

A Mom's View

Betty DeGeneres on gay pride, politics & proper parade wear



By Rex Wockner, *HeatStroke*
Contributor

Actress Ellen DeGeneres' mom, Betty DeGeneres, has become one of America's most-well-known gay activists.

She's served as a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign; written a book about her marriage, divorce, and her life with an out lesbian daughter-cum-international celebrity; and has represented a generation of parents who've accepted their gay children with unflagging energy, grace and dignity amid a media maelstrom.

Mrs. DeGeneres spoke with Rex Wockner as she prepared to serve as Grand Marshal of San Diego's July 24 pride parade.

RW: So you get to ride in a convertible and get a sunburn, I guess.

BDG: I get to do that. I've already done that this summer twice, in Los Angeles and San Francisco. In L.A. I rode on a convertible and I was Mom of the Year. Then, in San Francisco, Mayor Willie Brown invited me to walk with him. So, we walked the whole parade, which was a really long parade route.

RW: You're kind of a surrogate mother for gays and lesbians out there whose parents didn't quite accept their sexual orientation, I guess.

BDG: Didn't quite, that's putting it

mildly—kicked them out and—yes, I'm mom to lots and lots and lots of people.

RW: Is that a good thing?

BDG: It's good for me because I have a lot of love to give, but it's a very sad thing. There shouldn't be any parents who are rejecting. It's devastating.

RW: Let's talk about some of the reasons parents do that. What do you say to people who believe the Bible condemns gays?

BDG: The Bible has been used through the centuries to justify any position you take. It's been used to justify slavery, it's been used to justify women not having the vote, and so now they've just focused in on these Biblical laws from that time, and they can't see anything else, and they're forgetting all about judge not lest you be judged, and let him who is without sin—even if you think it's a sin—cast the first stone, and all of the loving things that Jesus said.

Rex: And they ignore other things. The part of Leviticus that condemns men lying with men also condemns people who eat shellfish or wear clothes made of mixed fibers.

Betty: And adulterers. It's an abomination to cut your beard a certain way. It makes no sense. This extreme right has gotten to be like the Puritans once again with burning people at the stake.

The pendulum has to come back.

RW: You'll end up in a public debate with Jerry Falwell if you're not careful.

BDG: Well, I hope not. I'd rather stay above that. They have their mindset which is quite pitiful, so I don't think that's my job. I'd rather just give my message of love.

RW: Other folks claim that homosexuality is "unnatural."

BDG: I address this in my book. If you're heterosexual, then, yes, it's unnatural, because it's natural for us as heterosexuals to be attracted romantically to people of the opposite sex, but if you're homosexual, it's unnatural to be attracted to someone of the opposite sex. You're just not. So, we try to view the world from our standpoint only, and that can't be done.

RW: I read an interview somewhere that said you'd never seen Will & Grace. Have you seen it yet?

BDG: In fact, last night I had the TV on just briefly and there it was. And so, I did look, and it was as cute as can be. The thing is, all I ever looked at was *Ellen*; I don't look at sitcoms. So I look at *Ellen's* reruns.

RW: My husband wants to know if you're related to Vance DeGeneres on The Daily Show?

BDG: Oh, please, that's *Ellen's*

older brother, that's my son. This week's *People* magazine has a nice article about him and a nice picture of him. In fact, a picture of Ellen and Vance and I together, and they cut out Anne—I don't know why they cropped her out. It really wasn't a becoming picture of her and maybe that's why. At least she's in the magazine, in toward the back with some cute outfit she was wearing.

RW: Let me ask you about a couple of hot-button issues. What's your position on gay marriage, marriage itself?

BDG: Absolutely it has to happen. Absolutely. I've met couples who've been together for 54 years, 35 years, everything in between, and they have no legal rights. This nonsense that they have to have a Defense of Marriage Act, this is ridiculous. Defense against what?

The divorce rate is 50 percent or something. To me, I don't care what they want to call this. If they have a problem calling it marriage, call it a legal commitment, but it certainly should be in place.

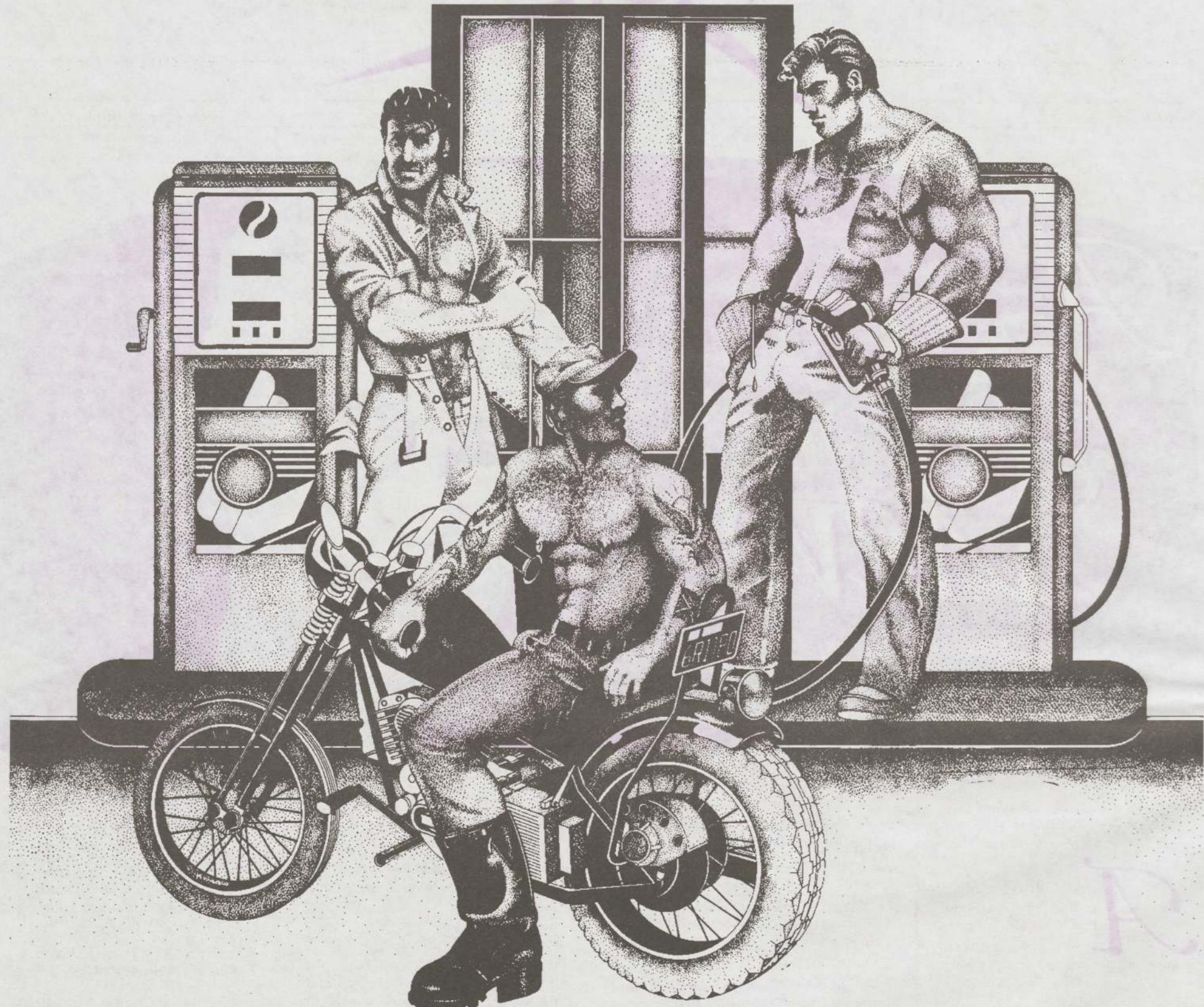
For the churches to be so against it—they don't have to marry people of the same sex. If they don't want to perform those ceremonies, nobody is going to make them do that. Unfortunately, it looks like it's going to be a long time in coming.

And you know about horrible Pete Knight here in California [Knight, a state senator, is sponsor of a ballot proposition to ban gay marriage].

See "DeGeneres," page 14

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Horowitz:

a life that inspired

About five years ago, I heard this joke: "Why is it easier to be a Republican than a Democrat? Because Republicans don't have to explain the Kennedy family."

Foolishly finding it funny, I repeated it. I shared the joke with a number of people before a friend stopped me and gave me a short history on the Kennedy clan's contributions to the fight for human rights.

The Kennedy history of public service remains unparalleled. A family with no need for additional wealth or notoriety, they hold a fundamental belief in giving back to a country that has not always treated

The Kennedy history of public service remains unparalleled. A family with no need for additional wealth or notoriety, they hold a fundamental belief in giving back to a country that has not always treated them well.

them well. John and Jacqueline Kennedy possessed regality that national leaders before and since could only dream of.

While flawed, JFK—through television—offered a new generation inspiration that looked like perfection. His untimely assassination further deified him in our eyes. Most agree that JFK's death changed history. We can only imagine what he would have accomplished.

The Kennedy political ideology has always been committed to ending discrimination. JFK and Bobby—serving as U.S. Attorney General—argued for progress in the Deep South. They supported fundamental changes in our racial/social structure long before the civil rights movement became a popular political cause. Similarly, Senator Edward Kennedy is a true champion of civil rights. His commitment to the gay and lesbian community has been unwavering. He has sponsored or co-sponsored every major piece of gay and lesbian friendly legislation in Congress for years.

I have had the opportunity to speak with the Senator and work with his staff on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. His perseverance on the Hate Crimes Prevention Act is staggering. His speeches on the subjects never fail to move me. I spoke with him about four weeks ago at a press conference to reintroduce ENDA to the current Congress. His energy for our cause is at a level I wish more of our own community members had.

I watched and listened with

extreme sadness as the events of John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s disappearance and death unfolded last week. I felt sorry for the Kennedy family, and I felt sorry for the country. Many people have commented on John's recklessness and all the mistakes he made. I could only shake my head in sadness. The image of the little boy saluting his father's coffin still brings me to tears. The image of the handsome man, only a few years my senior, with dates under his name on the TV screen frightens me into action.

Despite a ne'er do well image (dating a series of celebrities, having sporting accidents and flunking the NY State Bar Exam twice) John Jr. accomplished a great deal in his short life, not the least of which was the creation of *George* magazine.

John handled his celebrity with grace and polish reminiscent of his mother. He headed several foundations and gave freely of his time and money to worthwhile causes while reminding us that it's okay to be young and have fun. He lived in a modest apartment in New York City, which I couldn't even get close to while in the city last weekend. Strangers have paid a well-deserved homage.

My homage is to renew my commitment to community activism and to living each day as if it was the last. I'm considering running for public office much sooner than I thought I would. I'm recommitting to getting and staying in shape. I'm reminded that real public admiration comes from the love and service that one leaves behind.

The Kennedy family has remained steadfast in their love of country and each other and in their commitment to service despite incredibly high costs. I honor them, and I grieve with them in this time of great personal and national tragedy.

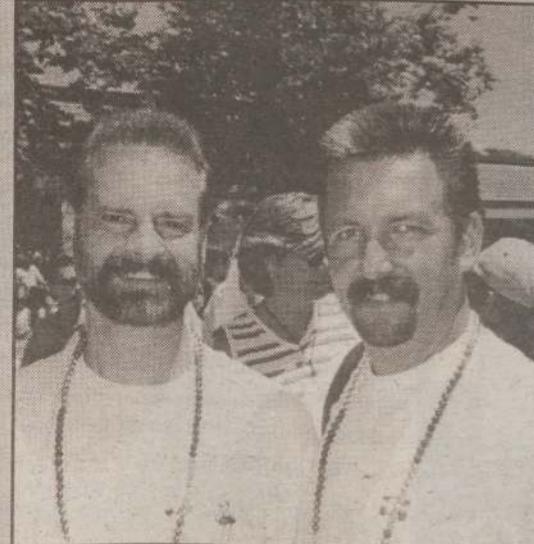
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Run Tom Run San Francisco supervisor jumps into mayoral race

By Rex Wockner,
HeatStroke Contributor

Flamboyantly gay San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano is running for mayor. If elected—and many believe he could be—Ammiano would become the first openly gay mayor of any major U.S. city. He spoke to Rex Wockner at a Pride rally July 23 in San Diego.

RW: You've taken out papers to begin fundraising.

TA: Exactly. It's the first step in a two-step process. It's called "intent to run." This allows you to raise money and to ... see if the commitment is there for volunteers—because we'll never be able to match [Mayor Willie Brown's] big money. There's no limit, so they can spend two million. The volunteer base would be the most important thing.

So, there's been a 'Run Tom Run' campaign since January and it's gotten bigger. Now what I need to see is, is the money and the volunteer energy matching the 'Run Tom Run' campaign. If that happens, I'll take the second step, which is really be a candidate.

RW: In the media-saturated society we live in today, is the money the most important thing, or is it how you play in the media?

TA: I think it's both. Also how you play in terms of the community. Certainly good media helps and money helps. But what has happened is an imbalance with the money. I think a grass-roots campaign, people are hungry for that. It's kind of like [Reform Party Minnesota Gov.] Jesse Ventura, or even [Oakland state Assemblymember] Audie Bock, who was a Green Party member who was outspent three-to-one by Elihu Harris and won.

So, I think what people are saying when they make those kind of votes is, we're a little tired of the commercialization of the election process. We'd like to get back to a system of more checks-and-balances. Right now there's more checks than balances. Get it?

RW: You've gotten very little bad press. The only thing that I can remember is that Colin Powell thing.

TA: He's an icon, and you're not supposed to criticize him. But the things he said about queer people are really terrible things. ... He said we're bestial, we'll undo any kind of war effort, and he totally trivialized all the gays and lesbians who have died in the wars. It was not good for young people either. For too long we've allowed people like that to have cover.

The other interesting thing for me

is, while the establishment didn't like what I did, I did get a lot of support from veterans—particularly Gulf War veterans—because another thing Colin Powell said is there's no Gulf War Syndrome, it's all made up. That really angered people who were suffering. So, I guess he's a guy from his own generation.

I understand the fact that he's African-American; there's not enough African-American role models, but, at the same time, if we had someone who was openly gay and a role model and then was racist, I wouldn't tolerate that either. So, I felt it was inappropriate for the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco—that has three gay supervisors and many other straight supervisors who were elected with gay votes and gay money—to honor him. That's what it was all about. And I thought, you know, I'm not going to sign onto this.



San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano at San Diego Pride July 23.

