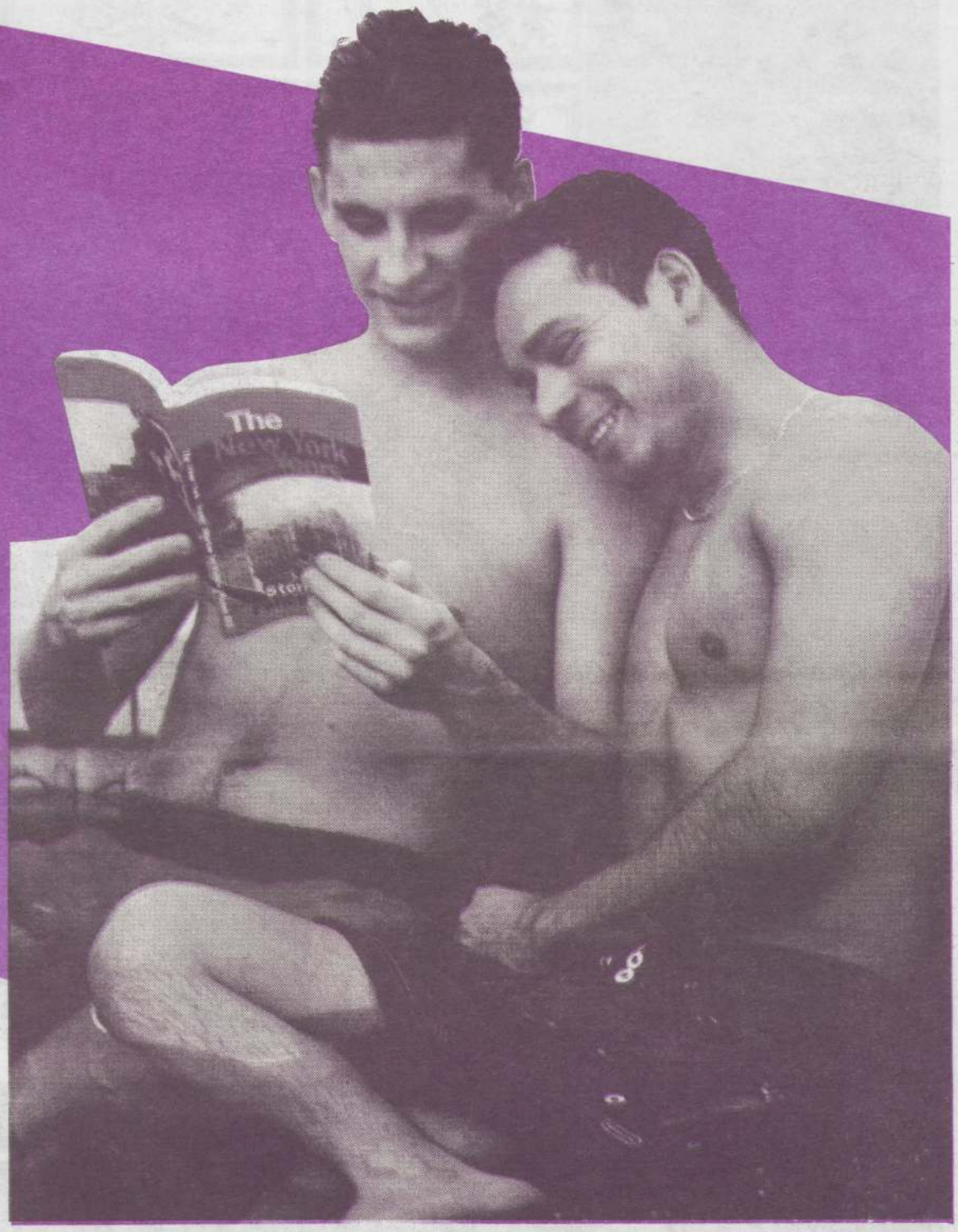
Gay & Lesbian Life, Commentary and Culture

HeatStroke

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Summer Reading 2000

Who's Hot & What's New Between the Covers



A legend in White

Gay-lit icon Edmund White talks about French living and American optimism

By Rex Wockner, Contributor

It's probably safe to say that Edmund White is America's most-respected and widely praised gay author. His new book, *The Married Man*, is getting rave reviews. *The Washington Post* called it "beautifully composed."

I was in the midst of rereading his 1973 novel *Forgetting Elena* when I got word he was passing through San Diego 12 hours later. We chatted on a deck in a parking lot behind the gay bookstore Obelisk in San Diego's Hillcrest district.

HeatStroke: The last time I interviewed you, 12 years ago, I was too young and dumb to be intimidated. Now I'm older and I'm intimidated.

Edmund White: Don't be. My God.

HS: **You recently told an interviewer for *Genre* that your Dad smoked cigars and you hated that and you hated him. Then you had this master and the first thing he would do when he got to your house [White laughs loudly] is light up a cigar.**

EW: Oh, I remember that interview.

HS: **And you hated it, and then after a while you found it thrilling, and you're sure that it all had something to do with your dad.**

EW: Uh-huh.

HS: **And that was the end of your response. Do elaborate. [He laughs loudly.] Do some of us sometimes find attractive things that remind us of our dads?**

EW: Oh, I think so. I think it's absolutely the case. I mean, sometimes it's quite transmuted. It might be in somebody younger. I don't think it's an obvious correlation. It might be somebody shorter, blonder, whatever. But still, there can be. It has to do with the psychological rapport, I think, and withholding and giving and all those things.

HS: **You've returned to America after 15 years in France. How does the gay world of Paris differ from the gay world of major U.S. cities?**

EW: Most gay people in Paris don't live in the ghetto and are not easily identified as gay. They don't live in a gay neighborhood, they don't dress in a recognizably gay way. You meet somebody through straight friends of yours who is young and unattached, and you see him half a dozen times and then one day he says, 'Oh, yes, I'm gay, didn't you know that?'

It never comes out in a kind of real obvious way. It's much more discreet. And I would say discreet rather than closeted because I don't think they're really closeted, I just think they have this don't-ask-don't-tell policy in general and gays are much better integrated into the straight community and they all have a lot of straight friends.

It would be rare to go to a party in France of all men. Very rare. It'd be much more likely to go to a party where there were a lot of straight women and gay men but everybody is flirting with everybody.

HS: **I read an interview a long time ago where you said that some bathhouse you wanted to go to in Paris wouldn't let you in because of your age but then you found a bear bathhouse.**

EW: I did. It's a great one... way out in Vincennes which is kind of a family neighborhood ... near a big park that's built around a military barracks. In the town of Vincennes, which is the last stop on the subway line, is this bath, which is pretty extraordinary. I mean, there are guys of all ages and then there are young people who admire them.

HS: **You told *Genre* you're having more sex than ever with younger guys these days because either you can buy them or they want to sleep with a famous writer.**

EW: [He laughs.] I think I was bragging. That interviewer kind of wound me up.

HS: **It reads that way.**

EW: He was very cute, very impertinent, and I think I just sort of took the bait. I kind of went crazy in that interview. The whole time I was giving that interview I was thinking, my editor is going to crucify me for this.

HS: **You're back in New York now. How has it changed in the 15 years you were gone?**

EW: It's less bohemian. I can remember meeting an awful lot of people in the arts who were gay who were quite serious and kind of nerdy looking—which is sort of one of my types, I mean I like nerds—and now they're all so buff and so perfect and materialistic, I think. ... It is amusing.

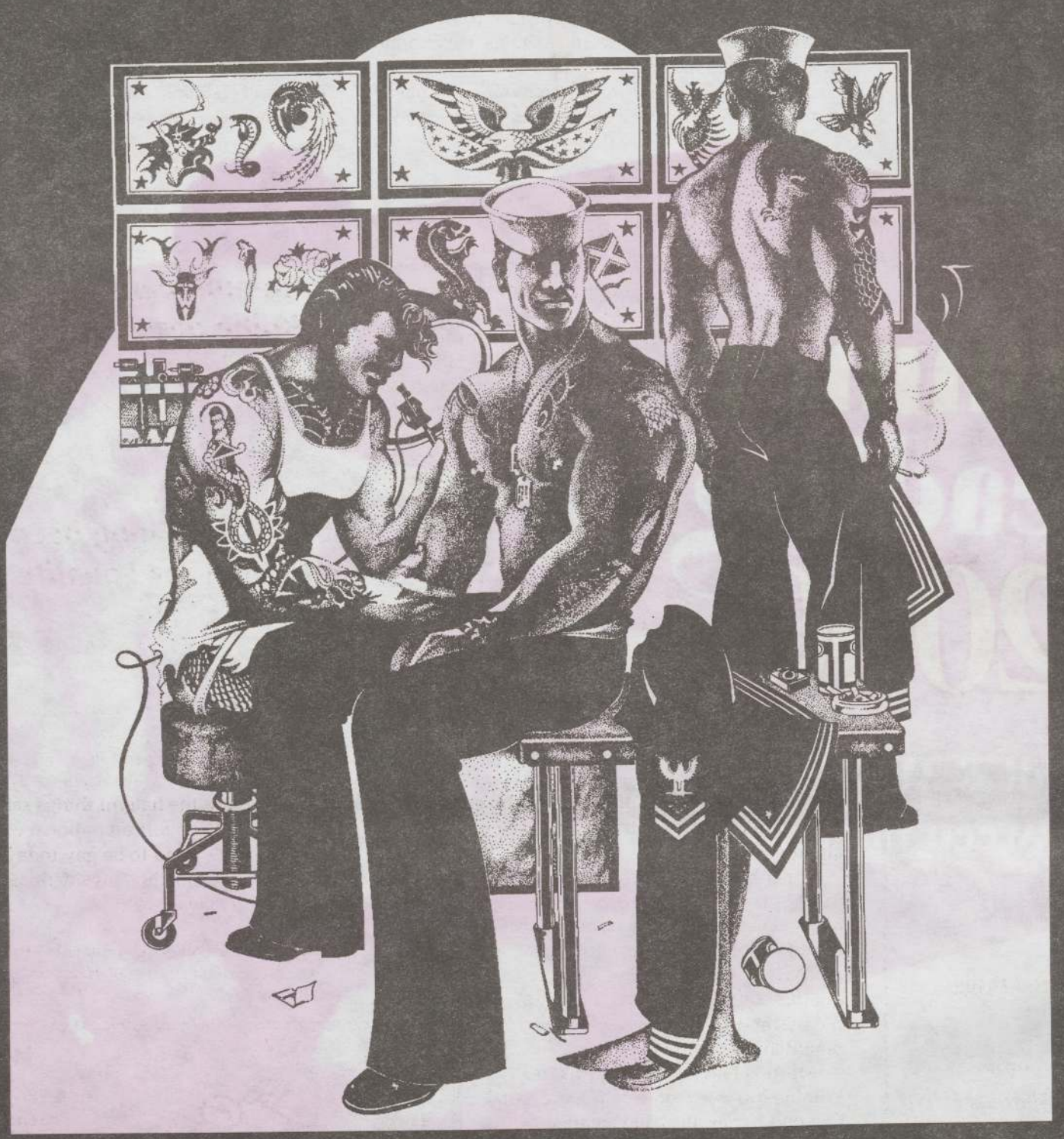
I like to go to The Big Cup [in Chelsea] and hang out there. ... I'm 40 years older than anybody else in there but still I will sometimes meet people who don't know who I am and we'll just be sitting at the same table drinking our lattes and we'll start talking. And of course, the generalizations I'm making are only about the surface look of people. When you dig deeper, you always find that people are quite interesting and very different, one from the other.

It's sort of interesting to be at the red-hot center of the movement even if you feel out of sync with it. My boyfriend who's in there [in the bookstore] is 35—and he's a very young looking 35—and he feels quite alienated from that whole world too because he's a writer and he'd rather spend his time writing

See "Edmund White," page 15

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P.O. Box 33430
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Voice
602/264-3646

Fax
602/294-9695

Managing Editor
Kelly Justin Reidhead
reidhead@idt.net

Editor
Allen Kalchik
alkalphx@aol.com

Horowitz: *A Good Time to be Gay*

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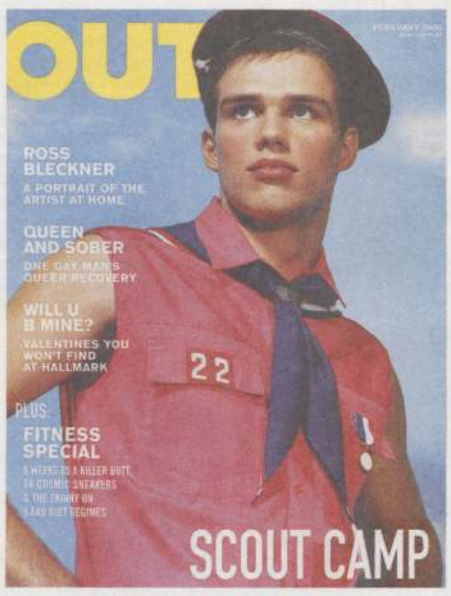
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David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and activist. He can be reached in care of *HeatStroke* or at DashingDav@aol.com.

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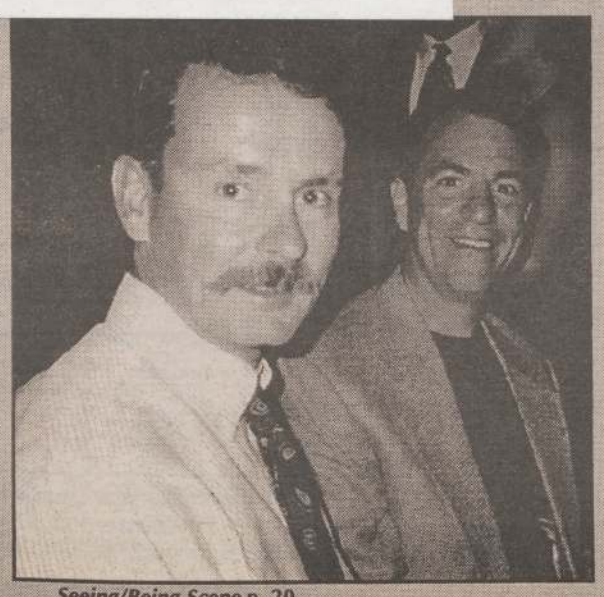
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Managing Editor
Kelly Justin Reidhead
reidhead@idt.net

Editor
Allen Kalchik
alkalphx@aol.com

Contributors
Alison Bechdel, Eric Orner, David Horowitz, Karyn Riedell, Andrew Collins, Jill Dearman, Glen Hanson & Allan Neuwirth, Mario Rodriguez, Michael Thomas Ford, Dave Brousseau, Kathie Gummere, Rex Wockner, Romeo San Vincente, Deb Price, John Lotardo

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If you work for the City of Phoenix, you can now get health insurance for your same-sex lover—but you may not be able to visit him in intensive care if his immediate family objects. The law still doesn't recognize a domestic partner as family.

More high school students come out at earlier ages, and they deserve our admiration and support. Those that do come out, however, are still often subjected to abuse and discrimination at the hands and mouths of other students, teachers and parents. The Gilbert school district finds that it must address racial and religious discrimination, but continues to turn a blind eye to the plight of gay kids who encountered consistent obstacles in trying to start a gay/straight alliance.

Openly gay employees abound in all fields including entertainment and professional sports. Many openly gay lawyers, doctors and accountants have extraordinary careers. Yet during a recent job interview, I was told that I would have to stop writing this column if I decided to accept the position I applied for—too much potential for controversy.

Martina Navratilova returns to Wimbledon this month to pursue a fitting end to her illustrious tennis career. For twenty years, however, she couldn't get endorsements because she chose to tell the world she's a lesbian.

Both Hillary Rodham Clinton and Rudolph Giuliani marched in New York City's Gay Pride Parade. Their remarks highlight a substantial difference between Democrats and Republicans on gay issues.

Giuliani, marching with Log Cabin Republicans said, "this shows how the city has moved ... from discrimination to toleration." The First Lady said, "I'm very pleased I could be here to march with so many friends and supporters on behalf of gay rights."

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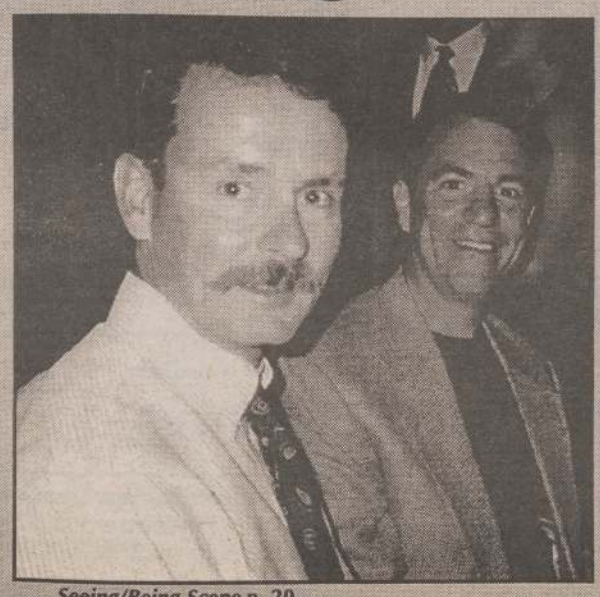


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Deb Price

Gay community shares goals with transgenders



Men in dresses.

The very idea makes most people laugh and squirm. It jostles assumptions and turns expectations upside down. That may begin to explain why the American Film Institute recently ranked *Some Like It Hot* and *Tootsie* as the best comedies of all time.

In those celluloid worlds, Jack Lemmon and Dustin Hoffman show some whistle-fetching leg. And in the process, they loosen us up and encourage us to question our ideas about gender roles and identity.

More recently, the Academy Award-winning *Boys Don't Cry* told the gut-wrenching story of Brandon Teena, a transgendered youth whose sweet, unshakable faith in himself partially freed him from the female body that felt like a prison.

These films trigger conflicting emotions in most of us: We don't want anyone shoving us into a narrow pigeonhole that ignores our individuality; yet we like the comfort of thinking the rest of the world fits into clear-cut categories. Gender-bending forces us—whether we like it or not—to live with ambiguity.

Living with ambiguity—or, more correctly, celebrating it—defines a civil rights movement that is boldly shaking up assumptions in families, friendships and workplaces to encourage acceptance of people who don't conform to standard gender categories. Now in its third decade of organized political activity, the transgendered civil rights movement has only recently hit its stride. It has much to teach the rest of us.

"The goal is to let people be productive, to be safe and to be able to contribute to this society—and not be held back or hurt because of their gender identity or gender expression," says Shannon Minter, an attorney who aligned his body with his male identity through medical procedures.

"Transgendered" is an umbrella term that covers transsexuals (whose sense of themselves clashes with their original biological sex), cross-dressers and others whose appearance is at odds with traditional gender expectations. As in the rest of society, some trans people are gay while others aren't.

Being transgendered puts men and women at extreme risk of being ridiculed and humiliated, being fired without cause, being kicked out of restaurants and stores, being denied housing and being refused medical treatment, even lifesaving emergency care. Male-to-female transsexuals are especially likely to be the victims of brutal hate crimes.

"This is a community of extremely wounded people," says writer Jamison Green, a female-to-male transsexual.

Yet trans people are making real progress as more of the rest of us come to see them as kindred spirits battling fierce versions of old familiar enemies — sexism, rigid gender roles and violent hatred. As Minter reminds gay people, "You can't really fight back against homophobia without dealing with gender stereotyping and sexism."

Striking a special chord with those of us who're gay, Minter adds, "I don't want to have to hide who I am in order to be safe.

Trans people scored their first legislative victory in 1975, when Minneapolis protected them from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Now, four states and 26 localities include them in anti-bias or hate crimes laws, according to "Transgendered Equality," which maps out the movement's history and ways to build on its successes (see http://www.ngltf.org).

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California included transgendered youth in its 1999 "safe schools" law. Lucent Technologies took the lead in the private sector, declaring in 1997 that it wonít discriminate.

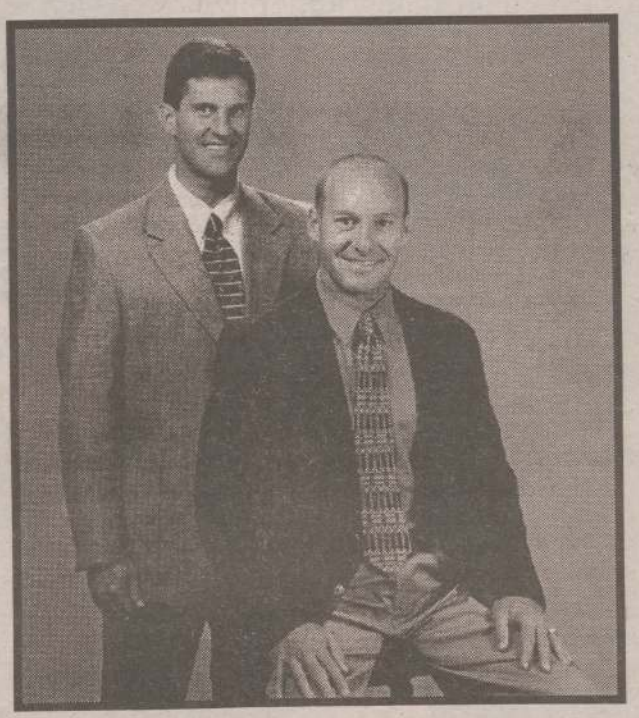
The breakthroughs of recent years are going to multiply because major employers and society are becoming more familiar with—and thus less threatened by—trans people. "We're at a critical point. So many more people are willing to be relaxed and allow others to be who they are," Green says.

People in rewarding lives. Isn't that the universal goal?

Deb Price of *The Detroit News'* Washington bureau writes about gay civil rights in this column. Price is co-author with Joyce Murdoch of *And Say Hi to Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out* (Doubleday). Write to Price in care of *HeatStroke*, or at GNS Features, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22229-0001.

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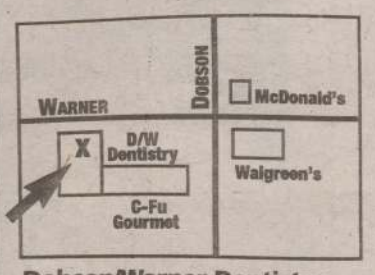
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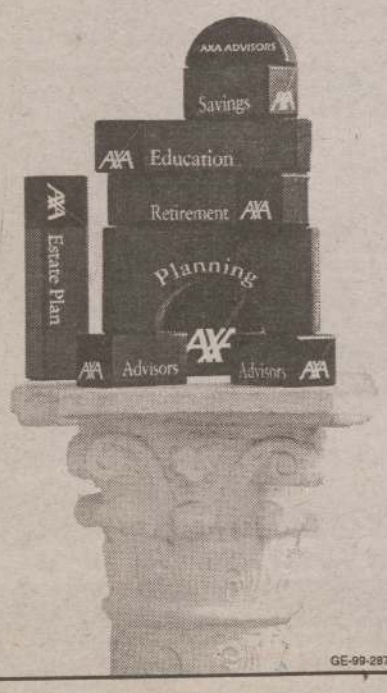
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AHRF dinner sets record for attendance, fundraising

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

The Arizona Human Rights Fund's ninth annual awards dinner at the Camelback Inn on June 17 raised more than $100,000 and set a new attendance record, with 1,021 people turning out to lend support to the statewide political organization's equal-rights cause.

