertising in the world and too little time. Putting lesbian imagery in a mainstream publication is one way to break through and get noticed. It's also true that many straight men have a minor preoccupation with lesbians—that's hardly a new idea."

—Advertising Age Deputy Editor Bradley Johnson to the *Chicago Tribune*, Nov. 16, in reference to recent ads by Dior, Dolce & Gabbana, John Hancock and Subaru.

"Throughout the half-hour, the characters [on *Will & Grace*] show a selfishness and self-absorption that makes one wonder what keeps them friends. Even the supposedly coldblooded creatures of *Seinfeld* had more human warmth than this icy quartet."

—Washington Post TV reviewer Tom Shales, Nov. 16.

"The big sweeps stunt on tonight's [*Will & Grace*] is that after about 20 minutes of Jack carting the Cher doll around as if it were a real person, Cher herself actually shows up. Jack insists that Cher isn't Cher and is instead a drag queen doing a bad impression. Indeed, Cher does look more like Vampira the horror movie hostess than herself."

—Washington Post TV reviewer Tom Shales, Nov. 16.

"Once upon a time, the *Advocate* and *Out* competed to break relevant news to gay America. With every issue since the two publications came under the same publishing company, their distinctions have blurred. This week, both feature the same subject, Showtime's new *Queer As Folk* series, on their covers."

—Editorial in Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, Nov. 15.

"The services reported that the revised policy on homosexuality had no discernible impact, either positive or negative, on recruitment. There is widespread acceptance of the new policy. It has not been an issue of great debate. In fact, there has been a marked lack of reaction. Generally there has been a mature, pragmatic approach which allowed the policy to succeed. The change in policy has been hailed as a solid achievement."

—From a confidential British military report obtained Nov. 19 by the London newspaper *The Observer*. Britain's ban on gays in the military was struck down by the European Court of Human Rights in late 1999.

"When Showtime acquired the rights to remake the show, many people in Hollywood predicted the cable network would neuter it. In fact, other than adding two years to the kid's age—he was 15 in Britain—the American *Queer As Folk* takes

more risks than the British version: more sex, more graphic language. It's also richer. Showtime has spent more than \$1 million per episode."

—MSNBC review, Nov. 19.

"Soon as they say cut, you spit. You want to go to a strip bar or touch the makeup girls. You feel dirty. It's a tough job."

—Heterosexual actor Chris Potter who plays gay Dr. David (and had to kiss other men) on Showtime's *Queer As Folk*, to MSNBC, Nov. 19.

"[Showtime's *Queer As Folk*] shatters an unwritten rule in television against explicit depictions of sexual behavior between men, including kissing, fondling, anal sex and oral sex, much as HBO's *Sex and the City* depicts men and women engaged in various sexual acts. But if *Sex and the City* has more talk than sex, *Queer as Folk* has more sex than talk."

—The New York Times, Nov. 20.

"I'm sure you want the latest on Steven Bosacker, the chief of staff to Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura who was charged with a misdemeanor for some shenanigans at a health club. On Nov. 13, Bosacker pled guilty to indecent conduct, paid \$300, and took a leave of absence from his job. The governor remained steadfastly supportive of his gay aide, telling the press repeatedly that Bosacker is an invaluable staff member and a good man. Bosacker came on to an undercover cop, raising the issue of whether gay men in public positions should have to turn their backs on their sexuality, forgo cruising and generally act like monks. On the one hand, it's moralistic and unfair. On the other hand, all public figures are obliged to exercise discretion in their private lives or pay the price. I think the answer is to put the moves on someone other than an undercover cop, if possible."

—San Francisco Bay Times newswriter Ann Rostow in the Nov. 23 paper.

"We [heterosexuals] can do it [have sex in public], and people just shake their fingers at us and tell us we're spirited. Is there any of us talking here that hasn't gone out and had sex in a place they're not supposed to? I know in my alpha-male world, and I get in situations like that [where gays proposition me], I don't call the police. This is just me personally. I would just laugh it off if I'm propositioned and I'm not gay, if I'm a hetero."

—Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura to

KFAN radio Nov. 22 after his chief of staff, Steve Bosacker, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for allegedly propositioning a male police officer while nude in a steam room.

"Because you're usually not really attracted to anybody you're working with, for the most part, kissing a girl is a lot better for a job. They definitely have better breath. They kiss like you want to be kissed. ... The guys always get fucked up and they want to stick their tongues down your throat! ... You know, I actually

"Queer as Folk has dildos (lots of them), intergenerational sex (lots of it), bathroom sex (twice in the first six episodes, once while an unsuspecting mother waits outside), Internet hookups (featuring a man named Mr. Goodfuk), experimenting high school jocks, recreational drugs and threesomes. And that's just the first six hours."

—San Francisco Chronicle, Nov. 26.

"I've never been ashamed of living with a woman. I've never hidden it. I've never been ashamed of being with a man, except I've only had one serious relationship with a man, and that's not in the present. I don't have a traditional viewpoint. And there's no way that I could get up and say I'm a lesbian. I've never felt like a lesbian. I've never lived like a lesbian. But I have no problem getting up and saying I live with a woman, I'm passionately, madly in love. Committed."

—Singer Sophie B. Hawkins to *Girlfriends* magazine, October issue.

"There are lots of things that gay people are supposed to share. Taste, style, wit. A love of art, dancing and strong but tragic women. We speak of gay camp, gay sensibilities and gay aesthetics. For some gay people, these are qualities which have screamed from within them since birth. For others ... such qualities simply don't resonate."

—David Walberg, publisher of Toronto's *Xtra*, in a November editorial.

"I don't really date people the way most people do. I'm a very private person, I have to get to know somebody

before we hit the sheets. The person that I am, the person that date would have to get to know, is not a drag queen. Not my stage persona."

—RuPaul to Seattle Gay News, Nov. 3.

"Meanwhile, over in Vermont, even the race for dog catcher is a referendum on same-sex marriage. You've no doubt been reading about the move to 'Take Back Vermont,' as if the whole place had just been assimilated by the Borg. Every legislator and every candidate is being judged on the basis of their stand on civil unions."

—San Francisco Bay Times newswriter Ann Rostow in the Nov. 9 paper.

"I'm sure you want the latest on Steven Bosacker, the chief of staff to Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura who was charged with a misdemeanor for some shenanigans at a health club. On Nov. 13, Bosacker pled guilty to indecent conduct, paid \$300, and took a leave of absence from his job. The governor remained steadfastly supportive of his gay aide, telling the press repeatedly that Bosacker is an invaluable staff member and a good man. Bosacker came on to an undercover cop, raising the issue of whether gay men in public positions should have to turn their backs on their sexuality, forgo cruising and generally act like monks. On the one hand, it's moralistic and unfair. On the other hand, all public figures are obliged to exercise discretion in their private lives or pay the price. I think the answer is to put the moves on someone other than an undercover cop, if possible."

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think it is kind of cool to have kissed so many girls. ... My poor husband — he probably thinks it's weird, but, oh well."

—Actress Mariel Hemingway to *Curve* magazine, December issue.

"Lots of straight men used to indulge in homosexual sex if they couldn't get their hands on women. Once upon a time, getting a blowjob from another guy didn't mean a guy was gay, only that he was desperate; only guys giving blowjobs were gay. Then the gay liberation movement came along and ruined everything. By insisting that it made no difference who was giving and who was getting—both guys were gay—gay libbers scared off the straight boys. These days, only straight men trapped in an all-male environment with no hope of escape (prisons, pirate ships, Vatican City) indulge in situational homosexuality. And it's a crying shame."

—Syndicated sex-advice columnist Dan Savage in Seattle's *The Stranger*, Nov. 16.

"It's OK for you to say anything you want. I just don't want to label myself, because I have never gotten my act together. It's just not accurate for me to label myself. I don't care what other people say; other people have said terrible things. You know Frank Sinatra called me a big dyke from the stage of Carnegie Hall?"

—Gossip columnist Liz Smith to the *Advocate*, Dec. 5.

"Let me tell you something about my period of being outed by Michelangelo Signorile [in his Gossip Watch column in *OutWeek* magazine in 1989 and 1990]. He said he had all of this so-called information on my life, and he would write whole columns where he said, 'Fuck you, Liz.' And he carried on for about a year. And honestly, what do you get if you out somebody who's extremely confused and maybe they haven't made up their mind yet? I mean, I wasn't going to just throw my private life into the public arena because somebody said I should. I was still—and still am—living a very diverse kind of life. I didn't feel I had to do what he said."

—Gossip columnist Liz Smith to the *Advocate*, Dec. 5.

"Gore, a humorless policy wonk who alternates between condescension and sanctimony, desperately needs political office so he can impose his policy visions on a grateful nation. Without that power, life loses its luster for him. Bush, an amiable, glad-handing goofball, who alternates between uninformed and merely inarticulate, just wants to get along. He has little interest in policy or analysis. His slogan in lieu of a platform, 'I'm a uniter, not a divider,' means roughly, 'I don't hold any particular views that are important to me, so I can mediate among the competing interests around me.'"

—Syndicated gay-press columnist Paul Varnell, Nov. 27.

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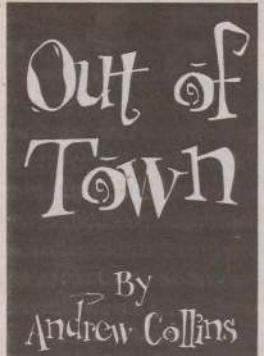
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Nashville, Tennessee

Nashville, like virtually every other mid-size Southern city, considers itself to be the buckle of the Bible Belt, and despite this (or perhaps because of it), it boasts a close-knit and defiant, though small, queer community.