RW: And other than that, the local media has been your friend, as far as I can tell.

TA: Yeah, pretty much. I think I've been around a long time and they're used to me. They've accommodated themselves to me. Local character.

RW: And you move to the second step in the candidacy process on August 5?

TA: Gotta do it then. I just checked in and response to the first step has been phenomenal. So, it's a go unless there's some strange happening that I don't know about yet.

RW: How many votes do you have to get? Ninety percent of gay people will vote for you, and there's enough screaming lefties in San Francisco to make up the difference.

TA: Yes. Tenants and labor. There's some moderate people too because I've been good on political reform and police reform, things that even if you're not liberal or don't like everything I do—you know, neighborhood issues, I'm good on those. Even if someone is, "Well, I don't like Tom because he's too out-there on this issue," they like me because I dealt with the garbage issue or public transportation.

You need about 80, 90 to do it. Probably I wouldn't get 50-percent-plus-one because of how the field is, but then it would be a run-off, and if I made the run-off, then there might be a good chance.

San Diego Pride Parade tear-gassed

Gay Parents Group Targeted

By Rex Wockner,
HeatStroke Contributor

SAN DIEGO — Hundreds of gay pride marchers and spectators were tear-gassed July 24 when someone threw a military-issue tear-gas grenade into the Family Matters contingent during the 25th annual Pride Parade.

Family Matters is a social and educational group for gay and lesbian parents and their families and for gays and lesbians who are considering parenthood. The 70-person contingent included small children and babies in strollers.

"I was introducing the contingents and then all of a sudden I see these hundreds of people screaming and running past the reviewing stand," said emcee Nicole Murray Ramirez. "It was like a Godzilla-is-coming stampede from the movies."

"The most heartbreaking thing was it hit right in front of those dozens of young kids. I'll never forget seeing these kids and families getting tear-gassed. There were all these little kids in strollers crying with this gas in their eyes."

Murray Ramirez said people had to run a block to escape the gas.

"It was very eerie," he said. "One minute the street was packed with thousands of people and then I looked back and it was deserted, like a bomb had gone off."

Hundreds of the more than

100,000 spectators along University Avenue were affected.

"We just saw this cloud of smoke coming," said Guido Gaietta. "I thought it was a car fire or something. Then I saw the crowd screaming and running toward me. People were screaming, 'Run, run, run' and 'Get away, get away, get away.' So, obviously, I started running because all these people are running toward me. And then all of a sudden there were

south of University Avenue to be outside of the area," Rauber said. "There were hundreds of people walking down there and then washing their faces with garden hoses. We were lucky, we were a block away from where it happened, but we were downwind. But a lot of people got hit pretty bad. Their eyes were hurting and their faces were red."

"There was one good thing," Rauber added. "The cheering afterwards was about three times as enthusiastic. But it left me with a bit of a feeling of fear because you just never know when somebody might do something like this."

The parade resumed after about 20 minutes.

Pride Media Coordinator Frank Sabatini, told [name of this newspaper], "The fight for

civil rights always carries a price tag and this reflects the type of price tag our community has to bear."

Executive Director Mandy Schultz said: "When we see all the obstacles we hurdled to get us to where we are today, it's a huge eye-opener to have an incident of this nature happen at

our event. It just goes to show how much hate there is out in the world. But our community didn't run away in fear. We came back and were able to continue the parade and celebrate and be a strong, united front. It was a horrible and unfortunate moment and yet it was beautifully gratifying to see that we could all stand together."

In a press statement, the executive director of the national Family Pride Coalition, C. Ray Drew, who was marching with the Family Matters contingent, said: "This was, quite simply, a terrorist act. I can't imagine how disturbed and psychotic someone must be to express their hate by deliberately harming small children and babies."

"Every day, we hear the radical right call us pedophiles and a threat to children. Mentally disturbed people feed off the hate-filled rhetoric of the radical right. It emboldens the violent, disturbed person with a sense of legitimacy. We as a nation must recognize the profound harm to children and families caused by the radical right and hold them accountable for their hate."

Within 24 hours of the attack, Murray Ramirez, one of San Diego's leading gay activists, had raised \$12,000 in reward money for the arrest and conviction of the person who threw the grenade.

"Someone either saw the guy throw it or the guy went back to wherever he's from and is bragging about it," Murray Ramirez said. "The reward money is going to grow."

At press time, a police spokesman said no suspects had been identified.



San Diego Lesbian and Gay Pride Executive Director Mandy Schultz speaks at a July 23 Pride rally.

tears in my eyes, and it got in my throat. It was pretty nasty. We ran for a couple a blocks to escape it and our faces were all red. Some people were vomiting in the street."

Spectator Peter Rauber was also gassed.

"We had to walk about two blocks

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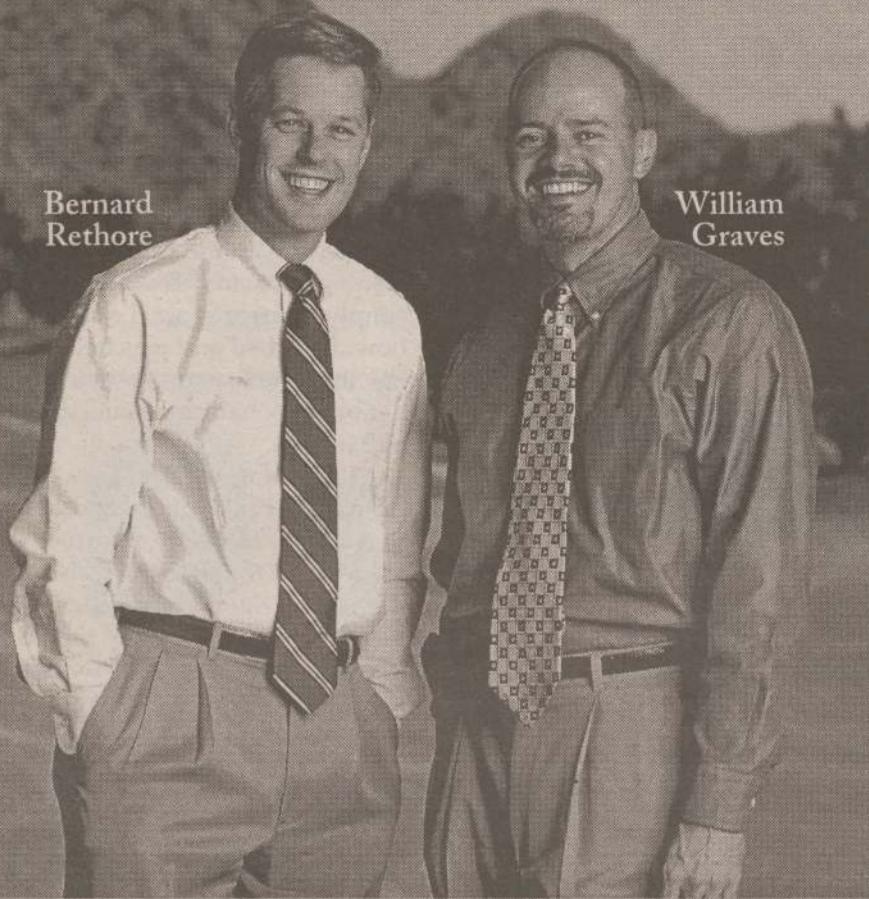
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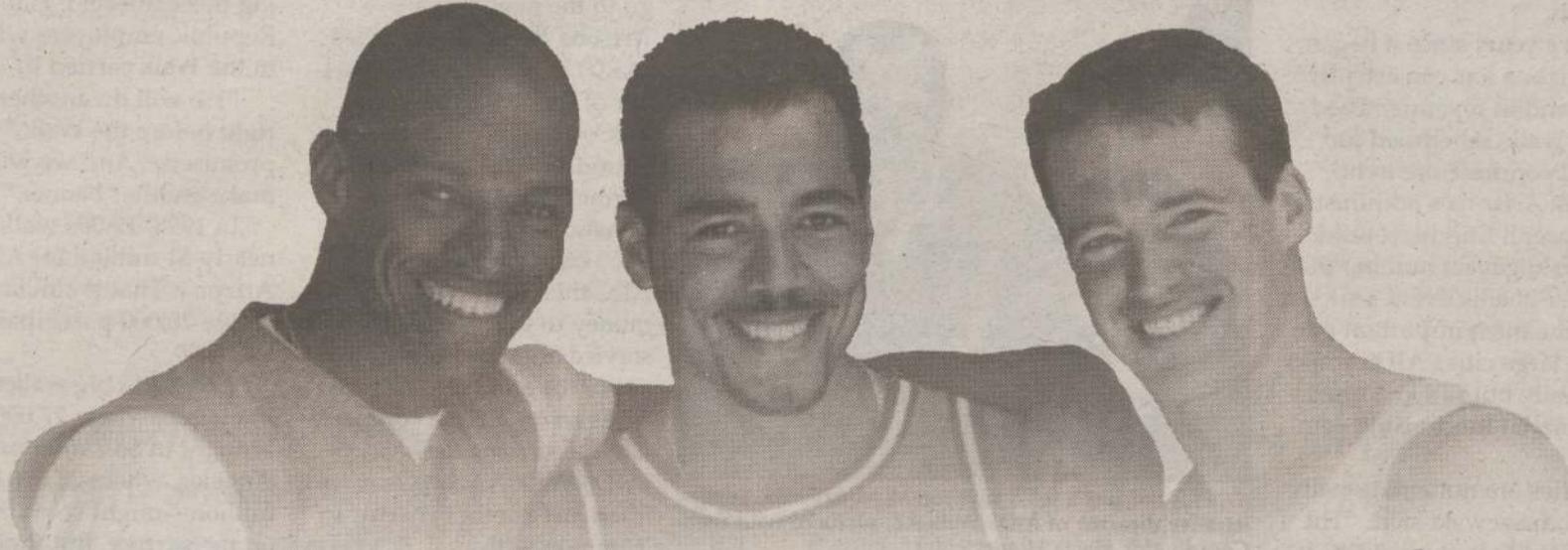


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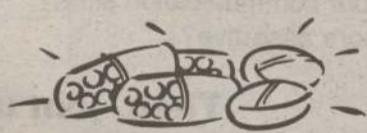
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Making the Walk Work: Caring people are behind annual event's success

By Bobbi Dugan,
HeatStroke Contributor

The Washington, D.C. and New York AIDS walks have experienced a drop in funding in recent years. Others, like AIDS Walk Atlanta—which went from \$1.46 million in 1998 to \$1.48 million in 1999 despite a rapidly growing population—struggle to stay even.

In the twelve years since it began, AIDS Walk Arizona has consistently grown in size and in revenue raised.

This year's walk, scheduled for Oct. 17, should continue the trend, said AIDS Walk Arizona's administrative director, Joseph Mioduszewski.

Mioduszewski gave a number of reasons for the Phoenix event's success. Perhaps the most important one is that in most large cities AIDS walks are not run locally but rather turned over to professional fundraising companies.

"Those parties are not emotionally involved," Mioduszewski said. "The general public tends to think AIDS is a thing of the past, or else people are bored with the subject. It takes the concern of people who really care, people who are affected by the disease, to drum up support for AIDS fundraisers."

Alone among the big cities, AIDS Walk Arizona has done that. "We have made a commitment to be community based," he explained.

It is a big commitment to make, according to the director. He and Team Coordinator Maria Hinderleider are the only paid employees of AIDS Walk Arizona.

Volunteers do everything else needed to put on the huge fundraiser.

The Valley's core of dedicated volunteers makes it possible to manage a walk "much more efficiently" than cities that hire professional promoters, Mioduszewski said.

Mioduszewski personifies the car-



"This is not just a job," says Joe Mioduszewski, administrative director of AIDS Walk AZ, pictured with Team Coordinator Maria Hinderleider.

ing. "This is not just a job," he said of his role with the Walk. Come fall, he will do what he does every year.

"I walk up and down my street asking for pledges. I knock on the doors and tell people this isn't over yet," Mioduszewski said.

The \$10 here and the \$10 there his neighborhood solicitation brings in is important to the cause, Mioduszewski said. But more important is modeling his commitment and caring. It's what all the people working on the Walk do, be it with individual con-

tributors or the essential big corporate sponsors.

"Many of us are very emotionally involved in this, like Brian Spicker [executive director of Phoenix Body Positive] or Peter Houle [executive director of AIDS Project Arizona]. I'm just an administrator. They are out there getting it done [bringing in corporate sponsorships]."

AIDS Walk Arizona received a tremendous windfall in 1997, when the *Arizona Republic* got involved.

Since then, Walk proceeds go to the newspaper's Arizona Republic Charities (ARC), which is a fund partner of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. Through this partnership, ARC matches donations raised by walkers at 60 cents on the dollar. ARC then distributes the money to those local AIDS service organizations that apply for grants.

Even for a large company like the *Arizona Republic*, AIDS Walk Arizona is more than just another charity. In common with

Mioduszewski and the employees and volunteers of the Valley's AIDS agencies, the people at the state's largest newspaper really want the Walk to be a success.

Kristi Hall, community relations project manager for the *Arizona Republic*, said her employer cares about the Walk as community news, but also in terms of how AIDS has affected the lives of its employees.

The *Republic* first offered help to people living with AIDS through its "Season of Sharing" campaign. When the newspaper formed its partnership

with the McCormick Foundation, there was little argument that AIDS organizations would be among those charities funded.

"We cared about it as a newspaper," Hall said, "but also for how it affected the community. All of us."

The *Republic* contributes to the Walk through its charities, and many of its employees march in the annual event. The newspaper took a poll in 1998 that showed 169 employees had family or friends who were affected by AIDS. A banner was made honoring those affected, Hall said. The 114 *Republic* employees who participated in the Walk carried it.

"We will do another poll this year right before the Walk," Hall promised. "And we will have to make another banner."

In 1998, 19,000 walkers raised nearly \$1 million for AIDS Walk Arizona. That is similar to San Diego, where 20,000 participants raised \$950,000.

The really big walks—like San Francisco, where 27,000 walkers brought in \$3.7 million or Los Angeles, where 28,000 brought in \$4.4 million—might seem more impressive on the surface. But there is a big difference between those cities and Phoenix, Mioduszewski reiterated.

The other major walks have professional fundraisers doing a lot of the work and taking a cut of the action. Here in Phoenix, people are still doing it the old fashioned way. The caring way. The community way.



To register early or volunteer for the 1999 AIDS Walk Arizona on October 17 visit www.aidswalkaz.com; e-mail aidswalkaz@mindspring.com; or call 602/265-WALK (9255).

