

HeatStroke

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Money for Drugs & Drugs for Free

Arizona's ADAP program remains strong despite the uncertain costs of future treatment

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Say you've just been diagnosed HIV positive. You don't earn much, nor do you qualify for health insurance or for public assistance programs like AHCCCS.

With protease inhibitors and other drugs extending and improving the lives of people living with AIDS, it's imperative that you get on these new medications as soon as possible but you can't afford to fill your prescriptions.

So where can you turn?

Many readers may be surprised to learn that despite its conservative and tight-fisted reputation, the State of Arizona is there to help in just such a scenario.

And two compassionate women who help to administrate an AIDS drug program from a busy state office on Phoenix's west side are working hard every day to ensure that the latest medications are in stock for those who need them, and that the money to buy the drugs remains available.

Both are justifiably proud of the job that they and the rest of the department's staff are doing.

On a recent tour of their facility, Laura Kroger, AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Coordinator, reported that at an HIV prevention symposium in Phoenix last November, the HIV community awarded an outstanding care and services award to ADAP.

"I think that says something about ADAP," Kroger said. She explained that many people expect red tape, procedural conflicts, and generally a lot of bureaucracy from a govern-

ment-run health care program. "But we are advocates for the community as well."

Kroger is responsible for the basic administration of the ADAP program. That includes tracking AIDS cases in the state, ordering the medications and overseeing their distribution to clients.

She works for Health Program Manager Judy Norton, who also sat down to talk about the program. Norton's job is to oversee all Ryan White Title II spending in the state.

When congress passed the Ryan White Care Act a few years ago in order to fund drugs for people living with HIV/AIDS who would be otherwise unable to afford them, it made AIDS Drug Assistance Programs mandatory for every state.

"We used to call it the Arizona AZT Assistance Program," recalled Norton. When she came on board almost four years ago the annual budget for the program was around \$300,000. Now ADAP spends that much in one month.

Here in Arizona, the state Department of Health Services was already managing a program to provide AZT and other drugs to needy patients.

"We used to call it the Arizona AZT Assistance Program," recalled



ADAP's Laura Kroger displays some of the meds the state Health Dept. makes available to those living with HIV/AIDS.

Norton. When she came on board almost four years ago, the annual budget for the program was around \$300,000. Now ADAP spends that much in one month.

"Protease inhibitors changed everything drastically," Norton said. The program now operates with an annual budget of \$5.7 million. The bulk of that money comes from federal Ryan White funding, but last year a \$1.7 million boost came from the Arizona state legislature.

"We worked pretty darned hard on that with the governor's budget office and the legislative budget office," Norton said.

The women are hoping that the state money, drawn from tobacco tax funds earmarked for the medically needy, will be made available to the AIDS program again in this session.

Their office works closely with the Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance (AzAPA) to lobby for funding at the state level. The governor's planned budget for the 1999 session includes another \$1.7 million for ADAP. But the legislature's budget committee has allotted only \$1

million for the program.

"The legislators need to hear that we still have a great need," Norton said. She recommends that all *HeatStroke* readers contact their elected officials in the state house and senate to stress the need for the additional \$700,000 in funding requested in Governor Hull's budget.

Letters, e-mails and phone calls all help, she said. Working with AzAPA, the ADAP office has held workshops on how to write effective constituent letters and more such workshops are planned.

"A hand-written letter seems to be the most effective way of getting their attention," Kroger added.

Nearly six million dollars might sound like a lot of money to provide several hundred people with AIDS drugs, but Norton said it may not be enough. With still more drugs becoming available, costs could continue to rise.