There's no gay ghetto, and rainbow flags and other visible pride symbols are quite rare, but the city is overall very tolerant. The presence of 16 universities accounts partially for this general acceptance of sexual, as well as religious and ethnic, diversity.

What might surprise you is that Nashville's music legacy has contributed just as much, in certain respects, to gay tolerance. Although the genre has never made strong overtures to gay audiences, Nashville's country music scene has long attracted gay dancers, chorus singers, stagehands, and behind-the-scenes staff. AIDS ravaged the industry, and a number of its stars—most notably Garth Brooks and Kathy Mattea—responded with fund raising, as well as consciousness raising.

Downtown Nashville is set around the magnificent Greek Revival capitol building, which is perched atop the highest hill in Nashville. Nearby is the Tennessee State Museum, which traces the state's history, and the beaux arts-style Hermitage Suite Hotel, which is where, in 1920, suffragists and anti-suffragists from around the country encamped while debating the ratification of the 19th Amendment (giving women the right to vote).

A block over, 5th Avenue was the site of numerous civil rights demonstrations throughout the '60s, the success of which inspired like movements across the South. A few blocks east is Nashville's old Market Street, now called 2nd Avenue, where a long row of redbrick Victorian warehouses was rescued from neglect in the 1980s and converted into restaurants and shops.

A downtown highlight is Ryman Auditorium, within whose walls country music transformed Nashville into Music City, USA. The ornate Ryman was built in 1892 as a site for religious revivals and landed the legendary Grand Ole Opry in 1943, where it would remain until 1974 (when it moved to its current locale, Opryland's 4,400-seat Grand Ole Opry House). After an extensive refurbishment in 1994, it has again emerged as a favorite concert venue.

East of the city, the 120-acre theme

park Opryland is Nashville's most popular attraction, a complete amusement park and country music entertainment compound twice the size of Disneyland and nearly as popular.

Be sure also to visit the adjacent grounds of the 2,800-room Opryland Hotel, which surrounds a series of glass-enclosed courtyards abundant with lush greenery, waterfalls, carp-filled ponds, fern-decked paths, fountains, and hundreds of camera-toting guests milling

Restaurant and Bar for after-work drinks and extremely good pub-style food. In trendy Hillsboro, dine on cutting-edge contemporary American fare at The Trace, an airy glass-walled space near the Belcourt Theater. Not far away, Zola affords patrons a nice sampling of inventive Southern-inspired fare, such as pork loin marinated in red wine and balsamic vinegar with bourbon gravy and a beet barbecue sauce.

Bongo Java, a lively homo-popular

tively varied and popular gay nightlife. The 40,000-square-foot Connection is the largest gay disco in America, with five beautifully decorated bars, two dance floors (one with house music, the other with country), a restaurant, a showroom with well-known female impersonators.

Drawing a less intense and more local crowd, the Chute Complex is another large compound, with a dance floor, patio, sports bar, cabaret, and restaurant. Illusions/Tools lies out by the airport and



by Andrew Collins

The conservative capital of both country-western music and Tennessee politics offers a surprising array of gay-friendly diversions, from hip coffeehouses to alternative bookstores to the largest exclusively gay nightclub in the United States.

around in leisure suits. It's a huge hot-house of traditional American values.

Another fun trip can be made out into the city's ritzy Belle Meade neighborhood, where many music celebrities and politicians reside. There are a couple of mansion-museums in this area, including the Greek Revival Belle Meade Plantation, once the site of a 5,300-acre thoroughbred breeding farm, and Cheekwood, a 1925 Georgian-style house on whose grounds you'll find the Tennessee Botanical Gardens & Museum.

Nashville has one of the South's best culinary reputations. The Mad Platter is the city's most esteemed gay-identified restaurant, presenting such bold New South creations as grilled molasses-and-black-pepper-marinated duck breast.

Part of a strip of trendy collegiate hangouts off funky West End Avenue, the Bound'ry serves an exotic array of tapas, such as curried-lobster flapjacks, as well as entrees like paella and vegetarian burritos.

A trendy mix of men and women, mostly gay, head to World's End

coffeehouse, earned international infamy for mass-producing the "nun bun," a cinnamon roll with an amazing resemblance to Mother Theresa—the Vatican was not amused. Equally eccentric is Radio Cafe, a quirky hole-in-the-wall fashioned out of an old pharmacy, where you'll find filling home-style breakfasts and lunches, designer coffees, antiques, pride items, and a first-rate line-up of live music many evenings.

You'll usually find an offbeat mix of family and friends of family nibbling on casual American fare—sandwiches, ice cream, baked goods, and coffees—on the spacious front porch of Cafe Coco, which is open 24 hours.

A faded elegance and distinct Southern charm extends throughout the Towne House, an affordable lunch-only tearoom attached to the gay-frequented Savage House Inn B&B and Gas Lite piano bar and cabaret—the latter exudes offbeat charm with ornate chandeliers, gilt-frame mirrors, and overstuffed armchairs.

For a small city, Nashville has a rela-

is popular for strippers and drag pageants. Locals' hangouts include the Jungle and TC's Triangle.

Lesbians have a presence at both the Chute and the Connection, but they also claim a couple bars of their own. Chez Collette is a raucous lounge with bras hanging from the chandeliers and photos of both celebs and bar regulars lining the walls. And Kit-Cat Bar draws a mostly female crowd with its sassy bartenders, abundant drink specials, and friendly attitude.



Andrew Collins authored *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*, the Connecticut Handbook, and six regional gay guides for Fodor's. He can be reached in care of HeatStroke or at GayFodors@aol.com.



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...A Place to Experience



Slings & Arrows

Local gossip you don't need to read

By Addison DeWitt, Contributor

Have yourself a merry little Christmas—see if I care. On December 26 you'll be left with a pile of tattered wrappings, shabby bows and more ugly, ribbed-cotton turtleneck sweaters from **Old Navy** than you can shake a stick at.

Still, if you search through the tinsel and tarnished Judy garland, you'll find niblets of news amongst the lumps of coal I'm shoveling. And it's all for you. But remember, luvvies, today's news is tomorrow's bird cage liner.

Scouting around town recently, we found the yummy hardbody fun boy **Lawrence LaMott** bending his elbow at **Harley's Club 155**. The place to go if you want some of the best in dance music and loads of delicious dishes gettin' jiggy wid' it. And who could've missed that absolutely *divoon* brunette, **Scott Butts**? Especially since his derriere honors his surname so appropriately. Believe you me, I was deliri-

It's amazing how a little lipstick and a powder puff can turn anyone into another Garbo in the rough. Each of our favorite gin slingers was a confection of youth, beauty, joy and happiness.

ous with excitement.

Or maybe it was because of the 246 intoxicating Jell-O shots that Harley's sold me. Then again, maybe it was due to the shyly attractive **Heston**, who serves up your favorite poison in **The Cell**. It was fun by any stretch of the imagination, and I have an extremely active one, as you well know.

After Harley's, whilst perambulating about **Charlie's**, I took in a veritable whirlwind of excitement as per usual. Perhaps the most fab couple in town, **Mark Gaston** and the light of his life (and the fire of his loins), **Earl Van Vossen**, were making the rounds. Many is the time we've wished we were the creamy center of a **Baldwin Brothers** sandwich right between them.

Boy-barrister-on-the-go **Mark Gove** was also in attendance, looking dashing and debonair as many an eye followed his every move. I don't mind admitting that I was having more fun than a Shanghai whore during shore leave.

Wink's just presented their perennial favorite holiday program: the Turnabout Show. This event puts the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Pageant to shame. It's amazing how a little lipstick and a powder puff can turn anyone into another Garbo-in-the-rough. Each of our favorite gin slingers was a confection of youth, beauty, joy and happiness.

John "Ivanna Ketel" absolutely stunned the crowd with his steamy **Annie Lennox** number. It was so successful that he kept his carefully peroxided tresses for the Holiday Season. And it was a double process, no less! **Rick Johns** as "Frangelica Houston" has bone structure upon bone structure. Alas, when I was his age I didn't

have no bone structure.

We do have one not-so-teensy question: how did manager **Peter Groskopf** —a.k.a. Poinsettia—keep his legendary manhood, those fabled jewels of story and song, so well trussed inside his pantyhose? Word has it that every **Walgreen's** within a five-mile radius sold out of Ace bandages in order to keep that trouser trout tucked.

But all for a good cause. And best of all: at Wink's you can Adopt-an-Angel thanks to the **Salvation Army**'s dedication. They warm the cockles of my little Scrooge-y heart. Pluck an Angel tag off the wall and share the wealth. But keep it tasteful—most little tots have unfortunately not yet acquired a taste for 2(x)ist underwear. The operative word being "yet."

It's official: I hereby decree that Wink's has the non plus ultra in Holiday decoration. (That's French for "best," dear hearts.)

Speaking of "bests"—best Employee Holiday Party comes courtesy of the gracious owners of **Roscoe's on 7th**. No, it's not a rubber-chicken banquet in some south-of-Thomas Holiday Inn. It's *Viva Las Vegas* for 14 lucky employees. They're off to the fancy-schmancy **Belaggio**, no less. Now that's what I call generous! With luck, I'll get a postcard from the **Liberace Museum** from the boys. I imagine Roscoe's can now look forward to a plethora of job applicants.