The evening began with a surprise announcement by Phoenix City Councilmember Phil Gordon. Gordon informed diners that the City of Phoenix had just adopted a benefits plan for city employees that will include offering medical, dental and life insurance to unmarried employees' domestic partners—including the partners of workers in same sex relationships.

"We're ecstatic," AHRF Co-chair Kathie Gummere said after the dinner. "[The benefits provision] is the result of five years of hard work by a lot of our board members, particularly Bill MacDonald and Victor Merino."

MacDonald is one of AHRF's founders and most ardent supporters. He currently Co-chairs the organization, and introduced Gordon at the dinner. Merino is a former AHRF board member as well as a City of Phoenix employee and past president of COP-GLEA, the City of Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Employee Association.

By extending the benefits, Phoenix joins the municipalities of Tucson and Tempe in recognizing and validating—to some degree—same sex relationships in Arizona. Tucson offers partnership benefits to same-sex couples only, while Phoenix and Tempe plan to provide coverage to qualifying opposite-sex couples as well.

After Gordon's announcement, the evening progressed with entertainment provided by comedian/pianist Roxanna Ward, a live auction, and musical numbers featuring the cast of the Phoenix production of *When Pigs Fly*.

And there were, of course, awards to be presented. Boston-based civil rights attorney Mary Bonauto delivered the evening's keynote speech and was honored with AHRF's Barry Goldwater National Award.

Bonauto served as lead counsel in the precedent-setting case in Vermont that led to a Civil Union Act to be established in that state, granting same-sex couples some of the same rights as married heterosexuals. In her speech, Bonauto outlined the legal process that led to the Civil Union Act's establishment and explained the steps toward obtaining a legal civil union.

Chase Manhattan Bank was also presented with AHRF's National Award for its efforts in promoting equality for gay employees and for reaching out to the gay community via its ad campaigns.

Arizona Human Rights Awards went to the Tucson City Council and two Tucson mayors; to AHRF board member and longtime local activist Ron Passarelli; and to first term openly gay GOP Rep. Steve May.

As the evening drew to a close, AHRF board members announced that they had one more surprise in store. Bill Lewis and Rick Underwood, a Scottsdale couple long active in Arizona political fundraising and support, stepped onto the dais and issued a $100,000 challenge to the ballroom full of supporters.

"For every dollar raised between now and the November election, we will match dollar-for-dollar," Underwood told the stunned crowd. If the community's combined fundraising efforts total $100,000, he said, "Bill and I will write a check for $100,000."

Gummere said after the event that she was thrilled about the challenge and that the AHRF board was "very excited." She reported that, only a few days after the dinner, more than $15,000 had already been raised.

Just like a marriage?

A look at Phoenix's new domestic partner benefits

Phoenix city management negotiated in June with unions and other employee groups, agreeing to offer city-sponsored medical, dental and voluntary supplemental life insurance coverage to the domestic partners of city employees and their qualified dependents, to be effective August 1, 2000.

To obtain these benefits, the employee's partner must meet the city's definition of a domestic partner, which includes ten requirements. The city defines a domestic partner as a person of the same or opposite gender who:

1) Shares the employee's permanent residence; and

2) Has resided with the employee continuously for at least 12 consecutive months and is expected to continue to reside with the employee indefinitely: and

3) Is financially interdependent with the employee in each of the following ways:

a) Holding one or more credit or bank accounts, including a checking account, as joint holders;

b) Owning or leasing their permanent residence as joint tenants:

c) Naming, or being named by the employee, as a beneficiary of life insurance or under a will;

d) Each agreeing in writing to assume financial responsibility for the welfare of the other (i.e., durable power of attorney); and

4) Has not signed a declaration or affidavit of domestic partnership with any other person within the last 12 months; and

5) Does not have any other domestic partner, spouse, or spousal equivalent of the same or opposite sex; and

6) Is not currently legally married to any other person; and

7) Is not a blood relative any closer than would prohibit legal marriage; and

8) Is mentally competent to consent to contract when this domestic p[partnership began; and

9) Is not acting under fraud or duress; and

10) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

AGRA to donate $20,000 to local charities

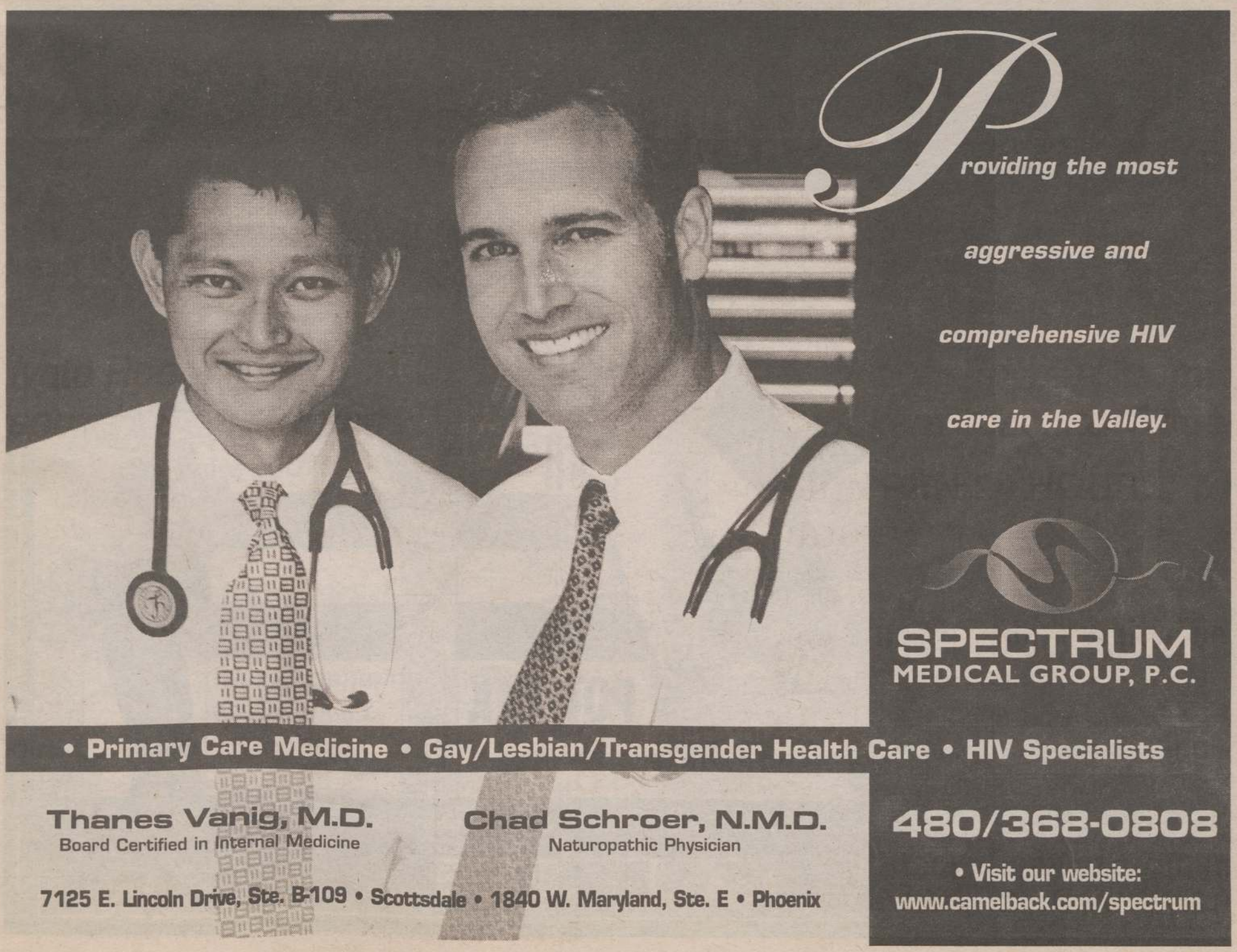
The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) voted at the organization's June membership meeting to donate $20,000 to community charities.

The funds are proceeds from the hugely successful 2000 Road Runner Regional Rodeo(RRRR). The Phoenix gay rodeo is held over MLK weekend in Phoenix each January and is one of the largest and best-attended rodeos on the International Gay Rodeo Association circuit

There were more than 200 contestants and 3500 attendees at the 2000 rodeo. This past RRRR was especially successful due to the efforts of the Rodeo Committee, members, volunteers and community sponsors.

AGRA members will now nominate community non-profit organizations to receive a percentage of the available funds. A committee of AGRA members appointed by AGRA President Ron Trusley will review the nominees' non-profit status and financial reports, and produce a list of qualified recipients.

Members will then vote at an upcoming meeting as to how the $20,000 will be allocated, and to which of the recommended community organizations. AGRA would like to thank all the sponsors and volunteers for the hard work that went into putting on RRRR 2000. The next RRRR is set for January 2001 in Phoenix.



School's Out: and so are *some* teachers

Guest Commentary by Douglas L. Kinne

My name is Douglas L. Kinne and I am a gay teacher at Encanto Elementary School in the Osborn School District in Central Phoenix. After reading "School's Out" in the June 15-28 issue of *HeatStroke*, I wanted to share my experience. None of the names have been changed.

After obtaining my teaching credential in California, I returned to Arizona where I attended public school. When I applied to Encanto Elementary School two years ago, I informed my principal and other members of the hiring committee that I was gay, I lived with my boyfriend, and we were both politically active in gay issues.

I was asked how I thought this related to the position I applied for. I replied that being gay and being out made me crucially aware of marginalized populations in the public schools—not just gays and lesbians, but students with special needs—the students whose primary language was not English; the students who were typically criticized for being taller, heavier, slower; the students who did not conform to common stereotypes of what constitutes boys' and girls' behaviors; all the students discriminated against because of their inherent differences. I firmly believed—and still believe—that the experience of being gay made me not only politically aware, but a child advocate as well.

That was all that was addressed about my sexual orientation in the interview and subsequent follow-up interviews, and I was hired. My principal had one more meeting after I was hired. The purpose of this meeting was to assure me that if I ever felt discriminated against, that that was not acceptable in this district, and I should come to her and we would deal with it together.

Within the first six months, the superintendent of our district, the entire staff at my school, and every head of every department in our district office knew that I was gay, that my boyfriend's name was Mark, and that we lived in the district.

Within the first six months, the superintendent of our district, the entire staff at my school, and every head of every department in our district office knew that I was gay, that my boyfriend's name was Mark, and that we lived in the district.

I was verbally forthright with every staff member introduced to me that I was gay and my boyfriend's name was Mark. Some staff members did a double take; some had others clarify for them what I meant by "boyfriend," yet I would say that 75% of the staff members treated me socially as normally as if I had said my fiancée was a woman. I even made it a point at the first staff meeting I attended that I was very active in gay and lesbian issues in the schools, as a former gay student myself and now a gay teacher.

The first year, the district's policy on granting leave for spousal illness was amended to domestic partners to include my boyfriend and me. A straight teacher—the head of our union—was one who initiated this change. The director of personnel—a straight woman recently married—allowed me to amend the hiring forms since I could not legally be married but I do not consider myself single. She said herself that she thought the forms should be overhauled since they did not take into account single, unmarried staff members with children, straight couples living together, or gays and lesbians.

The first year I joined the PTA, the parent/teacher's organization, and ran an after-school soccer club with four teams of sixty students. I slowly educated Encanto's staff that Mark was not to be referred to as "my friend" or "my roommate," that he was my boyfriend, for lack of a better legal term, yet if they were more comfortable with "partner", then that was acceptable. I set a personal goal to empower the staff with the language to discuss gay issues with me with without being uncomfortable or afraid. Mark and I have participated as a couple in every back-to-school night, every PTA program, the school carnival, and the annual soccer party for the students.

The school's policy against hate words includes "fag", faggot", "sissy", "homo", using "gay" or "lesbian" in a derogatory fashion, as well as terms such as "stop being such a girl" and "play like a man". The school's staff has seen—through my words, and me—the importance of addressing hate words that deal with sexual orientation and gender stereotypes, though they still have much to do before they are completely inclusive.

My evaluations as a teacher were all excellent or outstanding, and my contract was renewed for a second year. Several times throughout my first year, my principal, a straight woman, initiated meetings with me to address any possible discrimination I might have been experiencing. I felt that I had not experienced any blatant homophobia, because I was verbally out and open about my identity and my boyfriend with the staff from day one. Therefore, the onus of responsibility to come forward was on those who were uncomfortable with me or against gays.

At the school, there was a living, breathing staff member—me—to put a face on anti-gay prejudices if anyone wished to verbalize them to any staff member in our district. My principal has also taken time to view the documentary video *It's Elementary* and read additional articles I gave her on the subject of gays and lesbians in the public school, especially at the elementary level.

Every day, in the school parking lot where parents and visitors park, I park my own truck with two very visible bumper stickers on it: Fight Homophobia and Gay USA. From wearing earrings in both ears to changing my hair color, I am providing a visible contrast to stereotypes of what "being a man" is all about. I'm also dispelling preconceived ideas of what "being a gay man" is about by coaching soccer and being active in the PTA.

This last year—my second year at Encanto—I was much more open. Mark's picture was on my desk, and to any student or parent who asked, I explained that Mark is my partner in life and we are planning on raising a family together. During April, when Phoenix had its Gay Pride, every day of the week before Pride weekend I wore a T-shirt from a different Gay Pride around the country, and I explained what Gay Pride meant to all the students that asked.

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"Booze & Cruise" 8pm-12am
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Friday
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I still ran the after-school soccer program this last year, with six teams and 140 students. Mark and I participated in an even greater capacity in school functions. Parents of students have invited us to their children's birthday parties, communions, and graduations as a couple.

The students at our school also feel much more comfortable talking about gays and lesbians now that they are empowered to use language that does not degrade. During May, prompted by a scheduled N'Sync concert in the Valley, the third graders on the soccer team discussed why they thought the entire band was gay. I explained to them that just because the members of N'Sync dress or wear their hair a certain way, that didn't make them gay, and together we explored why they would think that.

We also worked throughout the year on dispelling stereotypes that children develop, due either to the code of silence imposed by public schools in Arizona on discussing gay issues or to misinformation students themselves gather from uninformed sources. And every day when I ate lunch with students, I heard ones even as young as first grade having very definite and realistic ideas about what being gay and lesbian is.

I do not, however, wish to paint our school as an Eden of celebrating diversity. Osborn School District is still a conservative district. Our classroom core literature still does not include any alternative families nor gays or lesbians. There are still many staff members who feel that being gay is a "non-issue", or that it is a sexual-education issue to "perhaps" be discussed in middle school.

There are not any other openly gay staff members or students or parents that I know of in the district. The district's sexual education program is based on only one option for intimate relations: "celibacy before marriage," which is not an option for gays or lesbians if they wish to have a committed, intimate relationship.



As a whole, my school's staff is still grossly under informed when it comes to issues of sexism and homophobia. Oklahoma passed legislation banning gay and lesbian teachers from public schools, and none of my school's staff would have known about that if I had not made them aware. Further, the staff would never have made the connection that denying rights for any one group allows other groups to be discriminated against—such as female or immigrant staff, which make up a majority of the district's staff population.

I do know that one person can make a difference. I know for me, I could not teach students to celebrate diversity, or even tolerate it, if I myself do not openly and proudly celebrate my own, personal diversity in the classroom or on the campus.

I also know that I could be fired for being gay, and there is not any legislation in Arizona protecting me. This is another piece of information none of my school's staff knew, or had even thought about, had not I spoken up. My boyfriend and I have discussed the financial ramifications of my being fired, yet we both realize that civil rights will not be handed to us on a silver platter.

A significant body of teachers at my school look to me when it comes to addressing and dealing with the issue of gays in school and, although they are not as proactive as myself, they are taking their cue from someone who is out. When they hear of homophobia and gay/lesbian discrimination in other school districts and states, they do verbally support me openly and publicly. They also seek to inform themselves now about the rampant discrimination against gays in school, and bring to me articles and stories they come across.

My evaluations from my second year were all outstanding, and my contract has been renewed another year. In the coming year, I shall further address issues of inclusion by basing my curriculum units around family, identity, and diversity, and how gays and lesbians are all part of the pictures in these themes. I know that being an educator in today's society is a political action, one that I hope to embrace fully, as well as empower my students to take action to ensure that they are heard. My being out has given a face and a voice to gays and lesbians, and there is no turning back at my school.

I also know that there is more we could do as a gay community in Phoenix. There is GLSEN, the national Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, that could use the time, support and energy of our community. There are no gay/lesbian groups for high school students anywhere in Phoenix, something that gays and lesbians in each school district need to advocate for—although I did hear of one in Gilbert. There are parents of gay and lesbian students, as well as gay parents themselves, who need a voice in Phoenix.

There is the Department of Education, whose sexual education campaign advocates only the choice of "celibacy before marriage" as a responsible sexual activity. It's a state department that is ignoring a large body of students, and it needs to hear that. There are the teacher education programs at the universities that need to hear that gay and lesbian issues are part of any inclusive teacher education program, and that gay and lesbian students and staff do exist.

Finally, there are the gay and lesbian teachers themselves. As individuals being who they are openly and honestly, each can change the environment of a school—or even a district—to make it the place for an equal and inclusive education for every student.

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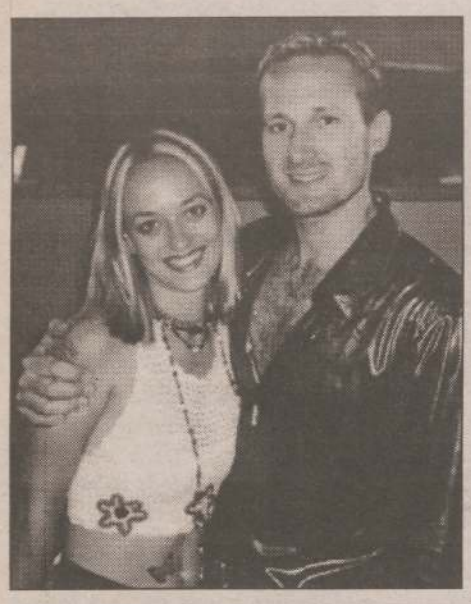


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"Much Ado" soiree raises money for PBP

Supporters of Phoenix Body Positive turned out by the hundreds on June 25 for the AIDS/HIV service organization's benefit fundraiser, *Much Ado: A Summer Soiree*. The cutting-edge hair and fashion event was held at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts and was hosted by Beth Broderick, star of *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch*.

A PBP spokesperson reported that the event raised more than $30,000 for the agency, while the accompanying silent auction raised another $12,000.







Participating hair salons included Taglio Salon, Salon Tru, Par Exsalonce, Pucci Salon, and Sachi. For the evening's program, the talented hair and make-up artists took their inspiration from "Cool 'Dos and Hip Fashions" found in vintage TV land.



From *Charlie's Angels* to *Gilligan's Island*, many of the most memorable and trend-setting shows of the'60s through the '80s were represented in a series of dazzling production numbers, with each salon trying to out-do the 'dos that came before.

Gay West a big success





Tucson's Colette Barajas, a candidate for the Arizona House of Reps. pitches in to raise funds at Gay West.

Tucson's fourth annual Gay West party on June 24 drew several thousand revelers to the Old Tucson Studios theme park for an evening of rides, shows, food, dancing and more.

Produced by the Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance, the fund-raising event was sponsored by IBT's and Centra Realty. Organizers said the event grows in size and scope every year.

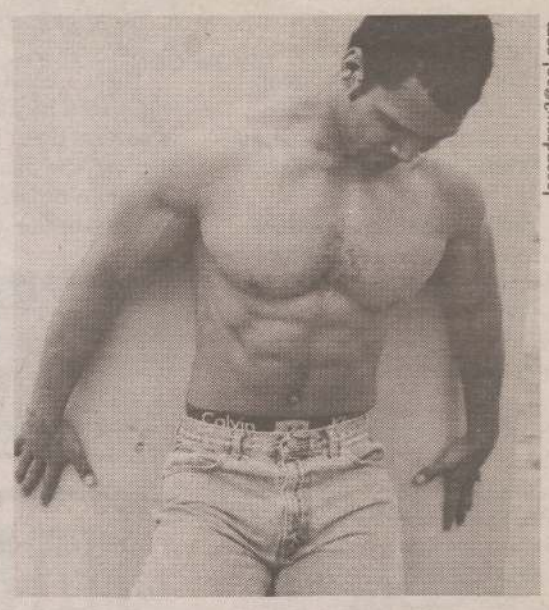
AGRA poster art chosen

A colorful new western-themed poster was selected for the 2001 Road Runner Regional Rodeo (RRRR) at the June 10, 2000 meeting of the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association. The winning entry was chosen by a vote among all AGRA members present at he meeting.

There were a record number of entries submitted. The winning artwork, by Aaron Grebner, will soon be displayed throughout the southwest and the Valley's gay and lesbian community in the form of flyers, posters and programs to promote and advertise RRRR 2001. This is the third year in a row that Grebner won the AGRA poster contest.

The local rodeo association's members offer their congratulations and a thank you to all the poster contest participants.

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International Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

NORWAY COUNTS 759 GAY MARRIAGES

There have been 759 gay marriages in Norway since the nation's comprehensive registered-partnership law took effect in 1993.

The law grants more than 99 percent of the rights and obligations of heterosexual matrimony. Only adoption and church weddings are withheld from gay couples.

Seventeen percent of the gay weddings have been between a Norwegian and a foreigner, often from the U.S., Thailand or Sweden. Sixty-five percent of the partnerships are between men.

Males tied the knot at an average age of 37.3 and women at 38.5, several years later, in both cases, than the average for married heterosexuals.

SCOTLAND REPEALS SECTION 28

Scotland's newly created Parliament voted June 21 to locally repeal Section 28, a 10-year-old U.K. law that prohibits cities from "intentionally promot[ing] homosexuality" or teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" in schools.

The vote was 99 to 17 with two abstentions.

Nicola Sturgeon of the Scottish National party commented: "A discriminatory and shameful piece of legislation that was imposed on Scotland by Westminster will today be repealed by the Scottish parliament ahead of other parts of the U.K. That says something about the state of Scotland that we can all be proud of."

Trish Godman, Labour MSP for West Renfrewshire, said, "After all the raised voices, this is a day for quiet pride as we point the way to a new and tolerant Scotland."

Legislation to scrap Section 28 in England has been stonewalled by the Conservative-dominated House of Lords.