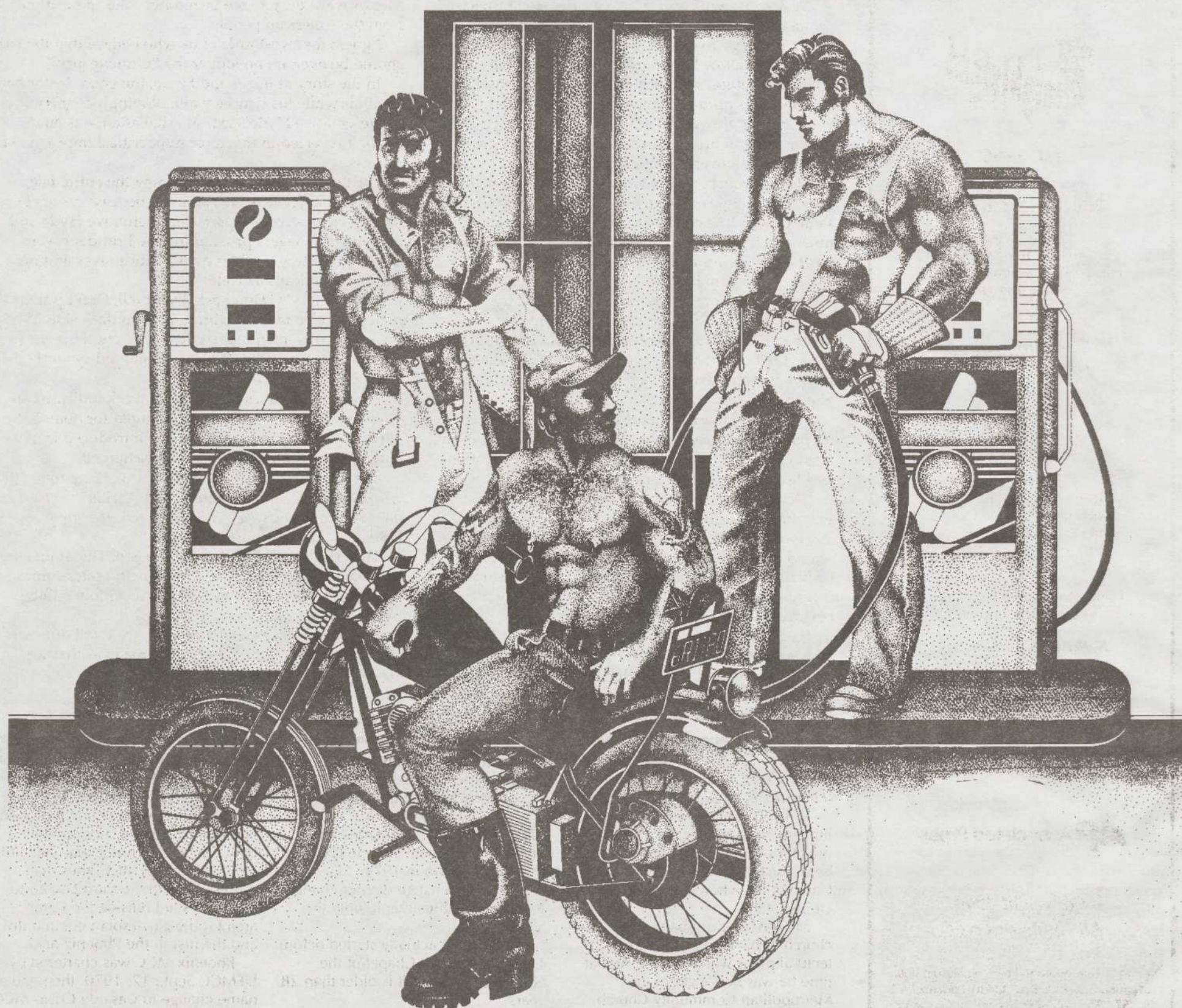
The high cost of drugs like recently FDA approved Sustiva and the family of protease inhibitors concerns many AIDS/HIV activists, who say the drug companies are earning too much.

Kroger and Norton explained that many manufacturers of the drugs give ADAP programs a discount. "We pay 15 percent off of wholesale, which is the standard discount for an ADAP," Kroger said.

See "Arizona's ADAP," page 14

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Horowitz: Dr. Jekyll and Henry Hyde

I am writing from New York City where I just saw the musical Jekyll and Hyde on Broadway.

The show tells the story of research scientist Dr. Henry Jekyll's attempts to discover the right combination of new and unique drugs that will pierce the veil of severe mental illness and save his own father's life.

Dr. Jekyll's work and skills are very well respected. When his experimentation on animals proves successful, he attempts to convince the mental hospital's board members to allow him to use a human research subject. After they refuse, he injects the drugs into himself.

The drugs produce a manifestation of Dr. Jekyll's alter ego, Mr. Edward Hyde. The villainous Hyde commits a string of brutal murders and makes progress toward taking over Dr. Jekyll's life completely.

The struggle between the two characters is really only the struggle between the good and evil sides of the same person. The concept makes for great drama. I must admit that I was chuckling to myself throughout most of the performance.

I couldn't help but find the irony in Bill Clinton's impeachment drama in which House Judiciary Chairman Henry Hyde plays a significant role. I laughed out loud at a very serious point in the show when I realized that Dr. Jekyll's first name was also Henry. It seems that we have both the character and the alter ego merged into one.

When the House of Representatives became intent on pursuing impeachment against the President, even Democrats wanted Hyde to oversee the investigations and hearings. Hyde's work and skills were very well respected, and he was considered far less reactionary than former speaker Newt Gingrich.

Hyde appears as the kindly elderstatesman who would elevate the good of the country over partisan bickering. The judiciary committee's membership included some of the House's most right-wing members. Hyde was supposed to rein them in.

Hyde's early interviews about the impeachment process stood out as deliberative and calm. Last September, he said, "impeachment cannot succeed unless it is done in a bipartisan or non-partisan way." Hyde also said that the American people are the "ulti-

mate jury."

Hyde's alter ego has apparently taken over. He's trying to appeal to the most conservative branches of the Republican party, and he has forsaken all attempts to remove partisan politics from the process. Over the weekend he said that he would push the impeachment case forward despite the incredibly solid opposition from the American people.

I guess the two-thirds of us who believe that the trial should be over are no longer the "ultimate jury."

In the story of Jekyll and Hyde, the good doctor had an affair while his fiancée waited lovingly in the wings. Representative Hyde's extramarital affair was among the first revealed in this most hypocritical impeachment process.

For those of you who don't know the entire tale, Jekyll ultimately takes his own life because he can't control his vicious counterpart. Representative Hyde and the house managers prosecuting the President seem intent on destroying their own political lives and their fellow republicans as well.

The military's "Don't ask, Don't tell, Don't pursue" policy has also fallen victim to its own dark side. While the policy was intended to allow gays and lesbians to remain in the military and serve honorably, exactly the opposite situation has occurred.

Pentagon statistics released last week indicate that 1,145 service members were discharged for homosexuality in 1998. Before the policy was introduced in 1993, only 682 gays and lesbians were discharged.

The Pentagon thinks the policy is working fine. The witch-hunt style investigations and discharges clearly demonstrate otherwise. The policy requires gays and lesbians to remain in the closet.

The closet is our villainous alter ego. The drama in Jekyll and Hyde and these other fanciful tales comes from the characters' unwillingness to simply tell the truth about who they are.