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Call Kevyn to register.
Dinner served.

Politically Speaking



Arizona Human Rights Fund

By Kathie Gummere,
HeatStroke contributor

No More Excuses— Get Involved!

It's all about getting elected, and getting elected takes two things—money and people. I know there are flaws to this system, and that great abuses have and will probably continue to occur. But it is the system we have, so it is in our

I don't know of very many, if any, officials that run for one office for a single term and do not plan on continuing in public office. . . They know that in order to win again, they need the people who elected them the last time.

best interests to use that system to the best of our ability.

I am not talking about bribing officials (although the idea has on occasion crossed my mind). I am talking about legally using the system as it is designed. Those who help a can-

didate get elected will have that official's ear after the election.

I don't know of very many, if any, officials that run for one office for a single term and do not plan on continuing in public office. They may change offices, or they may get defeated, but few run once, win, and then quit. Therefore they know that in order to win again, they need the people who elected them the last time.

WE can be those people. WE can choose whom to back. WE can give that candidate the funds needed to win. WE can be the volunteers that work the phones, stuff the envelopes, pass out fliers, tell our friends, host fund raisers. There is no reason why we can't.

After all, those who oppose us are using the system to their advantage.

They have nothing that we don't have—or couldn't have if we tried.

They are organized and dedicated. They contribute to the campaigns of the candidates who pledge to support their issues. They give time to the election headquarters of their candi-

dates. They care and are fierce in doing whatever is necessary to elect their candidates. They are a strong force in telling their candidates what to say and how to vote.

We can do the same.

So why don't we? Part of it is fear. Some are afraid that working for a particular candidate will cause them to be "outed" against their will.

That is no longer a valid fear. First of all, for most of us, coming out did not have the consequences we feared. Secondly, simply working for any candidate does not in any way reflect on one's orientation.

Another excuse for not getting involved is that "it never does any good." That is definitely no longer the case.

In Arizona alone, we have three openly gay elected officials (Ken Cheuvront and Steve May in the leg-

I know the excuses, and there are a lot of them, but that is all they are—excuses. We can no longer complain about those who govern us if we are unwilling to put forth any effort to see that the right people are elected.

tion that would have been harmful to us. Additional legislation was almost passed, which would have been beneficial to us.

"The times they are a changin'" and we can make them change more and faster if we are only willing to work a little harder.

We should and can have more openly gay and empathetic officials. All it will take is more of us getting involved.

I know the excuses, and there are lots of them, but that is all they are—excuses. We can no longer complain about those who govern us if we are unwilling to put forth any effort to see that the right people are elected.

Please examine your conscience. Tell me you will help. Or don't tell me—just GET INVOLVED. Start with the City Council races coming up. The campaigns are relatively small and therefore a few people volunteering, a few dollars, a few votes can and will make the difference.

Will you be part of the solution or part of the prob-

lem? Only you can make a difference.



Kathie Gummere is a Phoenix attorney practicing in the area of wills, trusts and estates for the gay & lesbian community. She receives e-mail at kgrn@goodnet.com

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Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

Was Robin Hood Gay?

Legendary English outlaw Robin Hood was likely gay, scholars said July 11.

After studying 14th-century ballads that are the earliest known accounts of Hood's deeds, Cardiff University literature professor Stephen Knight said he determined that Hood's true love, Maid Marian, was fabricated by 16th-century authors to heterosexualize the hero who stole from the rich and gave to the poor.

His real love was probably Little John, Knight said.

Cambridge University medieval history professor Barry Dobson agreed, telling reporters, "In the 12th century, homosexuality was accepted, but in the 13th the church became much less tolerant and such people were driven underground."

One of the ballads, translated from Chaucerian English, reads: "When Robin Hood was about 20 years old; he happen'd to meet Little John; A jolly brisk blade right fit for the trade, for he was a lusty young man."

Guatemalan PWAs face drug lottery

Ninety people with AIDS (PWAs) gathered in Guatemala City's Luis Angel Garcia Clinic at San Juan de Dios Hospital June 29 to find out which four of them would get a year's worth of anti-viral treatment.

The clinic had secured enough donated drugs from the U.S. to treat four people for one year and held a lottery to determine which patients would receive them.

"It was the most depressing lottery I have ever seen. In fact to call it a lottery is really a misnomer, because one envisions cash prizes and television sets handed out to gleeful winners," said Costa Rican AIDS activist Richard Stern, who attended the event.

"I told them that I hoped this would be the first and last lottery of this kind, and I encouraged them to commit themselves to the kind of activism that has brought stunningly successful results to people with AIDS in two of the region's six nations: Costa Rica and Panama,

where all people with AIDS can now receive retroviral treatment provided by their government," Stern said.

PWAs won access to drugs in those nations via Supreme Court cases.

Only 15 percent of Guatemalans are covered by the health-insurance system, the Guatemalan Insurances Institute, which provides three-drug anti-viral treatment to 200 PWAs who live in cities. The drugs are not available to rural PWAs, even if they have paid into and are covered by the system.

Venezuelan Supreme Court orders HIV treatment

Venezuela's Supreme Court July 19 ordered the Ministry of Health to provide all AIDS-related drugs to all HIV-positive Venezuelans and foreign residents of the country.

The ruling came in a lawsuit filed by 168 people with AIDS and the organization Citizens' Action Against AIDS.

The health ministry was also ordered to provide viral-load testing and all tests necessary for the treatment of AIDS-related opportunistic infections.

Citizen's Action may be reached at acsci@ccs.internet.ve and is on the Web at <http://www.internet.ve/> acsci.

Colombian Court okays gays in the military

Colombia's Constitutional Court ruled unanimously July 14 that the armed forces cannot bar homosexuals.

The existing ban violated gay soldiers' constitutional rights to intimacy, free development of one's personality, and defense of one's family, the court said.

Magistrate Vladimiro Naranjo Mesa said military gays are now free to reveal their sexual orientation, live on base with a partner, and be affectionate with each other away from work.

South African journalist to sue blood bank

The news editor of Radio KFM in Cape Town, South Africa, Andrew Barnes, has promised to sue before the International Court of Justice after the Western Province Blood Transfusion Service refused his donation because he is gay.

"Everyone is being urged to go [give blood] so I went to Picbel Arcade in Strand Street," Barnes told

the Cape Argus newspaper. "I was asked to fill in a form, asking for medical history, any recent operations or current medication. Then there was a section on HIV and AIDS, asking about sexual history. One of the questions asked was whether, as a male applicant, you have ever had sex with another male. I circled 'yes' on the form."

Barnes was then informed by a nurse that his blood was unwanted.

"I told her I was gay and was engaged to my partner," Barnes said. "I was shocked and asked her why my blood was not good enough. She replied that, according to the World Health Organization, gay men were a high-risk group with regard to the spreading of HIV. ... I've spoken to the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality and my complaint is with their national executive. I'll take it to the International Court of Justice in The Hague if I have to. All people sympathetic to gay rights should consider boycotting the call to donate blood until the rules have changed. Homosexual men are not the highest risk group [in South Africa]. I don't think they should have a blanket ban on gay men giving blood."

The blood services' medical director, Arthur Bird, acknowledged: "I accept totally that these type of questionnaires and safety margins that we have do cast a net. We accept that we sometimes sweep in safe donors unnecessarily. But that's the nature of the beast."

B.C. Government to expand partner rights

Same-sex couples in the Canadian province of British Columbia are set to get equal rights in matters of wills, estates and inheritance. They already have equal rights in areas such as adoption, spousal support and pension benefits.

The provincial government has introduced a bill to expand the definition of "spouse" in several laws to include "a person who has lived and cohabited with another person, for a period of at least 2 years immediately before the other person's death, in a marriage-like relationship, including a marriage-like relationship between persons of the same gender."

"This government is committed to supporting stable family relationships whether they involve traditional families, common-law families or same-sex relationships," said provincial Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh. "That support is essential in the healthy, thriving and diverse society that forms British Columbia. All

British Columbians deserve the same rights and benefits in life and in death."

Last month, Quebec's National Assembly unanimously passed a law giving gay and lesbian couples all the rights of common-law heterosexual couples. Law 32 altered 39 provincial laws and regulations to recognize same-sex pairs in areas such as taxes, workplace standards, car insurance, pension benefits, retirement plans and social assistance.

Following the move in B.C., John Fisher, head of the national lobby group Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere, noted: "The federal government is rapidly falling behind the courts and the rest of Canada in its commitment to equality. EGALE calls on the federal government to stop following and start showing some leadership by introducing omnibus legislation as soon as the House [of Commons] resumes in the fall."

AIDS council head stabbed

The manager of the Townsville branch of Australia's Queensland AIDS Council was stabbed in the throat with a syringe July 21 in the parking area of his office building.

According to The Australian newspaper, the attackers were two men with skinhead haircuts and the incident was "part of a hate campaign against the gay community."

The victim, Darrel Colbert-Whitford, 28, was also injured in a June 10 bombing of the AIDS Council's offices.

In other recent attacks, gay men have been chased from cruisy toilets by thugs wielding baseball bats, a drag queen had his jaw and leg broken in an assault at his home, and AIDS Council staff have been spat on by skinhead youth, The Australian said.

Townsville is located more than 500 miles (800 km) north of Brisbane, the state capital.

Brazilian governor starts gay sensitization classes

The governor of the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro, Antony Garotinho, has started classes to teach the state police to be nicer to gays and blacks — the most common victims of police misconduct in the region, reported Spain's *El País* newspaper.

The weeks-long courses are being taught by blacks and gays themselves, including Claudio Nascimento, president of the Brazilian Association of Gays, Lesbians and Transvestites.

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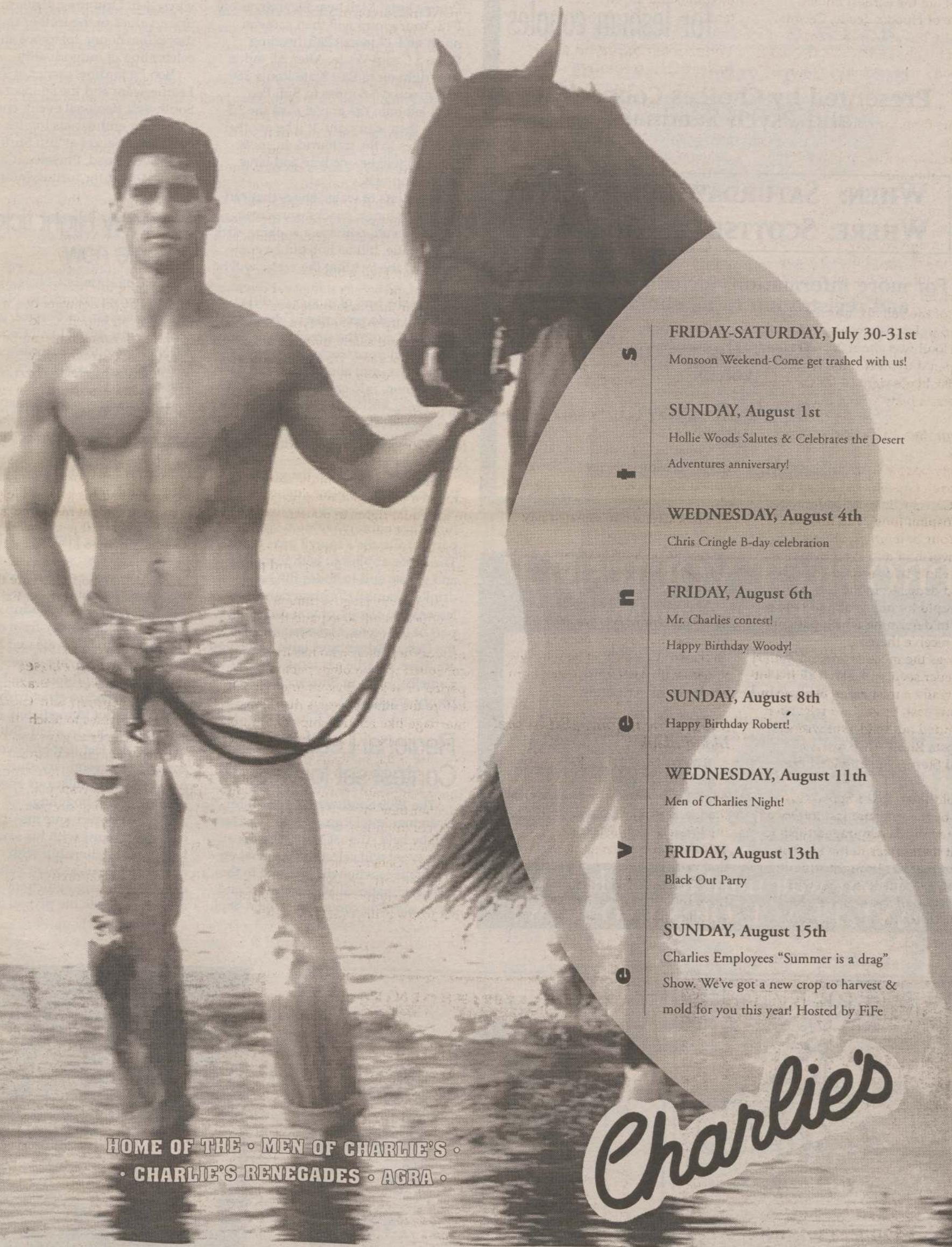
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Goings On

DA plans Day Hike for July 31

Join Desert Adventures for an afternoon of great hiking, fabulous scenery and a trail that will put a demand on your trekking skills when the outdoor social club heads to West Clear Creek on July 31.

Meet at 8:30 am in the parking lot in front of the Food Court of the Prime Outlet Mall near New River off I-17. Your group will then caravan north on I-17 to exit 285, heading toward Camp Verde. After 2.8 miles, turn right on to East State Route 260 and proceed 5.6 miles to Bull Pen. Turn left onto the gravel road for 2.2 miles, then turn right. It'll be another few miles to the trailhead. In spots, the road will be one lane and have steep drop-offs.

Bring lots of water, shoes that can get wet, a lunch, snacks, sunscreen, hat, swimsuit, perhaps a walking stick and a smile. It'll be hot, but be comforted in the fact that the water will be cool.

Expect a trail of moderate difficulty. There is no great rise in elevation but you'll cross the stream several times on slippery rocks. The hike should last until about 4 pm.

For more info call DA's hotline at 602/266-CAMP or check the web at westclearcreek@desertadventures.org. Costs are \$3 for Members and \$5 for Guests.