AUSSIE PSYCHOLOGISTS DENOUNCE CHANGE THERAPIES

The Australian Psychological Society came out last week against therapies which attempt to turn gays straight.

The Australian Council for Lesbian and Gay Rights said the statement will be helpful in deterring mainstream churches from supporting so-called reparative therapy.

"The threat posed by groups advocating for therapies to change sexuality is significantly magnified when they dupe mainstream church groups into supporting their damaging and fruitless programs," said spokesman Rodney Croome.

MEXICO CITY HOLDS FIRST GAY FILM FEST

Mexico City's First International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival ran from June 23 to July 6 at the mainstream Plaza Condesa Theaters.

It was staged by the film distribution company La Otra Propuesta and the video production company Telemanita.

ACTIVISTS TARGET PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES

The International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission is asking activists to write protest letters to Panama's government over its refusal to register the nation's first gay group, the New Men and Women Association of Panama.

The Ministry of Government and Justice ruled that the association contradicts "moral and good habits."

Without legal registration, the group cannot own property, pay salaries or take part in legal disputes.

For sample letters contact sydney@iglhrc.org.

GAYS SUE SASKATCHEWAN

The Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Pride Committee of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, has filed a complaint with the provincial Human Rights Commission over the province's refusal to proclaim June 24 as Saskatchewan Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Pride Day.

The province's Executive Council rejected the request because "a proclamation from the Government of Saskatchewan is intended to recognize activities that benefit all Saskatchewan people."

RAPE AGENCY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST TRANSSEXUAL

The British Columbia Supreme Court in Canada ruled June 7 that Vancouver Rape Relief can be sued under the provincial Human Rights Code for refusing to accept a transsexual volunteer because she used to be a man.

Rape Relief tried to have Kimberley Nixon's complaint quashed by arguing that the Human Rights Code does not protect transgendered people from discrimination, but the court said "gender identity" protections are implied in the law.

The case will be heard by a tribunal in December.

AUSSIE GAYS REPORT ASSAULTS

Four out of five GLBT people in the Australian state of Victoria have experienced some kind of anti-gay physical or verbal assault in the past five years, according to a new study by Attorney General Rob Hulls.

The report—based on data collected during 1999 from 929 GLBT people—contains recommendations for a series of anti-hate initiatives by Parliament, the police, religious leaders, the Equal Opportunity Commission and the Department of Education, Employment and Training.

LARGE TURNOUTS AT EURO PRIDES

More than 200,000 people turned out for Paris' gay-pride march June 24, led by gay Socialist mayoral candidate Bertrand Delanoe who is favored to win according to pollsters.

"Whenever there is a demonstration for liberty, I'm there," Delanoe said.

The parade, which ended at the Place de la Bastille, featured 60 floats and demands for laws to ban anti-gay discrimination and legalize gay adoption.

France already has a partner-registration law that grants gay couples most rights of matrimony. There are similar laws in Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the U.S. state of Vermont.

• About 400,000 people attended Berlin's Christopher Street Day parade June 24, demanding passage of a comprehensive registered- partnership law.

A day earlier, the governing Social Democrats and Greens agreed on a rough outline of a bill that would grant all marriage rights except access to adoption. Opposition conservatives blasted the proposal.

The parade ended with a huge dance at the Brandenburg Gate.

• Thousands of people marched in Tel Aviv, Israel's gay-pride parade through Rabin Square June 23.

"You only see pictures of Israel when rocks are being thrown," marcher Kinneret Golan told AP. "I'm proud that despite everything we can still do this."

Marcher Anat Schumaker told reporters: "We're here and they can't do anything to stop us."



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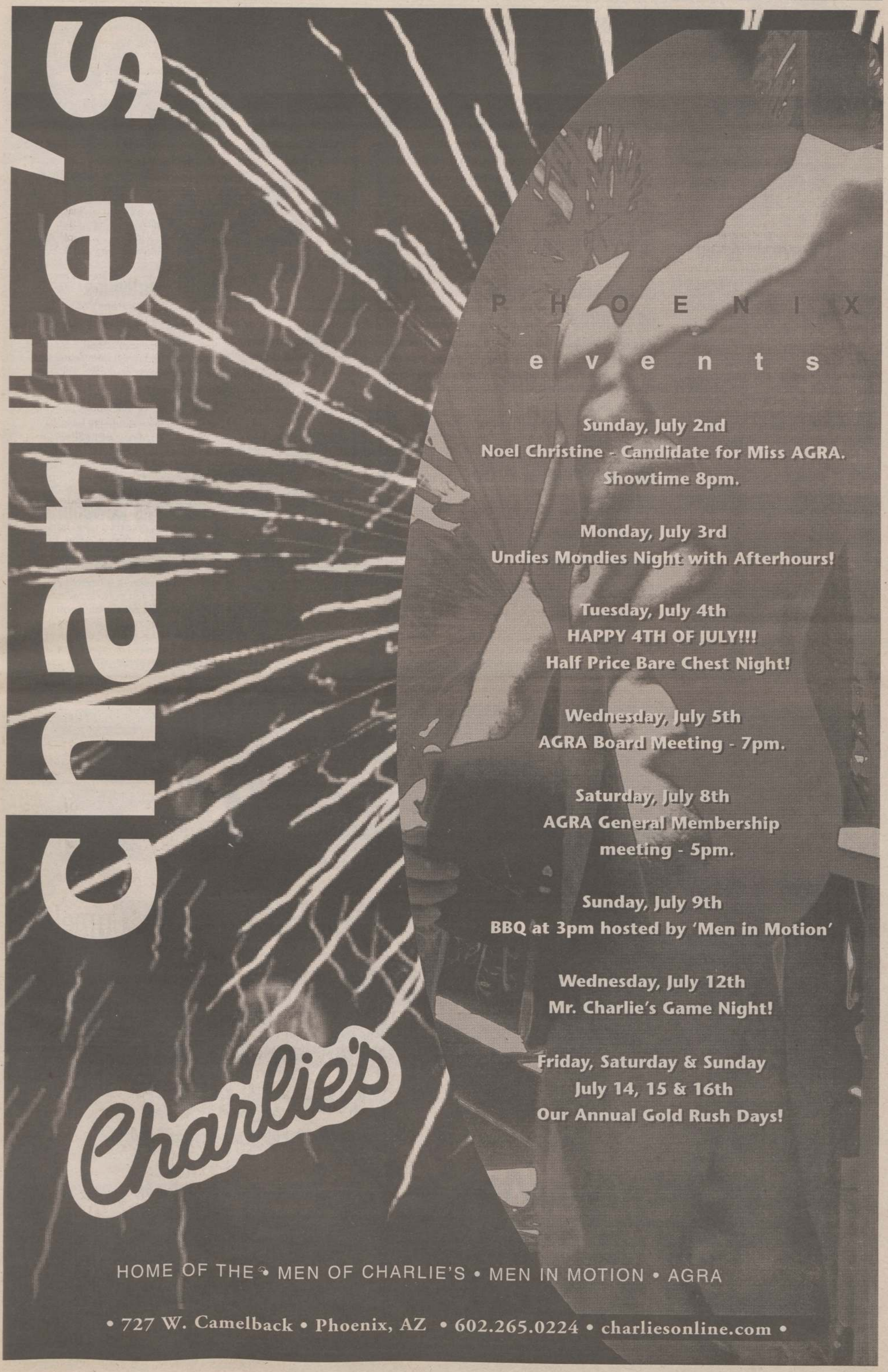


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Tuesday, July 4th
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Wednesday, July 5th
AGRA Board Meeting - 7pm.
Saturday, July 8th
AGRA General Membership
meeting - 5pm.
Sunday, July 9th
BBQ at 3pm hosted by 'Men in Motion'
Wednesday, July 12th
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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

Catechism to benefit Catholic HIV agency

The July 14 performance of *Late Night Catechism* at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts will be a benefit performance for the HIV Center for Hope, a new program of Catholic Social Services in Phoenix. The cost for tickets to the 8:00 p.m. show is $60 per person and seating is limited. Call 602/277-9551 for information.

GPGLCC events listed

The Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is the Valley's gay and gay friendly networking and social group for queer professionals. Upcoming events scheduled for this busy organization include the following:

July 5— A 7:00 p.m. board meeting at Gregg Eddelman's home. July 6— A social night at the 8:00 p.m. performance of *When Pigs Fly*. This event costs $25 per ticket. July 11— At 11:30 a.m., the East Side Lunch Bunch will gather at the ASU University Club in Tempe. Also on July 11— At 6 :30 p.m., the Tourism Committee will meet at the Parkway Inn in north Phoenix. And on July 12— At 6:30 p.m. the chamber's monthly NetMix will be held at the YWCA Leadership Conference Center, 9440 N. 25th Ave. in Phoenix. The cost is $5.

For information about the organization or to join, call 602/225-8444.

DA plans July events

Desert Adventures, the Valley's outdoor gay and lesbian social club, has several fun activities coming up.

First, members will get back to the wilds with another fabulous campout for Independence Day weekend. This trip will be to Lewis Canyon (that's up in the Apache-Sitgreaves national Forest) over the weekend of June 30 through July 4. The group site can accommodate up to 150 people, so head north to escape the heat in the cool pines.

On July 9, the annual White Elephant gift exchange and pool party will be held at a member's home. On July 16, members will gather for a social afternoon BBQ at Charlie's, and the annual excursion to San Diego Gay Pride will head west on July 21.

To find out more about DA activities or to join the club, call 602/266-CAMP.

Queer bikers sought for new group

Delta Flyers mountain biking club is looking for people who want to mountain bike with other gay and lesbian biking enthusiasts. You do not need an expensive bike or the latest fashions, just the need to ride.

For information, e-mail deltaflyers@aol.com, or leave a message at 602/ 562-4330.

Eat out to battle AIDS July 25

The fourth annual Valley-wide "Dining Out for Life" fundraiser to help fight AIDS will be held July 25. This benefit is sponsored by AIDS Project Arizona, and will include a number of local Ethnic restaurants, fancy restaurants, coffee shops, bistros, and cafes all stepping up to donate from 25 to 100 percent of their days' sales to the program.

For information, call 602/253-2437, and watch upcoming issues of *HeatStroke* for ads and lists of participating eateries.

Don't run... Walk!

A new Frontwalkers group has formed within Frontrunners. The Frontwalkers will meet in the same location as the Frontrunners, but simply walk the route. For more information, interested persons should contact Connie at Rudy910@aol.com or call 602/954-3983.

LADS for everyone

Los Amigos Del Sol is a long-established gay & lesbian social and fund-raising group in the Phoenix area that promotes a friendly interaction between men and women.

The group is planning its next general meeting and Family Feud party, set for July 8 at 3:00 p.m. at Cash Inn Country. Then there will be a Casino Night event held at Johnny Mc's on July 16. For information about LADS, call 602/997-2411.

Lesbian Night Out

Lesbian Night Out is held every Friday at The Community Center, 24 W. Camelback in Phoenix, at 7:00 p.m.

The event is a fun alternative to (or before) the bars and draws women from all over the Valley for an evening of games, videos, discussions, networking and socializing in an alcohol- and smoke-free environment. A $2 donation is requested for the use of the space and to provide snacks. Call The Center at 602/265-7283 and leave a message for Sue with Lesbian Night Out.

Rainbow Families plan family fun

Rainbow Families is a program of The Community Center designed by and for gay. lesbian, bisexual and transgendered parents and their kids. The group provides a social and educational environment where parents can support one another and their kids can socialize and play with children from other alternative families.

They meet one Saturday per month at The Center, 24 W. Camelback in Phoenix, or at other designated sites. To find out more and to help with other summer activities, call Heather at 602/439-9252.

Get fit by running

Frontrunners, a gay and lesbian running group under the mantle of team Arizona, now has four runs during the week at locations around the Valley: Tuesday morning and evening and also on Friday and Saturday mornings. Interested runners should contact azfrontrunners@hotmail.com or call 602/954-3983.

VSCC activities

The Valley of the Sun Community Church holds services at the Parkway Inn in north Phoenix at 11:00 a.m every Sunday. Some social activities coming up on the gay and gay-friendly church's agenda include a pool party at the Parkway Inn on July 2, and a singles pool party and BBQ at a church member's home on July 15. In other news, the VSCC is establishing a children's ministry.

For information on this busy new Christian congregation, call 602/564-7895.

Women in Tune welcomes newcomers

The Women in Tune lesbian chorale meets for rehearsal every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 N. 14th St. in central Phoenix. No auditions are necessary—interested parties are urged to visit and get to know members of this friendly and talented group. The chorale is readying for its trip to the national GALA singing convention in San Jose next month. For information, call Barb Wodrich at 623/878-5430.

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Fri 21	Los Angeles	4-8PM*
Wed 26	Indiana	9-11PM
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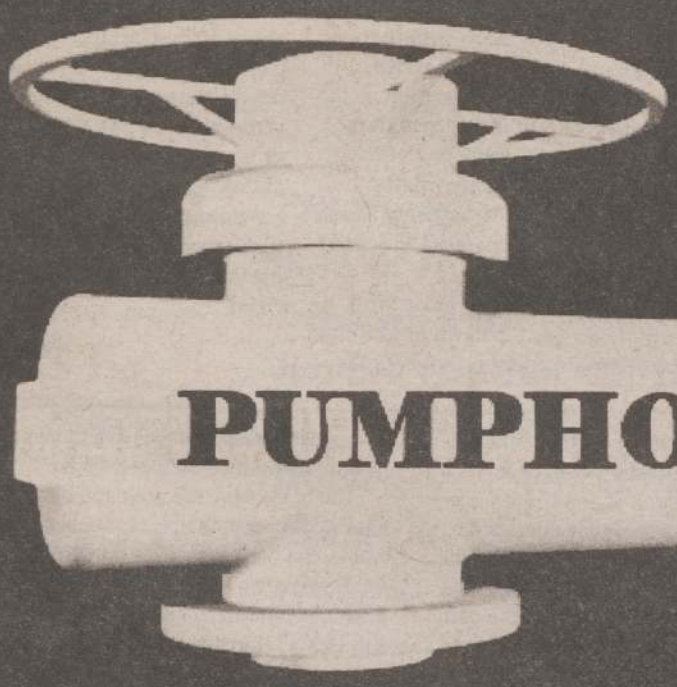
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The last word on Judy?

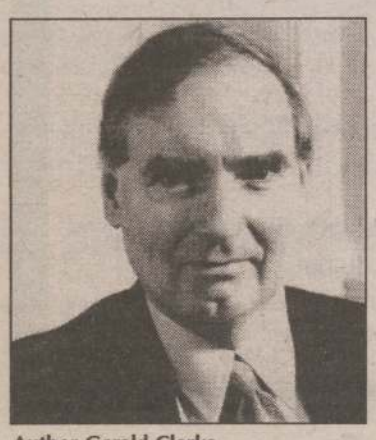
Gerald Clarke discusses his new biography of Judy Garland

By Bradley David, Contributor

Soon after the release of his critically acclaimed 1988 Truman Capote biography, biographer Gerald Clarke decided to take a bit of a risk with his next subject. In Judy Garland, he chose an icon whose fabled life had already been exhaustively documented in an endless stream of books and articles.

After reading virtually everything that had ever been written about her, however, Clarke concluded that none of Garland's biographers had succeeded in painting an accurate and complete portrait of this famously complex woman, who died in 1969 from a drug overdose at the age of 47.

"I didn't want to do it if the definitive book had already been done," says Clarke. "What I discovered was that, when I read the books, Judy did not come through to me as a reader. There were a lot of facts and figures, but I didn't really get a picture

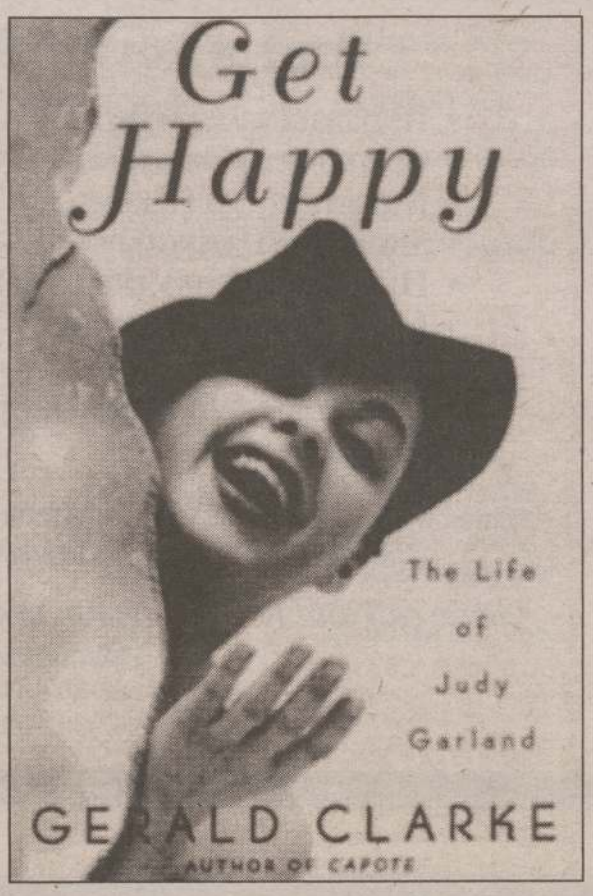


Author Gerald Clarke

of Judy. And a lot of the things that had been written already were either wrong or they hadn't been explored fully."

He found, for instance, that no writer had ever thoroughly researched the background of Garland's beloved father, a Vaudeville performer from Tennessee named Frank Gumm, whose homosexuality had only been speculated about in other Garland biographies. Clarke uncovered documentation indicating that Gumm's fondness for teenage boys had caused him to be run out of two towns: Grand Rapids, Minnesota, where Judy was born, and Lancaster, California, where she spent much of her childhood.

"I really started from scratch," says Clarke, 62, whose *Get Happy: The Life of Judy Garland* hit bookstores in late March. Clarke, who was a senior writer at *Time* magazine before penning his best-selling biography of Capote, spent ten years writing the Garland book, interviewing more than 500 people and meticulously documenting his research with more than 1200 source notes found in the back of the book. Among the author's most important finds was Garland's own unfinished autobiography, which had been gathering dust for decades in the archives at Columbia University.



Clarke's book finally puts to rest any doubts about the fact that two of Garland's five husbands—Vincente Minnelli and Mark Herron—were gay. In the case of the notoriously effeminate Minnelli, writes Clarke, Garland once caught him in bed with another man.

"It took me a long time to find out about Vincente," says Clarke. "It wasn't easy, but I didn't want to just repeat the rumors without proof. I talked to James Loyd, who was a great friend of Lester Gaba, who was Vincente's near-companion for several years in the '30s. Then Artie Shaw told me that a couple of his friends told him that they had had a little 'do' with Vincente, as they called it."

Herron, Garland's fourth husband, agreed to meet with Clarke but would not submit to a formal interview because he said he was writing his own book (Herron has since died of lung cancer). One particularly memorable passage in Clarke's book reveals that, while married to Garland, Herron had an affair with Peter Allen, who was married at the time to Garland's daughter Liza Minnelli.

"After his divorce from Judy, Herron went back to Henry Brandon, a famous character actor who appeared in *Auntie Mame*," says Clarke. "They lived together until Brandon's death 24 years later."

Garland's affair with Tyrone Power is also chronicled in Clarke's book.

"She knew about his sexuality, but Tyrone Power, I gather, was a genuine bisexual," says Clarke. "He really did seem to enjoy women and men, and I talked to people of both sexes who went to bed with him."

While Clarke was able to speak with many of the key players in Garland's life—third and fifth husbands Sid Luft and Mickey Deans among them—he wasn't successful in convincing Garland's famous daughters to cooperate.

"I sent them copies of my Capote book and letters saying it would be the same kind of book—honest and serious," Clarke remembers. "Liza wrote back, or her publicist did, saying nicely that she was sorry but that she didn't want to talk about her mother anymore. Lorna [Luft] never even bothered to respond. But from the interviews I've seen with those two, I think that the myth of their mother has overtaken them as well. I don't think they know the truth about their mother."

Clarke's brilliance as a biographer is in his ability to reveal extremely personal information about his subject without succumbing to lurid sensationalism. Still, the book supplies plenty of anecdotes for future cocktail conversation. In one passage, for instance, Clarke tells of one of Garland's lovers who is said to have made her sing "Over The Rainbow" after performing oral sex on him, just so he could "hear those famous words sung through a mouthful of his semen."

"I thought long and hard about that story, and I put it in for a reason," says Clarke. "I thought it really symbolized her willingness to humiliate herself with men."

Making it abundantly clear that Garland was essentially heterosexual, Clarke does write about several of her lesbian encounters and concludes that she was briefly involved with an MGM publicist named Betty Asher, who served as her bridesmaid when she married Vincente Minnelli.

"They were very close, and whenever Judy had an emotional problem on the set, Betty Asher would instantly appear to calm her down," says Clarke. "For a time they shared an apartment, and there were lots of rumors about the two of them. I talked to Betty Asher's brother, and he confirmed that yes, his sister had had affairs with women. Whether she did with Judy is impossible to say, but it's probable if not certain."

Summer Reading 2000

Clarke's book refuses to engage in the usual psycho-babble about why Garland has always had such a large gay following, and it doesn't even mention the popular notion that Garland's death somehow sparked the Stonewall Riots.

"I didn't investigate it fully, because it seemed clear to me it was a coincidence," says Clarke. "I've heard people who were at Stonewall talk about this, and they say nobody talked about Judy Garland that night."

Asked who his next subject will be, Clarke laughs, "There isn't going to be one. I'll write another book, but not another biography. I'm going to write a novel—I've sort of laid it out and it's set in Hollywood and Shanghai in 1949."

While Clarke acknowledges that the initials in the dedications of both his books ("To L.A.S., for faith and fortitude") belong to his "partner of many years," he isn't crazy about the idea of being labeled a "gay writer."

"I don't see that it has anything to do with my writing about Judy Garland or Truman Capote," he says. "I don't see why a heterosexual couldn't write about a gay person, and vice versa, or a woman write about a man, or vice versa. I have no real secrets—I just don't think that people, and writers particularly, should be categorized."

HeatStroke

GET HAPPY: THE LIFE OF JUDY GARLAND
By Gerald Clarke
Random House, 2000, ($29.95)

As with his previous book on Truman Capote, which spent 13 weeks on *The New York Times* Best-seller List (a record for a literary biography), Gerald Clarke's new work on Judy Garland is destined to become the definitive biography of its subject. Similar in style to the Capote book, *Get Happy* is a no-nonsense, strictly chronological account of an extraordinary life.

With no preface or introduction, the book's first chapter begins with the story of Judy's parents. Clarke's compelling portraits of Frank and Ethel Gumm and their behavior towards their daughter set the stage for understanding the scope of Judy's life-long problems in the areas of money, romance, and substance abuse. Clarke rarely attempts to be a psychologist, instead he conveys the facts and allows the reader to draw the conclusions. Clarke's writing is descriptive without tangling itself in excessive details and elegant without being pretentious.