If we just come out of the closet, we'll kill our own alter egos and live the happy and free lives that we crave.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney.

Editors:

Casa de Cristo is not 28 years old (HeatStroke, Issue 52, Nov. 5-8, '98).

In 1970 I attended the first meeting and am a charter member of the original Phoenix MCC church, which began as the third Metropolitan Community Fellowship Church in the United States.

Mr. Fred Pattison had built a new church of his own in 1978 of architectural plans which I drew. At that time he was no longer of the Metropolitan Community Church Fellowship.

Casa de Cristo is 20 years old and not 28 years old. And it is not the oldest Christian Church with an outreach to the gay community in Phoenix.

Phoenix MCC is the oldest.

The Rev. Calvin H. Vanness
Phoenix

Editors (cc Rev. Vanness):

This is in response to your letter to the different Valley publications.

Casa de Cristo Church is indeed 28 years old as it was started as Phoenix MCC, with a name change to Casa de Cristo in 1979.

The name change did not change the history of the church, only the affiliation.

This church actually started before 1970, then called Chapel of the Nomads, so in fact it is older than 28 years.

Other Valley MCC's started, from my understanding, after Casa de Cristo came into being after withdrawing from UFMCC, so Gentle Shepherd has never been Phoenix MCC.

When this current building was built, it was still a part of the UFMCC, not withdrawing until some

time later, with the congregation voting Oct. 23, 1988 to withdraw and disaffiliate with the UFMCC.

When the current church property was purchased and subsequently built upon, this church was still affiliated with the UFMCC, thus making this church still the third church to be established outside the California area for the gay/lesbian community, and the first in the Phoenix area.

Phoenix MCC was chartered by UFMCC Sept. 12, 1970, then had a name change to Casa de Cristo MCC in 1979, voted to disaffiliate from UFMCC in 1988, so as you see Casa de Cristo is indeed 28 years old (and plus).

Pastor Ronnie Pigg
Casa de Cristo Church
Phoenix

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Air Force, Army report sharp rise in gay discharges

Officials claim recruits are using policy as an easy way to get out of service

WASHINGTON (AP)

The Air Force and Army report sharp increases in the number of troops discharged for homosexuality, and officials believe many are discontented recruits looking for a way out.

In releasing the figures Jan. 22, the Defense Department said it was satisfied with its "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuality in the services. It asserted that the 1998 discharge numbers "align" with those of previous years, even though they reached an 11-year high.

A watchdog group, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund, said the figures were fresh evidence that gays still are being mistreated in the 1.4-million-member active-duty military.

"Commanders are still asking, pursuing and harassing people," said Dixon Osburn, the group's co-executive director.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy, adopted in 1994, is supposed to allow

gays to serve if they keep their sexual orientation private. It punishes those who engage in homosexual acts or take actions that call attention to their orientation. But critics accuse the services of hunting down gays and driving them out of the service.

If a service member voluntarily states his or her homosexuality, discharge is automatic. In the case of a recruit still in basic training, a voluntary declaration of homosexuality means an administrative discharge that does not carry a bad-conduct stigma.

The Air Force said it discharged 414 people last year for being gay, up from 309 in 1997. The Army's total jumped from 197 to 310, while the Navy reported a drop from 413 to 345. Discharges in the Marine Corps, by far the smallest of the services, dipped from 78 to 76.

The military-wide total of 1,145 gay discharges compares with 997 in 1997 and is the highest total since

1987. The number reached a low of 617 in 1994, the year the new policy took effect.

Under the Pentagon policy there are three grounds for discharge: if a service member voluntarily states that he or she is gay; if someone is determined to have engaged in a homosexual act; and in the case of

"In virtually every self-initiated disclosure, the second statement made is, 'I'd also like to be discharged.'"

same-sex marriage.

"In virtually every self-initiated disclosure, the second statement made is, 'I'd also like to be discharged,'" said David Smith, a spokesman at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. He said this led officials

to conclude that a growing number of recruits are using a gay declaration to get out.

Smith said commanders are legally prohibited from questioning Air Force members about such voluntary statements. "You kind of have to take them at their word," he said.

T'jae Gibson, an Air Force spokeswoman at the Pentagon, said an official review of discharges and personnel policies at Lackland last year found that most instructors and trainees there believed the acknowledgments of homosexuality

were made to cut short an enlistment.

Army officials said Friday they also suspect many gay discharges in their service involve soldiers looking for a quick way out, but they do not consider the trend to be a major source of worry.

Hawaiian gay marriage battle isn't over yet, attorneys claim

HONOLULU (AP)

Attorney General Margery Bronster and attorney Dan Foley are at odds over whether the Legislature needs to pass a statute that would define marriage as a union between a man and woman.

Both cite last November's passage

of the same-sex marriage constitutional amendment to support their claims.

Bronster said no legislative action is needed because the amendment was approved by voters.

But Foley pointed to the wording of the amendment, which says the

Legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples.