It appears we have a budding playwright among us. Theater maven and philanthropist/lawyer **Bill Sheppard** presented a reading of a gem of his one-act, called *Afternoon Delight*, at gal pals **Mollie Trivers** and **Shelley Cohn's** **Al Beadle**-designed pied-a-terre. The audience loved it. We think that it's bound to be boffo on Broadway someday soon—mark my words.

Former King of Safer Sex and Valley entertainer **Jeff Edwards** recently hit a streak of bad luck. Seems he found out the hard way that his boyfriend had a little cottage industry on the side working the world's oldest profession. A friend of Jeff's tipped him off to loverboy's extracurricular activities by pointing his browser to the webpage advertising his services. Yikes! But we're happy to report that Jeff has shed that stained baggage and is destined to start college next term. Good for Jeff! And good riddance to bad rubbish!

That's it for this time, curious ones. I'm off to guzzle more eggnog and attend a ball-busting performance of *The Nutcracker*—which I hoped was going to be a scantily clad, all-male revue at **The Hideout**. No such luck—much to my chagrin, it's legit. Oh well. Hope springs eternal.

'Til next time, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Ramadan, Good Kwanzaa and so on and so forth. With love, I'll remain your favorite fruitcake. And I know how much everybody loves fruitcake.



To harangue or compliment Addison DeWitt directly, send an e-mail to RumorHound@aol.com. Or write him in care of HeatStroke at the P.O. address on page 3.

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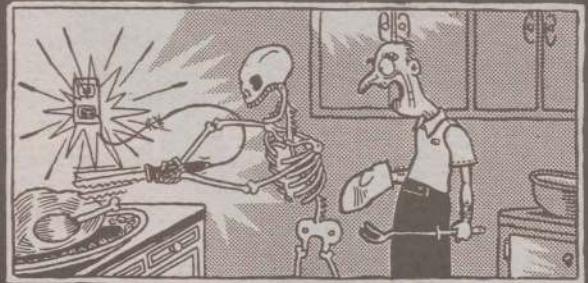
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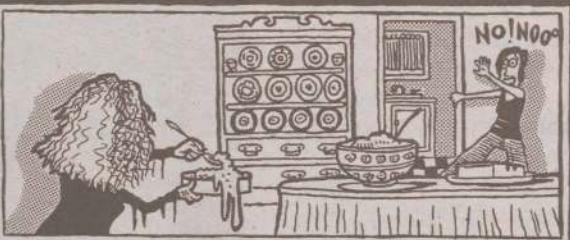
Get confused by funny family anecdote that isn't funny.



Get arm caught in insipid guest room trundle bed.



Be compelled to take 2nd helping of hideous holiday compote courtesy of witchy aunt.



Thank God it's over. Plan revenge.



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

SPUN

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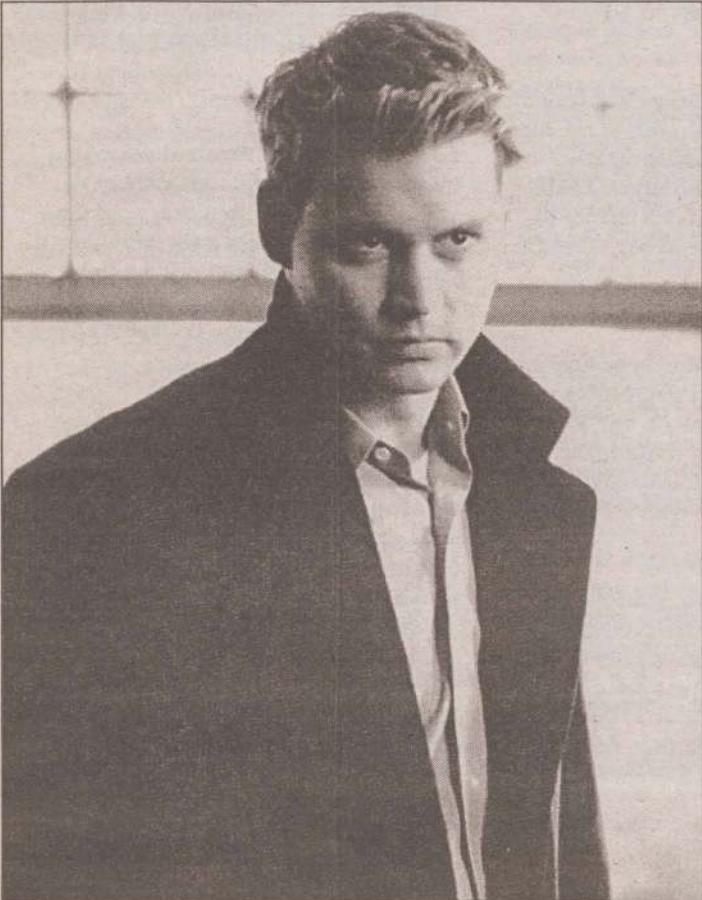
CHELSEA BOYS.COM

Deep Inside Hollywood

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

DEPP IS THE OBJECT OF LAW'S OBSESSION

Ed Wood star Johnny Depp has signed on to join the cast of the film *Marlowe*, playing Elizabethan playwright (and Shakespeare's colleague) Christopher Marlowe in the \$22 million British film, which is set to roll before cameras next year.



Johnny Depp is set to play Christopher Marlowe—the 16th-century playwright and contemporary of William Shakespeare.

Depp will portray the 16th century scribe, whose jealous male admirer (to be played by *The Talented Mr. Ripley* hunk Jude Law) ultimately hands Marlowe's unpublished work to his rival, William Shakespeare. Some theories suggest that Shakespeare unfairly took credit for Marlowe's work.

JODIE BOUND FOR BOOB TUBE?

First Geena and now Jodie Foster?

The latest Tinseltown gossip has the two-time Oscar-winning actress hard at work developing a television series about a "regular girl." Details are sketchy at this point, but the program's heroine is rumored to be a 14-year-old girl.

It's not clear yet if Foster will play a role in the project or just be involved as a producer, but let's hope the single momma is talking to folks at CBS, where Bette Midler's primetime slot is probably destined to become available in the not-

so-distant future.

HEDWIG HITS THE SLOPES

Queer snowbunnies planning on attending the Sundance Film Festival this coming January will be among the first to see the feature-film adaptation of John Cameron Mitchell's musical about a German transsexual, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

The film will play in competition during the indie film fest in Park City, Utah. I'm sure the Mormons are gonna love that one.

Lesbian indie-film queen Christine Vachon produced the movie. Also making its debut is the Vachon-produced movie industry comedy, *Women in Film*, starring overrated *Ally McBeal* actress Portia de Rossi and Beverly D'Angelo.

Also making the Sundance cut are Bob Gosse's lesbian-themed *Julie Johnson*, starring Courtney Love and Sundance regular Lili Taylor, and first-time director Peter Care's *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*, starring Jodie Foster (who also served as the film's producer) as a

one-legged nun.

COLLECTING RENT?

While the feature-film adaptation of *Rent*, Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer- and Tony-winning musical modernization of *La Boheme*, is no closer to getting made than it was a year ago, two producers of the Broadway sensation are looking for new business opportunities... including moonlighting as landlords.

Kevin McCullom and Jeffrey Seller are planning on investing some of the big bucks they've made on the hit musical into an off-Broadway performing arts center in mid-town Manhattan. The proposed \$15 million project will include an eight-story building, which will include two theaters (with more than 400 seats)—enough to make off-Broadway productions financially viable, as well as rehearsal space, dance studios, office space, and condos.

McCullom and Seller are rumored to be investing \$7.5 million in the project. *Rent* fans will be pleased to hear that no homeless artists will be displaced by the project.

PARKER AND STONE CAN'T PUT FAMILY FIRST

South Park creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker were forced to take an unwanted holiday vacation due to the delay in the results of the presidential election.

Their new political satire, *Family First*, whose main character is the newly elected president of the United States, was scheduled to debut on Comedy Central in February. But now we'll have to wait longer—at least until March, but maybe even later because of the casting problems the delay presented.

KILLER QUEENS LOOKING FOX-Y

The comedy-writing duo of Dan Studney and Kevin Murphy, best known as the tunemasters behind the recent Hollywood stage-musical mounting of the pot-centric camp classic, *Reefer Madness*, are heading to prime time.

Murphy and Studney have set up two television projects, one at Fox and one at ABC, which could make show queens very happy. The Fox project, currently being called *Killer Queens*, is a fish-out-of-water comedy about three New York drag queens who move to rural Iowa to run a karaoke bar. Each episode will include a big dance production number and a pop song worked into the fabric of the show.

Studney and Murphy are also hard at work on a New York production of *Reefer Madness*, as well as an ABC project about

a young woman who leaves medical school to pursue her dream of making it as a Broadway composer and lyricist. The main character will see the world in exaggerated musical fantasy sequences... a gimmick sure to generate more water cooler talk than *Ally McBeal*'s dancing baby.

No word yet on when we can expect either project to hit the airwaves.

THE BEAUTY OF TELEVISION

Queer Oscar-winning *American Beauty* producers Dan Jinks and Bruce Cohen are moving to New York... sort of.

The dynamic duo have teamed up with racy New York playwright Nikki Silver (of the gay-themed play, *The Food Chain*) to develop a sitcom for Fox. *The Plimptons* will center on a "delightfully neurotic" family living in New York's Upper West Side.

Rumor has it Silver has already delivered a first draft of the project, which sounds like a godsend, as television really hasn't recovered from the loss of *Seinfeld*.