Out of context, the anecdotes in Clarke's book might seem tabloidesque, but taken as a whole, the book weaves a thoughtful and richly engaging epic about this complicated artist considered by some to be the greatest entertainer who ever lived.

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Author Edmund White

Continued from page 1

than going to the gym, so even though he has a nice, natural body he's not a brontosaurus.

***HS:* It looks like you still haven't had to take any HIV drug cocktails.**

EW: That's right.

HS: *It's been, what, 15 years or more?*

EW: I was diagnosed in 1985. I'm supposed to be something called a long-term non-progressor.

***HS:* You still have normal CD4 cell counts?**

EW: I haven't even had them tested in a year but the last time I looked they were like high 600s.

***HS:* That's great. That's like the lower end of normal.**

EW: I feel lucky. I don't take any credit for it at all. I don't drink. I don't smoke, and I sleep a lot, but I don't think that has anything to do with it. I think it's genetic. I'm awfully happy to have been granted this reprieve because I feel like I've been able to write a lot of books. From the time I saw you [in 1988] till now I've written God-knows-how-many books.

***HS:* I just found out today you were going to be in town. I'm actually rereading *Forgetting Elena* right now. It's in my backpack. The detail in that book still blows me away, the detail of the things that pass through our minds so quickly before we make a decision or a judgment.**

EW: It's a very close focus on inner processes, isn't it? It's written in the present tense, which a lot of people don't even notice, because that, I think, adds to that feeling of getting a mind at work second-by-second.

***HS:* Have you read it in the last ten years?**

EW: No. I'd sort of like to.

***HS:* How did America strike you coming back after being gone for so long?**

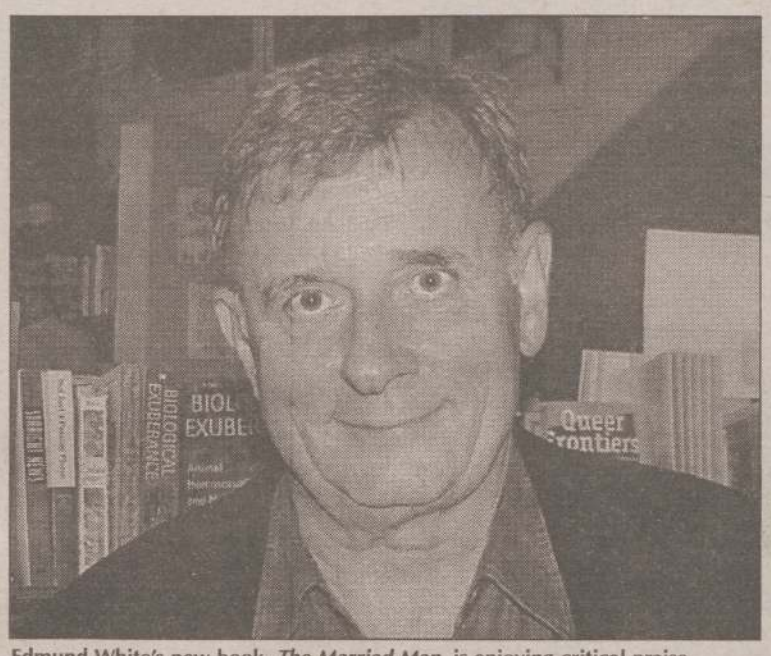
EW: A lot of great things. One of the advantages of a thriving economy is that everybody is moving up, or seems to be, in the world. I mean, the man who drove us down tonight, he's from Chile but he's studying to get his MBA.

In France, somebody's who's your chauffeur would probably be a chauffeur for life, that is what he would do. Same thing with a waiter. Waiter is a profession in France and people do it their whole lives. Here most waiters, if you tease them a little they drop their formal manner and are just guys. And if you talk to them—you *can* talk to them, first of all; they don't hide behind a professional mask as they do in Europe.

Secondly, once you dig a little bit deeper you find out that they're studying art history or are in pre-med or something like that.

There's a tremendous climb upwards in this society which is very exciting actually. People are very optimistic here, and cheerful, I think. Sometimes they're stressed out because they're overworking.

But there is this kind of optimism which I knew when I was a kid in the fifties and in the early sixties



Edmund White's new book, *The Married Man,* is enjoying critical praise.

but which vanished really from America—especially New York which went through a period of bankruptcy and danger and crime in the seventies and then the recession in the eighties. This is one of the high points now in American history and I think people should be aware of it.

There's a down side which is a kind of dumbing-down of America, a kind of triumphalism that Americans all feel—that they are the best and the most—which brings about a kind of chauvinism, I think, a lack of interest in other cultures.

In the gay world, gay culture is sort of floundering at the moment, I think, in a way. A lot of gay bookshops are having trouble hanging on. In France there's a special law that you can't discount books, so the big stores can't discount books. All they can offer is more books. That means that there are more bookstores in Paris than in all of America. Every little bookstore is preserved because they can sell books as cheaply as the big store.

It's sad to see the death of so many gay bookstores which have been something like a community center for gays; in many towns, that is the community center.

***HS:* Is France less materialistic or consumeristic?**

EW: I think so, especially in the arts. What America used to have and France still has is a group of young people who don't make much money and don't expect to ever make much money and all they desire is excellence in the arts.

Here there's no tradition of honorable poverty left. Poverty's always sort of despicable now in America. There's very little of that old bohemian spirit that would say, 'Well, you're a great artist and you have ten loyal followers and that's enough.'

Now everybody wants to have the movie version and the house and the second house and the yacht and whatever. That's the only way that people can really measure excellence now.

"In the gay world, gay culture is sort of floundering at the moment, I think. A lot of gay bookshops are having trouble hanging on. It's sad to see the death of so many gay bookstores which have been something like a community center for gays; in many towns, that is the community center."

***HS:* I think the gay movement in this country has won the war and there's just battles left to fight. I think if we stopped [formal] activism right now, things would keep progressing until we had full equal rights. With assimilation comes a loss of what we had that made us special as a subculture, perhaps.**

EW: I think that's true but I don't think it's too high of a price to pay for all the good things that will come with it. People should have the right to get married, to leave their apartment to their lover of 20 years rather than to their siblings who they haven't seen for years. People should have the right to adopt kids, to announce frankly and openly that this is my partner.

The old culture had tremendous benefits but it had bigger problems. It created a lot of pain for gay people.

***HS:* I agree with you and yet, the experience of being an outsider often bred within one a healthy skepticism of all kinds of things that were handed down from on high as the way we were supposed to be and the way things are supposed to be and what you're supposed to do with your life.**

Once you realize that that which had been handed down to you about sexuality was wrong, it gave you the skepticism of: Do I want to get married and have 2.2 kids and live in the suburbs and work for a corporation and ride the subway train? A lot of [gay] people never ask those questions now.

EW: I agree. I think that's true. If you look at the titles of books like *Virtually Normal* or *A Place At The Table,* those are the aspirations of a lot of gay people now.

I think it's partly because of what I was talking about—this old-fashioned bohemianism died because of economic reasons; it was hard for people to go on living with a part-time job that would allow them to be artists in the rest of their time. Everybody has to have two jobs now just to pay the rent.

The other thing that happened is that a lot of the more interesting people in the gay community died off and they didn't get a chance to transmit their values and their culture to a younger generation.

***HS:* Maybe the bohemians are still here but so many other people have come out of the closet that the bohemians are a tiny minority now.**

EW: That's right. That could be. I can remember in the fifties going to a gay bar on the outskirts of Chicago called Louis Gage's and there you would see the one couple in that area where the woman was black and the man was white, you'd see the people who are physically challenged, you would see all kinds of odd people that didn't fit in at the bar, because the gay bar was a place for odd people. Now, even gays who are slightly odd feel uncomfortable in most gay bars, if you're too old or too fat or too something.

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Fame, Fortune and Flo

William Mann's new novel looks at Hollywood, then and now, with the world's first movie star

By Tim Miller, Contributor

For many months in 1997, William J. Mann's debut novel, *The Men From the Boys*, topped the gay best-seller lists. Inspiring legions of readers who had felt "left out" of gay lit—gay men of that sandwich generation between the Boom and the X, struggling with the promise gay liberation was supposed to bring—the novel painted an engaging, sexy slice of gay life at the end of the last millennium.

It was a world familiar to many but one that had not often been chronicled: the world of open relationships, longterm commitments, circuit parties, tricking, safe-sex negotiations and the evolution of relationships—in an era both beautiful and fleeting, before the Rise of Protease. That was the key to the book's success: documenting a world of a particular time and place.

With *The Biograph Girl*, Mann has done it again, only this time there are many worlds in his ouevre. Influenced, perhaps, by his second book, 1998's *Wisecracker*, the biography of gay actor William Haines, he has set his new novel in Hollywood, both then and now, for an unsparing look at fame, fortune and the pursuit of dreams. He evokes Tinseltown at both the dawn of the twentieth century, when it was just coalescing into the shaper of the world's imagination, and Hollywood today, when the dreams it inspires have often turned lethal.



Author William J. Mann

And once again he casts a sharp and knowing eye on gay life—post-protease and *The Men From the Boys*—when the life-and-death struggle is not nearly so stark, but even more complex.

His star this time is a 107-year-old actress, Flo Bridgewood—who, as Florence Lawrence, was the world's first movie star back in 1908. An actual historical character, Flo in reality committed suicide in 1938 by drinking a poisoned cocktail of ant paste. But Mann has imagined that she somehow survived— just how she did so is the book's central mystery—only to turn up in a Catholic rest home in New York in 1998. Discovered by a gay man (of course) Flo is brought back to a new kind of fame.

HeatStroke: Okay. So where did this come from? Isn't Flo a bit of a leap from Jeff O'Brien, the angst-ridden Boston gay boy of* The Men From the Boys*?

William J. Mann: I guess she is. Partly I wanted to write something as far afield from my own life as possible. Everybody assumed Jeff was me and I was Jeff, and while there were similarities, he was a fictional character. By getting inside the mind of Flo, a 107-year-old straight woman, I was pushing myself as a writer. And I loved it.

HS: Well, she's a wonderful character. The cigarettes, the scarlet nails, the sass. No Norma Desmond here.

WJM: That was important. I didn't want to write Flo as some crazy forgotten star, Baby Jane in a rest home. The whole point of the book is that the illusion of Hollywood is very different from the reality. Those who can't separate the two are in for trouble. Flo is a very wise lady, and saw that separation, although almost too late.

HS: Why use a real historical figure? Why not simply invent a character?

WJM: I had always been fascinated by Florence Lawrence. I guess I have a habit of finding these obscure figures in Hollywood history and trying to resurrect them, like I did with William Haines. I always felt Flo got a bit of a raw deal from historians, who mention her only in a footnote usually before going on to Mary Pickford and the rest. Yet she was the very first movie star of all time, the very first who had her name revealed to the public and the first to have a huge publicity campaign set up around her. I have her say in the book several times, as she looks around at the paparazzi and the media circus: "I'm the one who started all this." And it's true, she did.

HS: So by using her, someone who really has a place in Hollywood history, you were able to comment more precisely on the nature of fame and celebrity.

WJM: I suppose that's true. Because if people knew Florence Lawrence at all, they knew her as the forgotten star who killed herself with ant poison. She was huge, the first of them all, and ended up doing walk-ons. By saving her from that fate and imagining that she escaped to find a real and fulfilling life, I was making some comment on Hollywood's values.

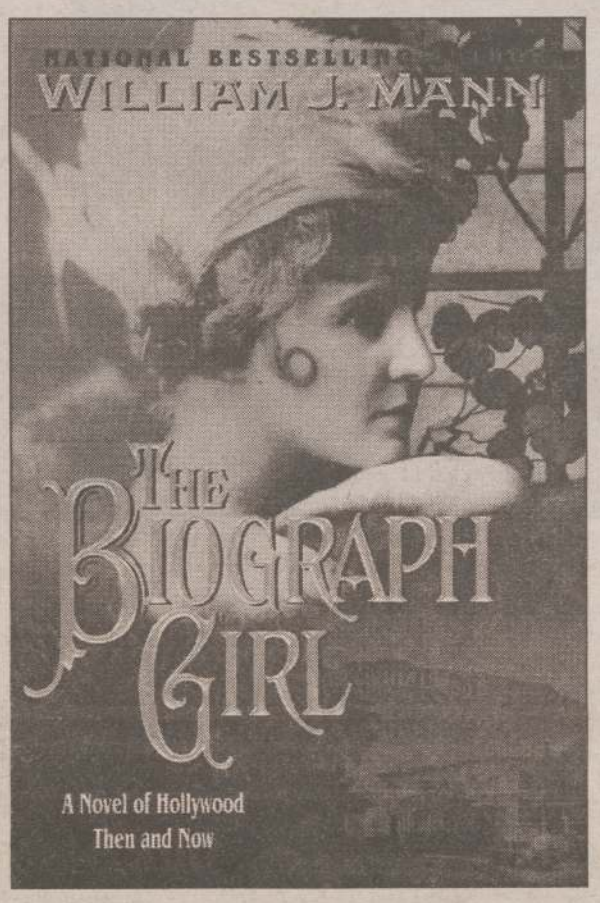
HS: Hmmm. Then are you indicting Hollywood and the culture of celebrity? You seem to also have a great love for it.

WJM: I do. And while I guess I am indicting it in a way, I'm also celebrating it. Hollywood is both a killer and a creator. It's made beauty and it's made tragic messes of people's lives. There's always been that real dichotomy in Hollywood. In the book, I have Roddy McDowall, who I use as a character, say that Hollywood is really myth and magic and ghosts and illusions, and that such things can actually be as real as anything else. It's only by understanding the reality of the myth, however, that you can grasp the truth.

HS: You use a lot of real-life people as characters in the book. Oprah, Rosie O'Donnell, John Waters, Greta Garbo, Clark Gable...

WJM: Yes, they kind of do cameos. You can't write about Hollywood and celebrity without referencing real people.

HS: Earlier you called Flo a straight woman. But she's got a bit of a lesbian streak. You even have a producer in the book tell the guys who want to make a movie of her life to cut out any lesbian stuff, that they're not making* Fried Green Tomatoes *here.



WJM: Exactly. It's just what a Hollywood producer would say. Yes, Flo definitely falls in love with Linda Arvidson in the book, which was a total invention on my part. I wrote her as an independent woman in a man's world who didn't like the rules she was handed. So falling in love with Linda actually was the first time she defied what was expected of her, and it gave her the first insight into the difference between the "applause" of fame and the real love that she so very much wanted in her life.

HS:* The Biograph Girl *is certainly not a "gay book" in the way* The Men From the Boys *was, and yet it certainly seems queer.

WJM: My original publisher actually said it wasn't gay enough. I replied that we've got five principals, two of whom are gay, plus several supporting characters. And besides, the title character is an old movie actress who wears caftans and smokes cigarettes in long holders and loves to scandalize people with dirty talk. She's an honorary gay man. Practically a drag queen. But if you're looking for sex at the piers and rest stops— which was all through *The Men From the Boys*—you won't find it here. Sorry. Maybe next book.

HS: It's odd, isn't it, that a publisher would say a book wasn't "gay enough"? Isn't it usually the opposite, that it's "too gay"?

WJM: Well, I think they looked at the numbers for *The Men From the Boys*, which were very good—and because of the book's content, largely all gay, they thought, 'Well, we can get these numbers again if he writes a book just like this one.'

In a way, I can understand their reluctance. But my new publisher is being very smart, marketing the book to both the gay market and to mass-market readers. I doubt very many straight women in middle America could really get into *The Men From the Boys*. But they can *The Biograph Girl*.

HS: The two main gay characters, Richard and Rex, are lovers. They discover Flo, and she actually helps crystalize for them some pretty significant issues in their relationship.

WJM: Yes. Rex has AIDS, and a few years ago, like so many, he almost died. But the new drugs brought him back, and now he and Richard are struggling with a whole new set of issues. Rex develops the hump on his back, puts on some weight, and Richard freaks, thinking the drugs are failing. He can't imagine going through the pain again that he felt when Rex nearly died. I think, in fact, this is one of the first times these issues have been dealt with in fiction. It's very timely.

HS: Is writing about AIDS important to you? It was a major theme in your first novel.

WJM: It is. My best friend and mentor, who died just as the new drugs were coming in, taught me that as writers, gay writers, we have an obligation to chronicle the plague. It's not fashionable anymore in some ways. I'm not surprised that Richard and Rex are the first couple in fiction to tackle the new issues of AIDS. It's just not being written about anymore.

Maybe people just needed a breather. But I had one reader who looked at an early draft of *The Biograph Girl* and asked if I really needed to make Rex HIV-positive, if it wouldn't be nice to have a gay couple with no fear of AIDS hanging over their heads. But almost as soon as the question was out, he realized for himself that such a reaction simply showed why it was really important to have Rex have AIDS, and to be dealing with these new issues. It'll be interesting to see how straight readers respond to what Richard and Rex are going through.

HS: Once again, it's being marketed as a summer beach read.

WJM: Yes, and I think that's good. You reach more people that way if you position your book as accessible. I don't take myself too seriously. I think writers who do are really asking for trouble. I want to write books that make people laugh and cry and look forward to turning the page. I want to give them an escape. That's what *The Biograph Girl* is, after all is said and done, after all the ruminations on fame and celebrity and Hollywood illusion. It's a fun book. Kind of a mystery. I want people to just escape into Flo's world.

HS: You hop around not only in time, going back to early Hollywood, but also in place. New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco...

WJM: All three cities are very important in the book, and serve a real function. So does the Greek island of Santorini, which is one of my favorite places on earth. So it's one of Flo's, too.

HS:* Publisher's Weekly *called the ending "fittingly cinematic."

WJM: Yes. I definitely wanted that. Not to give it away, but the ending just came to me. As I was writing the first outline of the story, I just said, 'Of course. That's how it has to end.'

HS: I can definitely see this as a movie.

WJM: The movies have been my biggest influence, so I certainly write as if the scenes are playing out in my head like a film. It would be wonderful if someone bought the film rights, but who knows? These things take time. We sold the rights to *Wisecracker* two years ago, and if it happens, it happens.

HS: And up next?

WJM: I'm finishing another nonfiction book, due out next year, looking at the gay experience in the Hollywood studio era. Not to sound too immodest, but I think it will be a real groundbreaking book. It's been fascinating to research. After that, well, I might take a little break from Hollywood-themed writing.

HS: Another* Men From the Boys*?

WJM: Possibly. I imagine at some point I'll write another book set within an exclusively gay world and populated by only gay characters. I hope that's the direction publishing is moving towards, offering writers the ability to write what's in their hearts and not only what can be directed at a particular niche. I'm much more optimistic than some about publishing, although I can certainly see the decreasing opportunities and venues for a lot of gay and lesbian writers, and there are times that's scary. But I think as we infiltrate— notice I didn't say integrate—the culture more and more, our stories will continue to find ways of being told.

Tim Miller is a performer and the author of *Shirts & Skin*, published by Alyson.

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Just Out: a summer reading list for the literate queer in you

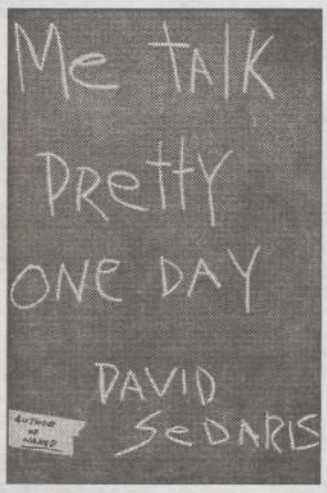
Whether your plans for July and August involve time off or working overtime, the annual monsoon season is as good an excuse as any to kick back and curl up with an interesting new book.

The major publishing houses gear their releases around something known as the "summer beach read", and gay titles are no exception to this time-tested seasonal marketing plan. Here are a few new titles we're recommending as worth the investment of your hard-earned vacation time & money:

Humor for everyone:

Me Talk Pretty One Day
By David Sedaris • (Little, Brown, $22.95, HC)

The inimitable humorist, a star on National Public Radio and the best selling author of *Naked* and *Barrel Fever*, is back with a new collection of stories based on his childhood in North Carolina, his eccentric family and his recent relocation from Manhattan to Paris.



Acerbic, irreverent and laugh-out-loud funny, *Me Talk Pretty One Day* is Sedaris at his best, which is to say it's superb.

Mysteries by men:

Little Miss Evil: A Nick Hoffman Mystery
By Lev Raphael • Walker & Company ($23.95, HC)

Whoever dreamed the ivied halls of academia could be so dangerous? *Little Miss Evil* is the fourth Raphael whodunit set on the campus of the fictitious State University of Michigan (SUM), and featuring the incidentally gay—and ever-sleuthing—English teacher, Nick Hoffman.

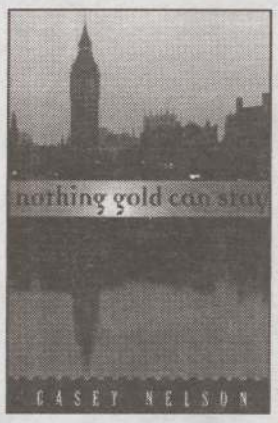
In this volume, Nick is facing relationship worries and tenure-track tensions, but those problems pale next to yet another on-campus homicide case begging to be solved. The clever barbs Nick delivers along the way to the conclusion are almost as delicious-sounding as the gourmet meals that he and his writer lover, Stefan, routinely whip up in their to-die-for remodeled kitchen.



Raphael knows his craft. His 1999 Nick Hoffman book, *Death of a Constant Lover*, was nominated for a Lambda Literary Award in the mystery category and *Little Miss Evil* is a delightful and witty follow-up. If you're already a fan of queer mysteries, consider it a must-read. If you're new to the genre, this slim and fast-paced comic drama makes for a great introduction.

Nothing Gold Can Stay
By Casey Nelson • Alyson ($12.95, PB)

This tale of mystery and mayhem is centered on Ray O'Brien, a naive American graduate student who's visiting England for an exciting summer of studying theater. But just how exiting things get is beyond his predictions—is Ray's new love interest the perfect boyfriend, or the perfect murderer?

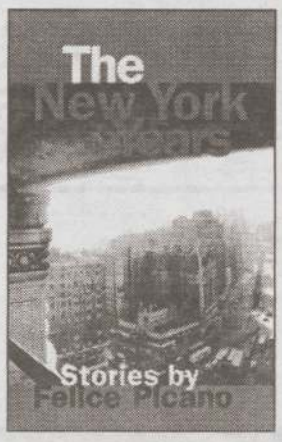


First-time novelist Nelson weaves a clever tale of gay romance and page-turning suspense, all set in the seedy pubs and back alleys of foggy London. Like the best in the mystery field, Nelson knows how to build a serious case without taking himself—or his readers—too seriously.