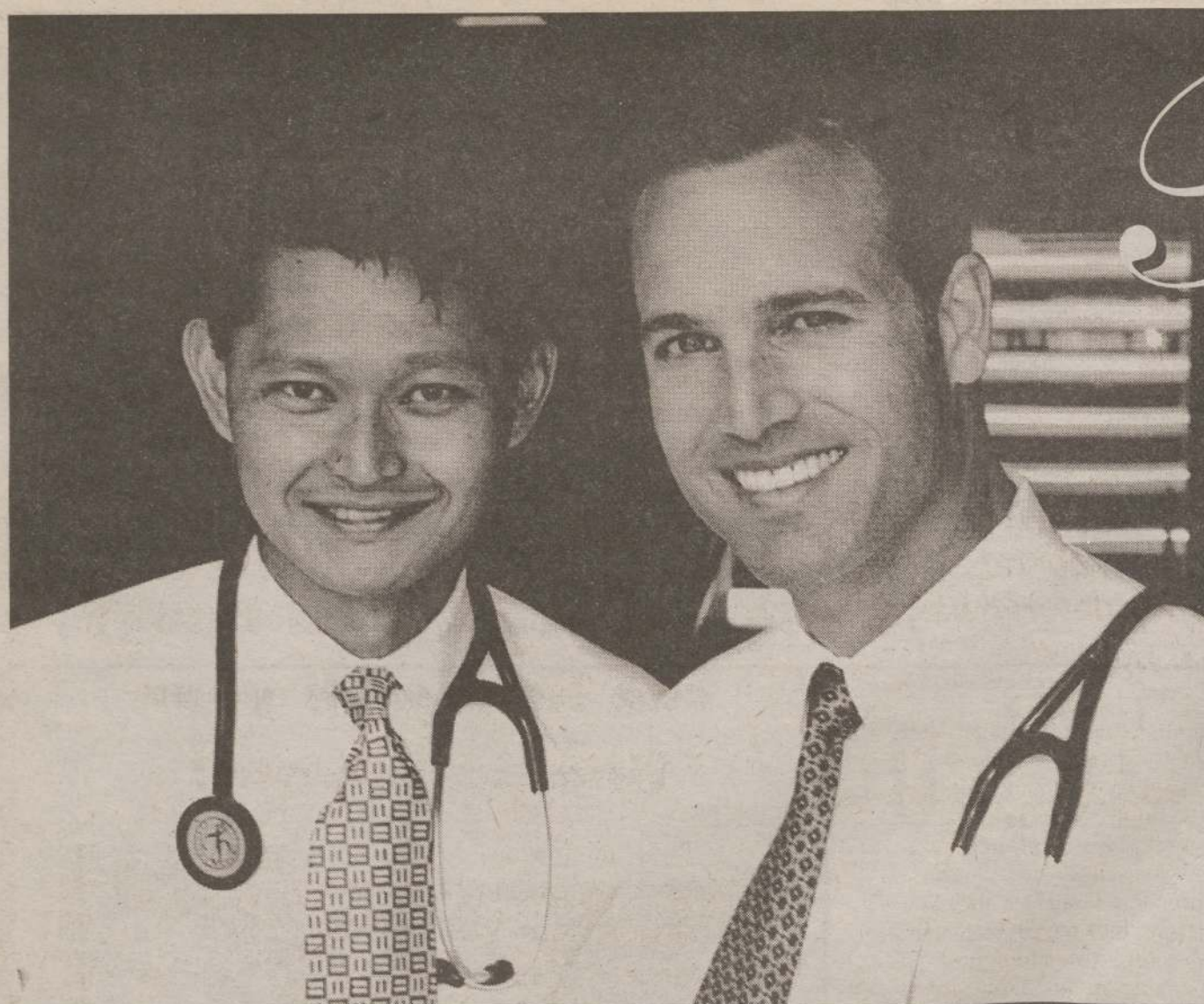
Foley said the amendment puts the issue back in the Legislature.

Bronster disagrees, saying a constitutional provision allows amendments to be applied retrospectively if

an existing law hasn't been struck down.

Both the state and Foley have filed briefs with the state Supreme Court, which will make the final decision.

Foley represents three gay couples who sued the state for the right to marry.



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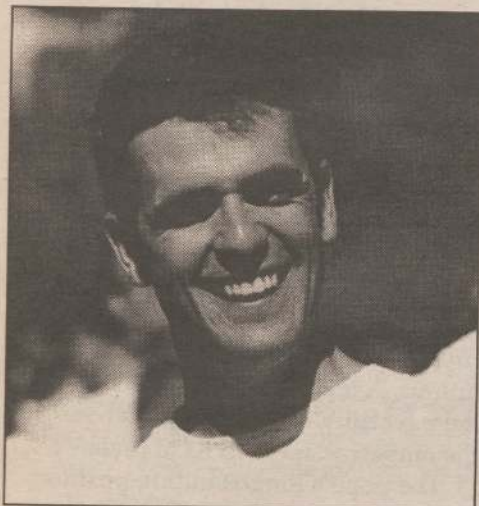
Rep. May fights bills that target gays & lesbians

PHOENIX (AP)

When Phoenix Republican Steve May won a seat in the Arizona House of Representatives, he looked forward to cutting taxes, shrinking government and working on education and business issues.

Instead, in his first week in office, he has become the voice of opposition to a growing stack of bills he and others say unfairly target gays and lesbians.

"I think some of the members here need to stop obsessing with homosexuality," said May, one of two openly



District 26 Representative Steve May

gay members of the Arizona Legislature and the only such Republican. "The fact is gay people are hard-working, tax-paying American citizens, and, despite the best efforts of some of the big-government theocrats in my caucus, they deserve basic constitutional rights."

Socially conservative House lawmakers this year have introduced or are contemplating legislation that would:

- Stop the state, cities, towns and counties from extending taxpayer-paid health and accident coverage to the "domestic partners" of homosexual employees.
- Stop schools from spending money on student clubs that promote a specific "sexual orientation" or allowing the clubs to use school property or other resources.

• Stop the Arizona Department of Economic Security from placing children with foster parents of the same sex.