On Sunday, Aug. 1, the group will participate in longtime community activist Artie Michaelis' birthday fund-raiser and celebration with a DA party at Charlie's from 2 pm - 6 pm. The \$4 fee applies to both members and guests and includes BBQ and drinks. Country/Western dance lessons are offered or you can be just part of the scene. Make sure to visit the Desert Adventures table while you are there. Charlie's is located at 727 W. Camelback Rd. in Phoenix and has plenty of parking.

Regional Leather Contest set for Aug. 14

The 1999 Southwest Regional Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy Contest will be held August 14 in Phoenix. This event will select the regional representatives who will compete in the 1999 International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contest to be held Sept.

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

25 in San Francisco.

The Southwest Regional Mr. Drummer competition will pit the winners from local contests to be held throughout the summer in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

Since 1979, the Mr. Drummer title winners—whether local, regional or national—have served as diplomats representing the leather community, and are called upon to serve in many ways. Mr. Drummer displays the finest values of the leather tradition: discipline, honor, tolerance and the celebration of individuality.

Bob Le Jardine, owner of Tuff Stuff Leatherware and the sponsor of the Southwest Regional event, encourages all leather enthusiasts to pick up a contestant packet at Tuff Stuff, 1714 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix. Call 602/254-9651 for further information.

Comedy Night tickets on sale now

The Community Center, along with major sponsors *HeatStroke* Newspaper and Camelwest Tax Service, will present its Fifth Annual Fall Concert, *A Night of Comedy* on Saturday, August 28 at 7 pm., at the historic Orpheum Theater.

The benefit show will feature—as one of four entertainers—award winning writer and performer John McGivern. McGivern may be best known for his performance in the long running hit *Shear Madness*. McGivern also appeared on the Comedy Central Special *Out There II*, and can be seen in the upcoming HBO special *We're Funny That Way*.

A Milwaukee native, McGivern describes his brand of humor as "sit-down comedy," or "standup monologues." Shying away from one-liners, McGivern has endeared himself to audiences by relaying stories about his sometimes tumultuous life. Being one of six children in a strict Irish Catholic home does not immediately bring comedic visions to mind. But, add to that mix the fact that McGivern is gay, and a former seminary student, the possibilities for hilarious anecdotes becomes mind boggling.

McGivern recounts his upbringing, coming to terms with his sexual orientation, his relationship with his parents, and his subsequent battle with alcohol and drug addiction. He manages to re-create the pivotal moments

in his life with an unconscious grace and humor. The opportunity to see this rare talent for yourself has finally come.

Tickets are \$22 in advance for reserved seating or \$40 for reserved seating and a post-show Meet the Entertainers Reception and are available from Phoenix Civic Plaza and at all Dillard's Box Office locations. Call The Center at 602/265-7283 for more information.

PBP hosting Aug. 29 Bowl-a-Thon

The annual Bowl-a-Thon to benefit Phoenix Body Positive's programs and services will be held at the AMF Squaw Peak Bowling Alley in Phoenix on Aug. 29. Organizers are looking for teams of four to compete for a traveling trophy and door prizes at this fun summer event.

Company sponsors are also needed to back the teams and help make the Bowl-a-Thon a successful fund-raiser for the AIDS/HIV service organization. To get involved, contact Gary Abeyta at 480/483-0884.

Pride Committee wants public input on Aug. 22

Arizona Central Pride will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members on Sunday, Aug. 22 in the ballroom of the Quality Hotel and Resort, at 2nd Ave. and Osborn in Phoenix. The meeting will begin at noon.

General reports from all committee directors and officers concerning operations of their specific areas during the past year will be given. Elections for the new board members will follow, with eight positions on the board open to consideration. For information on position requirements or voting procedures, contact ACP Vice President Garry Mangum at 602/279-1771.

The annual meeting, according to Mangum, provides the community with a forum to ask questions of the board or make suggestions and become a part of the new year. People are also needed to volunteer for and help plan the 2000 event.

Mangum said ACP hears all year from people with ideas about how the Pride event should be handled or what should be changed, but people rarely attend the annual meetings where they can really speak up and let the committee know what they want to see at Pride. He and other board members are hoping interested people will show up, get involved and be heard.

New Valley group for women

Business women, entrepreneurs, retired ladies—no matter what age—and their mates are invited to meet with the Diamond Ladies, a new social group whose next meeting is set for Aug. 19 at Serrano's, 1955 W. Guadalupe (SE corner of Dobson and Guadalupe) in the East Valley, at 1:30 pm.

Diamond Ladies will meet every third Tuesday for lunch, talk and fun in different parts of the Valley. For information on the Diamond Ladies, call Barb at 480/451-3254.

GCMC joins PFLAG for Sept. concert

The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale and the Phoenix Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays have joined to present a musical adaption by J.A. Kawarsky of *Prayers for Bobby*, the biography of Mary Griffith and her son, Bobby.

At 15, Bobby realized he was gay and came out to his family. They rejected his sexuality and prayed for healing as Bobby grew more distraught and eventually committed suicide. Mary Griffith then came to terms with the inevitability of homosexuality and anguished over her son's struggle. She published *Prayers for Bobby* and went from an unquestioning churchgoer to become a national crusader for gay youth.

The Phoenix concert will be at the First United Methodist Church in central Phoenix on Sept. 26 at 2 pm. The program will be a benefit for PFLAG's "Safe Space" program, an educational outreach designed for middle schools, high schools and churches.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the concert program or desiring more information about the event should contact PFLAG Phoenix at 602/843-1404 or via e-mail at info@pflag-phoenix.org.

Center sponsoring Sept. women's dance

A Tea Dance for women will take place Sunday, Sept. 12 from 2 - 5 pm at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Ave. in central Phoenix.

The dance will be the first in a planned series of new events for women sponsored by The Community Center/Women's Community Project. There will be ballroom dance lessons, door prizes and refreshments for a cost of \$15.

Call The Center at 602/234-2752 for information.

Center seeks funds for youth

The Community Center's 1999 Youth Services Campaign is underway. Its purpose is to raise funds to sustain the Valley organizations various youth programs.

The Center administers two programs for young gay, lesbian, bi, transgendered and questioning people. The first is Valley One in Ten (VOIT), for teenagers 14 to 17. The second is Horizons, a newer program that accommodates young men and women aged 18 to 22. Both programs are partially funded by grants. The majority of their funding, however, is provided by individual contributors.

Three new youth programs have been added this year. They include Young and Bi for young people 14 to 22 who identify as bisexual; Young & Positive for people 14 to 22 who are HIV positive; and the performance group Phoenix Young Ladies and Men' Experience (PHYLAME).

The Center's five youth programs have served more than 350 young people in the first half of this year alone. To make your tax deductible contribution, contact The Center at 602/265-7283.

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Thursday: Clogging lessons for beginners, 6:15-7:30.
Country Western Dance Lessons with Geri 7:30-9:30pm.

Cash Inn welcomes our new DJ, Molly, spinning every Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

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Sunday: Our Steak Fry is retired for July & August, but don't miss Country Western Dancing with our DJ Molly spinning from 7-11pm!



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Betty DeGeneres Speaks Out

Continued from page 1

RW: And his son is openly gay, that's the best part.

BDG: I know. That's pure hate.

RW: You need to chat with Pete one-on-one. He needs to hear your message.

BDG: Do you think it would help?

RW: It cannot be a coincidence that the biggest gay-basher in the California legislature has an openly gay son.

BDG: Yes, very sad. He needs a lot of help. But he's obviously just so, so—I don't know what they do—they're brainwashed, their hearts are hardened.

RW: How about gays in the military, is that a good idea?

BDG: Well, of course it is. All through history gay men have been in the military and served with honor. I think "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is a horrendous mistake. I talked to one man who is a captain and lives in fear every day that someone will find out he's gay before he's served his whole time and retired. And that's a terrible thing.

RW: Of all the people you've met in your gay work, is there anybody who has really inspired you?

BDG: Right off the bat, I'd have to say Ellen and Anne.

RW: You're biased.

BDG: I'm completely biased and prejudiced. But I believe anybody who really knows them would say the same thing.



Ellen's Mom charms the crowd as Grand Marshal of the San Diego Pride Parade.

Anne is the most honest, truthful person you'll ever, ever meet. You don't get any nonsense from her. And Ellen is brave and courageous and honest. So I just am in awe of both of them, and honored to be their mom.

RW: A lot of people were surprised by Anne's story that she hadn't ever thought about being a lesbian till she saw your daughter across a crowded room.

BDG: That's true.

RW: It's a funny kind of way to realize that you're gay, isn't it?

BDG: Since then I've heard a number of stories of people who found out they were gay the exact same way. ... This is the way that it happens for some people. You meet that one person that's meant to be with you.

RW: But Anne was hopelessly heterosexual too.

BDG: Who knows! I have learned in my life never to say never.

RW: One final question. There's always a big controversy every year at pride time on whether pride should be about showing the heterosexual community how "normal" we all are, or whether it should be a big Mardi Gras sort of day with all the drag queens and leathermen and the disco boys on the floats and such. The gay papers are always full of letters to the editor back and forth every year.

BDG: I think gay pride parades are an opportunity for celebration, and we don't all want to celebrate in the exact same way. Those who are more flamboyant and come out in all their feathers and scanty outfits and whatever, quite naturally the newspapers take pictures of them.

In the San Francisco parade there were people marching with their dogs ... and they had the PFLAG parents. Well, they didn't get their pictures on the front of the paper. That's just the way it is.

I don't believe in saying, "Don't you dare look like that, don't do that." If that's what they want to do the one day of the year, that's what they do.

RW: So Mardi Gras is fine with you.

BDG: Well, I'm from New Orleans so Mardi Gras has always been fine.



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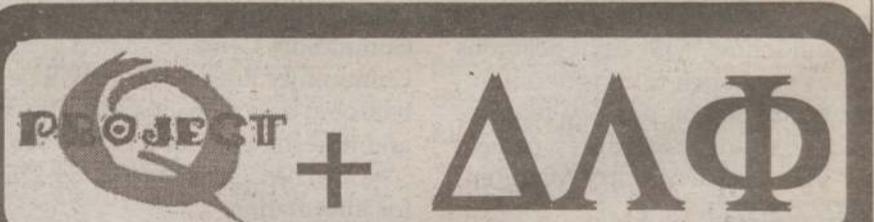
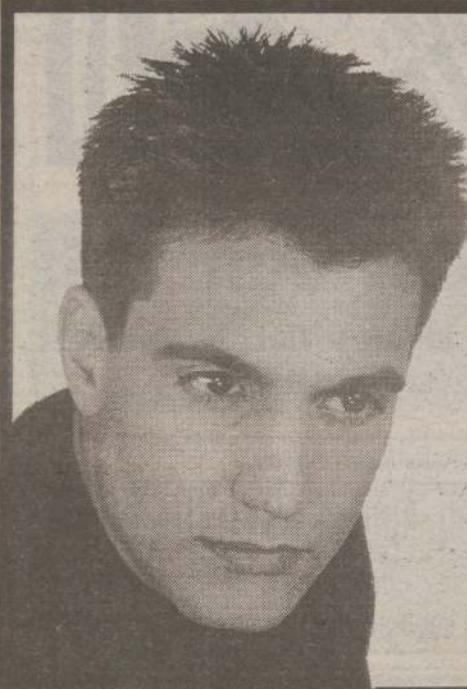
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My Queer Life: Thou Shalt Not Have Any Common Sense

By Michael Thomas Ford,
HeatStroke Contributor

So, the House of Representatives has passed an amendment making it legal for publicly-funded schools to post that hallmark of Christian morality, the 10 Commandments, within their halls and classrooms.

Never mind that this goes completely against the whole separation of church and state principle. The wise old white men who run our country think that if kids can see the Commandments every day, it will stop the increase in youth violence.

As a friend of mine was told by his representative when he called to ask how the man could possibly vote for such a thing, "It can't hurt."

Have you read the 10 Commandments lately? Apparently the members of the House haven't.

Or maybe they're so faint from all this fasting they're doing to atone for turning away from God that they can't quite comprehend their meaning. Because if you look at the holy 10, they have very little to do with kids killing each other.

And the fact that they're being set forth by politicians as a model of ethical behavior is stunning. Observe.

1: Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Okay, fine, the 10 Commandments were a covenant between the Israelites and their God. Of course he didn't want anyone else honing in on the action.

But what about all those Hindus and pagans and Buddhists out there? Do they have to nervously pretend to go along with the whole one God concept or face being blamed for everything that goes wrong? It wouldn't be the first time, but it's a lot to ask.

2: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images.

Well, I don't think anyone has suggested melting down the contents of the U.S. Mint to make a golden calf or anything, so this probably isn't a big worry. But I suppose some kid will sacrifice a chicken beneath a Marilyn Manson poster one of these days, and then we'll never hear the end of it.

3: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Damn it. This takes all the fun out of everything. But we still always have "shit" and "fuck" to get us through.

4: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

No work on the weekend. Big deal. It just gives them more time to build bombs in their garages.

5: Honor thy father and thy mother.

Finally, five commandments into it and we have an almost sensible one. But since every single parent of a kid who's gone on a shooting spree has looked into the camera and said, "He was such a good boy, and never gave us any trouble," I have my doubts about familial respect tempering antisocial behavior. Maybe they should take away Nintendo privileges instead.

6: Thou shalt not kill.

This, of course, is the big one, and who could argue with it? But I can't help but find it ironic that the government of the last country in the Western world that still allows capital punishment really thinks hearing this repeatedly is going to make a difference. Maybe they could amend it to say that thou shalt not kill someone unless they come from a minority group and/or can't afford good lawyers.

7: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Well, let's see. Our current president doesn't seem to have a problem with this one, so why should we? This reminds me of the infamous Michael Bowers, the former attorney general of Georgia who fought tooth and nail to uphold that state's anti-gay sodomy law while simultaneously carrying on a ten-year adulterous affair. And honestly, if all these angry

And honestly, if all these angry kids were getting laid more often, they probably wouldn't feel the need to off one another.

kids were getting laid more often, they probably wouldn't feel the need to off one another.

8: Thou shalt not steal.

I guess what they mean is that kids shouldn't steal the guns they use to kill each other. Good thing there are pawn shops and Wal-Marts who will sell them to them cheap.

9: Thou shalt not lie.