Fiction by men:

The New York Years: Stories by Felice Picano
• Alyson ($12.95, PB)

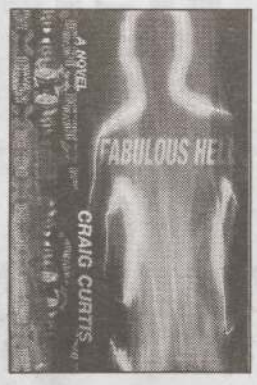
In New York in the '70s, Picano was a founding member of the famed Violet Quill club and has long been considered one of America's most respected and influential gay writers. Now living in Los Angeles, he selected the twelve stories in this collection as a representation of meaningful pre-AIDS writing as well as a look back at a less self-aware, fiercely metropolitan stage in the development of what we've come to call "our community".



Aficionados will particularly appreciate the autobiographical gaps some of these stories fill between occurrences in Picano's celebrated memoirs and the significant social events worked into his best selling novels. Like last year's Lambda-nominated *The Book of Lies*, *New York Stories* is a page-turning treasure whether his reader's interest is historical, literary, or any combination thereof. Explore, and enjoy.

Fabulous Hell
By Craig Curtis • Alyson ($12.95 PB)

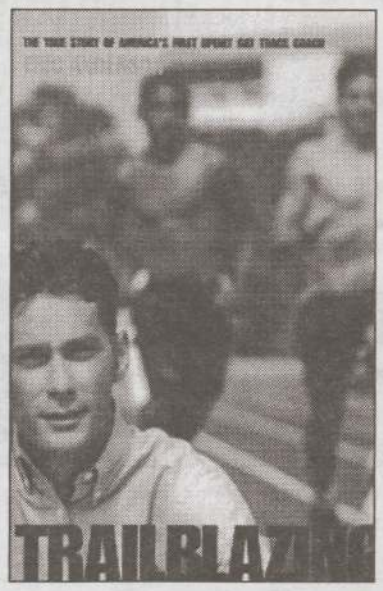
This debut novel chronicles a cynical, HIV+ party boy's adventurous rush through the hard living, gay underworld of West Hollywood. Like the novel's unnamed protagonist, Curtis grew up in conservative Orange County and later moved to LA and Seattle. But unlike his character, his own life is, he says, "on the whole, really dull." By turns a brutally funny and painfully accurate cultural portrait, *Fabulous Hell* lives up to its title, and then some.



Nonfiction by men:

Trailblazing; The True Story of America's First Openly Gay Track Coach
By Eric Anderson • Alyson ($13.95, PB)

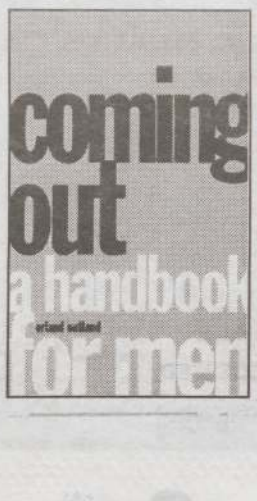
Readers looking for a real-life *Front Runner* story may be disappointed; Anderson's autobiography is not a tale of romance but rather of social acceptance for all gay educators, and of the alliances that can be made between straight and gay teachers, administrators and (especially) students in order to foster a safe and positive environment for anybody who dares to be out in our public schools.



Neither an outstanding writer nor famous athlete (who really follows high school track, anyway?), Anderson's honesty-is-the-best-policy approach worked for him on the job and it works for him as a storyteller as well. *Trailblazing* makes for compelling reading not because its author ever planned on being an equal-rights pioneer, but precisely because he didn't.

Coming Out: A Handbook for Men
By Orland Outland • Alyson ($13.95 PB)

This handy paperback offers just-out gay and bi-curious (be nice!) men a basic overview of the trends, terms and traditions that (for better or worse) make up the ever-evolving community of men who like men. It's a new-millennial version of *Coming Out Right*, a popular Alyson title that the publishers felt needed some updating in an age of computer dating and circuit parties.



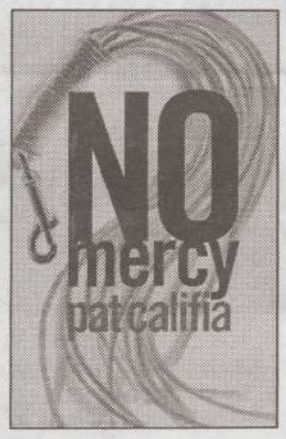
As a reference guide, *Coming Out*'s relevancy depends more upon a given reader's point of view than the writer's presumed authority. In any case, Outland manages to take a concise look at a complicated subject. Much of his advice is no doubt helpful, and the book should also make a great gift for non-gay friends who make it their habit to ask a lot of tiresome questions.

Fiction by women:

No Mercy
By Pat Califia • Alyson ($14.95 PB)

Arguably America's premiere lesbian eroticist, Califia has penned more than 17 books including the classic, *Macho Sluts*. She's further earned respect the world over as the long-running, no-nonsense author of the "Advocate Advisor"sex column.

Now Califia has produced a new volume of leather and erotica-tinged short fiction. She's included male-male, male-female, female-female and androgynous-futuristic-persons scenes in a broad collection sure to delight her many fans, both male and female.



Pillow Talk II: More Lesbian Stories Between The Covers
Edited By Leslea Newman • Alyson ($12.95, PB)



Newman has assembled a collection of 26 short erotic pieces for women in this sequel to the sexy and successful first volume of *Pillow Talk*. Established writers like Maureen Brady and tatiana de la tierra are represented, as are a number of newcomers being published for the first time. Newman is a four-time Lambda Literary Award nominee, and is the author of the classic children's book, *Heather Has Two Mommies*.



The Silk Road
By Jane Summer • Alyson ($12.95, PB)

Labeling this coming-of-age debut novel as a lesbian book is too limiting, because *The Silk Road* is a mesmerizing, finely crafted tale that will likely have enormous appeal for readers of all genders and orientations.



Teenaged Paige Berman is growing up rather painfully in a stuffy Long Island suburb in the late '60s. She becomes something of a lesbo Lolita after she starts babysitting for a new family in town and falls for Fiona Gallagher, a stylish, Barracuda-driving housewife "exactly twice her age". It's a safe bet both their lives will never be the same, but in Summer's sure hands, the story transcends all cliches.

Fiction for kids:

Heather Has Two Mommies; 10th Anniversary Edition
By Leslea Newman, Illustrated by Diana Souza • Alyson ($10.95, PB)

For this updated version of the classic 1989 children's story, Newman has deleted a couple of passages from the original and streamlined the text. It's the number-one choice of educators and parents hoping to introduce kids to family diversity issues at the earliest possible ages. Get it for summer reading for all the little ones in your family, biological and otherwise.



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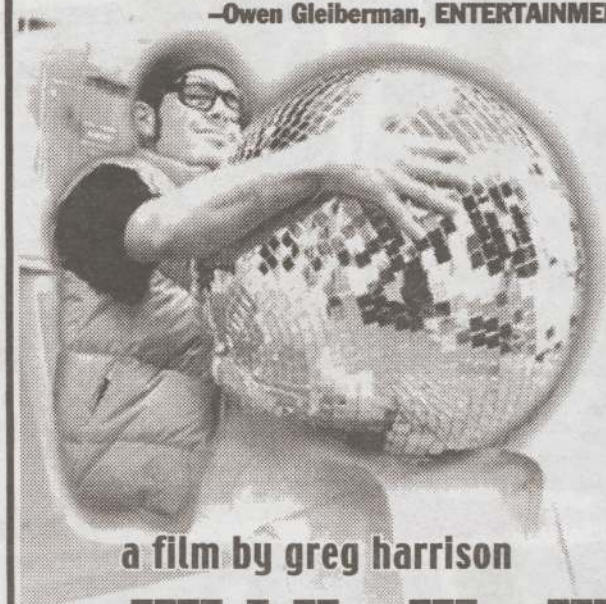
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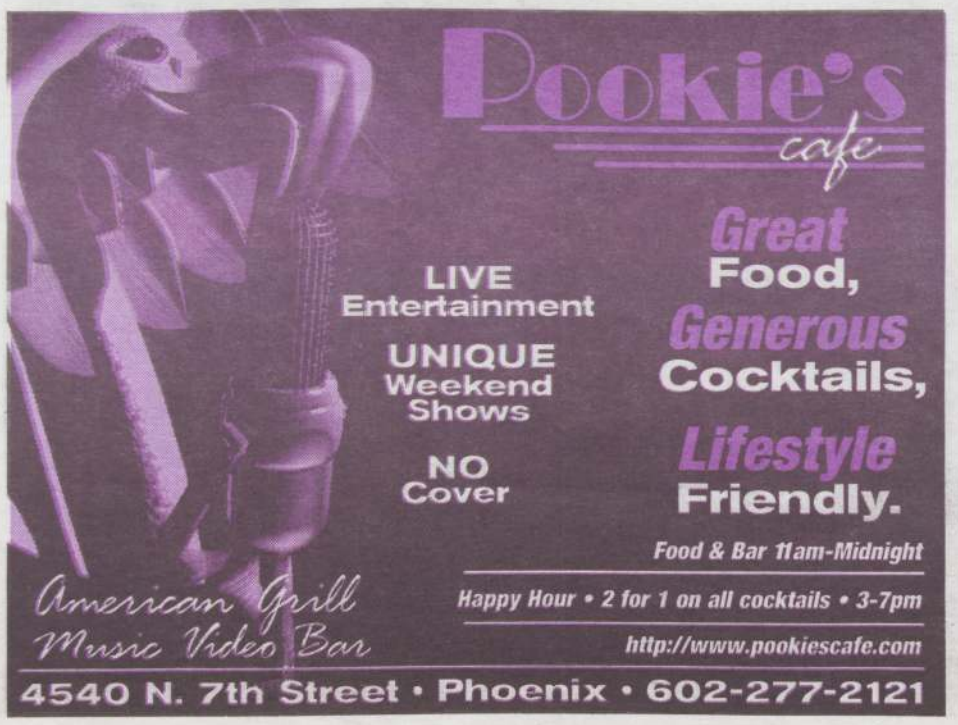
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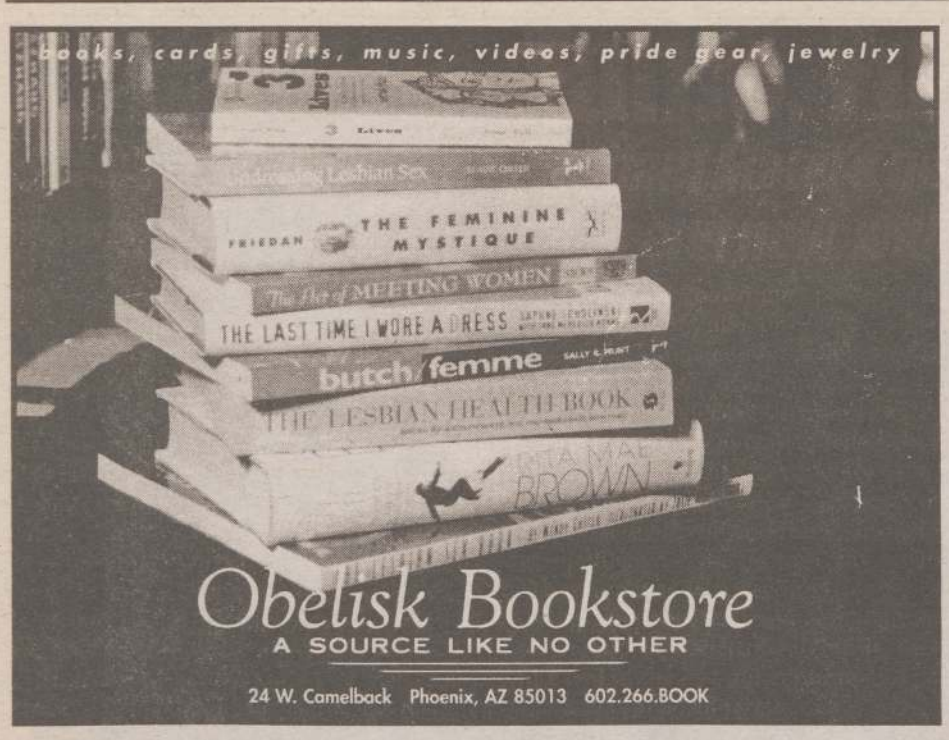
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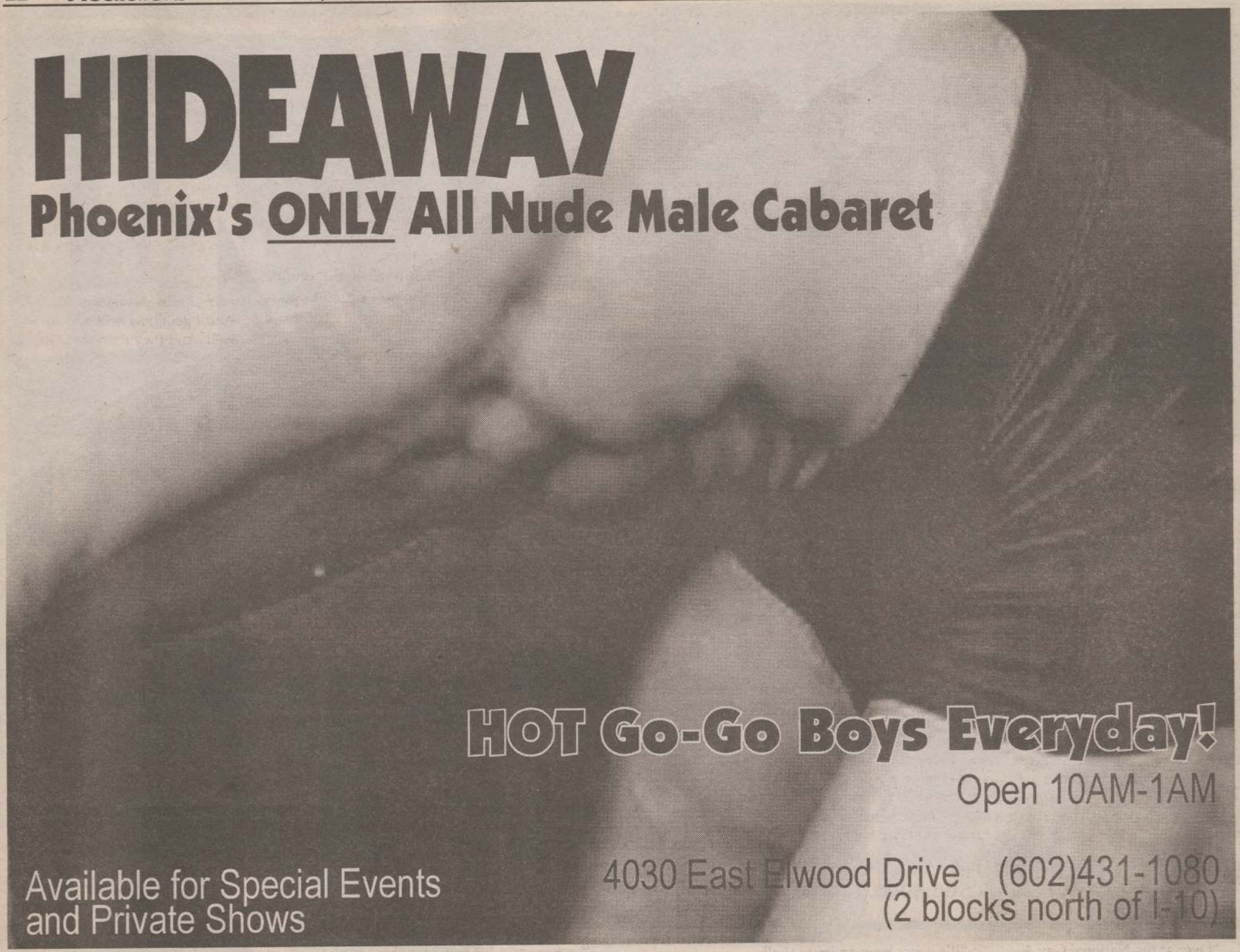
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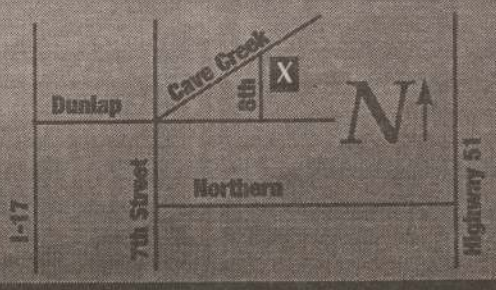
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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"Right now I play a gay character on TV, and I want you to believe that he's gay. And when all this wonderfulness of *Will & Grace* ends, which I hope it never does, and I move on to other roles, hopefully you'll believe that I'm those characters as well. With the society that we live in today, I don't want to put anything into anybody's mind."

—Sean Hayes, Jack on *Will & Grace*, when asked by *TV Guide* if he's gay, May 20.

"We are ... unnerved by the appointment of Elizabeth Toledo to run the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. ... This is the sixth consecutive lesbian feminist executive director at the Task Force. And it's been a while, we might add, since a man has run our other major national group, HRC. ... The LGBT movement could stand some testosterone at the top. Maybe someone in their late 20s. Maybe someone in their 60s or 70s. Maybe someone African American. Someone from Kansas. Someone bisexual or transgendered or fat. Just someone *other* than a classically attractive, 40- something lesbian."

—*San Francisco Bay Times* writer Ann Rostow, May 25.

"Over at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, where we've been berating the board for lack of management diversity, the Policy Institute has named Ingrid Rivera-Dessuit to the post of Racial and Economic Justice Policy Analyst. 'As a mother who is a lesbian of color, who was once homeless and lived on welfare,' said Rivera-Dessuit, 'I know firsthand how issues of race, poverty and sexual orientation come together. And I understand how crucial it is that we, as a community, take on the task of changing public policy and attitudes in these areas.' This is a good start, but let's not forget to hire some men one of these days."

—*San Francisco Bay Times* writer Ann Rostow, June 8.

"They never asked me until Serial Mom and then every reviewer asked me if I was gay. I think it became a political question with AIDS. I always said yes. They never used to ask, and I assumed they knew. They saw the movies. What are they—blind? Do they think a straight man could have made those movies? I don't think so!"

—Filmmaker John Waters to Palm Springs' *Gay & Lesbian Times*, May 25.

"It's never been an issue at all [being gay]. I'm not saying for others that it isn't, but I've never been held back in show business because of my sexuality."

—John Waters to PalmSprings' *Gay & Lesbian Times*, May 25.

"*fab!* gets 10 letters an issue regarding Paulo Murillo's WeHo lifestyle column—but NOT A WORD on Gov. Gray Davis' veto of a pro-gay bill. Is this a yuppie millennium thing? Are we baby boomer journalists, who grew up in the shadow of Vietnam, Kent State, Woodstock, etc., not really 'getting' to our younger readers —because 1) they don't know what we're talking about or 2) they don't really give a fuck, when's the next party?"

—Mark Ariel, editor of the L.A. gay newspaper *fab!* in a June 3 e-mail to this column.

"I'm a lesbian ... although I haven't been very open about that and throughout most of my life I've gone out with blokes because I haven't necessarily been terribly comfortable about being a lesbian. But I actually am a lesbian."

—Singer Sinead O'Connor in an interview with *Curve* magazine in the issue that came out June 27.

"Have you been searching for a place that will accept you as Christian and Leather, or S/M, or Kinky? The Leather Ministry is a group where the whole person can feel nurtured. We do not have to separate those two parts of our lives any longer. The Leather Ministry is for those people seeking to blend their Spirituality and their Sexuality."

—From the San Diego leather e-mail list PT-List, June 8.

"I can't think of another time that we've seen a gay rights group exert this kind of pressure so effectively [as they have against Dr. Laura's planned TV show]. I mean, to get Procter & Gamble, United Airlines—these are big American corporations. They must see gay consumers as being pretty important, and they must see some kind of penalty for them if they went ahead with this [advertising]."

—National Public Radio's Mara Liasson on FOX News, May 31.

"Other advertisers should pay attention to P&G's [Procter & Gamble's] words: there are indeed 'better' program options."

—Advertising Age on P&G's decision not to advertise on Dr. Laura Schlessinger's planned TV show because she is anti-gay, May 29.

"I think it's indicative of the improvement of the atmosphere that Bill Clinton has ushered in. People increasingly understand that the prejudice against gay people is just silly."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., in reference to a June 6 at the Central Intelligence Agency's gay-pride celebration, to *The New York Times*, June 9.

"Hypocrisy —that's why I detest the [Catholic] clergy so much. Everybody knows that it is full of prominently repressed homosexuals or pedophiles, for God's sake. Sheer hypocrisy. They're always in drag. The biggest drag show is high mass."

—Author John Rechy to *Genre* magazine, July issue.

"My father smoked a cigar, and I hated it, and I hated him. But then I used to have a master who would light up a cigar the minute he'd arrive at my house. I hated it, but then I found it thrilling. And I'm sure it was all tied up with my father."

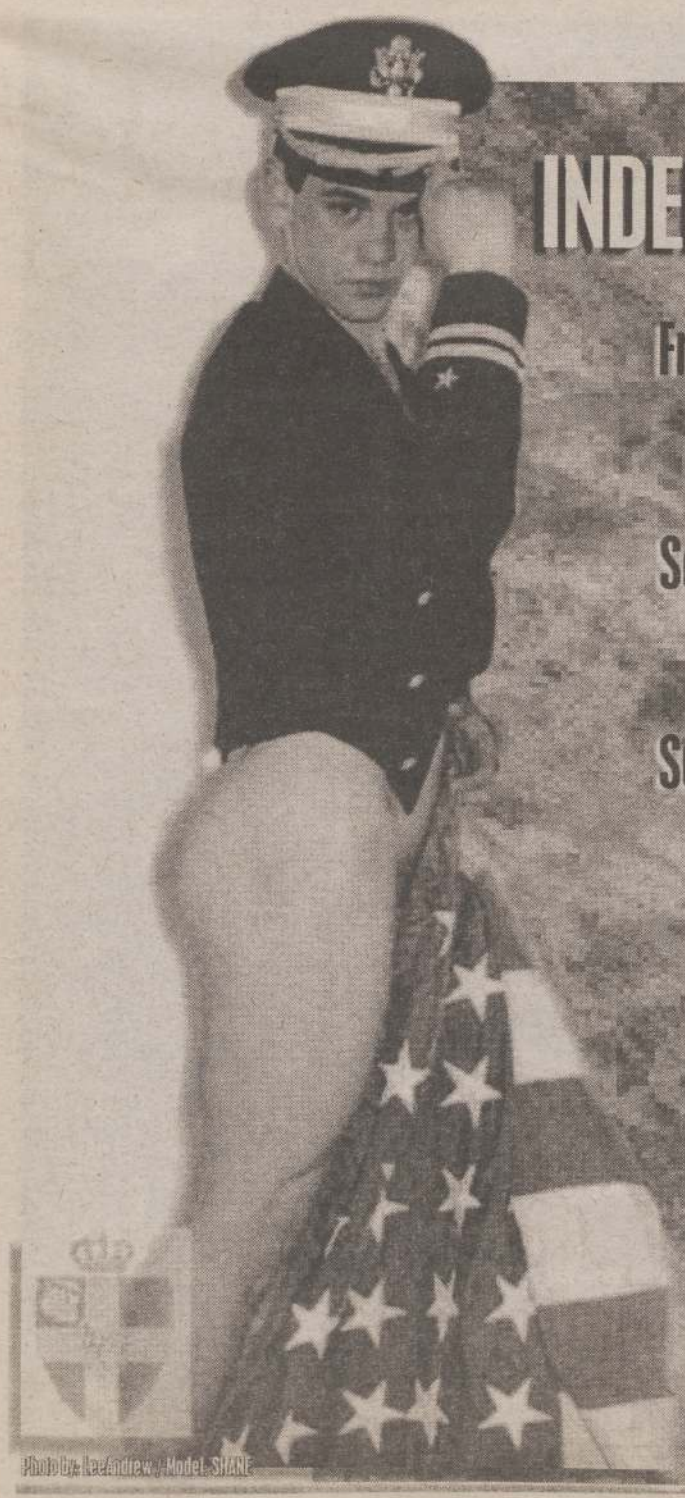
—Author Edmund White to *Genre* magazine, July issue.