The "extremist agenda," which is pushed by a network of anti-gay groups around the nation, is supported by Republicans in some key House posts, said Bill MacDonald, co-chairman of the Arizona Human Rights Fund, a gay and lesbian lobby organization. Gay activists are counting on the Arizona Senate and Gov. Jane Hull to block any legislation that the GOP-dominated House passes, he said.

Rep. Karen Johnson, R-Mesa, and an outspoken critic of the so-called homosexual lifestyle, said she doesn't target gays and lesbians. She noted that her House Bill 2523, the insurance-coverage measure, also makes sure the unmarried partners of heterosexual employees won't get benefits, either.

Although at least six of the Phoenix area's largest employers offer benefits to partners of gay workers, Tucson and Pima County are the only

governments to do so. Other local governments, including Tempe, have explored the possibility.

"I don't want to 'grandfather' (Tucson and Pima County) in—I want them to stop," said Johnson, who added that she might be willing to amend her bill to require instead that local elections be held on the issue.

May said he takes Johnson's bill as a personal affront.

"I don't know why Mrs. Johnson feels the need to attack my family," May said. "The fact is I have a family, whether she wants to recognize it or not. I love my family, and I have an obligation to take care of my family."

Johnson also was the lawmaker who first voiced concern about the child-placement issue back in late 1997, after she learned of at least one instance in which a biological parent complained about her child being placed with a lesbian foster couple.

James Hart, an assistant DES director, said homosexuals can act as foster parents so long as their lifestyle "isn't a major impact on their ability to parent."

Under state law, unwed men and women who live together cannot be foster parents because heterosexual cohabitation is illegal in Arizona, Hart said. He also said a court test has proved that the anti-cohabitation law cannot be used to disqualify same-sex couples.

"I think that we're going to have to put language in some bill, somewhere, wherever, where it says (state foster-care money) won't go to cohabitating adults, and that would, to me, include homosexuals," said Johnson, who now sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee.

House Bill 2051, which would restrict student clubs, was to have been heard last week by the House Government Reform Committee. Rep. Linda Gray, R-Glendale, and the bill's sponsor, said she asked that the bill be held so that she could research the

"The fact is gay people are hard-working, tax-paying American citizens, and, despite the best efforts of some of the big-government theocrats in my caucus, they deserve basic constitutional rights."

legal ramifications of a similar Utah law.

May said he personally informed Gray that her bill, as was Utah's law, is a flagrant violation of the federal Equal Access Act.

Johnson and Gray said they believe student gay clubs recruit teen-agers who are confused or ambiguous about their sexuality into the homosexual camp. Gray said there are at least seven such clubs at Phoenix area schools.

"Live and let live, but don't try to push that on young kids who are very, very vulnerable," Johnson said.

May said that theory is utter nonsense.

"They've been trying to recruit me to be a heterosexual my whole life," he said.

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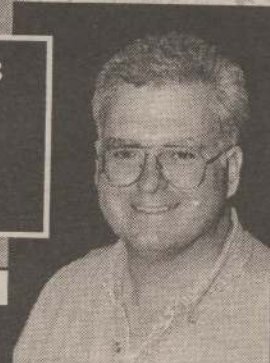
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Pope calls idea of gay marriages 'incongruous'

VATICAN CITY (AP)

Pope John Paul II on Jan. 21 deplored efforts to give gay unions the same recognition as marriages between men and women.

John Paul lamented what he called a "widespread deterioration of the natural and religious sense of marriage," which he said has "worrisome repercussions both in the personal and the public sphere."

"It's not possible to ignore the growing phenomenon of simple de facto unions and the insistent opinion campaigns to obtain conjugal dignity for unions even among people from the same sex," John Paul said.

"It is only in the union between two sexually different persons that the perfection of the individual can occur, in a synthesis of unity and of mutual psychic-physical completeness," the pope said.

John Paul described as "incongruous the pretext to attribute conjugal reality to the union between people of the same sex."

Stressing duty, commitment, parenthood and the divine order, the pope said there is more to marriage than romantic or sexual love, which can fade.

The gay rights organization Archigay swiftly reacted, calling John Paul's conception of marriage a step backward to the days before people wed for love.

"This might be the first time in two centuries that a pontiff has attacked the role of love, affirming a preference

for a relationship coldly based on rational values," the president of Archigay, Sergio Lo Giudice, said in a statement.

Archigay is one of the organizations in Italy campaigning for the recognition of gay marriages and for gay rights.

The Vatican has shown displeasure over such initiatives, which include attempts to permit benefits such as

"This might be the first time in two centuries that a pontiff has attacked the role of love, affirming a preference for a relationship coldly based on rational values."

pensions or public housing to gay couples and legal status for gay unions. A few cities and towns in Italy have recently taken such initiatives, to the embarrassment of local prelates.

The pope's long-standing position on homosexuality is that homosexuals should be treated compassionately. But he rules out homosexual sex, as well as any sex outside marriage.

John Paul was addressing officials from the Vatican tribunal that rules on requests for marriage annulments.

In the eyes of the church, an annulment means a marriage never actually existed. Since Catholics are forbidden to divorce, an annulment permits people to remarry.

AOL removes thesaurus over synonyms derogatory to gays

DULLES, Va. (AP)

America Online and the Merriam-Webster Inc. Web site have temporarily removed a thesaurus that included two slurs among synonyms for the word "homosexual."

The thesaurus is being reworked to remove all synonyms for "homosexual," including "fruit" and "faggot," and to clarify symbols that indicate potentially offensive words.