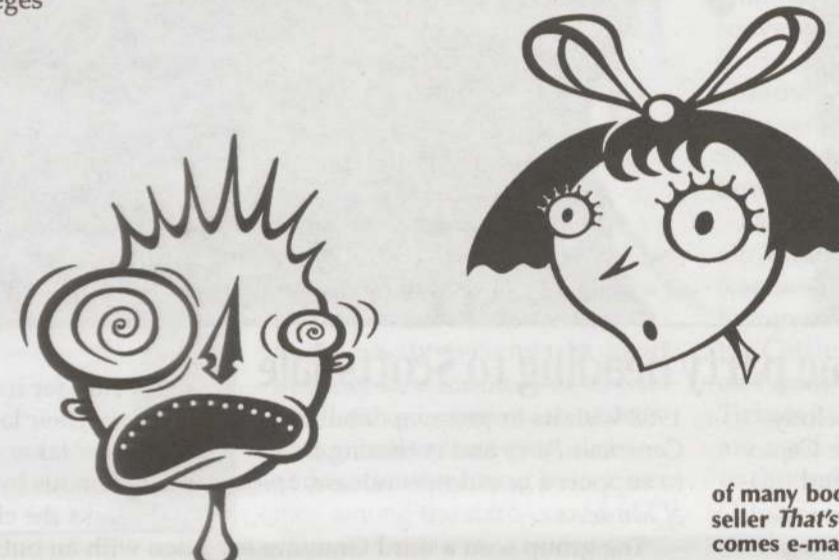
Wow, the government and religious figures lecturing us about lying

Just look at the fine role models they've given us over the years.

10: Thou shalt not covet.

I'm told by a priest friend that this means that we should all be happy with the lives that we have, and not be envious of what our neighbors have because it leads to ill-will. But since so far the vast majority of teen shooters have been middle class white

boys from the suburbs, I'm not sure what it is they're supposed to be coveting. Poverty and discrimination?



In the end, I'm afraid, most of the infamous ten don't really provide much in the way of useful instruction.

Not that it matters much. If these politicians who think religion is going to save us looked back in time, they'd find that the greatest horrors in human history were perpetuated by people who claimed to be living out Christian principles.

Slavery. The Crusades. White supremacy. Homophobia. They were (and still are in some cases) all justified using biblical principles.

Still, I do think it's good of them to try and teach kids some solid morals. Perhaps they're just looking in the wrong place.

Ironically, given the current hysteria being waged by certain members of the house against pagan groups practicing on military bases, they might do better to take a look at the Wiccan Rede, the fundamental tenet of witchcraft. "An it harm none, do as you will," says the Rede simply. Sounds good to me. Can you see it on posters all over America's schools? Couldn't hurt.



Michael Thomas Ford is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author

of many books, including the new best-seller *That's Mr. Faggot to You*. He welcomes e-mail at Shopiltee@aol.com.

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James R. Minchin III

Marley clan's reggae party heading to Scottsdale

Ziggy Marley and The Melody Makers will play Scottsdale's Cajun House Aug. 4. The family band (featuring Stephen, Cedella, Sharon & Ziggy Marley) first made news in

1988 with its impressive debut album *Conscious Party* and is touring in '99 to support a brand new release, *Spirit of Music*.

The group won a third Grammy in

the spring for its 1998 disk, *Fallen is Babylon*. Their latest collection features new takes on a couple of songs made famous by legendary dad Bob, and marks the clan's first collaboration with an outside producer—the

highly respected and creative Don Was.

Tickets for the 8 pm show are \$25—call The Cajun House or Ticketmaster to order. Ghetto and Youth Crew will open.

Soulful blast from the past in town Aug. 1

The R & B ensemble Earth, Wind & Fire will bring its timeless sound to ASU's Gammage Auditorium on Sunday, Aug. 1 for a 7:30 pm show.

With memorable hits like "September", "All n' All", "After the Love has Gone" and more, the group has earned legions of fans and 14 Grammy nominations in a career that spans four decades.

Tickets are \$30 - \$55 and available through Dillard's outlets and the ASU Public Events Box Office.



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Actor's Theatre schedules 15th season

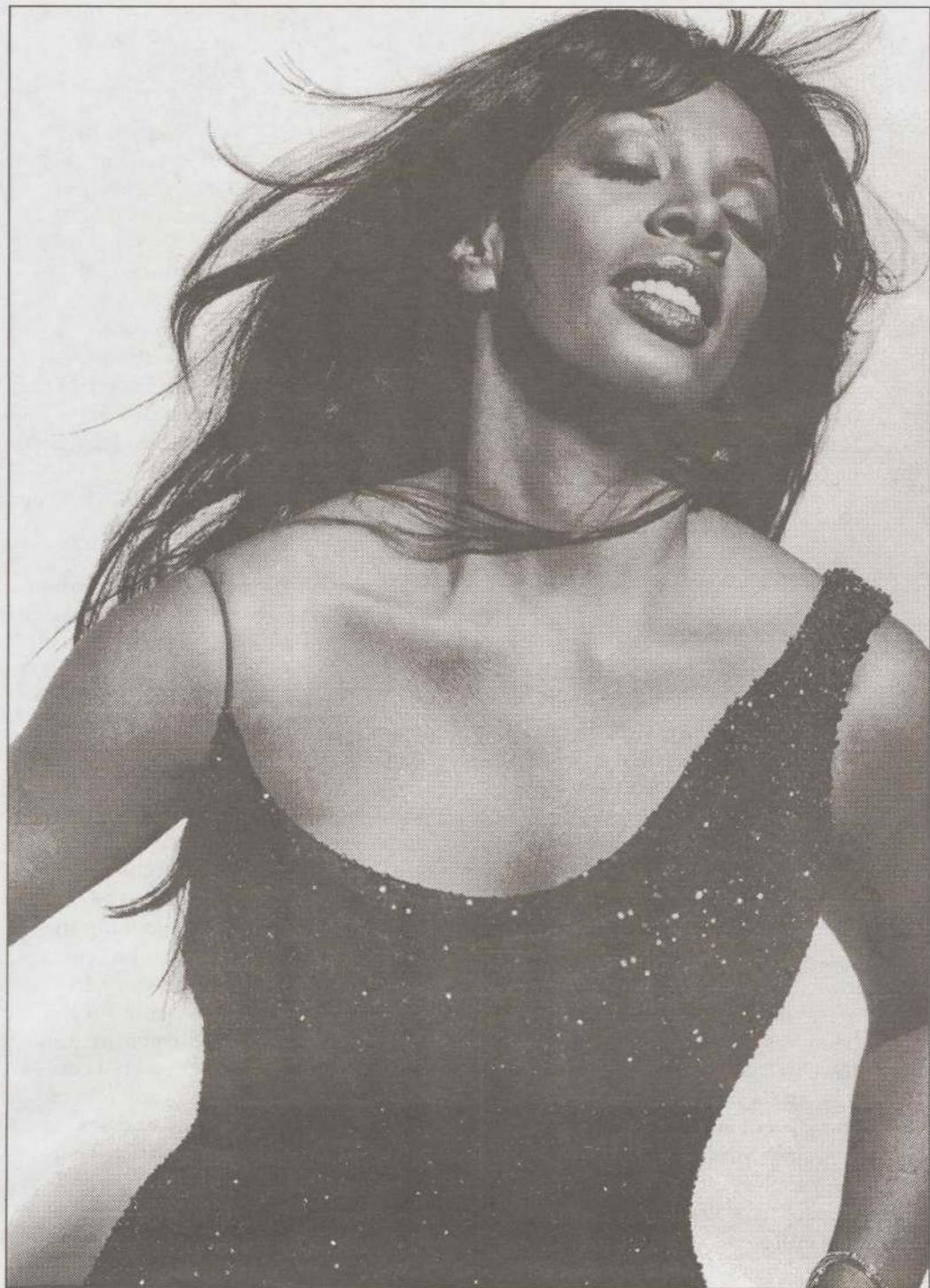
Paula Vogel's family comic/drama *The Baltimore Waltz* will open Actor's Theatre of Phoenix's fifteenth season at the Herberger Theatre Oct. 15-31. Vogel is an out lesbian who won a Pulitzer in 1998 for her off-Broadway hit *How I Learned to Drive*.

Actor's Theatre will follow the Vogel play with its annual presentation of *A Christmas Carol*. The popular holiday musical will run Dec. 11-23. The troupe will then borrow from the last century to produce a classic for the next, with its take on Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* opening Jan. 28, 2000.

In March, the company will bring back *The Kathy & Mo Show* by popular demand. The two-woman comedy, written by comedians Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney, had a successful run here a few seasons ago.

Capping the season in May will be the world premiere of a new play by Arizona playwright Michael Grady. *The Arizona Project* promises to be a funny and timely tale of '90s life in the Grand Canyon state.

For season tickets or for more information on the company's 1999-2000 season, call Actor's Theatre at 602/253-6701.



WONDERFUL WORLD OF WEEN AT COOPERSTOWN

Alice Cooper's new live music hot spot continues to showcase diversity and take promotional risks few other Valley rock venues match.

The club will again step up to the line (and maybe cross it) by playing host to the weird musical humor of Ween on Tuesday, Aug. 10.

The quirky duo are touring behind their new release, *Painting the Town Brown: Ween Live '90 - '98, '99*, a compilation culled from nine years of touring.

Ween's 1996 cd, *12 Golden Country Greats*, earned brothers Gene and Dean critical admiration and a degree of industry

respectability—yet they continue to shun pop accessibility with their profoundly profane lyrics and wildly eclectic tunes.

Tickets for the 8 pm show at Cooper'stown in downtown Phoenix are \$15.



Ellen DeGeneres may be back in TV sitcom

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—

Ellen DeGeneres may be coming back to network television despite what she called a bruising experience with ABC and *Ellen*.

The actress-comedian was negotiating with CBS for a new comedy in which she would play the host of a Carol Burnett-style TV variety show, Leslie Moonves, president and chief executive officer of CBS Television, said July 25.

The series, intended for the 2000-01 season, would focus on the character's off- and on-camera life.

Both DeGeneres and her character on *Ellen* came out as lesbians in April 1997. When the show's ratings dropped and it was canceled about a

year later, DeGeneres accused the network of sabotaging her program.

"When I walked out of the studio after five years of working so hard, knowing I had been treated so disrespectfully for no other reason than I was gay, I just went into this deep, deep depression," DeGeneres said in November 1998. "It's not like any other networks have called."

The character's sexual orientation on the new show has not been discussed, but it wouldn't matter to the network if she was lesbian or not, executives told the Television Critics Association.

Since *Ellen*, DeGeneres has appeared in films including *EdTV* and *The Love Letter*.

Memories of Summer

She ruled as Queen of the Disco Era in the '70s with megahits like "Hot Stuff", "Bad Girls" and "MacArthur Park." Donna Summer apparently then decided she was working too hard for her money, so she sued her record company and found Jesus. She briefly resurfaced in 1989 with the dance tune "This Time I Know It's For Real", only to disappear from the charts for yet another decade.

Now Summer is back with a new single, a juicy new collection of her biggest hits on disk and a 36-stop tour underway. She's leading a city-by-city trip down memory lane for those of us who recall an age when music videos were a bothersome new idea—and no doubt earning herself new fans among the retro-crazed MTV

generation.

Gobs of gays still shun the dance diva for what she's said to have said about "God's plan" being for "Adam & Eve, not Adam & Steve"—widely reported remarks that followed the lady's conversion to hardcore Christianity in the early '80s. Fifteen-odd years and who-knows-how-many lost sales later, Summers claims the oft-quoted line never came out of her mouth.

Maybe enough is enough, after all. Valley queers in the mood to forgive can aurally partake of Summers' still-amazing pipes at the Celebrity Theatre in Phoenix on Friday, Aug. 6 at 7:30 pm. Tickets range from \$35 - \$45 and are available by calling Dillard's or through the Celebrity Box Office.

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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"We were both in suits and he sat across from me and we had a conversation for a while that was clearly about nothing to do with what was on our minds. And finally he said, 'Well, I should be over there or you should be over here,' which I thought was about the sexiest thing I had ever heard anybody say. I don't remember which one of us budged, but we did. And we had a sort of making-out session. We were finally rolling around on the floor when he said, 'Hang on,' and he produced a little black leather case that had R H embossed on it in gold. And he unzipped it and pulled out his poppers. He had a personalized Rock Hudson popper case! And I completely lost my hard-on. I was so overwhelmed at the notion that I was about to go to bed with Rock Hudson. Not to mention the fact that I'd just seen the baby's arm hanging between his legs. And we sat on the couch together and he put his arm around me and said, 'You know I'm just another guy, like any other guy. You know that, don't you?' And all I could say to that was, 'No. You're not. And I'm Doris Day.'"

—*Tales of the City* author Armistead Maupin on the first of his several sexual encounters with Rock Hudson, in the new biography *Armistead Maupin* by Patrick Gale.

"I don't think it's relevant to anybody. If I thought it meant something, to teach somebody something, that would be fine. But since it doesn't exist, I don't have to worry."

—Christopher Lowell, star of the Discovery Channel's *Interior Motives*, when asked June 17 by Milwaukee's *In Step*, "You have no interest in talking about your romantic life?"

"I don't know. I know, based on the letters we get and the personal appearances I do, that they think I'm their friend, and they will walk right up to me and throw their arms around me. It's that kind of relationship that I hope I have fostered with them. I think whatever they're seeing, they know that there's a good deal of

earned authenticity there and that I'm there to help them."

—Christopher Lowell, star of the Discovery Channel's *Interior Motives*, when asked June 17 by Milwaukee's *In Step*, "Do you think your viewers assume you're gay?"

"I have this huge family that's been decimated by alcoholism and drugs and violence and I'm their role model. Because I live in California and have a mortgage. Because I've been on television and I kissed Anjelica Huston. It's about as much as any of them can imagine being a triumph. ... If I'd taken up with a gospel band or rock and roll, I'd make a whole lot more sense to my family. But to write books. ... I'd come home with books and they'd stare at me like I was crazy. That was the thing most queer about me."

—Author Dorothy Allison to Boston's *Bay Windows*, June 10.

"We have a gay pride day celebration in Naples, but it consists of two or three floats on lawn mowers going around the parking lot of the one gay bar in town."

—John Kossenians of Naples, Fla., while watching the San Francisco gay pride parade, as quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 28.

"Being openly gay in public life is itself a political statement. It's relevant to changing laws because half the reason the laws haven't been changed is the public at large isn't aware that gay people exist because we've been encouraged for so long to stay in the closet and be quiet about ourselves and not to cause a fuss."