SONY BAGS MINKOFF

Rob Minkoff, one of the directors of *The Lion King* and *Stuart Little* has signed a three year production deal with Sony, including a hefty seven-figure agreement for Minkoff to direct *Stuart Little II* which is expected to have a whopping \$100 million budget.

Also included in the deal is Minkoff's producing partner Jason Clark, who executive produced the gay-themed *Happy Texas*.

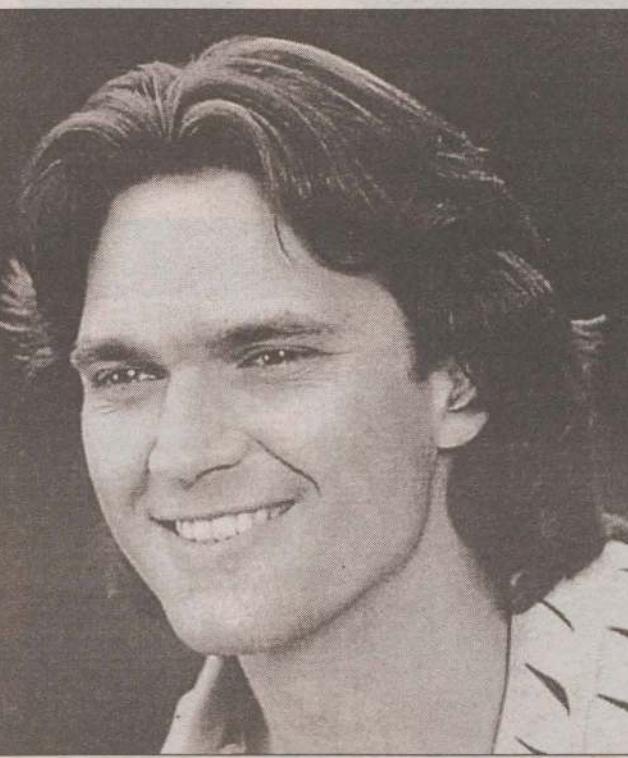


Romeo San Vicente is asking Santa for a Jude Law look-a-like this Christmas. You can reach Romeo in care of HeatStroke or via email at RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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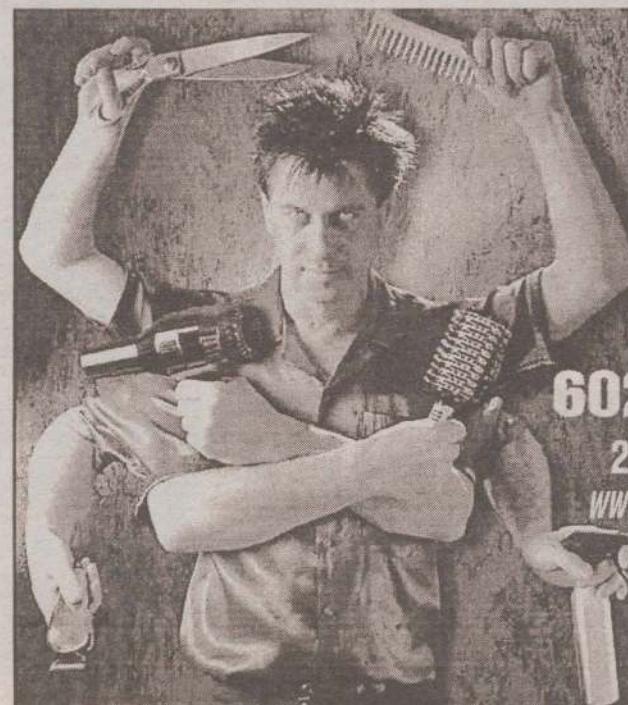
Dougray Scott has been cast in *Ripley's Game*, the sequel to last year's *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

MALKOVICH GAME FOR RIPLEY

Overpriced twenty-something Matt Damon may not be back for the second big-screen installment of Patricia Highsmith's homoerotic *Ripley* series, but that doesn't mean it's not getting made.

John Malkovich and *Ever After* hunk Dougray Scott have signed on for roles in Fine Line Features' \$12 million thriller sequel, *Ripley's Game*, which is set to roll before cameras in Europe. Italian director Liliana Cavani will direct the film, which takes place years after *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

Tom Ripley is now a wealthy, married criminal living on the outskirts of Paris, and finds himself in need of a henchman to take out some of his competition. He ultimately settles on an English picture framer who is stricken with leukemia and is desperately in need of money for the family he will soon leave behind.



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Naked Curiosity

By Dennis Scott-Bush

'Tis the Season

In July, it sounded like a good idea. Holiday plans made in the heat of summer often do.

My mother asked whether my partner, Martin, and I would host the family for a week of Christmas togetherness. We understood the impetus for her question. With the nearly back-to-back deaths of my father and grandmother earlier in the summer, my mother was not looking forward to celebrating the holiday in the usual place without the usual people.

Of course, we agreed.

My mother phoned my brother, Doug, and his wife to pitch the idea to them. Doug and his family have never visited Martin and me in our home, so this would be a first. Their three kids were gleeful at the prospect of a holiday adventure. They were counting the days.

Martin and I, meanwhile, were counting the number of things that would either have to be taken down or moved while they were here.

Can we be openly gay and still want to put some artwork in the closet?

George, an old boyfriend of mine, always preached that our sexuality is what defines us as gay men and, as a result, his apartment was filled with vivid sexual imagery. There were countless paintings of men engaged in all sorts of sexual activities and larger-than-life sculptures of erect penises.

When his parents came to visit, George made sure his defining treasures were on

prominent display. His guest room featured a series of framed sketches of nude men groping themselves, a shelf full of porn videos and a two-foot-tall, dick-shaped bedside lamp.

Neither of his parents could bring themselves to flip the switch located between the testicles on the lamp's base, so they used flashlights to read in bed. The anal douche kit hanging in the shower gave his mother nightmares. She confided to me that she had visions of it snaking out of the bathroom and creeping up her nightgown while she slept.

Neither bad dreams nor bad lighting kept George's parents from visiting their son. And they never spoke to him about how unnerved they were by his full-volume squeals of delight while we had sex during each night of their stay. The morning after an especially vocal and headboard-banging session, his mother and I sipped our coffee, while George and his father made a deli run. She smiled warmly at me and asked, "Do all gay people think it's necessary to shock their parents?"

Do we?

I broke up with George soon after that, but ran into him from time to time. One weekend, I was having brunch with a few friends when I spotted George, his new boyfriend and George's parents waiting for a table. George and his beau sported knee-high boots, chaps and studded leather jackets. As they walked past my table, his mother whispered, "Are we supposed to believe all his khakis are in the wash?"

Is it possible to have proud gay visibility without flaunting the sex of our sexuality so visibly? Can we cover our ass without covering up who we are?

Martin and I are taking a case-by-case approach to our decorating and un-decorating challenges. Three of the five tasteful nude

photos that Martin took of me will stay where they are. The other two, in which my penis is visible, will spend the holidays out of sight. It was location rather than content that prompted our decision. Those photos hang directly above where my mother will be sleeping while the family visits.

to deliver cookies to our neighbors. Martin believes that inasmuch as we're making adjustments, our guests should do the same. "They can keep Santa out of their house, but he's welcome in ours."

So, our halls are decked and I'm busy trying to steam open the packages with my



name on them.

We're ready for the holidays. We're counting the days.

Christmas with the family. It's a good idea.



Dennis Scott-Bush is a Phoenix-based writer and public relations consultant. His work has appeared in publications throughout the country. He receives e-mail at NakedCuriosity@aol.com

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Dear Cowboy,

My boyfriend and I seem to have less and less in common as time goes on. We have separate friends and activities. We hardly do anything together anymore and we have even stopped having sex. It is like we are living together more as roommates than lovers.

I'm not happy, but I don't want to break up with him now because I foot most of the bills and he is still finishing grad school. I will feel less guilty if I wait a few months until he graduates. But in the meantime, I am not having any fun. I look forward to coming home to an empty house and having time to myself, instead of wanting him to be there. What should I do?

Signed, Together But Lonely

Dear Lonely,

Pull your head out of your horse's heiney and wake up. Feeling guilty about how he'll react to losing your financial backing is no reason to go on subverting your own happiness.

Make a point of doing one thing with him very soon: Talking. Tell your pard where your head is at, concentrating on how you feel about how things are going and being sure not to lay any fault or blame with him. Give him the chance to talk, too. Maybe he feels the same way—if you've stopped having sex and are not talking about it, it's a safe bet he's experiencing some of the same thoughts and worries as you.

It really sounds to me like a breakup is inevitable. Stop prolonging the discomfort

and do what you have to in order to plant a smile back on your face. Good luck.

Dear Cowboy,

What do you do about friends who smoke, who are nice enough not to smoke in your house, BUT whenever they arrive at your house for a visit, they pitch a smoldering cigarette butt into the decorative gravel alongside your driveway as soon as they get out of their car?

I hate to be one of "those" nonsmokers, but I get so frustrated at the common idea that it's perfectly okay to toss butts anywhere—especially in my yard. I'll be hosting a lot over the holidays, and I'd appreciate any tips.

Signed, Too Picky?

Dear Picky,

What do I do? I yell out the front door,

and do what you have to in order to plant a smile back on your face. Good luck.

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"Hey, bonehead! You wanna pick that up and stick it back in your car ashtray where it belongs?" And I smoke on occasion!

But I realize that may be a touch hard, depending on how close you are to these particular acquaintances in the first place. So do the next best thing:

In front of your offending guests, walk right out into the gravel bed and say, "I better get that garbage before it gets rained on or else blows into a neighbor's yard."