Merriam-Webster, published in Springfield, Mass., and Dulles-based AOL, which licenses the thesaurus from Merriam-Webster, took the thesaurus offline Jan. 15.

Deborah Burns, Merriam-Webster's director of marketing, said the company decided to remove all synonyms for "homosexual" to conform with a 25-year-old policy not to offer entries for racial or ethnic groups such as Jews, Hispanics or blacks, Ms. Burns said.

"Along the way, we should have incorporated sexual groups into that same policy," she said.

Merriam-Webster, a leading publisher of dictionaries and language reference books, is checking its Collegiate Thesaurus for other disparaging entries.

"But first, we're making an apology about this. We were in error in a couple of ways and we're glad someone has brought it to our attention,"

she said.

Gay rights groups learned of the words after a radio talk show host typed the word "homosexual" into AOL's thesaurus database on Jan. 14, saw the synonyms and e-mailed them to a friend at GAYBC Radio Network, an Internet-based audio news service.

The quick action by AOL, the world's largest online service, and Merriam-Webster pleased the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

GLAAD spokeswoman Cathy Renna said the group was not calling for the synonyms to be deleted, but that they be presented as derogatory and highly offensive.

"It's not that they are words that people don't know and don't use, but in 1999, they are words that should be presented in some sort of context," she said.

Ms. Burns said the online thesaurus included symbols that indicate such words have "limited use," usually meaning they are derogatory, and that people should check the words in a dictionary before using them. But to find the key explaining the symbols, online users had to click through five additional pages.

When the thesaurus goes back online, she said, the key will appear on the same page with the synonyms. Similar changes will be made in the next printed version of the thesaurus.

New measure would ban protective legislation for Colorado gays

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)

Colorado for Family Values is proposing a new measure that would ban legislation protecting gays in Colorado Springs.

The new proposal comes less than six weeks after the non-profit group's petition drive to clarify a city anti-discrimination resolution failed.

Colorado for Family Values says its latest measure has the support of a coalition of religious organizations and City Councilman Dawson Hubert, who asked the full council Jan. 25 to place the issue on the ballot in April.

Colorado for Family Values said if the council fails to put the measure on the ballot, it will begin gathering petition signatures to prompt a special election to change the city's charter.

Any amendments to the charter must be approved by voters.

The proposal would prohibit city measures offering gays and lesbians legal protections because of their sexual orientation.

A little more than a month ago, Colorado for Family Values failed to gather enough signatures to force a vote on rewording a 1997 "zero-tolerance" council resolution that decries many types of discrimination, including "sexual."

Colorado for Family Values wanted to clarify the term to mean gender, not sexual orientation.

Paul Jessen, executive director of Colorado for Family Values, said he senses public support and thinks a clarification on the zero-tolerance measure is needed.

"Somehow, they think we're going to lay over and play dead on this issue," Jessen said. "This is a line-in-the-sand issue. You've heard us say this before. The community has awakened to this. This issue needs to be resolved."

On Jan. 21, Hubert called the latest attempt "just one of those other things that can define Colorado Springs for what it wants to be."

But Megan Day, director of Citizens Project, a civil rights group, said she doesn't think the community wants to "be dragged through the mud again with this kind of campaign."

The proposed City Charter amendment is modeled after a 1993 Cincinnati gay-rights measure that was left intact by the U.S. Supreme Court last fall.

The Cincinnati law, in turn, is similar to Amendment 2, the Colorado measure that won voter approval in 1992 but was found unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1996. Colorado for Family Values sponsored Amendment 2 and supplied 76 percent of the money, \$390,000, to the campaign supporting the Cincinnati measure.

While Amendment 2 said gays and lesbians weren't entitled to claim discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the Cincinnati provision says they aren't entitled to claim "preferential treatment," interpreted by the Court of Appeals to mean rights beyond those afforded to other groups, such as minorities.

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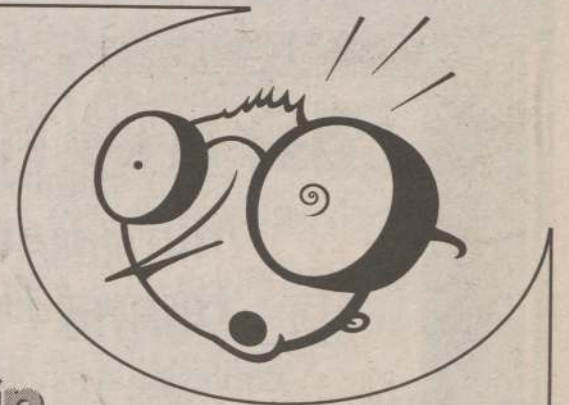
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Utah board prohibits gay couples from adopting

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)

A state board has approved restrictions that prohibit unmarried heterosexual couples, polygamists and same-sex partners from adopting state-fostered children.

Following two hours of debate, the Board of Child and Family Services voted 7-2 Feb. 22 in favor of the policy. Caseworkers will be required to verify that adults in prospective adoptive homes are related to prospective parents by blood, legal marriage or adoption.

The policy does not prevent single-parent adoptions or apply to private adoptions.

The revision, which also calls for criminal background and child abuse screenings of each adult present in the adoptive home, goes into effect immediately, said board chairman Scott H. Clark, who proposed the change.

Clark, a Salt Lake attorney and adoptive father of 18 children, said his proposal was grounded in law, social science research and his own belief that traditional two-parent families can provide the greatest degree of stability to children in the state's foster care system.

"I believe the state has the ultimate responsibility to make the best placement choices for its children. We have the most vulnerable, most needy children in our custody," he said.