—Actor Ian McKellen to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, June 28.

"I'm not particularly keen on entering a political arena. That sort of activism may be fine for somebody like Ian McKellen, but I wouldn't be capable of it. Different people have different missions in life, and I see mine as an acting mission. I think I'm quite a good actor in the small area I tend to work in, and I just want to keep expanding on that, really."

—Gay actor Rupert Everett to Atlanta's *Etcetera* magazine, June 25.

"I'm not up to being a [gay] role model, actually. If you waded through my life, it's probably not role model-y enough. It's fantastic, and it makes me very happy if people are somehow inspired by me, but I'm still essentially just an actor."

—Actor Rupert Everett to Atlanta's *Etcetera* magazine, June 25.

"I've never regretted anything I've said, even

the stuff about being a male prostitute. I'm not ashamed of it. It was necessary for me at that time in my life. I was going for a career in acting, but I wasn't completely successful. So, I became a male escort."

—Gay actor Rupert Everett to Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, June 24.

"I never imagined living past 30. ... You always set yourself dates when you are a kid. [I set it] when I saw my first James Dean film. When I was a kid, as opposed to now, I kind of looked up at the tragic rather than looking down on it. Everyone wanted to suffer, wanted to live like Montgomery Clift or Patti Smith."

—Gay actor Rupert Everett to *Newsweek*, July 12.

"One of the earliest and most trenchant intimations I had of my own homosexuality came while watching Tom Cruise in the 1983 comedy *Risky Business*. I say this with a certain amount of embarrassment—because who, after all, wants to admit to being aroused, as a 10-year-old boy, at the sight of a barely-post-pubescent-himself movie star dancing in his snug white cotton underwear?"

—Christopher Kelly writing in *Salon* magazine, June 30.

"What I reject is the idea that being a same-sexer means that you have to sign up for an identity, ideology, and a lifestyle in which everything is cut and dried and it's pre-digested. I think gay culture is part of the problem, not the solution. ... Gay culture took straight society's ideal of gay culture as unnatural and unhealthy and they turned it on its head. Neither of these things are true. A lot of queer discourse is really just in-your-face queer. We're not going to apologize for it. We're going to celebrate it. Enough celebration. It certainly doesn't make for good art. It makes for third-rate propaganda. It makes for a kind of hedonism and consumerism."

—Author Mark Simpson (*It's a Queer World*) to the *New York Blade News*, June 25.

"I'm on constant guard [since my partner and I adopted a baby], I'm terrified I'm going to turn into Erma Bombeck, get really soft and lose that cynical, bitter edge that people enjoy my writing for. I'm vigilant that I won't change. I've very consciously not written about the baby in my sex advice column. I don't think it's an appropriate place. I've always used things out of my life and talked about my boyfriends. My column is read by three-and-a-half million straight people a week. They read it because it's about their sex lives most of the time. Once in a while I'll talk about 'us' and trick them into reading something they wouldn't read otherwise."

—Syndicated columnist Dan Savage in a July 5 interview with *Gay Parent* magazine.

"If they sent a check to my campaign, I would not turn it away. Because what that says to me is, they're accepting my agenda. They believe in reduced taxes, and increasing the defense budget. They believe in getting rid of illegal drugs in this country. They believe in restoring our public schools to greatness. So, it's a matter of their accepting my agenda."

—Presidential candidate Elizabeth Dole when asked on NBC-TV's *Today* show June 30: "Do you want the sup-

port of the Log Cabin Republicans? They're a group of gay Republicans."

"Believe it or not, it was about when I was six years old [that I knew I was gay]. I remember looking at cowboys and Indians on television. Back in the '50s, the Indians were all muscled-up Hollywood actors and they all wore little G-strings with flaps in the front and back. All I wanted to do was lift the flaps. ... I have never forgotten this moment."

—Gay porn star Cole Tucker to the Memphis gay magazine *Family & Friends*, July issue.

"Doing this work is a fantasy come true, and to have started at my age is unheard of."

—Gay porn star Cole Tucker, who is 45, to the Memphis gay magazine *Family & Friends*, July issue.

"If you come to Denmark secretly hoping to be raped and ravaged by a raucous band of longhaired, broad-shouldered Viking queers, forget it. Danish gays are pretty much a neatly coifed, reserved group fairly indistinguishable from their straight countrymen. That's because Denmark is very tolerant of homosexuals making the need for a separate political or cultural identity mostly unnecessary. In Denmark gay men have most of the same rights as other citizens, including the right to marry in a civil ceremony. That said, there is still lots of fun, e.g. parties, cruising and sex, to be had for the passing tourist. There are clubs, bars, parks, cinemas and toilets—as described in other sections of this periodical — catering to every taste and desire."

—From the Danish National Association of Gays and Lesbians' "Guide to Gay and Lesbian Denmark '99," which was funded by the Danish Ministry of Culture.

"If you just need some fresh air and a little open-air-sex, Ørstedsparken is the place to go. It is a popular cruising area, and between the trees and statues you can find partners for casual anonymous sex. Be careful (take responsibility for both you and your partner) and remember that there are free condoms and lubricant in the specially designed 'bird nests'."

—From the Danish National Association of Gays and Lesbians' "Guide to Gay and Lesbian Denmark '99," which was funded by the Danish Ministry of Culture.

"I think [gay life is] very shrill. It's a pity it's got that way. It was all right in the middle, when it got to be open, but not loud. Nowadays, wherever the gay people are, there's trouble. The real people in England used to say to me, 'What do the queers want now?' Because they thought they'd done so much for us. And I thought so, too. But the gay people look 'round and if they see anything they've been denied, they want it—whether it's any use or not."

—Author Quentin Crisp to Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, July 1.

"A gay person isn't really living. He's giving an imitation of somebody who's alive. Gay people are standing on the bank watching other people swim. It's a useful thing—because you see more of life if you're not in the middle of it. You can form an opinion and a judgment of it."

—Author Quentin Crisp to Atlanta's *Southern Voice*, July 1.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

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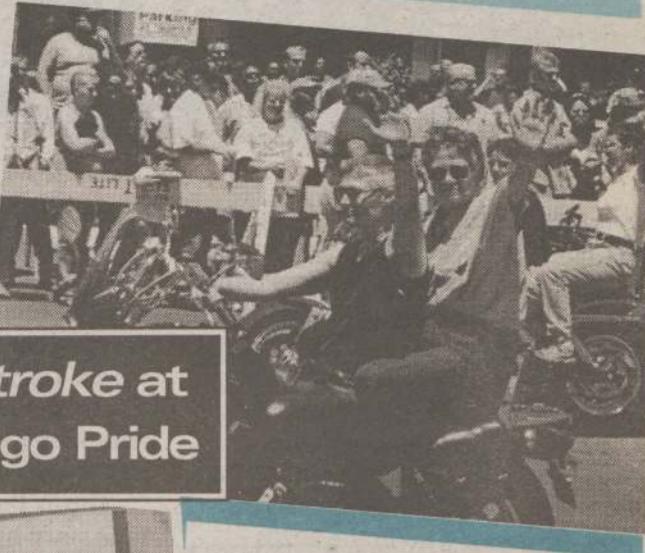
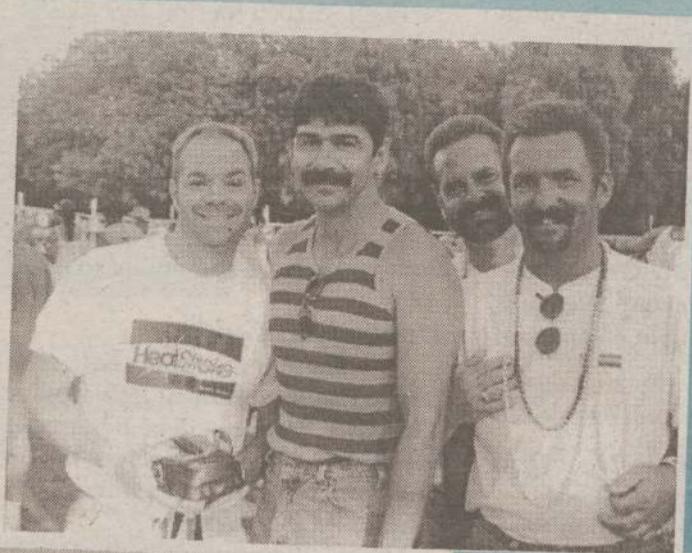
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Seeing/Being Scene



**HeatStroke at
San Diego Pride**



Deep Inside Hollywood

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Is a Sex Change in the Offing for McNeal Star?

Clean-cut cutie Gil Bellows (who plays Ally McBonehead's—er, I mean, McNeal's—college flame Billy Thomas on the hit Fox TV series) is looking for racier material.

The actor has made a six-figure offer to acquire the film rights to the life story of **Einar Wegener**, the artist from Denmark who in the 1920s became the first person to undergo sex reassignment surgery, in Copenhagen.

The project will be based on *The Danish Girl*, a novel by **David Eshoff** that Random House has slated to be published in February. The deal is far from done—the

bad syndrome.

In July, **Danny Pintauro** starred in a 90-minute solo piece, *The Velocity of Gary* by **James Still**, at the Duplex Cabaret Theatre on Christopher Street. The play, which is the basis of a new movie with **Vince D'Onofrio** and **Salma Hayek**, is about the adventures of a naive street hustler.

This is Pintauro's first foray into legit since he completed his college education at Stanford and relocated to Manhattan. Best known in the '80s as **Judith Light**'s geeky little son, Pintauro was nudged out of the closet in 1997 by the *National Enquirer*.

The disclosure may have been partly responsible for his interest in the stage, where Pintauro feels he faces less stereotyping as a gay man than in testosterone-driven Hollywood.

If you didn't catch Pintauro on stage, you may bump into him listening to '80s music at New York's Culture Club. Pintauro has fessed up to liking the tunes of **Boy George** and **Sheena Easton**.

Johnny Depp to play Liberace?

The actor who filled out **Ed Wood**'s angora sweaters may star in a film based on the life of another man of dubious masculinity, **Liberace**.

Time magazine recently reported that the quirky **Johnny Depp** has read a script by Academy Award-winning screenwriters **Scott Alexander** and **Larry Karaszewski** based on the life of the Polish-American pianist.

Depp is in many ways a logical choice for the role of the candleabra queen; he's chosen edgy and interesting character roles in the past (can you say *Edward Scissorhands*?). Also, he's previously worked with Alexander and Karaszewski on *Ed Wood* and, despite having recently fathered a child, he remains a confirmed bachelor.



Ally McNeal's Gil Bellows has put in a bid for the film rights to the life story of the world's first transsexual.

Eshoff manuscript has gotten such a hot response in Hollywood that DreamWorks is hoping to snag it for lanky and talented sexpot **Angelina Jolie**, who has expressed a desire to play the transsexual pioneer's wife, **Greta**.

Velocity of Danny

Now openly gay, the kid from the sitcom *Who's the Boss?* has been doing time as a male hustler in New York's Greenwich Village. No, we're not talking about the TV-child-star-goes-

Fashion in Style for Hollywood

The fashion biz is the hot setting *du jour* for a slew of new projects in Tinseltown.

Madonna has assumed producing tasks on **Simon Doonan's** *Confessions*

of a *Window Dresser*, a *Dorian Gray* tale about a young man who makes a Faustian pact to keep his youth in an attempt to rise to power in the oh-so-fabulous world of high fashion.

Currently in production is *L'Intern*, a dark comedy about an under-appreciated intern at a *Vogue*-like mag called *Skirt*. **Dominique Swain**, recently the light of **Jeremy Irons**' loins in *Lolita*, will play the title character, with comic **Kathy Griffin** co-starring and celeb makeup Svengali **Kevin Aucoin** putting in an appearance.

Dawson's Dyke

Michelle Williams, resident "bad girl" of *Dawson's Creek*, has been spending her summer vacation broadening her sexual horizons.

For the first part of her hiatus, Williams disrobed in the off-Broadway play *Killer Joe*, in which she played a white-trash seductress. The show got slammed by the critics, but Williams's physique was highly lauded.

Next up, she'll play a lesbian co-ed in director **Alex Sichel's** segment of the HBO original picture *If These Walls Could Talk II*. The segment will focus on the lesbian experience on a university campus.

Apparently, it's cool to play lesbian in Hollywood, as evidenced by fellow budding talents **Natasha Lyonne** (*American Pie*), sexy **Nia Long** (*Soul Food*), and **Kids** cutie **Chloe Sevigny** joining the sisterhood in the HBO film.

Scream III: Hipper than Thou

Adding to the body count in the next installment of the slasher franchise created by gay writer **Kevin Williamson** are *Felicity* hunk **Scott Foley** and indie film queen **Parker Posey**.

The plot of *Scream III*, which was finalized by writer **Ehrin Kruger** when it became apparent that Williamson needed to limit his involvement in the project, is rumored to be more spoof than the previous *Screams*. It will have the cast out of college and living in the real world, with Foley playing a hip, MTV-esque video director and Posey taking one of the leads.

Lips Wide Sealed

Working for Tinseltown twosome **Tom & Nicole** can be very pricey—if you want to talk about it.

The Smoking Gun Web site (www.thesmokinggun.com) got

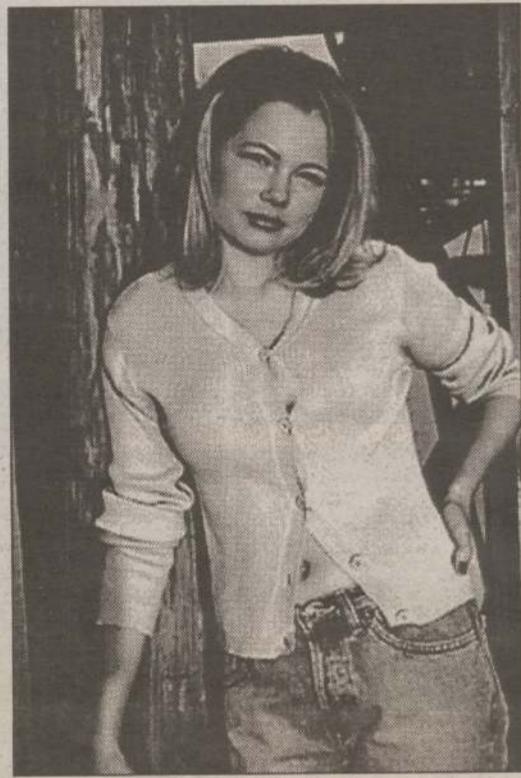
hold of one of the non-disclosure agreements the power-couple requires their staffers to sign. Employees can be fined \$50,000 for "private disclosure or repetition of confidential information"; for talking to the press, an employee can be charged \$20 for each printed copy of the periodical that runs the story, with a minimum fine of \$1,000,000.