"I'm always tempted to get married. I was engaged twice. And I get along with women so well. And they're so much more reliable than men. They're warmer and cozier and more faithful. Men are impossible. They're so moody. Women are accommodating and loving."

—Author Edmund White to *Genre* magazine, July issue.

"Politics and civil rights played a relatively small role in the festivities. There was little mention of Vermont's new civil union law providing marriage benefits to homosexuals; Proposition 22, the California initiative banning recognition of gay marriages; or radio talk show host Laura Schlessinger, who has enraged gay rights groups by saying homosexuality is 'deviant.' Much of the parade was devoted to camp and satire, with the acid- tongued fashion guru Mr. Blackwell as grand marshal, waving to the crowd as two men fanned him with giant feathers."

—From Associated Press coverage of Los Angeles June 11 gay-pride parade.



My Queer Life

THE FINAL CHAPTER

by Michael Thomas Ford

By the time this column appears one of my favorite queer bookstores—Boston's wonderful Glad Day Book Shop—will have closed. In business for almost a quarter of a century, the store is closing not because of financial difficulties, but because the space they've occupied for many years is being turned into high-end condos and they can't find a new space in a neighborhood overrun with Starbucks and Pottery Barns.

The story of the independent bookstore being forced out by the ever-encroaching chains, online stores, and rising costs of operating a small business isn't a new one. And when it comes to queer, alternative, or women's bookstores, the casualties have been particularly high. But this is more than just a business issue.

I walked into my first gay bookstore a dozen years ago, when I moved to New York and discovered A Different Light, then located on Hudson Street. The store was a funky mix of books, magazines, T-shirts, posters, and various other items devoted to queer culture.

For me, newly released from a religious college and starving for anything gay, it was like walking into a candy store. I bought more books than I could read, just to have them on the shelves. I found out about ACT-UP and Queer Nation meetings by reading the fliers pinned to the jumbled mess that was the community bulletin board. I met my first boyfriend there.

Now A Different Light has moved to more upscale Chelsea, where it competes for business with a gigantic Barnes & Noble and faces an uncertain future. And the store is not alone. Forced to streamline, diversify, and shape up, many long-running gay bookstores are finding themselves losing the battle for attention to younger, hungrier, and more aggressive outlets.



As someone who makes a living from writing, I understand all too well the fragile financial web of buying and selling books. I know that small stores simply can't offer the same discounts, variety, and instant gratification that chains can. And yes, I've bought books online when I couldn't find them at my local independent store or when I just haven't felt like leaving the house. Besides, my own books sell very well through those same outlets, so I can't complain too much. And I know that there are lots of people out there buying queer books online who would never buy them if they had to walk into a store.

But I think we need to look at what we're losing every time another store closes. This isn't just about books, although we need to keep in mind that long before Barnes & Noble and Borders made those little sections for "gay literature" there were small bookstore owners making queer literature available by hunting down everything that was in print; and long before mainstream publishers took any interest in gay books there were small queer publishers putting them out at great trouble and expense.

No, this isn't just about the books. You can get gay books pretty much anywhere these days. The disappearance of the queer bookstore is frightening for a larger reason. It used to be that these stores functioned as de facto community centers, information libraries, and even pick-up joints. Going into one, you felt that you belonged there.

These were *your* books and *your* people and *your* space. Browsing through the latest issue of *Out*, or reading the first chapter of the new Andrew Holleran or Dorothy Allison to see if it hooks you, just isn't the same when you do it at Barnes & Noble surrounded by six billion copies of the fifteenth Harry Potter installment, Oprah's latest pick, and a stack of Dr. Laura's current abomination.

A few weeks ago I flew to Chicago for the annual Lambda Literary Awards, where my book *That's Mr. Faggot to You* received a Lammy for best humor book. On the way home the next morning, when I sent my carry-on through the security scanner, I was asked to step aside and open my bag for inspection. Having gone through exactly the same thing the previous year, I knew what they were looking for.

"It's an award," I said as I took out the Lammy nestled in the center of the suitcase and held it out for inspection.

The security guard doing the check took the award—which is a Lucite block with a medal embedded in the center—and stared at it for a minute.

"They thought it might be a bomb," she explained. Then she took a closer look. "Gay and lesbian book award?" she said, staring at me curiously. "They have an award for that?"

Yes, they have an award for that. And we have that award because we like to honor books by and about queer people and those people's lives. As more and more of gay culture is subsumed by the mainstream, it's easy to forget that our inclusion in that mainstream is largely dependent upon what they can get out of our culture. Our words stay in print as long as they make money, not necessarily as long as they're needed. Our voices are heard as long as what we say isn't too offensive.

So the next time you need to pick up a book, please consider taking a trip to your local queer store, if you have one. If you don't, please consider asking whatever store you go to to stock more queer titles. As for the booksellers out there, my heartfelt appreciation to all of you working within the chains to make sure (often covertly) that queer books don't disappear. And finally, to the great folks at Glad Day—and to everyone who runs a gay bookstore—a big thank you for keeping us at least one step away from the jaws of assimilation.



Michael Thomas Ford's latest book, *It's Not Mean If It's True*, will be in stores soon (including Obelisk, Phoenix's own gay & lesbian bookshop). He can be reached at Shopiltee@aol.com.

Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Lesbian in the City: the SF Mission District

San Francisco's queer visitors often flock to the famed Castro neighborhood, often mistaking the city's vibrant lesbian district, the Mission, as more of a residential enclave than a genuine attraction. In fact, there's plenty to see and do here.

The Mission, due east of the Castro, derives its name from the Mission Dolores, which has stood here since 1791 and whose museum makes for a fascinating (though not particularly queer) tour.

During the 19th century, the area developed into San Francisco's resort community. Throughout the 20th century it has changed gradually into a working-class residential neighborhood, then a largely Latino one, which it remains to a degree today. Many Asians have also immigrated here in recent years.

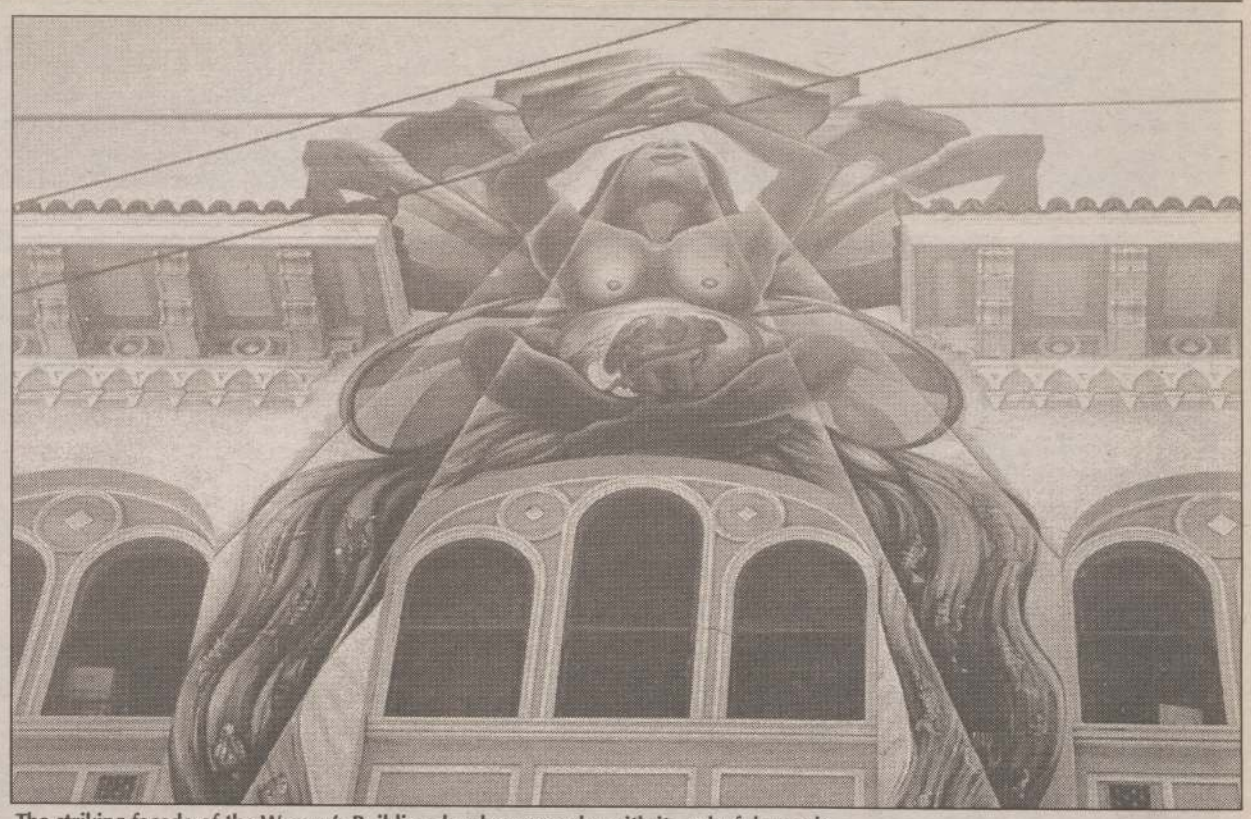
The lesbian presence developed mostly during the past two decades, with the number of women-owned and -oriented shops and hangouts booming in the mid-'90s. And in the past few years, as real estate prices have escalated, a flood of dot-com-employed yuppies have added to the mix—spurring resentment among many longtime locals.

Nevertheless, like all of San Francisco's most engaging neighborhoods, the Mission is blessed with a trinity of diversional attributes: cool shopping, outstanding dining, and spicy people-watching. With these hobbies in mind, meander along the neighborhood's main commercial drags, Mission and Valencia streets. You'll find cheap and tasty ethnic cuisine, left-leaning and lesbian-oriented shops and galleries, and some of the city's queer and women's performance spaces mixed in among the many Latin American and Chinese groceries and dry-goods stores. And you'll see plenty of cute dykes.

For a look at what's doing in the neighborhood, drop by the Women's Building, a community center that hosts dozens of events, readings, meetings, and workshops for women. Note the striking mural on two sides of this recently renovated building; it illustrates the lives of prominent women over the centuries.

Now, here's a quick primer on local shopping. Looking for groovy second-hand duds and bargain-basement furniture? Check out Community Thrift, whose profits benefit local queer charities. Gotta a New Age sweetie waiting at home? Botanica Yoruba has incense, candles, and oils galore.

Peruse the racks of Modern Times for lefty lit crit, political manifestos, and hefty tomes on Eastern religion. For friendly and sensitive advice on locating your G-spot (or somebody else's), try Good Vibrations, a terrific women-owned erotica boutique. And after all that walking, consider steaming away your troubles at the Osento Baths, a women's (non-sexual) bathhouse.



The striking facade of the Women's Building dazzles passersby with its colorful murals.

You might break up your shopping adventures with a couple of hours of sunning at sprawling Dolores Park, a queer "beach" on warm days (the city's infamous fog rarely affects the Mission). If you simply love to walk, venture into any of the adjacent neighborhoods: the Castro—once a gay male haven—has become very popular with women in recent years; fashionable Noe Valley, especially along 24th Street from Church to Diamond streets, offers much of the sapphic cachet of the Mission; quiet Bernal Heights supposedly has the highest concentration of lesbian-owned houses in the city; and rapidly gayifying Potrero Hill has a few fun shops and restaurants along 18th Street, including Just For You, a major morning spot that's famous for its mighty-fine breakfast burritos.

The Mission's culinary scene has redefined itself in recent years, offering everything from traditional Mexican fare (and a riot of kitschy decorating) at La Rondella to cutting-edge California cuisine at the sophisticated and upscale Flying Saucer.

Saunter over to Noe Valley to find one of the most romantic neighborhood bistros in the city, the Firefly, whose enticing brand of home-style cooking incorporates a United Nations of ingredients. Or head up the hill to Bernal Heights to sample the delicious yet inexpensive New American cooking at Liberty Café. If it's crowded, have a drink next door at the lesbian-popular Wild Side West, a cozy tavern with a pool table; when you're table's up, someone from Liberty Cafe will pop over and let you know.

One of the Mission's rising stars, Universal Cafe, has a striking postmodern dining room set inside a converted turn-of-the-century warehouse. The menu concentrates on French and Italian Mediterranean fare—try the roasted Muscovy duck on spaghetti squash with chanterelle and porcini mushrooms.

The Slow Club presents a diverse menu of California-inspired fare and has a stellar wine list. Expect to wait in line for a table at the grrrl-infested Ti-Couz, a delightful creperie where you can invent your own crepe or choose from a long list.

The yuppie-infested Slanted Door has some of the best haute Vietnamese cuisine in the city, and similarly trendy places like Charanga and Esperpento serve tantalizing tapas. And if it's a very special occasion, try to score a table at the ultra-swanky Cal-French spot, Foreign Cinema Café where, yes, you can actually watch arty films while you eat.

Nightlife, once the Mission's downfall, has perked up with the opening in 1997 of the city's only full-time women's bar, the Lexington Club. Skater girls, hipsters, and Doc Marten devotees pack this cozy space to hear Joan Jett and Courtney Love tunes on the fierce jukebox.

As for mixed hangouts, try El Rio, a disco and pool hall, during its Saturday-night rock alternative parties. More guys frequent Esta Noche than lesbians, but this is still a place with a thriving Latina scene on many weekends.

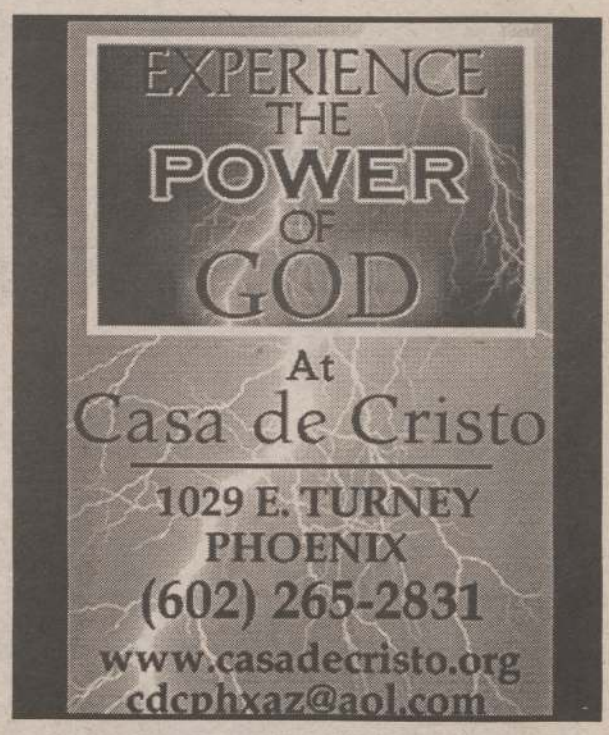
Red Dora's Bearded Lady Cafe is a divinely dykey, hip, smoke-free, PC lesbian performance space with a vegetarian cafe. On Sunday afternoons, El Rio dishes up live salsa music and great food to a totally diverse crowd: gay, straight, female, male, Latino, African-American, white, old, and young.

While the Mission doesn't exactly abound with hotels, there are a few excellent lesbian-friendly accommodations in the neighborhood. Both the Andora Inn and Inn San Francisco are towering old wood-frame buildings with high ceilings, tall windows, and eclectic furnishings—the Andora is mostly lesbians and gay men, while the Inn San Francisco is mainstream but family friendly.

Also mixed gay-straight and with some of the most romantic rooms in the city, the lovely Dolores Park Inn occupies a stunning 1874 Italianate garden-side mansion on a quiet street near the actual Mission Dolores. When you're looking for that special place to take your honey, look no further than here.

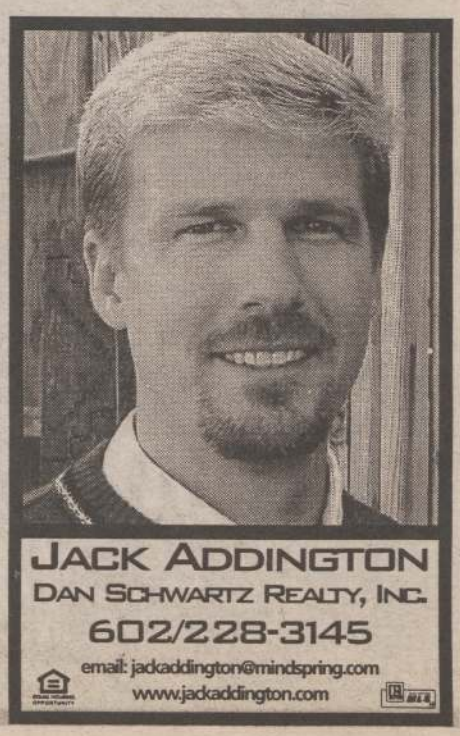


Andrew Collins authored *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA* as well as six gay guides covering the West Coast, New York City, South Florida and Amsterdam. He can be reached in care of *HeatStroke* or at GayFodors@aol.com.









HeatStroke's Funny Page

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Orner

HATE HER At the SEDER

You probably know that a Passover Seder involves 4 questions. This Year, yours involved a 5th:



This from your older sister Natalie, who's tact was washed away by a third glass of Manischevitz...



Tradition holds that on this night, the Angel of Death passes over Jewish homes. You're wishing tonight he'd make an exception...



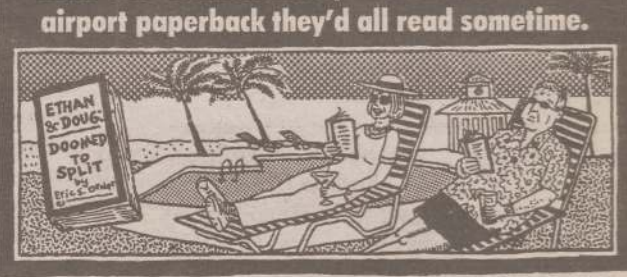
Natalie has always resented your family's inconsistent policy on acceptable spouses:



This grudge, and others she's collected Since her x husband Gabe ran off with a Cuban gal from Orlando, has left Nat very much akin to the bitter herb portion of the holiday platter.



Depressingly, your family wasn't shocked at the news of your split with Doug, treating it as some sort of inevitability---like the end of an airport paperback they'd all read sometime.



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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel











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Hollywood Deep Inside

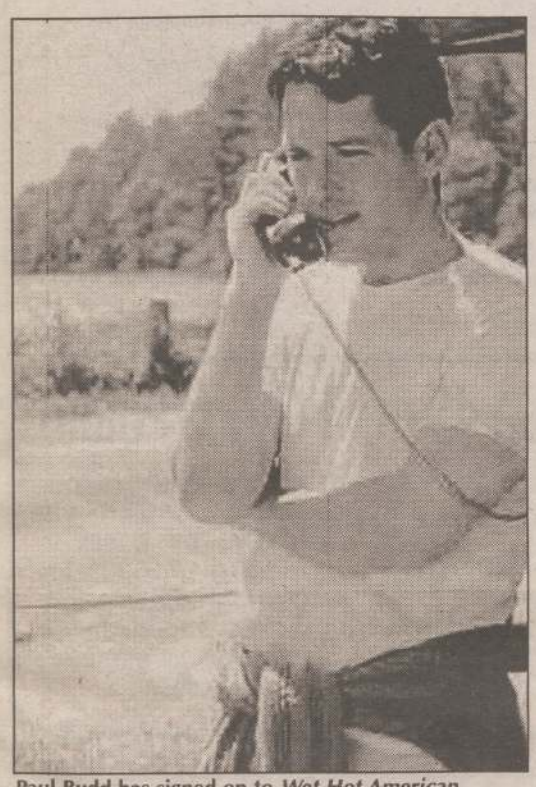
By Romeo San Vicente, *HeatStroke* Contributor

Rudd Gets "Camp"-y

Object of My Affection and *Cider House Rules* star **Paul Rudd** is spending his summer at sleep-away camp.

The actor has joined a cast including *Frasier* co-star **David Hyde Pierce**, comedienne **Janeane Garofalo**, and *Oz* hunk **Chris Meloni** in a feature send-up of summer camp called *Wet Hot American Summer*. With a title that good, you'd think it would be porn! But the independent comedy is a farce about the last day of summer camp at Camp Firewood, circa 1981.

Rudd will then segue from the comedy to highbrow drama. He's to join **Jessica Lange** in the London Revival of *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, which is expected to run in the West End from November through January 2001.



Paul Rudd has signed on to *Wet Hot American Summer*—a farcical take on summer camp.

Million Dollar Murphy

The most popular queer in town is *Popular* creator **Ryan Murphy**. The writer-slash-executive producer of the quirky teen dramedy just signed a two-year, seven-figure deal with Warner Brothers Television.

The deal has Murphy working on his hit series through next season and committing to a pilot for a new, yet-to-be-determined youth-driven series. *Popular*, by the way, was former journalist Murphy's first foray into prime time.

The project was originally developed as a feature film before finding its way to the small screen. Perhaps this means this infotainment journalist will have a hit show on the WB in a year or two!

Murphy is also shopping around a feature film script called *Why Can't I Be Audrey Hepburn?* about a single woman obsessed with the *Breakfast at Tiffany's* star and her queer best friend (also a Hepburn fanatic).

Murphy may also collaborate with *Sex and the City* writer **Candace Bushnell** (she wrote the column and book the HBO show is based on) to develop a new pilot.