Then bend down and pick it up. Say something like, "Whew, these suckers are hard to pick out of the gravel sometimes. Oh, there—I got it. Now C'mon in. Just let me toss this in the

trash and wash my hands first, and then I'll be able to say 'howdy' properly."

If all that doesn't make the clods feel too embarrassed to ever do it again, you can always solve the problem by not inviting them over anymore.

I hate to be one of "those" nonsmokers, but I get so frustrated at the idea that it's perfectly okay to toss butts anywhere—especially in my yard.

←—————
I'll be hosting a lot over the holidays, and I'd appreciate any tips.

Signed, Too Picky?

Dear Picky,

What do I do? I yell out the front door,

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Phoenix 85001 602/225-8444

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

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

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

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

Casa De Cristo
1029 E. Turney
Phoenix 85014 602/265-2831

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Light Presbyterians
P.O. Box 61162
Phoenix 85082 602/275-0506

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

Valley of the Sun Community Church 602/564-7895

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

Political Action & Education

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

Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance
6601 E. Grant Road, Suite 111
Tucson, AZ 85715
520/722-1707x102
azapa@cfsoaz.org

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

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

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

Arizona Stonewall Democrats
Wally Straughn, Chair
602/864-6092

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

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

Social & Support Groups

Alpha Zeta—Crossdressers Supp.
aquahulls@aol.com
PO Box 83927
Phoenix, AZ 85071
480/837-1067

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

Arizona 2-somes 602/923-1666

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

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

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

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



HeatStroke

MARKETPLACE

HeatStroke Advertisers—They Support Our Community!

Accountants

Doug Griffore, CPA 623/334-1101

Attorneys

Kathie J. Gummere 602/952-0293

Chiropractors

Jayson E. Czaplicki, DC 602/307-0900

Counselors

Joseph Amico, M. Div. 602/284-2191

Diane E. D'Angelo, MC, CPC 602/997-8199

Conrad Egge, PhD 602/230-2025

Bob Fornie, PhD 602/230-2025

Jean Parsons, PhD 602/230-2025

Dentists

Dobson-Warner Dentistry 480/917-0181

Florists

Community Florist 602/266-6648

Hair Design

Arcadia Cuts Salon 602/952-2624

Bill Knoop 602/262-2524

Jack A. Komnick 602/254-1493

Graphic Design

Home Services

Colt Heating & Cooling 602/712-1244

Don Williams Builders, Inc. 602/246-8591

Nouveau Interiors 877/535-7699

Rainbow Home Repair 602/440-5637

Pet Services

Most Valuable Pet (Joe) 602/955-3471

Petland (Ed) 480/844-2920

Physicians

Paul Kelley, MD 602/371-3100

Thanes Vanig, MD 480/368-0808

Realtors

Jack Addington 602/228-3145

Rod Whit 602/230-7600

Restaurants

Malee's on Main 480/947-6042

Pita Jungle 480/804-0234 or 480/855-3232

Pookie's 602/277-2121

Scottsdale Culinary Institute 480/990-3773

Spiritual Groups

Casa de Cristo 602/265-2831

Gente Shepherd MCC 602/864-6404

Valley/Sun Comm. Church 602/564-7882

Travel Agents

AAA Arizona Travel 602/274-1116

Viatical Svcs.

Living Settlements, Inc. 602/956-3770

"The Other Woman"



Across

1 Leave a trail behind a boa?
5 Hairy family member
9 Frank place of service
14 Many miles away
15 Wheel turner
16 Halliwell's partner
17 1/3 of a WWII movie title
18 Circumcision, e.g.
19 Causes to stop sucking
20 Partner of an American in Paris
23 Roz or Peter
24 Title for Gielgud or McKellen
25 Letters at a Melissa Etheridge concert, perhaps
28 Camaro model
31 Cross-dressing role for Depp

33 Has no Cukor's _____ Price Hollywood?
37 Pomo _____ Homos
40 Partner of Sylvia Beach
43 Bed support piece
44 R.E.M.'s "It's the End of the World _____ Know It"
45 Joey Lauren of _Chasing Amy_
46 See 69-Across
48 Like an A-List gay
50 Elton John hit of 1992, with "The"
51 The _____ Vegas Bugle
53 Equality _____ Concert
57 One-time partner of a Czech rackets operator

Edibles

A. **Malee's on Main** (page 21)
7131 E. Main Street
Scottsdale 480/947-6042

B. **Pookie's** (page 21)
4540 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/277-2121

Libations

1. Ain't Nobody's Business
3031 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/224-9977

2. **Amsterdam** (page 16)
718 North Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/258-6122

3. **Apollo's** (page 7)
5749 N. 7th Street
Phoenix 602/277-9373

4. **BOOM** (page 36)
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/254-0231

5. **Boot Camp** (page 27)
3702 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/212-9888

6. BS
7125 5th Avenue
Scottsdale 480/945-9028

7. **Bunkhouse** (page 12)
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 602/200-9154

8. **Cash Inn** (page 13)
2140 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/244-9943

9. **Charlie's** (page 11)
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/265-0224

10. **Crowbar**
702 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/258-8343

11. **Cruisin' Central**
1011 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/253-3376

12. **Harley's Club** (page 9)
155 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/274-8505

13. **Harley's Too!**
125 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/274-7117

14. **Incognito**
2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix 602/955-9805

15. **JC's Fun One** (page 27)
5542 N. 43rd Ave.
Glendale 623/939-0528

16. **Johnny Mc's** (page 25)
138 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/266-0875

17. **Marlys'**
15615 Cave Creek
Phoenix 602/867-2463

18. **Millennium 2001**
3300 S. Price Rd.
Tempe 602/756-2445

19. **Misty's**
4301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 602/265-3233

20. **Nasty's Sports Bar**
3108 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/267-8707

21. **NuTowne** (page 2)
5002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 602/267-9959

22. **Paco Paco**
3045 N. 16th St.
Phoenix 602/263-8424

23. **Padlock** (page 38)
998 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/266-5640

24. **The Park**
3002 N. 24th Street
Phoenix 602/957-6055

25. **Pumphouse II** (page 31)
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/275-3509

26. **Roscoe's on 7th** (page 10)
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/285-0833

27. **Waterhole** (page 17)
8830 N. 43rd Ave.
Glendale 623/937-3139

28. **Wink's**
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/265-9002

29. **World**
710 N. Central
Phoenix 602/258-8343

30. **The Adult Shoppe**
111 S. 24th Street
Phoenix 623/245-3008
(other Valley locations)

31. **Book Cellar** (page 38)
4029 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/275-0015
(other Valley locations)

32. **Castle Boutique**
5501 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/231-9837
(other Valley locations)

33. **Obelisk Books**
24 West Camelback
Phoenix 602/266-Book

34. **Paradise Adult Boutique**
130 W. Osborn Rd
Phoenix 602/266-5869

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

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

37. **Unique on Central**
4700 N. Central
Phoenix 602/279-9691

38. **Chute** (page 37)
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/234-1654

39. **Flex** (page 36)
1517 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix 602/271-9011

40. **America West Arena**
201 E. Jefferson
Phoenix 602/379-7800

41. **AZ Hall of Fame Museum**
1101 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/255-2110

42. **AZ Historical Society**
Museum
1300 N. College
Tempe 480/929-0292

43. **AZ Mining & Mineral**
Museum
1502 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/255-3791

44. **AZ Science Center**
600 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/716-2000

45. **ASU Art Museum**
Nelson Fine Arts Center
Mill Ave. & 10th Street
Tempe 480/965-2787

46. **ASU Gammage Center**
Apache & Mill Ave.
Tempe 480/965-3434

47. **Blockbuster Desert Sky**
Pavillion
2121 N. 83rd Ave.
Phoenix 623/254-7499

48. **Celebrity Theater**
440 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix 602/267-9373

49. **Heard Museum**
22 E. Monte Vista
Phoenix 602/252-8848

50. **Herberger Theater**
222 E. Monroe
Phoenix 602/254-7399

51. **Orpheum Theatre**
203 W. Adams
Phoenix 602/262-7272

52. **Phoenix Art Museum**
1624 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/257-1222

53. **Phoenix Central Library**
1221 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/262-4636

54. **Phoenix Civic Plaza**
225 E. Adams St.
Phoenix 602/262-6225

55. **Phoenix Symphony Hall**
225 E. Adams
Phoenix 602/262-6225

56. **Phoenix Museum of History**
105 N. 5th Street
Phoenix 602/253-2734

57. **South Mountain Park**
10919 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/495-0222

58. **Phoenix Theatre**
100 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/254-2151

59. **The Web Theatre**
512 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 602/253-7100

60. **Desert Botanical Garden**
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 480/941-1217

61. **Margaret T. Hance Park**
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 602/534-2406

62. **North Mountain Park & Preserve**
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/262-6696

63. **Papago Park**
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 602/256-3220

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

65. **Pueblo Grande Museum**
4619 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/495-0900

66. **Squaw Peak Park**
2701 E SquawPeak Dr
Phoenix 602/262-6696

67. **South Mountain Park**
10919 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/495-0222

Staples

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Phoenix 602/255-3791

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600 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/716-2000

Tubs

Culture

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

78. **Pueblo Grande Museum**
4619 E. Washington
Phoenix 602/495-0900



HeatStroke

CLASSIFIED ADS

Buy it, Sell it, Give it away, Announce it, Look for it, Find it...

CLASSIFIED AD RATES:

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Individual and non-profit ads are \$10 (plus .5% tax) for up to 30 words; each additional word costs 25¢. Shared housing solicitations are considered individual ads; real estate sales or rentals are subject to business ad prices.