Gosh, with fines this steep, could the Cruises have something to hide?

Honor Her, Guido

Prominent indie film producer (and equally prominent lesbian) **Christine Vachon** will be honored in September when she receives the producer prize at the Independent Feature Project Awards.

Vachon, whose films include *Velvet Goldmine* and *Kiss Me, Guido*, will receive the award on September 22 at



Michelle Williams is furthering her *Dawson's Creek* bad girl persona in recent projects.

New York's Chelsea Piers, where she'll be lauded for her tenacity and ability to ensure that a director's vision makes it to the screen.

Playing Las Vegas Loca

Sin city homosexuals who are dying to have a one-nighter with *muy caliente* rocker **Ricky Martin** will get their chance this fall. For the first time in his 15-year career, Martin will do Vegas (perform a show there, I mean). He's booked for a one-night engagement on November 12 at the 12,000 seat Mandalay Bay Theater.

Romeo San Vicente doesn't make his staff sign non-disclosure agreements. You can reach Romeo in care of *HeatStroke*.

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Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Ten great gay destinations if you have money to burn

You don't have to have a ton of money to enjoy the following 10 destinations, it just helps. People often ask me where they should go if they truly want to pamper themselves; what follows are a few of my favorite all-time places to live it up.

I've traveled quite a bit both as a single guy and while in a relationship, and it seems to me that this more than any other factor dictates the kind of splurge you're seeking.

The first five places I mention are ideal if you're traveling with your lover and seeking a romantic peaceful retreat. These are not places where you'd expect to find a thriving bar scene and ample opportunities to cut loose.

The next five destinations are exciting cities where you can treat yourself to a fine hotel, a great dinner, and then perhaps a couple hours checking out the local singles scene.

Traveling with your lover?

1. The Napa and Sonoma Wine Country, California

The wine country near San Francisco doesn't have a huge reputation as a gay mecca, but if you ask lesbian and gay Bay Area residents where they like to get away in style, this land of luxury inns, trendy restaurants, and of course, esteemed vineyards tops many lists.

While accommodations in these parts are rarely specifically gay, same-sex couples are made to feel quite welcome at most establishments. And the Russian River gay resort area can be found not far from the heart of the Wine Country, in western Sonoma County.

2. Maui, Hawaii

Maui didn't get to be one of the world's top gay destinations by offering a wild nightclub scene—gay bars can't seem to stay in business on this island. But it is arguably the most romantic gay-friendly getaway in North America, where couples can relax along white-sand beaches and at

four-star resorts beside lagoon-inspired pools. The top-of-the-line properties here have outstanding restaurants and world-class golf courses and health clubs.

3. Savannah, Georgia

In courtly Savannah, many of the most lavish and romantic historic inns have become increasingly gay-popular in recent years. Most of them are near or directly facing one of the city's elegant oak-shaded grassy squares and typically have massive four-poster beds with carved headboards, whirlpool soaking tubs, and museum-quality antiques.

This can definitely be a city of excesses, as illustrated in John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, and the wealth of outstanding restaurants here definitely proves the point.

4. Litchfield County, Connecticut

This countrified patch of exquisitely preserved colonial hamlets, sophisticated restaurants, fine antiques shops, and scenic state parks has long been a second home of prominent glitterati (Dustin Hoffman, Whoopi Goldberg, Arthur Miller, Diane Sawyer and Mike Nichols, Meryl Streep, Michael J. Fox, Larry Kramer, and many others).

There are no gay bars or gay-specific B&Bs here, but just about every hip restaurant in the county has a steady gay following, and A-list gay New Yorkers have for years been frequenting a number of highly gay-friendly inns throughout the region. The towns of Litchfield, New Milford, Norfolk, Washington, and Woodbury make ideal bases for exploring the region.

5. Aspen, Colorado

There may not be a more romantic—and decadent—way to celebrate a special occasion than spending the weekend holed up at the Hotel Jerome in Aspen. And that's just one of several wonderful places to stay in this chic Rocky Mountains ski resort.

It's not the easiest place to meet other single gay folks—unless it happens to be gay ski week. But if you're here with a partner, whether it's ski season or not, there are terrific opportunities for indulging your interests at every turn: food festivals, spectacular hikes, fly-fishing excursions, art galleries—you name it.

Single and Looking?

1. Key West, Florida

There's a rather unhealthy notion out there that finding romance (or simply hoping to get laid) is impossible in a gay resort town unless you

stay at a cheap dive with tawdry rooms. Key West happily defies this principle.

On this secluded tropical island, you'll find a slew of classy, elegant inns and resorts striking an unusually fine balance between the sophisticated and the sexy. Many of them are clothing-optional and prone to late-night antics around the pool, hot tub, or wherever—and yet it's quite common at such places to find rooms with upscale antiques, a polite low-keyed staff, and a respectable (but still wildly fun) ambience.

2. Vancouver, British Columbia

If you haven't been to Vancouver, no matter what your financial and social circumstances, put this jewel of a city at the very top of your list. And if you have the money to book at room at one of the several fine luxury hotels or gay-friendly Victorian inns, Vancouver also makes for a delicious city to indulge yourself in.

Restaurants here are out of this

the promenade along the Charles River.

Wherever you walk, rest assured that you'll see plenty of gay men and women wandering the very same streets. And in Boston, a little eye contact goes a long way.

4. San Francisco, California

San Francisco is, among other great things, America's culinary darling, and it's also one of the world's great hotel cities. New York is often awarded both such distinctions, but San Francisco maintains a level of consistency in these regards that is unrivaled. And the city's reputation for nightlife is legendary.

It may be a cliche to include San Francisco on any list of top gay getaways, but this is one destination that can't be recommended often enough.

5. Dallas, Texas

Dallas is one of those cities where everything seems to exist on a grander-than-average scale, from



Union Park in Boston's enchanting South End is the sort of idyllic urban oasis that makes this one of America's greatest cities for strolling.

world, conjuring up some of the best Thai, Greek, Japanese, and regional Pacific Northwestern cuisine in North America. Nightlife options are few for a city this size, but the clubs are lively, fun, and exceedingly friendly.

3. Boston, Massachusetts

Boston, like Paris or Florence, is meant to be appreciated on foot—no other city in America is more charming for strolling.

Power-shoppers can walk along Newbury Street in hopes of scoring fashionable duds, and power-diners can saunter through the South End admiring the menus in the windows of the countless hot restaurants. Or you can just amble from the lobby of any of Beantown's many rarefied hotels to the leafy Boston Common or

margaritas (the frozen kind were invented here) to shopping malls. It has an extensive and varied nightlife scene that's a hit with both gay men and lesbians, and the most popular bars (plus a few fun restaurants) are within walking distance of one another, in trendy Oak Lawn.

Nearby are several deluxe hotels and ritzy shopping in Highland Park, a neighborhood that feels not unlike Beverly Hills. It's the perfect place to pick up a new outfit to impress the locals with, as this is definitely a city where people work hard to look their very best.

Andrew Collins authored the expanded second edition of *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*, as well as six gay guides covering the West Coast, New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam.

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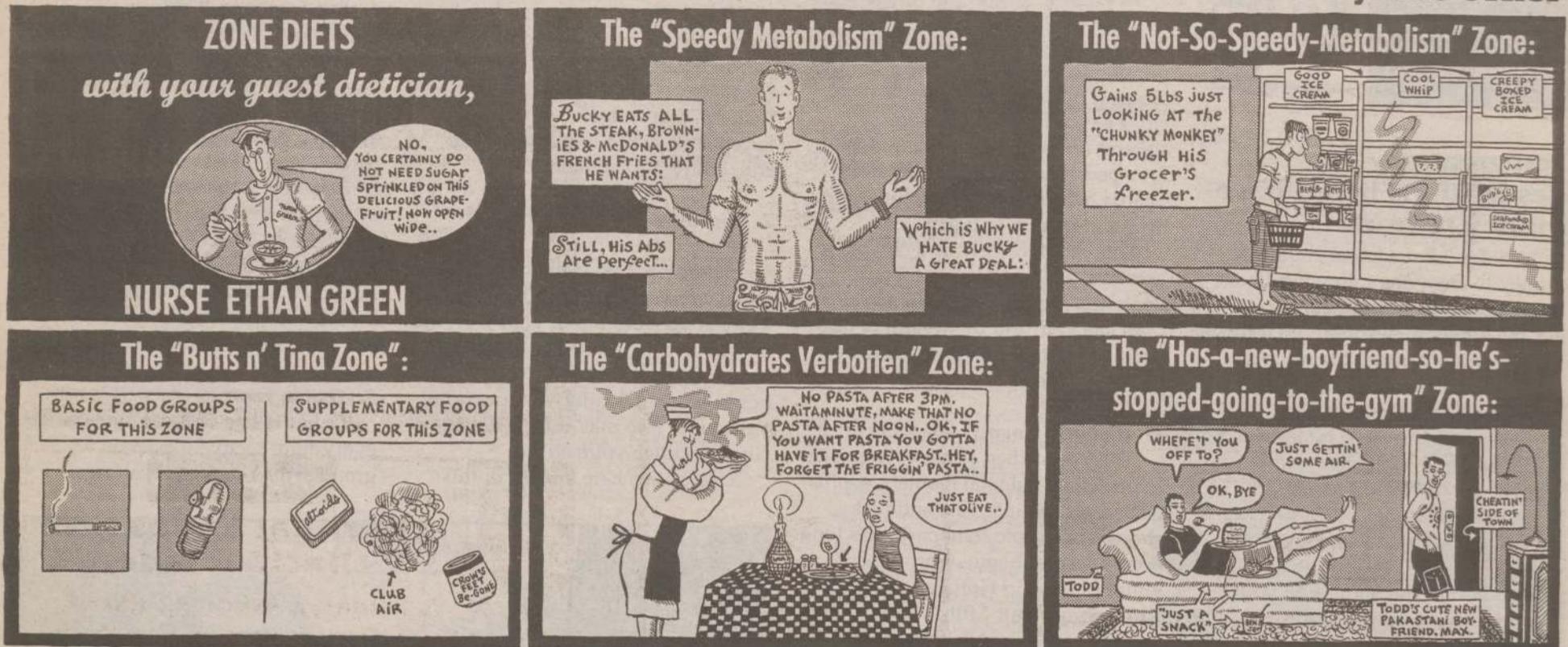
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Dear Cowboy,
Can you please tell me what it is about the gay community that makes bar owners keep their establishments so dark inside?

I'm tired of stumbling around blind for ten minutes after coming into these places out of bright sunlight. Also, I'd like to be able to see who I'm talking to once in a while. I've actually decided not to patronize certain local clubs until they turn some lights on. It seems like it's even worse in Phoenix than in other cities where I've lived — what gives?

Signed, On a Vision Quest

Dear Quest,

Whoa there, buddy! Sounds to me like you're exaggerating just a mite. Most of the saloons I've visited around these parts are somewhat dark inside, I'll grant you. But others are not, and a few are downright bright. Maybe you're mad at one or two places in particular. But before you take your business elsewhere, do the management the courtesy of letting them know why you're avoiding their establishments.

It's no secret that folks in the gay community—especially the crowd that's out hitting the saloon circuit regularly—tend to worship youth. We aren't all as young as we used to be.

And yet some of us have more money to spend now than we did when our faces and stomachs were tighter. The theory goes that people like us are more comfortable when we feel like our looks are not on display, so what you're complaining about probably isn't going to change any time soon. So get used to it, or stay home during the day.

Or try this old cowboy trick: As you're pulling into the sunlit parking lot of your favorite watering hole, clamp one eye shut real tight. Keep that eye closed while you're parking the buggy and locking things up. Then, as soon as you walk into the saloon, shut your other eye and open up the one you'd been closing. That ought to help.

Dear Cowboy,

My girlfriend's Rainbow Community attitude is driving me crazy. She's fixing up her house, and she insists on using only gay owned and operated businesses. She held off on the tile for three months because

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she couldn't find a gay tile installer. I see her point to a degree, but enough is enough, don't you think?

I've tried the all-gay route myself a couple times, and found a realtor who I thought took advantage of me just because we were both "family". What's your opinion?

Signed, Living an Ellen Episode in Mesa

Dear Episode,

What do you expect me to say? You're reading this column in a newspaper that relies on gay and gay-friendly advertisers in order to keep publishing every two weeks. I admire your partner for supporting business people who support the community.

Your own bad "Rainbow" experience is unfortunate, but it's not the norm from where I'm sitting. Instead of complaining about your girlfriend's method of locating goods and services, you should be helping her look.

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Q S C O P E

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES: Early August should bring you the thrills you've been craving and restore some of the confidence you've lost in recent weeks. Allow a lover (a Gemini, perhaps?) to distract you from your money worries, and give yourself the break you so richly deserve.

TAURUS: You're at a crossroads, dear friend, and it's time to decide which direction you want to take. Rather than go against the tide, go with it. You are so good at so many things, but lately it's been hard for you to focus. A soulful sexual adventure with a Capricorn might help you pull it all together.

GEMINI: The Sun is shining on your social life as August kicks into gear, so please, get your nose out of your many books and enjoy some time chatting with friends and new love interests. The return of your enthusiasm lights a fire under a Libra.

CANCER: Jupiter is hanging out with Saturn in the friendship sector of your chart, which means your pals could be both a blessing and a curse to you in the days ahead. Your blend of brains and soul is a turn-on to the masses (and especially to a Sagittarius who puts you on a pedestal).

LEO: Between the recent lunar eclipse in your sign and the upcoming solar one in your house of love, all I can hope is that you remember how to breathe and take a leap of faith. This is a rare time in your life, and the key word is "cooperation." Allow a Scorpio to give you a hand.

VIRGO: Give yourself a little decadence and then a little alone-time to dream about your dark side. Don't be afraid to get philosophical. If you can discover the method to your own madness you can make a mint and achieve the autonomy you so desire. A Pisces wants to share your pillow.

LIBRA: The Moon will be in your house of love in early August, so lay

back a little and let someone else do all the work. You've already shown us you can do it on your own. Let a Gemini steer ship for a while—or at least lead you on the dance floor.

SCORPIO: Don't push your luck by demanding too much right now. Instead bide your time and your bank account will thank you for it in the fall. You've been too worried about nickels and dimes and go-nowhere arguments. Let someone else (a Virgo?) win for a change.