Hairy Situation for Arquette

Stigmata star **Patricia Arquette** plays a terribly hairy woman who seeks refuge amongst lesbians who refuse to shave their legs in this quirky film scripted by *Being John Malkovich* writer **Charlie Kaufman**.

Human Nature, which is currently in production in Los Angeles, tells the tale of a woman plagued by body hair (Arquette) and her scientist boyfriend, who get involved in a bizarre love triangle involving a man who was raised by apes a la Tarzan.

Young French video director *Michel Gondry* makes his feature debut on the project, which also stars **Tim Robbins**, and *Notting Hill* roommate from Hell, **Rhys Ifans**.

Pandas Are Homos, too

Pudgy funnyman **Jon Lovitz** recently pitched producer **John Davis** a character for *Doctor Doolittle* 2, the sequel to **Eddie Murphy**'s hit remake about a doctor who talks to animals.

Like the original, *Doolittle* 2 will have celebrities providing the animal voices that only Murphy's character can hear. Lovitz did an impromptu routine about a gay panda, a character he'd like to voice in the movie. (A gay panda? No wonder they have so much trouble breeding in captivity!)

If Davis can get Steve Carr, the film's director, to agree, Lovitz may get to write his own part for the flick. The film is slated to roll before cameras in September.

Jack In the Litter Box

Will & Grace star **Sean Hayes** is spending his summer vacation getting into a major catfight!

Hayes, who plays the flamboyant Jack on the hit NBC show, just scored one of the leads in the upcoming Warner Brothers combination live-action and animation flick, *Cats and Dogs*. Hayes will provide the voice of Mr. Tinkles, an evil cat in the film.

The story follows an earnest young pup (whose voice will be provided by *Cider House Rules* star **Tobey Maguire**) who helps thwart a fiendish feline plot to take over the world. The voices of **Alec Baldwin**, **Susan Sarandon**, and *Green Mile* star **Michael Clarke Duncan** will also be showcased in the movie, which the studio hopes to turn into a major franchise.

Amadeus Duets with Vachon

Lesbian Producer **Christine Vachon** has partnered with openly gay actor **Tom Hulce** (best known for his portrayal of Mozart in 1984's *Amadeus*) to bring **Michael Cunningham**'s gay-themed novel *Home at the End of the World* to the big screen.



***Will & Grace*'s Sean Hayes will provide the voice of the evil feline, Mr. Tinkles, in the upcoming *Cats and Dogs*.**

Home is a poignant tale about two boyhood friends, Bobby (straight) and Jonathan (gay), who get involved in a bizarre triangle with their female roommate, Clare. Jonathan intends to father Clare's child, but that plan gets tossed when Bobby and Clare fall in love.

They redefine the American family when they join forces to raise "their" child in NYC's East Village. No word yet on when *Home* will hit theaters.

Another Kind of American Beauty

American Beauty Producer **Bruce Cohen** recently shared his love of drag with a group of chi-chi Los Angeles queers.

Asked by the Human Rights Campaign to talk about how his professional and activist lives intersected, Cohen spent the bulk of his 45-minute talk at the classic eatery Spago talking about how and why he has strutted before the Hollywood A-List (from **Jack Nicholson** to **Carrie Fisher**) in women's clothing.

The 38-year-old Cohen, whose credits include *The Flintstones* and *To Wong Foo...*, finished by displaying a copy of the framed photo of him dressed as **Marilyn Monroe** that he presented to his mentor **Steven Spielberg** the day after he won the Oscar for Best Picture. The photo is now on display in the bathroom used by Spielberg's guests at Dreamworks Studios, Cohen said.

Sean Maher Hits The $treet

Twenty-something cutie **Sean Maher**, who was the star of last fall's short lived *Ryan Caulfied, Year One*, has been recruited by the Fox Network again.

This time the brunette hunk will star in the revamped version of *The $treet*, a new Wall Street drama created by *Melrose Place* and *Sex and the City* creator **Darren Star**.

Dawson's Hole?

The most interesting casting rumor going around has **Hole** rocker-slash-actress-slash-occasional-bisexual **Courtney Love** doing a hard sell to the producers of *Dawson's Creek* to guest star next season as the very hetero older love interest of **James Van Der Beek**.

Courtney playing Mrs. Robinson in Capeside? Romeo will believe it when he sees it.

In other casting news, Tony-winning actress **Audra McDonald** has signed on to play the nurse in HBO's production of the Pulitzer-prize-winning play *Wit* opposite **Emma Thompson**.

Romeo San Vicente wouldn't mind a pussy if it looked like Sean Hayes. You can reach Romeo in care of HeatStroke or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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Cosmic Cafe

Check out page 19 for gay-friendly eateries!

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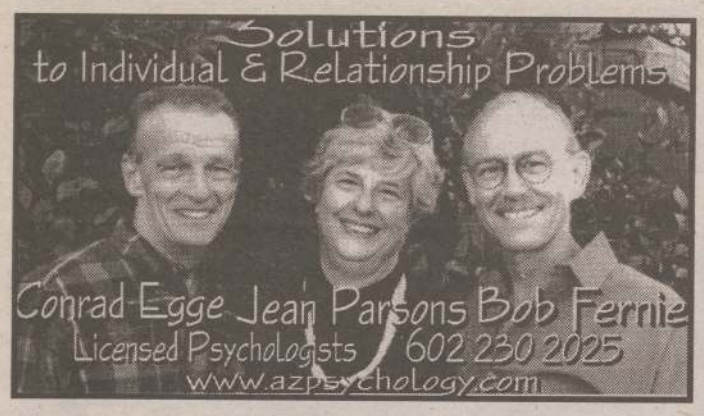
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Ed. note: The cowboy is off mending fences in a cooler climate, but he'll be back for our next issue. The following letters were culled from the archives.

Dear Cowboy,

An old friend of mine recently moved back to Phoenix after living in Los Angeles for several years. He calls me a lot and wants to hang out, even though we were rarely in touch when he was away. We've already gone to a couple movies and happy hours together. I enjoy his company and I've been cordial so far, but I have a big problem.

He acts as if he has completely forgotten a huge, nasty incident that happened right before he left. I, on the other hand, can't stop thinking about it and it's driving me crazy. Without going into detail, let's just say it involves a boyfriend cheating on me, drugs, a visit to my workplace from the police, and a bad falling out with another friend of both of ours who has since died. The whole mess was caused by this guy, which is part of why he left town.

I want to ask him about that past event and hash it out once and for good. My friends say if he's cleaned up his act and wants to forget about it, then I should be willing to let it go, too. What would you do?

Signed, Sick of Making Small Talk

Dear Small Talk,

There's some horse sense evident in the advice you're getting from your pals, but they may not see how much it's bothering you to keep steering around a conversation you think it is important to have. It's also clear you like the guy for who he is—otherwise, you wouldn't have written.

Getting over the past is one thing—pretending it never happened is another. I think you should confront your old pal and tell him how much you were hurt by his actions. Don't be too judgmental. He may be ready to apologize, or he might have a side of the tale that you need to hear, too.

If he gets ornery with you for bringing it up, that's his problem. At least you'll get to say your piece, and get some peace from doing it. Your friendship should proceed more smoothly down the trail once this brush is cleared away.

Dear Cowboy,

When I advertised for a roommate six months ago, I said right in the ad that I was looking for another lesbian. The woman I ended up renting to identified herself as bisexual and said she was single.

She and I get along okay, but it turns out she is not single—she has a boyfriend. I am not comfortable having a straight man in and out of my house. I'm not a man-hater, I just feel like I've been lied to. We don't have any kind of contract. Should I kick her out?

Signed, Tempe Homeowner

Dear Homeowner,

You have a right to be comfortable in your own bunkhouse and to live with whomever you choose. If the benefits of having a roommate you get along with are outweighed by having her male partner around, tell her you're sorry things didn't work out and give her a reasonable amount of time to find a new ranch. You might compromise by asking her to stay over at his place when they bed down together, but don't hold it against her if she'd rather move out than agree to that. At least you have learned to screen your applicants better next time out.

Directory of Nonprofit Services for the Phoenix Metro Gay & Lesbian Community

HIV Services

AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix 85064 602/234-6143

AIDS Project Arizona
1427 N. 3rd Street, Suite 125
Phoenix 85004 602/253-2437

A Place Called Home
3431 W. Thunderbird #13-403
Phoenix 85023 602/942-1572

Arizona AIDS Information Line
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
Phoenix 85013 602/234-2752

Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance
6523 N. 14th St., #112
Phoenix 85014 602/279-4805

AZ AIDS Services for the Deaf
111 E. Camelback
Phoenix 85012 602/265-9953

Aunt Rita's Foundation
5501 N. 7th Ave#215
Phoenix 85013 602/532-7025

Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593

HIV Care Directions
1366 E. Thomas#105
Phoenix 85014 602/264-2273

Native American Community
Health Center
3008 N. 3rd Street, Suite 302
Phoenix 85012 602/279-5262

Joshua Tree Feeding Program
P.O. Box 7056
Phoenix 85011 602/264-0223

Maricopa County Health Dept.
1825 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 85006 602/506-6900

Planned Parenthood
5651 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 85016 602/277-7526

Phx. Body Positive
1144 E. McDowell Rd, Suite 200
Phoenix 85006 602/307-5330

Phx. Shanti Group
2020 W. Indian School Rd.#53
Phoenix 85015 602/279-0008

Terros, Inc.
320 E. Virginia Ave.
Phoenix 85004 602/234-8900

Volunteers in Direct Aid
P.O. Box 40476
Phoenix 85067 602/279-8432

Wellness Center
1840 W. Maryland, Suite E
Phoenix 85016 602/864-0710

Political Action & Education

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

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

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

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

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

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness
Project
P.O. Box 60881
Phoenix 85082 602/351-3080

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

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

Social & Support Groups

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

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

Arizona 2-somes 602/923-1666

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

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

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

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

Delta Lambda Phi - Phoenix
903 S. Rural Rd., Suite 101-317
Tempe 85281 602/248-5270

Desert Adventures
P.O. Box 2008
Phoenix, 85001 602/266-2267

Entre Nosotros
546 E. Osborn, #22
Phoenix 85012 602/285-0970

FATHOM
PO Box 83072
Phoenix 85029
www.psn.net/~damour

Gay Lesbian Yavapai Alliance
PO Box 3241
Prescott, AZ 86302-6558
520/541-6558

Girth and Mirth of AZ
P.O. Box 16605
Phoenix 85011 480/655-8229

The Leatherlords 602/254-9651

Lesbian & Gay Alanon
2622 N. 16th Street
Phoenix 85006 602/548-0936

Lesbian & Gay Overeaters Anon.
480/607-7640;
cave4bear@hotmail.com

Los Amigos del Sol (LADS)
PO Box 27335
Phoenix 85061 602/997-2411

Parents & Friends of Lesbians
and Gays
P.O. Box 7625
Phoenix 85011 602/843-1404

Prime Timers of Phoenix
602/265-9402
www.primetimers.org/phoenix

Project LifeGuard
Project Q
TRIBE
1427 M/3rd Street, Suite 120
Phoenix 85004 602/254-3233

The Community Center and
Youth Services 602/265-7283
Lesbian & Gay Community
Switchboard 602/234-2752
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
PO Box 33367
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

Professional Enrichment & Networking

Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix 85001 602/225-8444

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

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

Asbury United MethodistChurch
1601W Indian School
Phoenix 85015 602/279-2369

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Valley of the Sun Commtunity
Church 602/564-7895

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

Music, Sports & Hobby Groups

Arizona Frontrunners
azfrontrunners@hotmail.com
602/954-3983

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix 85011 602/265-0618

AZ Women in Tune
PO Box 37855
Phoenix 85069 623/878-5430

Cactus Cities Softball League
PO Box 45101
Phoenix 85064 602/287-9573

Charlie's Renegades
P.O. Box 17602
Phoenix 85011 602/277-9142

Desert Adventures
PO Box 2008
Phoenix 85001 602/266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 34615
Phoenix, AZ 85067 480/990-2562

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

Grand Canyon Men's Chorale
P.O. Box 16462
Phoenix 85011 602/340-7640

Lambda Car Club
P.O. Box 36211
Phoenix 85067 602/409-3160

Phoenix Tennis Alliance
602/359-0936

Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling
Alliance (PUGBA)
PO Box 44422
Phoenix 85064 602/246-9643

Team Arizona
P.O. Box 36431
Phoenix 85067 602/408-4311
teamarizona.org

Valley of the Sun Comm'ty Band
Jayne: 480/947-0907;
Terry: 602/954-9244



Accountants

Doug Griffore, CPA ---------- 623/334-1101

Attorneys

William Graves----------602/381-6253
Kathie J. Gummere----------602/952-0293
Bernard Rethore----------602/381-6253

Counselors

Diane E. D'Angelo, MC, CPC----602/997-8199
Conrad Egge, PhD----------602/230-2025
Bob Fernie, PhD----------602/230-2025
Jean Parsons, PhD----------602/230-2025
ManPower (Keith Thompson)---602/506-6857

Dentists

Dobson-Warner Dentistry------ 480/917-0181

Financial Svcs.

Paul Ringgenberg----------602/744-7717

Florists

Community Florist----------602/266-6648

Graphic Design

Matt Cochran----------602/301-9545
Bill Knoop----------602/262-2524
Jack A. Komnick----------602/254-6977
Smith Pro Graphics----------480/816-4443

Health Care

Chad Schroer, NMD----------480/368-0808
Thanes Vanig, MD----------480/368-0808

Home Services

Colt Heating & Cooling--------602/712-1244
Don Williams Builders, Inc.----602/246-8591
Rainbow Home Repair---------602/440-5367
Voltiac Electrical Services------602/957-3602

Insurance

Murray Sullivan (Farmers)-----480/860-0920

Internet

Rapid Media Technologies-----480/855-4845

Nightlife

Apollo's----------602/277-9373
Bunkhouse----------602/200-9154
Cash Inn----------602/244-9943
Charlie's----------602/265-0224
JC's Fun One Lounge----------623/939-0528
Johnny Mc's----------602/266-0875
Nu-Towne Saloon----------602/267-9959
Pumphouse II----------602/275-3509
The Water Hole----------623/937-3139

Out-of-Town

Bacchanal (Palm Springs)-----800/806-9059

Pet Services

Most Valuable Pet (Joe)-------602/955-3471
Petland (Ed)----------480/844-2920
Alicia Ruiz, DVM----------602/277-5155

Realtors

Jack Addington----------602/228-3145
Mario Romero----------602/943-3003
Lisa L. Seeley----------602/252-7777
John Walsh----------480/922-6943
Sam Wercinski----------480/922-6943
Rod Whitt----------602/230-7600

Restaurants

Malee's on Main----------480/947-6042
Pookie's----------602/277-2121
Punky's Corner----------602/265-6956

Retail

Obelisk, The Bookstore--------602/266-BOOK

Spiritual Groups

Casa de Cristo----------602/265-2831
Gentle Shepherd MCC--------602/864-6404
Valley/Sun Comm. Church----602/564-7882

Tanning Salons

Tangible, Inc.----------602/274-4664

Transportation

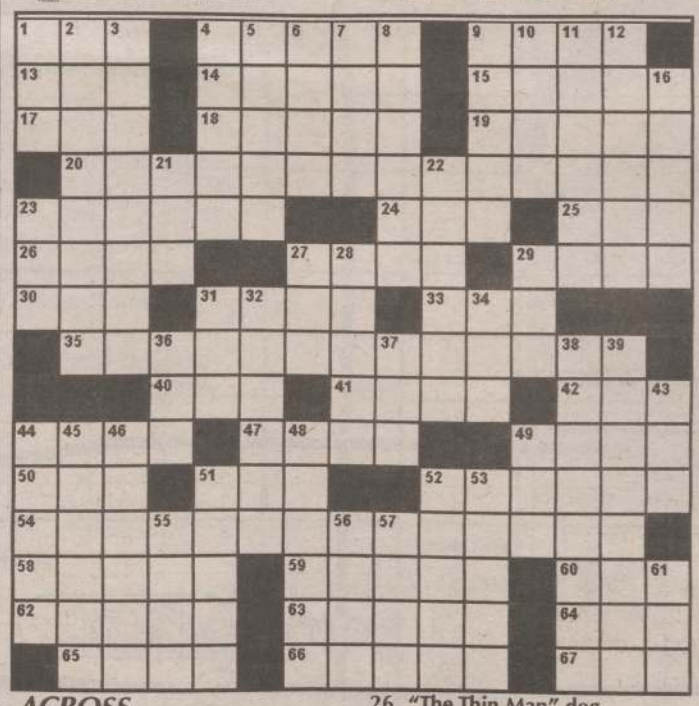
Odyssey Sedan Service--------602/776-0173

Viatical Svcs.

Living Settlements, Inc.--------602/956-3770

Q Puzzle

"Lesbian Drawers"



ACROSS

1 Feminist folk singer DiFranco
4 Cake topper
9 Rice's pansexual erotica *East of ___*
13 "The One I Love" band
14 Homeland of Princess Aida
15 Like rays caught at South Beach
17 PC maker
18 Acceptance of gay/lesbian life style, hopefully
19 Spencer's *Gay Kama ___*
20 "Bitchy Bitch" cartoonist
23 ___ Legal M4M (AOL chat room)
24 One billion years
25 Friend of Pooh
26 "The Thin Man" dog
27 Org. with olive drab hankies?
29 Like a trim lawn
30 Letters before an alias
31 Peter the Great
33 *Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof*
35 "Dykes to Watch Out For" cartoonist
40 "All Things Considered" network
41 Porn star Ryan
42 Urvashi has one
44 Project for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
47 Cross-dresser's leotard
49 Vidal's ___ *from Golgotha*
50 Gardner of "On the Beach"
51 "I'm proud of my gay ___"
52 Thomas Cunningham, to West Palm Beach government
54 "subGURLS" cartoonist
58 Berube's *Coming Out ___ Fire*
59 A butch usually has a deep one
60 Utmost degree
62 Service a Dairy Queen?
63 Artist Hernandez
64 Whisper sweet nothings
65 Chows down
66 Emotionally dependant
67 *All About "All About ___"*

Down

1 *Exodus* character
2 State that decriminalized sodomy in 1977
3 Celebrated through all time
4 Computer company with domestic partner benefits
5 Figure skater John
6 "Yeah, right!"
7 Actress Hartley
8 *Inspector* ___ (Rupert Everett flick)
9 City where "gay" is "frohlich"
10 Skater Mattis
11 Matador's foe, in Madrid
12 Bishop's *Creep into Thy ___ Bed*
16 Semisynthetic fabric
21 Gravel-voiced actor Arthur
22 Interior decorator's choice
23 Ewe said it!
27 Hightailed it
28 Madonna collaborator William
29 ___ *About You*
31 Sugar serving: Abbr.
32 Somewhat
34 Org. for souls on ice
36 Feminizing suffix
37 College web address suffix
38 Data presented in court
39 "The Double Image" poet Denise
43 Racket extension
44 Bourbon Street cuisine
45 Park or Madison
46 *Cancer in Two Voices* coauthor Butler
48 Hit-or-miss
49 Child support?
51 Begets
52 Like a fem's clothing
53 Manicurist's board
55 Hornet's home
56 Flower held by heterosexual
57 Give a ticket to
61 Ground breaker

D	O	N	T			W	A	R	S		C	E	S	T
A	R	I	A	S		I	D	O	S		H	A	P	I
Y	E	N	T	L		L	E	T	T	H	E	S	U	N
A	S	A		A	I	D	E	S		A	E	T	N	A
			U	N	D	E	R		I	N	T			
G	E	O	R	G	E			U	N	S	A	F	E	
R	A	U	L			A	P	P	R	E	H	E	N	D
O	T	T		M	I	C	H	A	E	L		R	D	A
G	U	I	T	A	R	I	S	T			P	R	O	W
	P	E	E	L	E	D			G	O	D	O	W	N
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D	E	E	R	E		S	P	E	N	D		A	P	T
E	L	T	O	N	J	O	H	N		E	N	L	A	I
A	L	T	O		O	L	I	N		R	E	A	L	M
D	E	E	M		B	O	D	Y			O	N	M	E

Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle: "Burning Desire"

Edibles

A. Malee's on Main
7131 E. Main Street
Scottsdale 480/9476042

B. Pookie's
4540 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/277-2121

C. Punky's Corner
816 E. Camelback Rd
Phoenix 602/265-6956

Libations

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

2. Amsterdam
718 North Central Ave.
Phoenix 602/ 258-6122

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

4. Boot Camp
3702 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/212-9888

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

6. Bunkhouse
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 602/200-9154

7. Cash Inn
2140 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/244-9943

8. Charlie's
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/265-0224

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

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

11. Doc Gireaux
12032 N. Cave Creek
Phoenix 602/997-9461

12. Harley's Club 155
Harley's Too!
155 / 125 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/274-8505

13. Incognito
2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix 602/955-9805

14. JC's Fun One
5542 N. 43rd Ave.
Glendale 623/ 939-0528

15. Johnny Mc's
138 W. Camelback
Phoenix 602/266-0875

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

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

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

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

20. NuTowne
5002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 602/267-9959

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

22. Padlock
998 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/266-5640

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

24. Pumphouse II
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/275-3509

25. Roscoe's on 7th
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 602/285-0833

26. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/254-0231

27. Waterhole
8830 N. 43rd Ave
Glendale 623/937-3139

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

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

Staples

30. The Adult Shoppe
111 S. 24th Street
Phoenix 306-1130
2345 W. Holly St.
Phoenix 602/253-7126
5021 W Indian School
Phoenix 623/245-3008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tubs

40. Chute
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 602/234-1654

41. Flex
1517 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix 602/271-9011

Culture

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

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

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

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

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

65. AZ State Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix 602/542-4675

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

78. Phoenix Theatre
100 E. McDowell
Phoenix 602/254-2151

79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural
Theatre
909 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix 602/241-1821

80. Union Hall
512 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 602/253-7100

Outdoors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finding it in Phoenix



HeatStroke

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

CLASSIFIED AD RATES:

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

BUSINESS RATES—
Ads placed by businesses are $15 (plus .5% tax) for up to 30 words; each additional word costs 50¢.

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

PLACEMENT, DEADLINE & PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

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

DEADLINES—
Classified ads must be received no later than one week (Thursday) before the next *HeatStroke* street date. **Next deadline: 7/6**

ALL CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE—
Payment must be provided at the time the ad is placed. Payment may be made by check, money order or by major credit card (Visa, MasterCard or AMEX).

Announcements

Pinochle Club Forming–I would like to form a gay men's Pinochle club to meet in my home on a Friday or Saturday night. Anyone interested, call Larry at 623/435-5115.

Employment

Now Hiring Bartenders. Experience preferred but not required. Apply in person at 8830 North 43rd Ave., Glendale. Call for an appointment at 623/937-3139.