BUSINESS RATES—

Ads placed by businesses are \$15 (plus .5% [.005] tax) for up to 30 words; each additional word costs 50¢.

AD FORMATTING UPGRADES—

Each Classified Ad is printed in 10-point type and includes a bold headline of up to five words. Additional formatting (all caps, all bold, centered headline) is available at \$1 for each format upgrade. 15-point bold headlines are available for \$5.

This is 10-point type. **This is 15-point bold.**

PLACEMENT, DEADLINE & PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

ALL CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE PLACED IN WRITING—

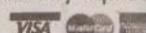
Mail your ads to HeatStroke Classifieds, PO Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ 85067. Fax your ad to 602/294-9695. E-mail your ad to either alkalphx@aol.com or reidhead@idt.net. (Please type "Classified Ad" in the subject line.)

DEADLINES—

Classified ads must be received no later than one week (Thursday) before the next HeatStroke street date. **Next deadline: 12/21**

ALL CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE—

Payment must be provided at the time the ad is placed. Payment may be made by check, money order or by major credit card (Visa, MasterCard or AMEX).



Employment

Bartender Needed—

Pumphouse II is looking for experienced bartenders for varied shifts. Call Chuck @ 602/370-3900.

Bartenders Needed—We're seeking both men & women; apply in person at Waterhole, 8330 North 43rd Ave. Phoenix.

DJ Needed—must know Hip-hop, R & B, and House; Beat Mixing is required. Call 602/266-9703, leave a message.

Always hiring quality people—Pookie's Cafe, 4540 N. 7th St. is now accepting applications for host(s) and line cooks. Must have experience, apply in person.

Bartenders & Waiters needed immediately. High volume experience only (bartenders). Apply in person, Thursdays between 1:30 - 5:00pm, at Amsterdam, 718 N. Central Ave. 602/258-6122.

Advertising Sales Representatives—HeatStroke is seeking motivated self-starters with experience in sales, full or part time. Great opportunity with lots of flexibility for the right people. Send resumé and cover letter to PO Box 33430, Phoenix 85067.

Dancers Wanted. Footwork Dance Project, a professional dance company in Arizona, is looking for male and female dancers. Paid rehearsals, Paid performances, depending upon experience. Interested? For more information and audition schedule contact: John Lotardo (Artistic Director) via Phone or fax 602/249-0285, or mail resume to: P.O. Box 33204 Phoenix, Arizona 85067-3204

Misc. For Sale

Three-Station Workout/Weight Machine by Weider. Excellent condition—can deliver. Includes all assembly instructions. \$250 602-451-1563.

Real Estate Sales

Windsor Square Historic District. 1948 ranch totally renovated from roof to floors, 2,100 sq.ft., 3bd/3ba with attached 2-car garage. Great floor plan, separate master bedroom with extra special master bath. Fabulous neighbors. Best value in Windsor Square at \$269,000. Call 602/230-7475.

Dungeon/Playroom? Got it! Plus: Nice detached 3 br/2 ba house. Up and coming Sunnyslope area. \$119,000. Jack Addington, Dan Schwartz Realty, 602.228.3145.

N. Scottsdale/Troon North—Located in guard-gated Candlewood Estates, this 1995 custom built home features granite counters, flagstone floors, enjoy spectacular views of the golf course, city lights & sunsets from inside on the patio next to your negative edge pool. Just listed for \$690,000. Call The Real Estate Consultants Sam Wercinski 602/228-4497 direct. West USA 480/948-5554.

Coronado Historic District—Circa 1942-\$144,900! 2 bedroom / 1 bath with tons of character & charm! Wood floors, coved ceilings, slate tile, beautiful landscaping. Rod Whitt-HomeSmart-602/230-7600 www.RodWhitt.com

The Story Villas . . . a little Melrose Place! \$250,000 Historic 5-unit building, totally remodeled with character & charm, great rental income, Rod Whitt-HomeSmart- 602/230-7600 www.RodWhitt.com

Glendale/7th Ave-East Coast **Charmer!** Spacious 3bd+den, 2ba with an ALL TILE DIVING POOL! Parquet floors throughout, gas cooktop & fireplace, French doors, 2 car garage with workshop on a large 10,000 sqft lot. Great Central location! Offered for \$220,000. Call The Real Estate Consultants John Walsh 602/319-0692 direct West USA 480-948-5554.

Cactus/32 St—New in 1997, 2100+sqft; 4bd, 3ba; fenced diving pool; large 2G; huge greatroom concept; loads of tile; vaulted ceilings; recessed lighting; guest room w/bath; workshop; truly an incredible home offered for ONLY \$169K; Call The Real Estate Consultants Sam Wercinski 602/228-4497 direct, West USA 480/948-5554.

Greenway/56th St—Pride of Ownership!—Beautiful upgrades; 3bd,2ba split plan, open kitchen to the family room, newer appliances, cabinets w/pull-outs, vaulted ceilings, desert landscaping, built-in spa. Large screened patio, north/south exposure. Pampered by owners! \$205k Just listed! Call The Real Estate Consultants Sam Wercinski 602/228-4497 direct, West USA 480/948-5554.

Mummy Mountain-Town of Paradise Valley—Updated in 95-96, approx. 3500 sqft; 4bd+den/game room; 3ba; pool; 2G; greatroom kitchen; slate flrs; expansive views of N. Scotts, the McDowell, Pin. Peak, Saddleback & Mummy Mountain; last home in neighborhood sold for \$1MIL & was TORN DOWN!! Great Neighborhood. Offered for \$864,000; Call The Real Estate Consultants Sam Wercinski 602/228-4497 direct. West USA 480/948-5554.

Cactus/70th Street—Almost an Acre! Ranch style beauty with 4 bedrooms, 2baths, 2 car garage & double carport, on a cul-de-sac. Ceramic tile through most of home, open kitchen/family room with vaulted ceiling in living/dining room. Berber carpet, brick fireplace. Remodeled homes in the area sell for \$350k+. Get in before the next big price jump for only \$279,000. Call The Real Estate Consultants John Walsh 602/319-0692 direct West USA 480-948-5554.

For Rent or Lease

Coronado Historic District—Quiet Gay Triplex. Large 2BR/1BA, Walk-in Closet, W/D, Dishwasher, Huge Porch and Carport. \$750 per month. Dial 602/258-8155. Ready 1/1.

the Story's Villas—Downtown Living! Large 1 bd / 1 bath, \$550mo. Story Historic District, upper level, balconies, slate bathroom, pedestal sink, wood floors! Rod Whitt- HomeSmart- 602/230-7600. www.RodWhitt.com

the Story's Villas—Downtown Living! 2 bd / 1 bath, \$685mo. Story Historic District, ground floor, small yard, slate bathroom, pedestal sink, cement floors! Rod Whitt-HomeSmart-602/230-7600 www.RodWhitt.com

Out-of-Town

Give Yourself a Break—Spend a relaxing weekend in the heart of Warm Sands, Palm Springs' gay ghetto. Call for reservations at Bacchanal, an intimate, clothing-optional resort for men. Luxurious accommodations, courtesy kitchens, heated pool and spa. 800/806-9059; www.Bacchanal.net

Services

Straight Teeth Without Braces—With 3D computer graphics, we make removable, invisible appliances that effectively straighten your teeth without conventional braces. No metal. Removable. Invisible. Call Dr. John Cavanaugh for complimentary consultation. 602/971-4200.

Are your
Marketing Expenses
getting out of hand?

Every two weeks HeatStroke Gay & Lesbian News delivers award-winning features, commentary and humor to Phoenix's most lucrative market. HeatStroke offers an exceptionally affordable advertising value—display ads start at just \$29 per issue. Call us. Your bottom line will thank you.

602.264.3646



ADULT VIDEO SUPERSTAR

BILLY

HERRINGTON

COLT's Man of the Year
Star of "Playing With Fire 2"
Unzipped Coverman

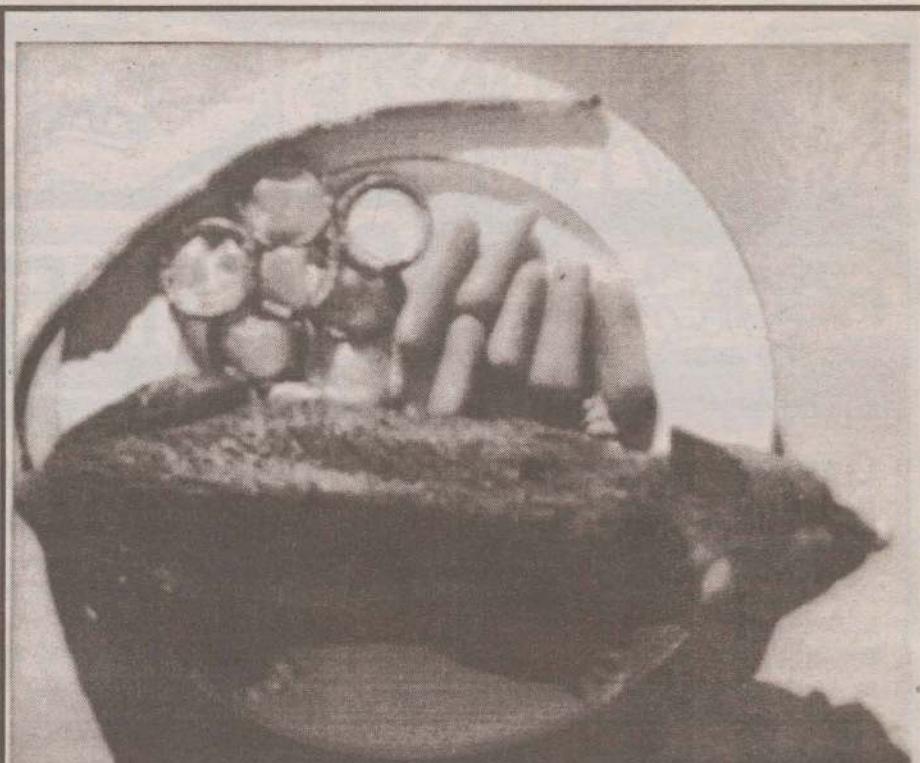
LIVE!