Regnal Garff, a board member and retired juvenile court judge, said he resists any policy that makes adoption placements more difficult.

"I don't think married couples have a monopoly on the ability to

love, understand or create a stable, loving environment," Garff said. He and board member Paula Johnson cast dissenting votes.

Each of the councils that advise the board—among them the Child Abuse and Neglect Council and the Adoption Advisory Council—opposed the restrictions.

Gayle Ruzicka of the Utah Eagle Forum urged adoption of the policy. She questioned whether a child adopted by a same-sex household would one day wonder "Why me? Why wasn't she placed in a home where she had a mommy and daddy? Would she ever wonder why a state would let that happen?"

Salt Lake attorney Joanna Kobak-Hudson told the board she was raised by a lesbian couple.

"The only difference I had growing up was trying to understand the hatred people had toward my family. This policy is based on quite outdated assumptions," she said.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah lobbied against the policy, calling it illegal and unwise.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed. I think the hearing clearly demonstrates this is a non-solution to a non-problem in this state," said Stephen Clark, legal director for the ACLU, following the vote.

In fiscal year 1998, 328 children in state custody were adopted, said Division of Child and Family Services Director Ken Patterson. Of those, 305 were placed with married couples and 23 were adopted by single parents.

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GSMCC gets new digs; hosts Valentine's Rally

Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church in Phoenix invites the Valley's community to join parishioners in celebration and worship at their new home.

After several nomadic years of worshipping in other churches, office buildings and hotel ballrooms, Gentle Shepherd MCC is moving to 7810 North 27th Avenue, in the Aztec Center just south of Northern Avenue and just west of I-17.

The church's first Sunday services in the new location will be at 9:15 and 11:00 and on Feb. 7. Everyone is invited to help dedicate the new worship space as Gentle Shepherd prepares to enter a new millennium in service to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community in the Valley of the Sun.

the Sun.

Gentle Shepherd will also again be hosting a "Rally at the State Capitol" on Valentine's Day to draw attention to the ongoing fight for equal rights for same sex couples.

Interested persons are encouraged to meet at the State Capitol at 2pm on Sunday, Feb. 14 in support of the effort. There will be speakers from various organizations and a special "Blessing of the Couples" ceremony.

The church will also host a special concert by fallen Ricks in conjunction with the rally. Ricks will perform the morning of Feb. 14 at the church's new location.

For information, call Gentle Shepherd at (602)285-9020 prior to Feb. 1; or at (602)864-6404 after Feb. 4.

Bars get into volleyball blast

The annual interbar volleyball tournament at Charlie's is supposed to be a pre-Christmas event, but this year's journey was called due that early December snow flurry we all suffered through.

Rescheduled for Jan. 24, the much anticipated event went off without a hitch as teams from Wink's, BS West and Charlie's battled on an overcast—but snow-free—Sunday afternoon for the traveling trophy and title.

BS emerged victorious and Charlie's came in second, though a gay old time was had by all players and spectators. The entry fee this year was changed from cash to canned food and a little over five cases of non-perishable goods were brought in for the Joshua Tree feeding program.



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Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



Mission Accomplished?

Some readers might have missed this recent local obituary:

Malta Center,
born November 1988,
died December 24, 1998:

The spiritual care center founded ten years ago by several local priests and supported by the Knights of Malta and the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix officially closed its doors the day before Christmas.

The cause of death, stated by acting director Joe Mioduszewski in a press release, was as follows: "The original mission of the Malta Center to provide spiritual and pastoral care for the persons sick and dying from AIDS has been fulfilled. Demand for our services has diminished as the death rate from HIV infection has declined dramatically during the past three years."

Yes, the bright light that shone for so many years in the little red house at the corner of Palm Lane and 7th Street has been extinguished:

I feel a great sense of personal loss, since it was inside the safe arms of the Malta Center during its regular Alcoholic Anonymous meeting for HIV positive people that I met my first HIV positive friends to be.

I will never forget the terror and uncertainty that gripped me as I got out of my car before my first evening visit there, not knowing what went on behind the center's doors.

It was the place of my coming out and my salvation. It was there I learned that I was not alone and that my life was going to continue.

There are hundreds more people in the Valley who are as frightened and uncertain today as I was then.

All other AIDS service agencies report large increases in clients and demands for services. The HIV infection rate has never dropped. Government and private funding remain strong.

So what went wrong? What really led to the closing of the Malta Center?

I see an organization whose Executive Director and Board of Directors did not adapt to changing times.

HIV is not going away anytime soon, and the official excuse that the

"mission is fulfilled" offends me and many others in our Community.

I believe Father Joseph O'Brien, the organization's last full-time executive director, forgot the Malta Center's raison d'être—the client.

Some Malta clients claim that various internal improprieties are behind the agency's closure. It is my view that Fr. Joe simply placed a higher priority on personal glory, career development and private agendas rather than remembering the one and only reason for its existence.

Tom Mann, long-time Malta volunteer and local activist, brought the issue of lack of effective stewardship before Malta's Board of Directors in the fall of 1997, more than a year before the general public learned that the agency was in trouble.

Mr. Mann told me that their response to his concerns that "Father Joe was misguided" was to keep their heads buried in the sand.

He said, "Instead of taking corrective action, the board chose to do absolutely nothing. The NEAN (National Catholic AIDS Network) is dismayed that this nation's sixth largest city has suffered the loss of a Catholic presence in the AIDS community. There is but one reason for the closing of the Malta Center: the ineptness and arrogance of the Board of Directors."