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

Central Phoenix– Credit a problem? Money not? 3bd/2ba plus guest house, like new in the Coronado District. Newly remodeled, saltillo tile throughout. Very large lot. A diamond in the rough. $138,500. Seller will carry with $15,000 down. Se habla español. Owner Agent. 602/709-9556.

Fairview Place Historic District– 2001 N. Laurel Lane. 2bd/2ba. Newly remodeled with original historic flavor. Corner lot, 1 car garage w/alley access. $149,900. Owner will finance if buyer has credit problems with 10% down. KWAZ Realty. 602/889-7526.

Real Estate Sales

Why rent? Central Phoenix condo, 2bd, 2ba, $67,000. Updated complex, great location, many upgraded features/appliances. Jack Addington, Dan Schwartz Realty, 602.228.3145.

$199,000–North Phoenix, 4 bedroom/ 2 bath, loft, family room, den, kitchen w/stainless steel appliances & island, vaulted ceilings, corner lot & much more. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate 602/230/7600.

Super Downtown 4-Plex–1925 Brick Bungalow plus 1946 block tri-plex on huge lot. Annual NOI $12,000+. Priced at current appraisal, for $111,000. **Your Community Vintage Home Specialist**– Lisa L. Seeley, Dan Schwartz Realty 602/252-7777 lsrealty@home.com

Great Coronado Brick Ranch–1945 3BR/1BA. 1200+SF, concrete floors, AC+Evap, formal dining, eat-in kitchen, inside laundry & more. $117,000. **Your Community Vintage Home Specialist**– Lisa L. Seeley, Dan Schwartz Realty 602/252-7777 lsrealty@home.com

$125,000–Yaple Park–Circa 1940, 3 bedroom/ 1 bath, 1040 square feet, great house, central location. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

$166,000–Circa 1939–2 bedroom/ 1 bath. Great downtown location–Ashland Street, 1250 sqft, stone kitchen counters, stainless steel appliances, travertine tiled bath, brick walkways & patios, formal dining, french doors to the back yard. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

Lofts Space–Downtown Phoenix! Turn of the century conversion! Granite/marble/ fireplaces/wood floors/+++ 900-1600 sqft, $140s to $270s Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600

Gorgeous Tudor Revival– 3 bedroom, den, 1 3/4 baths, fireplace, wood floors, formal dining room, 2 car garage, and a sparkling pool for only $214,800. Mario Romero's Success Team, The Melcher Agency, 602/943-3003

$138,500–Willo Historic District, Circa 1929, 2 bedroom/ 1 bath, 1 car garage, sparkling pool. Perfect little house w/tons of charm & character. Rod Whitt HomeSmart Real Estate. 602/230-7600.

Attention First Time Homebuyers– Get into your dream home for as little as 1% of the sales price, all kinds of purchase assistance available. Mario Romero's Success Team. The Melcher Agency 602/943-3003. www.MarioRomero.com

Beautiful Territorial Adobe– 5 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, formal dining room, fireplace, wood beamed ceilings, polished flagstone floors on a double lot for $299,800. Mario Romero's Success Team, The Melcher Agency, 602/943-3003. www. Mario Romero.com

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1920's English Cottage Duplex– in the Story Historic Dist.rict, 2 bedroom, formal dining room, wood floors, fireplace for $775/mo. Mario Romero's Success Team, The Melcher Agency. 602/943-3003.

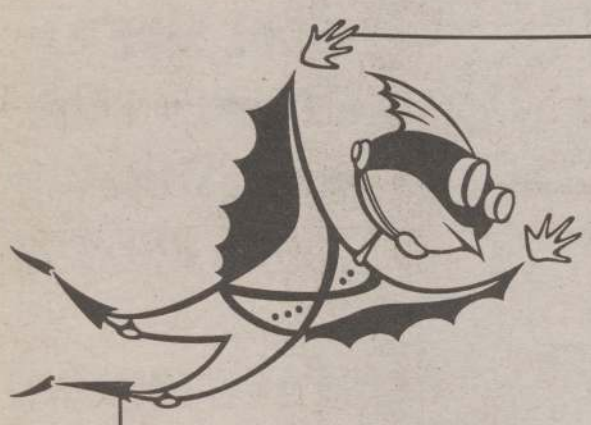
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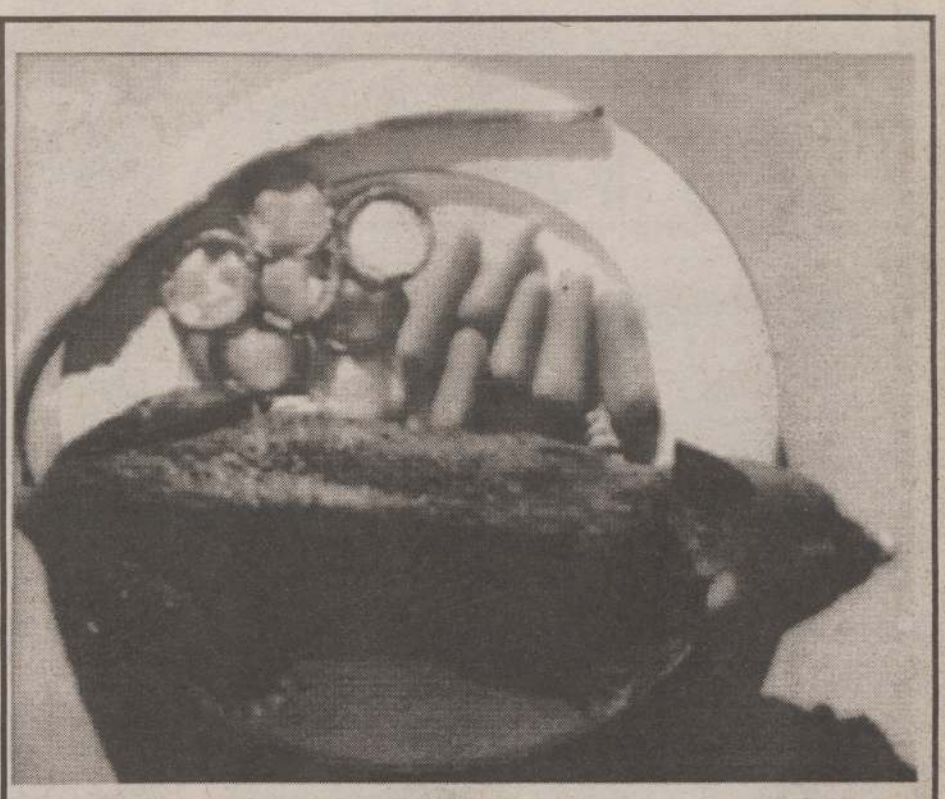


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Q SCOPES

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES:
The effects of July 1st's solar eclipse in your home and family sector can still be felt as fireworks go off on the 4th. Indulge your sentimental side. You may not know what to do about a career matter just yet, so why not concentrate on something that makes you really happy, like a close relationship with a Cancer?

TAURUS:
Jupiter is beginning a lucrative trek through your house of money, sweetie. Take advantage of this cycle and work your ass off to get some new gigs. It really is the perfect time to throw a summer party, or at least do some impromptu dancing and slacking off. If you think a Gemini is flirting with you, you are so right

GEMINI:
Be careful what you wish for during this lucky, lucky time. All the changes you've been longing for could come to pass, but sooner than you expect. You may have to think on your feet. You've got energy to spare, and a Taurus is turned on by your spunk. (Oh, stop!)

CANCER:
Jupiter is now moving through your twelfth house, which means it's time to be the person you are in your dreams. People are taking your words out of context because they don't know you that well. Turn on that soft charm of yours and make damage control a breeze. A Sagittarius is particularly receptive to your ways.

LEO:
The moon in your sign should make the 4th of July particularly hot and full of fireworks. Your emotions are hanging out very close to the surface, which is good news for your love life. The start of a new life is weeks away, but right now you need to be ready for some minor discomforts and one major miracle. A Capricorn sees right through you, and digs your dirty secrets.

VIRGO:
You should be prepared to fight a few small battles on the work front, but don't allow the concrete world to sap all your energy. Who you are is more important than what you call yourself on your taxes. You need to rethink your life a little, sweetie. An Aquarius can get you back on the fast track, but what's the rush?

LIBRA:
You may still be feeling cocky about career matters after July 1st's eclipse, which hit the top of your chart. Well, honey, the work begins now. It's follow-up time. As you gain more power in your career, your sex drive increases twice as fast. See a connection? A Leo can make an honest slut out of you.

SCORPIO:
Don't be afraid to put your foot in your mouth or offend a few less-than-truly-important people in your life. You need to trust that the people who love you will always love you. Pick your partners wisely; don't give it away too easily. A Virgo can pay double what you're asking.

SAGITTARIUS:
Money could come to you through an investment or legal situation. If you do come into extra funds, don't blow it all on a party, doll. Be open to the kind of relationship you claim to want: one that includes intellectual challenge and lots of bondage. A Scorpio can give you both.

CAPRICORN:
This is an incredibly romantic time for you, baby. So why are you blathering on and on about work? It'll keep! People aren't used to you expressing emotions like sadness and fear. The more you show your heart aches, the less your heart will ache. A Taurus can make it all better.

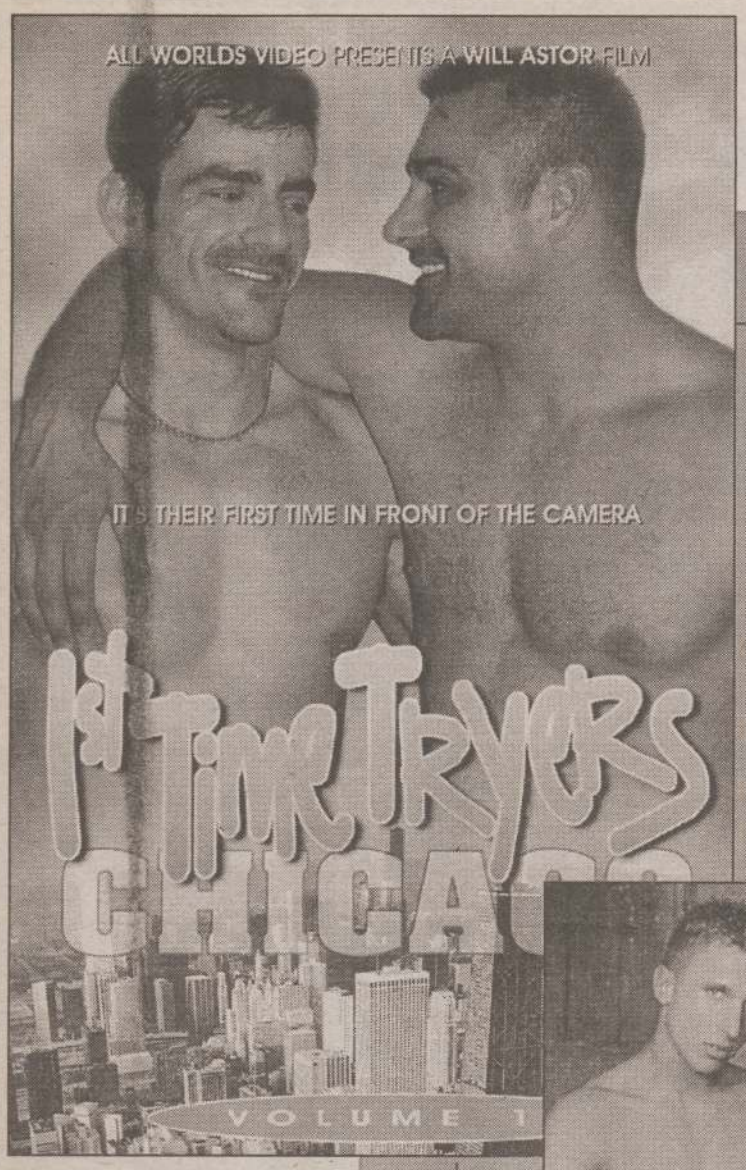
AQUARIUS:
Mercury is retrograde till the 17th, so be sure to say exactly what you mean and follow up on all business correspondence. People are easily offended now, so don't self-sabotage, dear! Dot every "i," cross every "t," and lick every spot on a Gemini's body.

PISCES:
Your obliviousness is your greatest asset 'round the 4th of July. Your creative juices are flowing (and so are other juices, especially when an Aries cozies up to you), so who cares about the petty aspects of life and work? This is a strange time of depth and superficiality. Find the right balance, you otherworldly creature, you!

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling *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. For more Q Scopes, visit www.planetout.com.







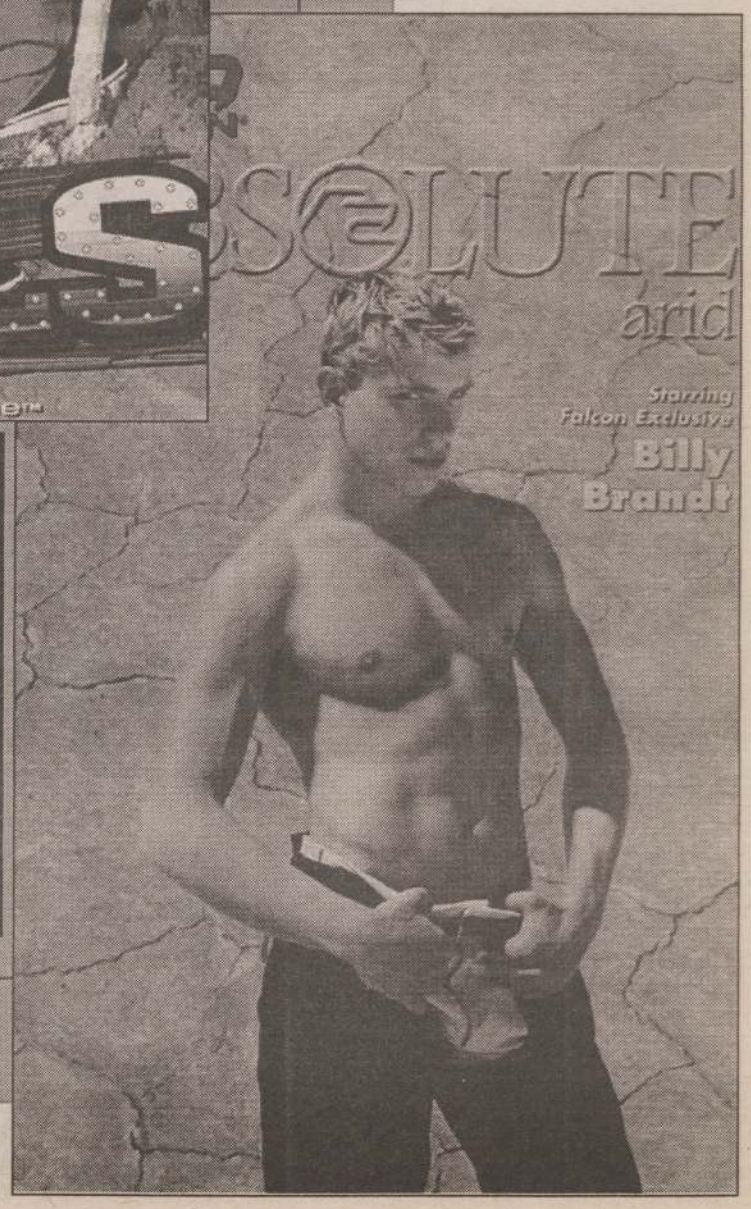
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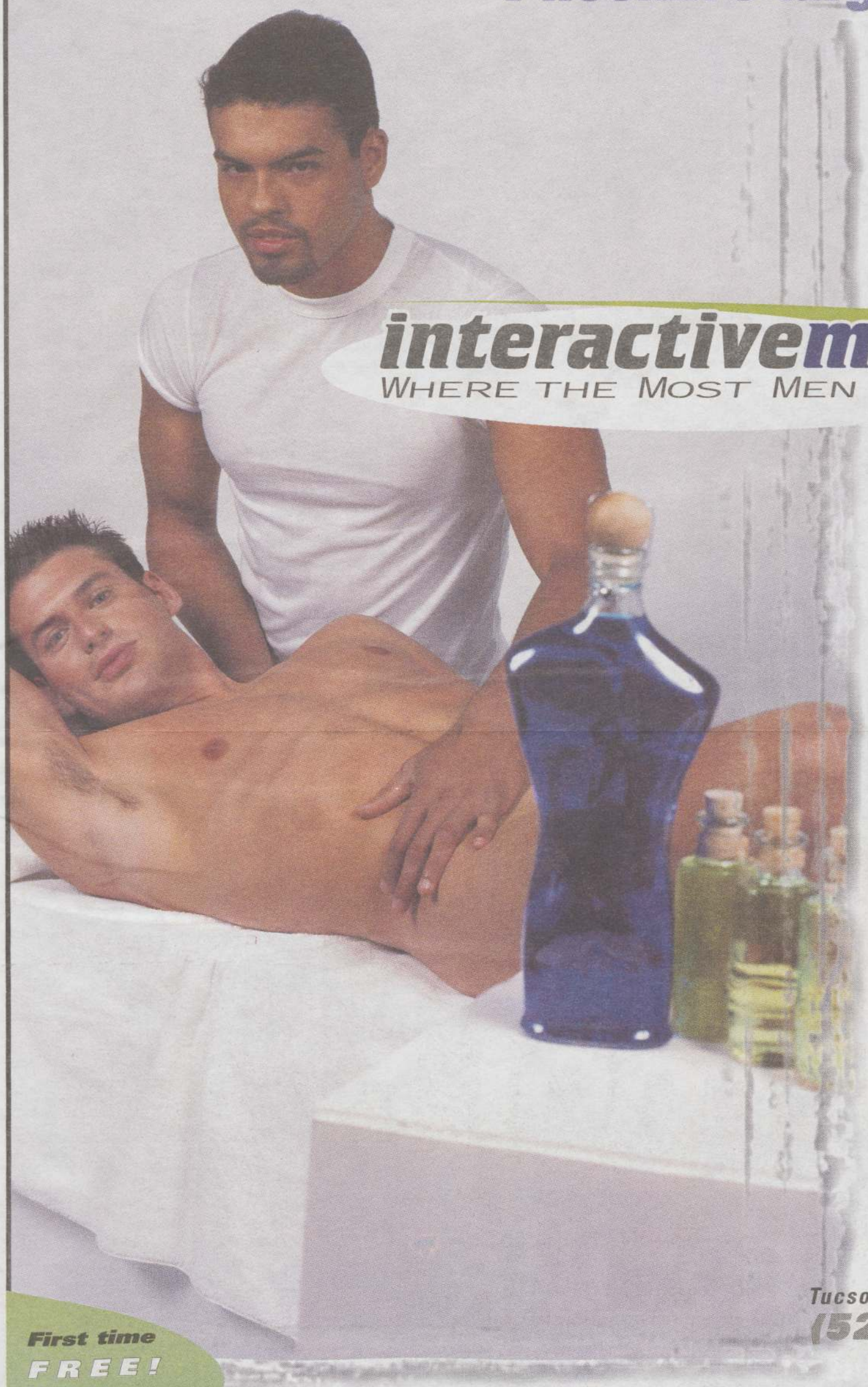
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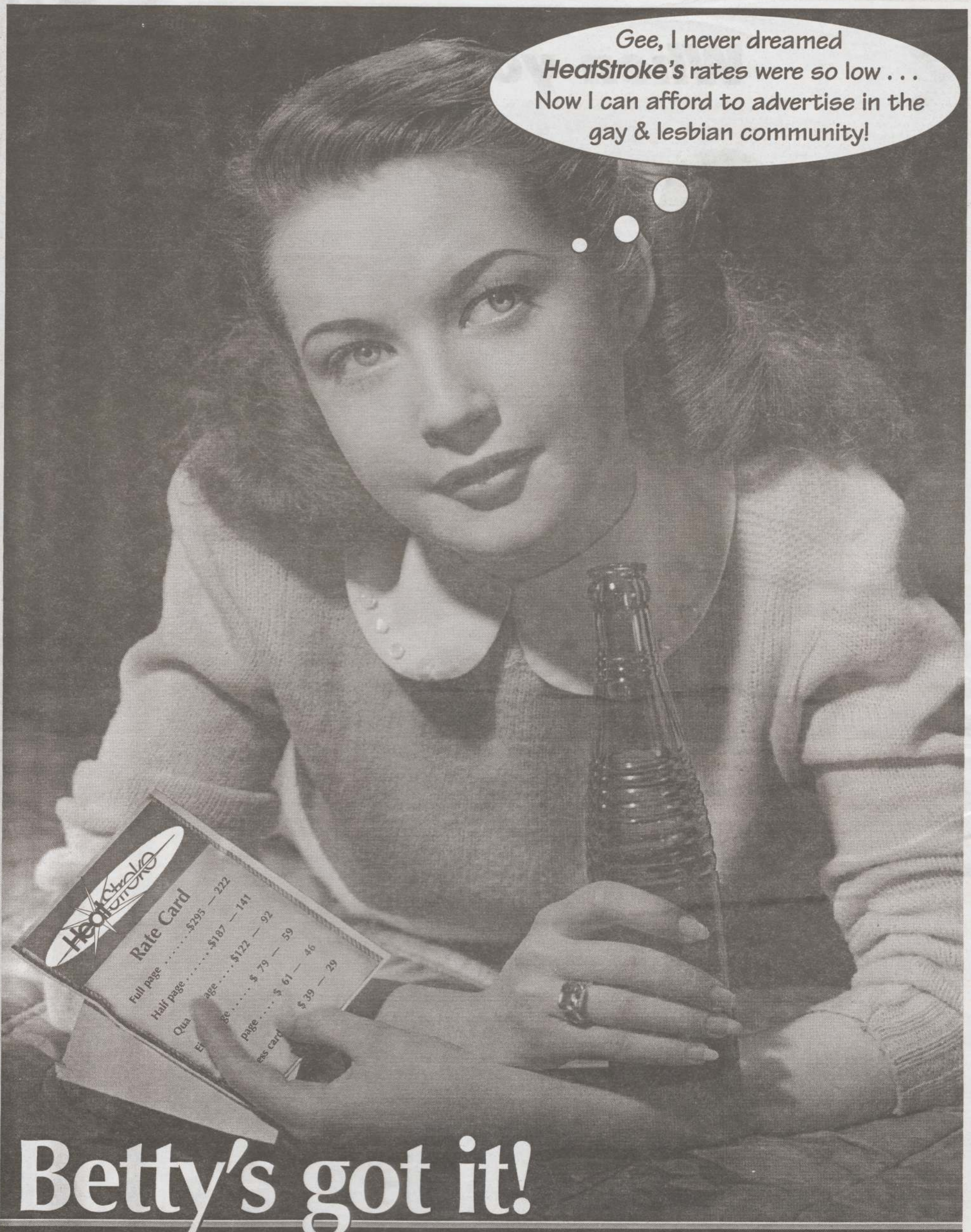
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