BOOM

1724 E McDowell Road 602-254-0231 boomnightclub.com

SINFUL
Fridays

JANUARY 19, 2001



**THE PERFECT SIDE DISH
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Call about making and keeping condoms a part of life.

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Need Wood?

TIPS FOR GETTING TIMBER

Sex Advice for Gay Men

By Woody Miller, Contributor

Hey, woody!

My boyfriend and I have rock-'em, sock-'em sex, man. I'm like a walking lightbulb around him—just waiting to be screwed so I can light up the room.

Here's the problem. As soon as the sex is over, so's his attention. I like to cuddle and he doesn't. How can I get him to cuddle more?

—Wanting more

Dear Wanting:

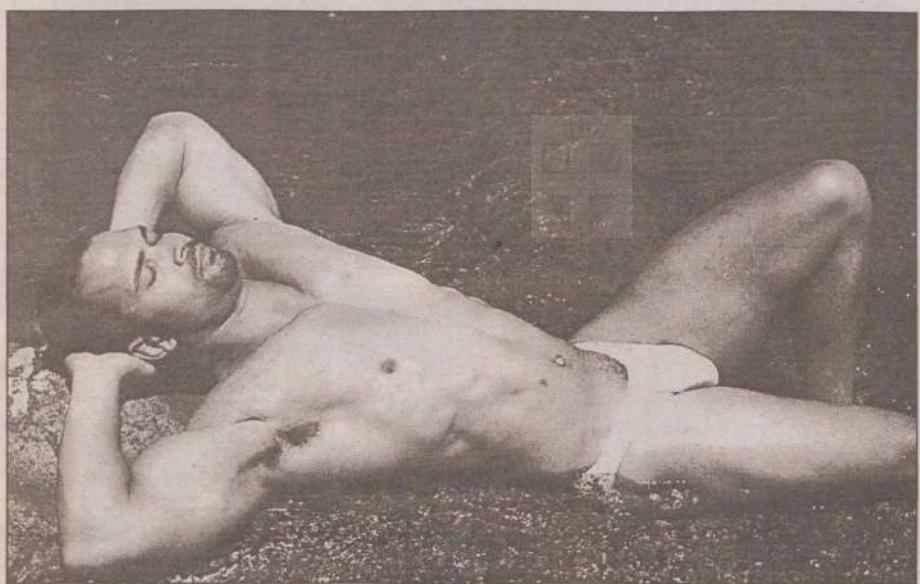
Personally, I love cuddling and I think it's one of the best parts of sex. It feels so primal I'm sure it's biological. In fact, it is for women. Scientists have dis-



lays like you I think, "Either he's dead or my watch stopped."

Unfortunately it's easier to put life into a dead watch than into some of the corpses I've taken home. But there is good news: the first step in improving your sex life is admitting you suck at it.

The G-spot was named after Berlin gynecologist Ernst Grafenberg, who "discovered" in 1950 that women had a spot on the inside of the front wall of the vagina, which when firmly stimulated produced an intense desire for Beluga caviar. No, wait, that's not right. Actually, when stimulated it produced....oh, who gives a shit? If you



covered a female hormone, oxytocin, that makes women want to cuddle.

But there's no such hormone for men. I believe the only hormone that gets released in men after sex is....damn, I forgot the name of it. But you can find it on the web at heartlessbastard.com.

How do you get the stud puppet to pay more attention to you after sex? The same way you get a gay man to pay attention to anything—make sure lots of mirrors are involved.

That, and talk to him. The most important thing is to ask, not to demand. The challenge in telling him is not to make him feel bad or defensive. Talk to him when you're not in bed, when you're sharing a glass of wine and you're both mellowed out.

Take his hand and put it on your chest so he feels the heat of your heart and get into a conversation about sex and how wonderful it is with him.

Tell him you love to be held in the warm afterglow of his embrace and that it's really important to you that it be a big part of your sex life. If you say it with warmth and sincerity it'd be really hard for him to say no.

Unless he's my ex-boyfriend. Then, he'd probably point to his empty ring finger and say "You want some more milk? Then buy the fucking cow."

Hey, woody!

I was accused by a trick of being lousy in bed. Now, everytime I see him in the clubs I'm embarrassed as hell cuz he's been telling people behind my back.

The thing is, I AM lousy in bed. I guess my only excuse is I just came out. Is there some G-spot in men I don't know about? Where is it and how do I work it so I don't get the reputation I'm getting?

—A newbie

Dear newbie:

Whenever I end up in bed with lousy

want to know more about vaginas go someplace else.

Do men have G-Spots? Some experts believe the prostate gland is analogous to a woman's G-spot. Do I? I don't know, but I love the first four letters in the word analogous.

There are three hot spots in most men. First is the frenulum, the sensitive area just on the underside of the penis, where the folds of your glans (the head) come together.

The second spot is the perineum, or if you live in the South, the "Tain't." Cuz it tain't your dick and it tain't your ass. It's the area of skin between the testicles and the anus.

Last and certainly not least is the prostate, an internal gland behind and under the bladder. The gland produces fluid for the semen. Stick a well-lubricated finger up there, move it around and eventually you'll feel this spongy object. It can be manipulated to produce intense feelings. You know, like a man's ego.

As for getting better at sex, there really isn't any mystery to it: Pay more attention to your partner than you do to yourself. If you're gay you probably didn't understand a word I just said. In a lot of gay circles every encounter with a guy is a three-way: You, your partner, and your ego.

The best way to practice my advice is to PRETEND there's another human being in your bed that might have needs that aren't yours, and try to meet them.

I'm losing you, aren't I?

Seriously, it's not technique that distinguishes great sex; it's desire and energy. That means paying attention to what's going on in you and around you and getting involved mentally and physically in the expression of that energy. Technique without that fundamental sense of desire, exploration and expression doesn't mean shit.

Need Wood? Ask woody how to spice up your sex life. Email him at ineedwoodnow@aol.com