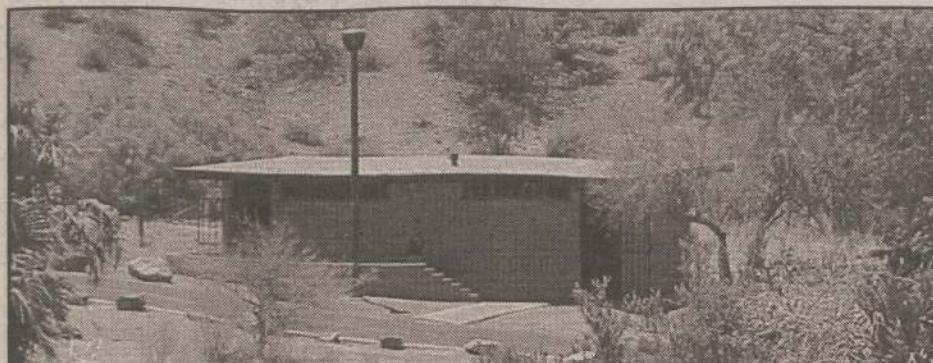
SAGITTARIUS: Your sex life is crossing over into metaphysical terrain these days. It's time to go for something more than a fun time. You'll find the meaning of life in the details, darling. So get close—with a quiet but perceptive Taurus, perhaps.

CAPRICORN: A romantic relationship is on the line. If you've been flirting with too many others you might be flirting with disaster. Do something sweet and sexy to celebrate the fact that Mercury goes direct in your house of love on August 6. An Aquarius is ready to make you No. 1. Be explicit about what you want.

AQUARIUS: When you let go of tedious old habits, love arrives in grand form. That kinder, cuddlier you must come out, and now! Hordes of potential lovers are waiting, though I suspect a Leo will win your heart once and for all. But first, you must change your stubborn ways.

PISCES: Everyone you meet can teach you something, so make like a sponge and sop up the knowledge (emotional and intellectual), baby. But don't push others to make changes until you've worked on yourself. Show a Cancer what an evolved (and erotic) sort you really are.

Jill Dearman is the author of two new books, *Queer Astrology for Men* and *Queer Astrology for Women* (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

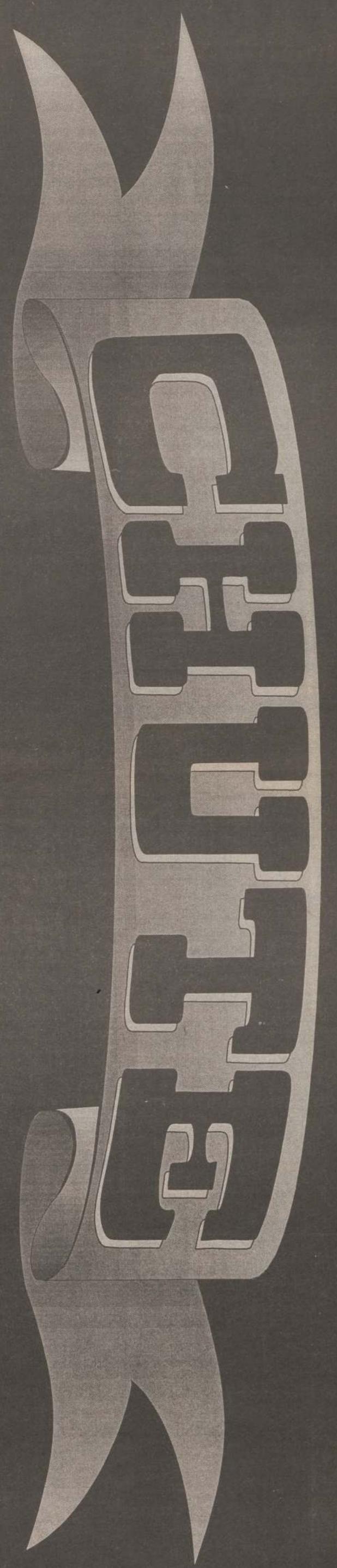


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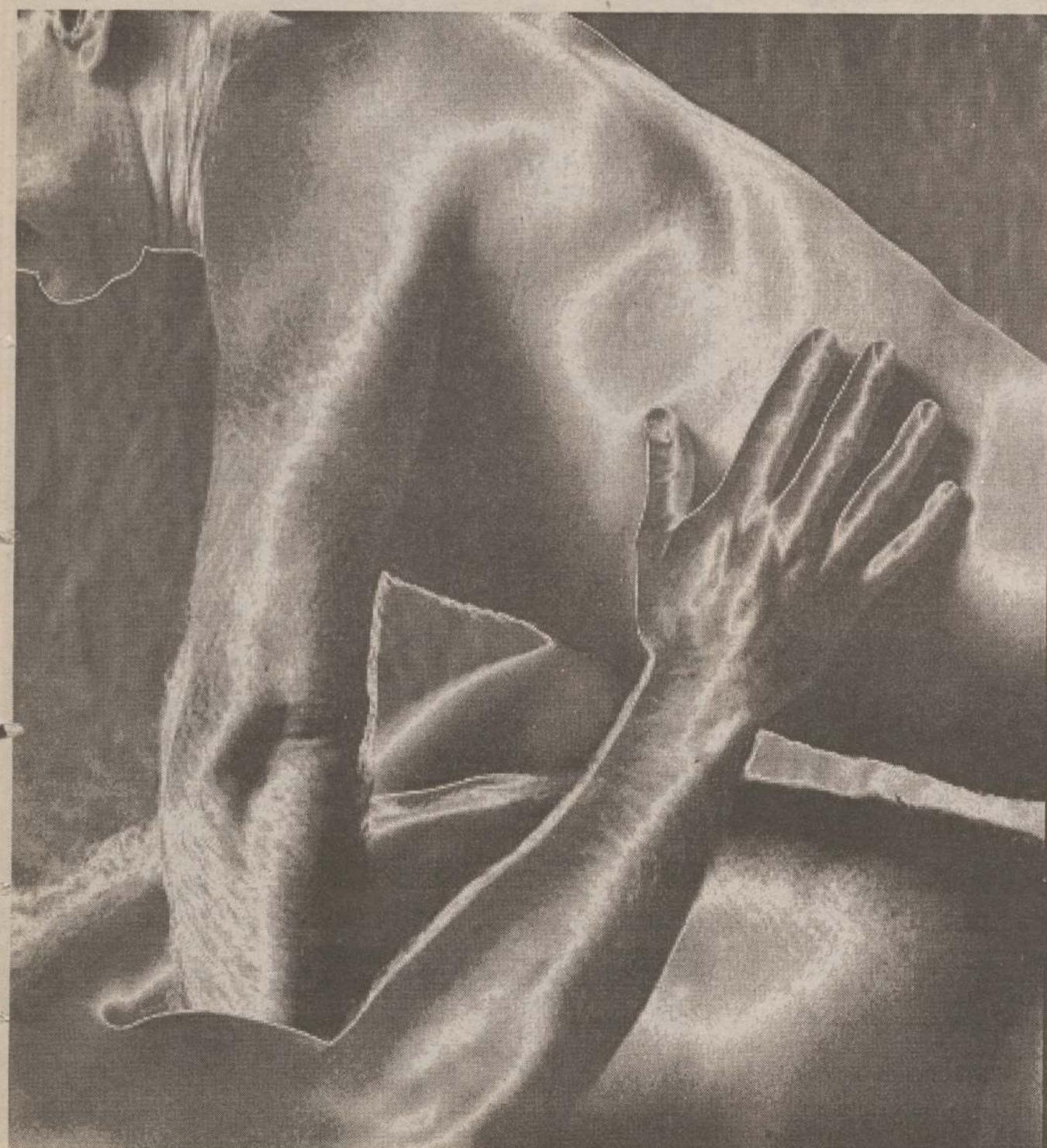
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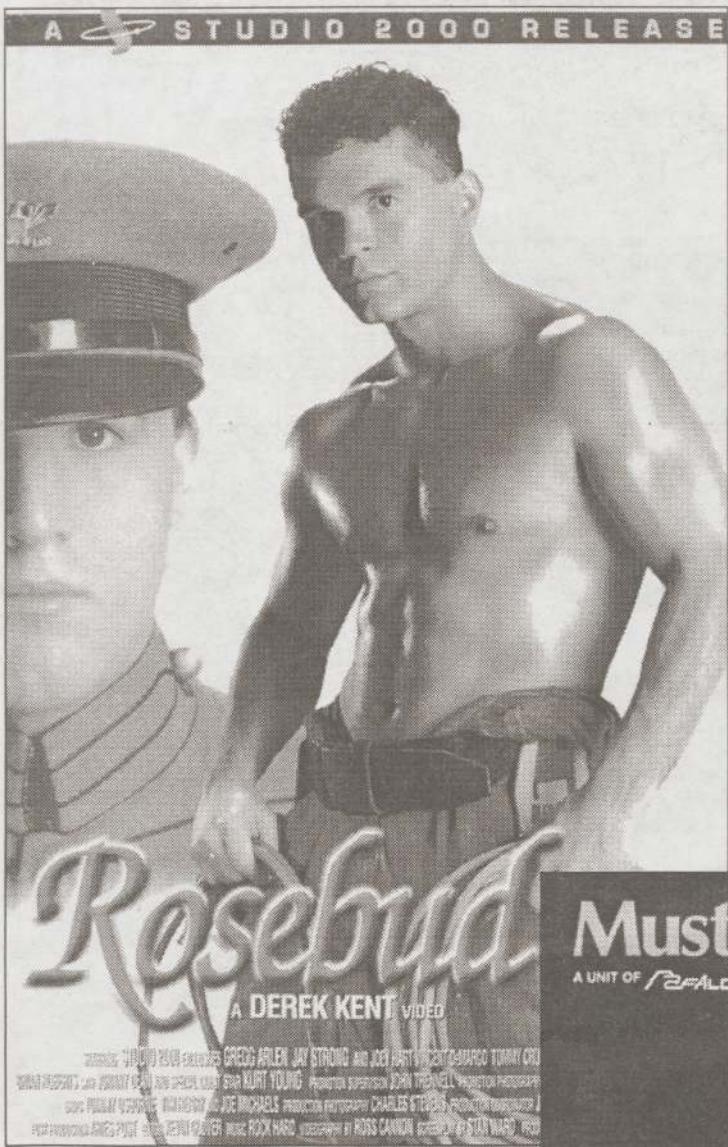
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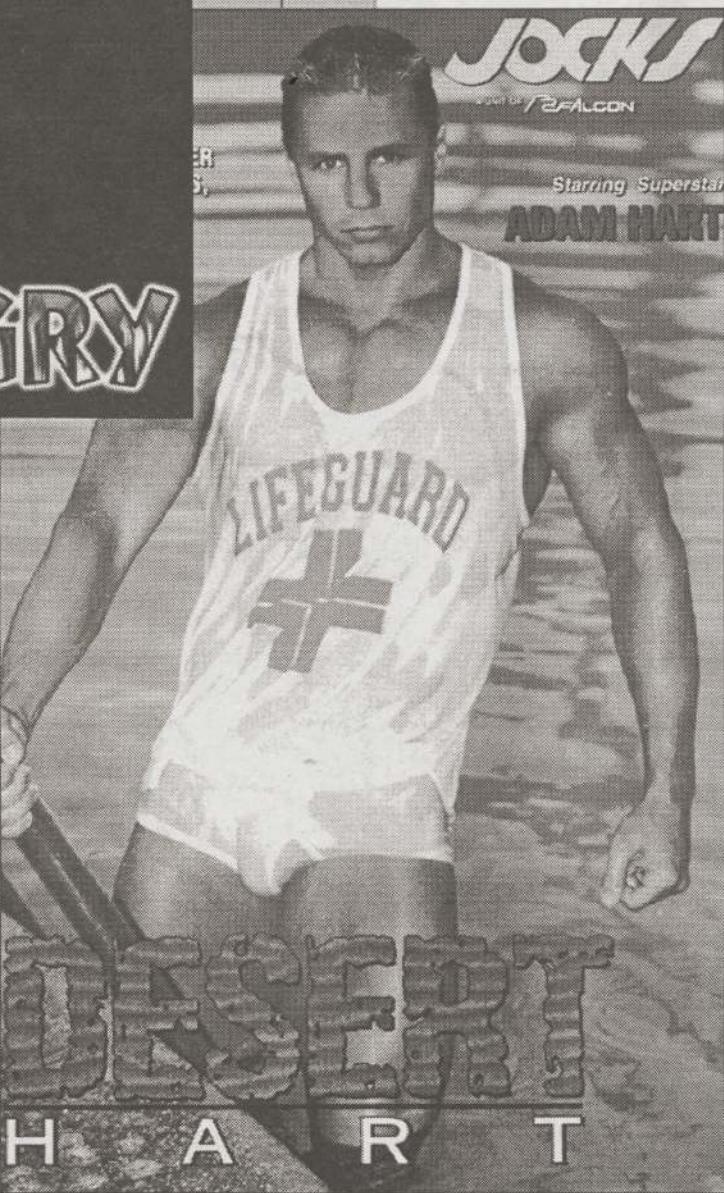
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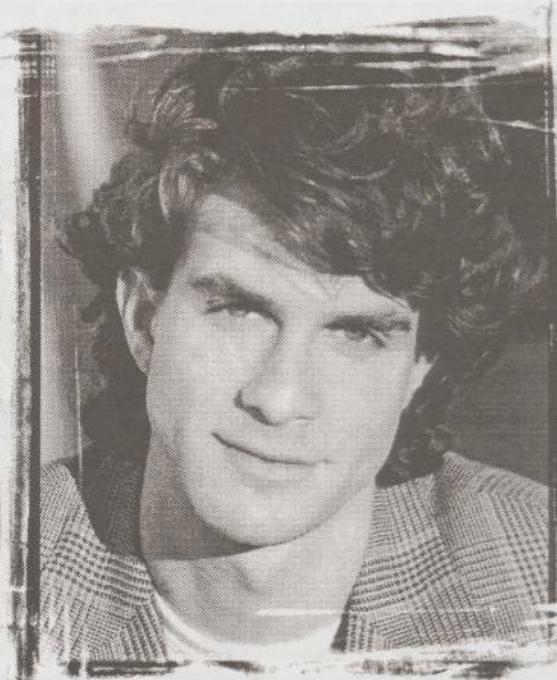
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