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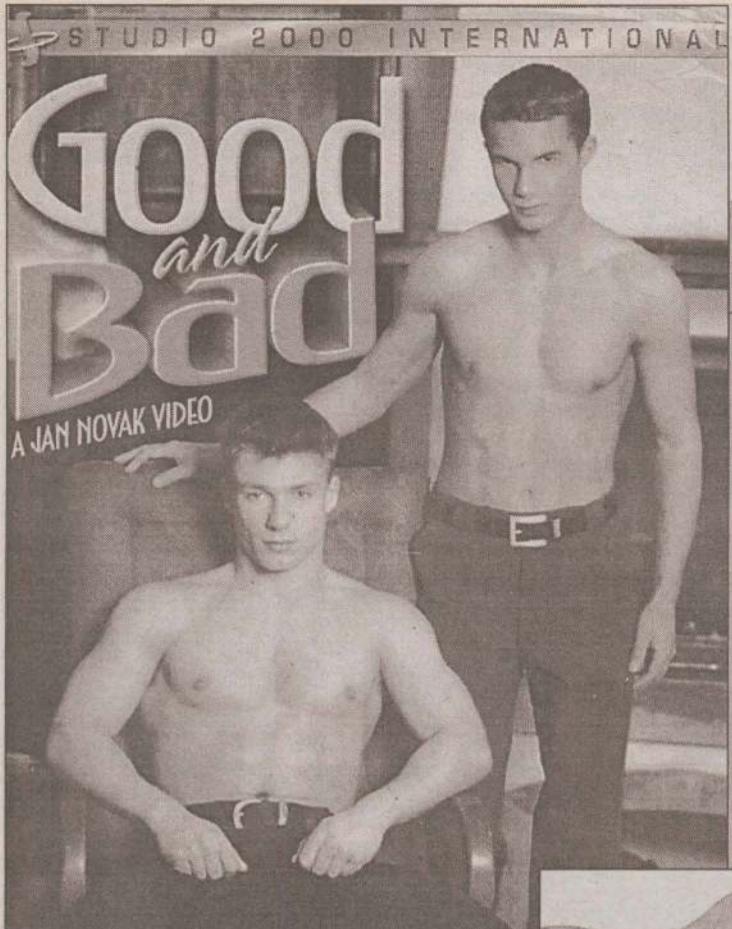
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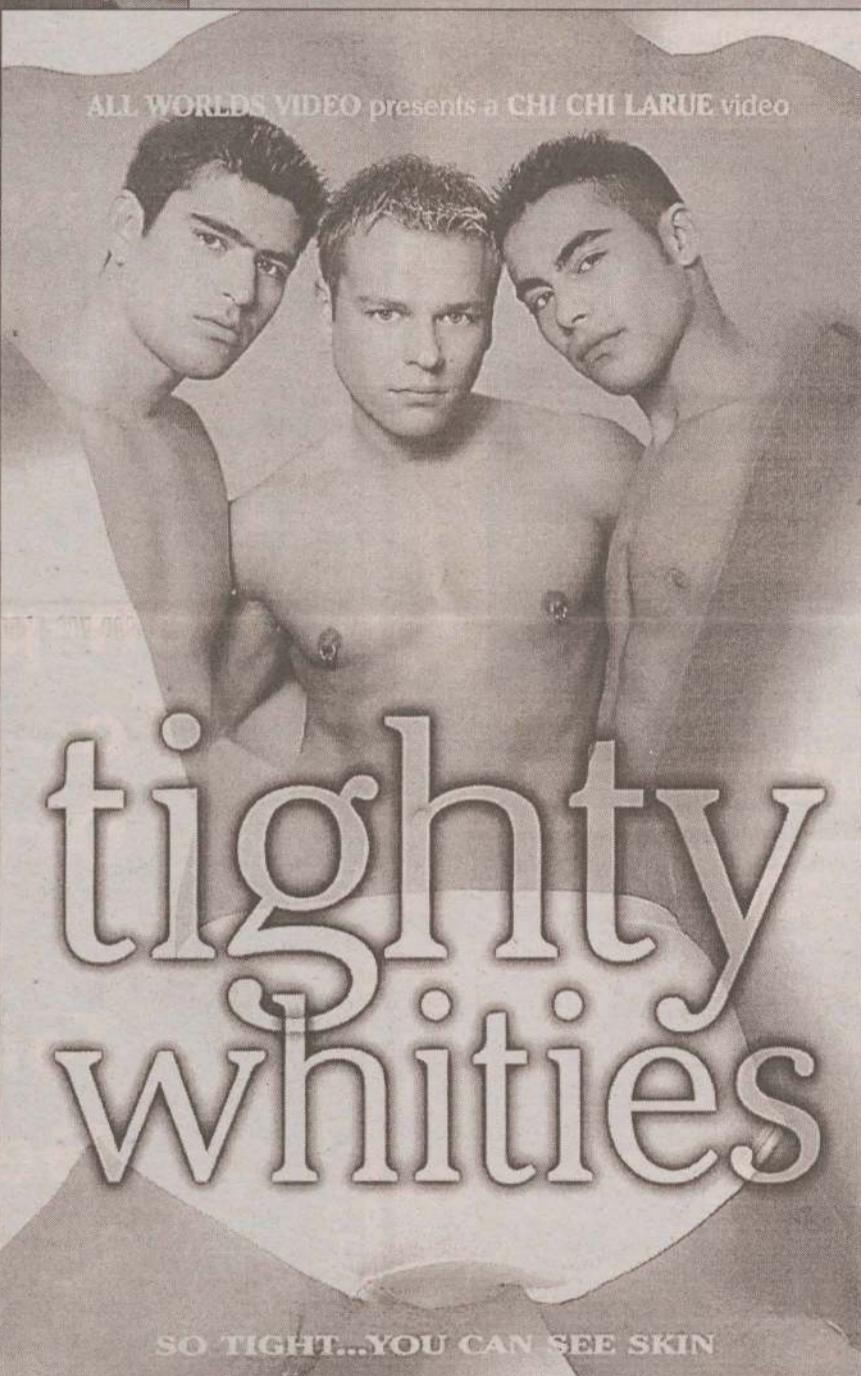
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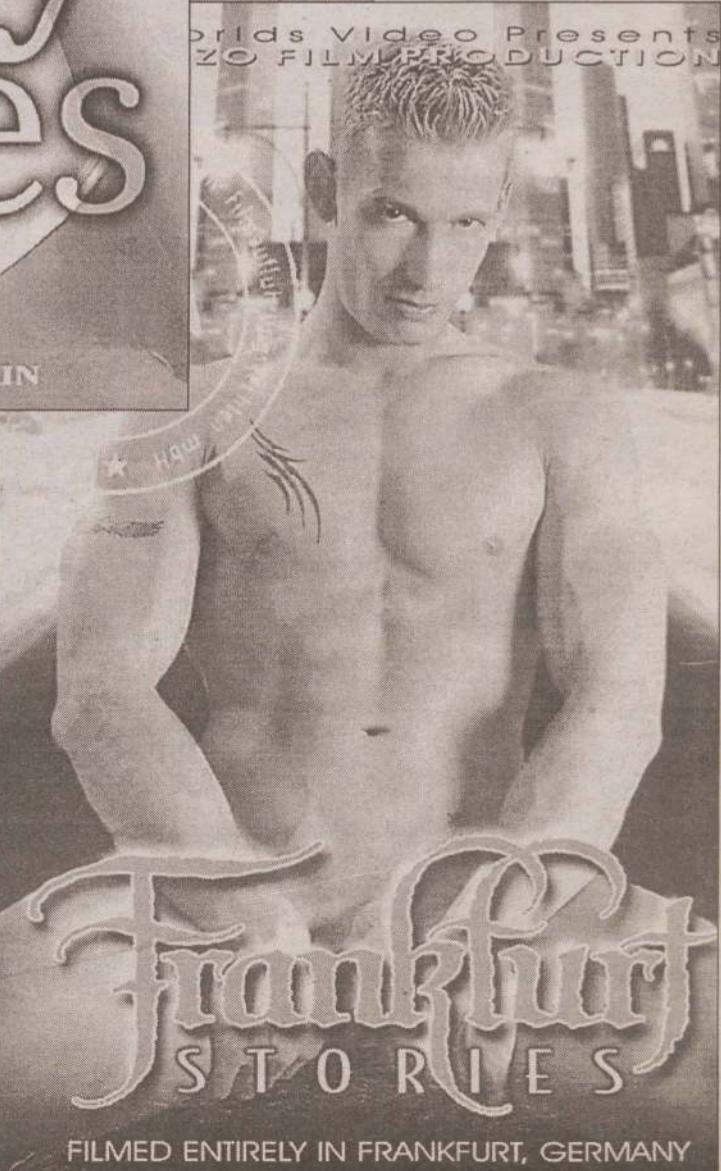
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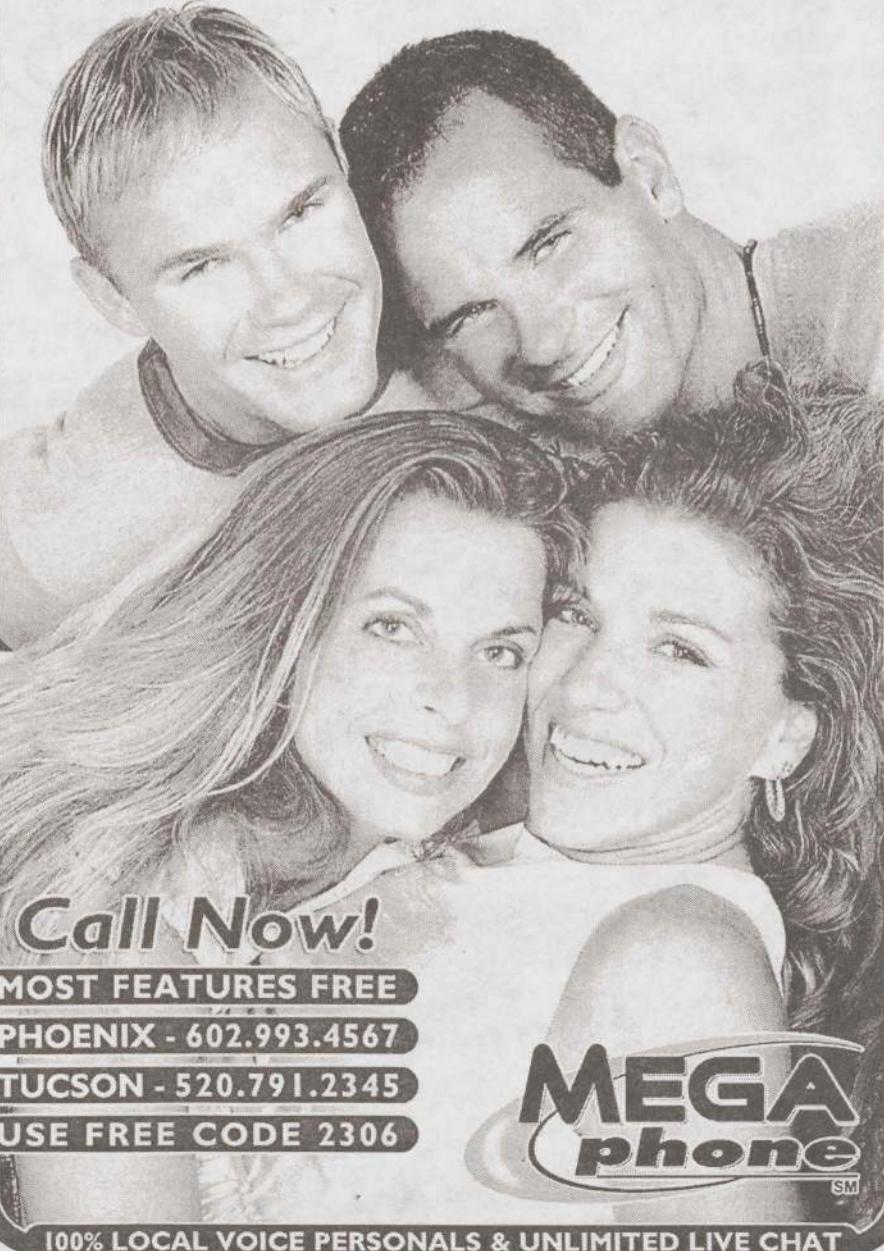
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