Mann and the handful of other clients from the Malta Center that brought concerns of mismanagement to the Diocese and the Board of Directors were branded malcontents and troublemakers. Their complaints were overwhelmed by the static hum of indifference and disbelief from those intent on protecting the status quo.

The structure of non-profit service organizations places the final responsibility for the success or failure of the enterprise upon the board of directors. It is apparent that the board of the Malta Center did not act swiftly or effectively enough to alter the downward spiral of the non-profit organization. They did not take their charge seriously.

The ultimate control, however, rests with the consumers—the HIV positive persons that utilize the services of an organization. We have too often remained silent in the face of this disease. We have too often allowed a handful of well-intentioned individuals that manage and work at AIDS service organizations to tell us what we need.

The center's closing is therefore—at least in part—a result of our own non-involvement.

Only the collective demands, inquiries and involvement of a larger number of HIV-infected persons will change future outcomes. All of us have a duty to speak up without fear of retribution or humiliation and a right and obligation to take our place at the table where our voice will be heard.

If we don't, the long-standing adage coined by ACT UP will ring true: SILENCE=DEATH.



Mark Hoffman is HIV positive and works as Health Educator and Treatment Advocate for Phoenix Body Positive and A Place Called Home. The opinions he expresses in this column are his own and are not representative of either organization.

APOLLO'S

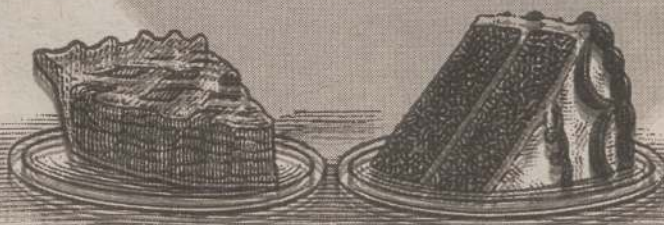
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International Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

Canada mulls gay equality

Canada is expected to change dozens of laws that discriminate against same-sex couples, the *Globe and Mail* and Reuters reported Jan. 20.

The news comes on the heels of a lawsuit filed Jan. 7 by the Foundation for Equal Families seeking revision of 58 laws that define 'spouse' as someone of the opposite sex.

Among the laws targeted by both the lawsuit and government bureaucrats are ones dealing with social-security benefits, pensions, retirement plans, income taxes, bankruptcy, conflict-of-interest guidelines, insider trading, testimony against a spouse, and immigration.

Afghan execution attempt fails

Taliban leaders in Kabul, Afghanistan, attempted but failed to execute a 60-year-old man Jan. 16 for sodomizing a 12-year-old boy.

Thousands of people watched as a tank pushed a 15-foot-tall brick wall down onto Shuma Khan as required by the Taliban version of Islamic law.

But when Khan was pulled from the rubble after 30 minutes, he was still alive and, in accord with Taliban law, his sentence was then reversed.

Speaking from his hospital room, Khan told reporters: "I was wrongfully convicted for sodomy. And God has proven my innocence. My whole body aches with pain, but thank God I have returned from the jaws of death."

The Taliban have executed several homosexuals since coming to power across much of Afghanistan. Khan is at least the third to survive the allotted 30 minutes under a collapsed wall.

Also on Jan. 16, six thieves had their right hands and left feet amputated at a stadium. A seventh man, a repeat offender who previously had his right hand cut off, had his left foot removed. Before the surgery, he was forced to walk around the stadium displaying the limb that had been cut off earlier.

Zimbabwean ex-President sentenced to jail

Former Zimbabwean President Canaan Banana, 63, was sentenced to prison with labor Jan. 18 on 11 counts

of forcing himself sexually on aides, bodyguards, a cook and a gardener.

Most of the 10-year sentence was suspended but Banana may spend at least one year behind bars. He was also fined about \$15,000 which will be

given to one of his victims—a policeman who is in prison for murdering another cop who called him "Banana's wife"—and to the family of the murdered cop.

Banana was convicted of indecent assault, sodomy and committing an unnatural act. He claims the charges were fabricated following rumors he was planning a political comeback that could have challenged the rule of vehemently anti-gay President Robert Mugabe.

The jailed policeman, Jefta Dube, testified that Banana forced him into a three-year sexual relationship from 1984-1986. In the first assault, Dube said, he was drugged and woke up naked with a smiling Banana saying, "We helped ourselves."

Other victims described a scenario in which Banana would ask them to play cards, offer them a drink, put on music, insist on teaching them to dance, then kiss and fondle them while dancing.

Club fined for transsexual discrimination

A gay bar in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, was fined \$2,000 (US \$1,311) Jan. 13 for banning a male pre-operative transsexual from the women's restroom after female patrons objected to his presence.

The transsexual, Tawney Sheridan, had male genitalia when the incident occurred in 1995. She has since undergone a sex-change operation and lives in Oregon with her new husband.

B.J.'s Lounge owner Bruce Winkler said he may appeal the ruling which was handed down by the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal.

"It declared open season for any guy who wants to throw on a dress and go look at women in the washroom," he said.

But according to the tribunal: "Transsexuals in transition who are living as members of the desired sex should be considered to be members of that sex."

Sheridan commented to Reuters: "I didn't really expect any other result because B.C. is so accepting of different lifestyles."

Indian lesbians organize

Indian lesbians have formed an organization to respond to the ransacking of theaters showing the lesbian-themed film *Fire*.

Members of the right-wing Shiv Sena party pillaged more than a dozen cinemas across the nation, intimidating managers into suspending screenings of the film. They smashed windows and snack counters and destroyed posters.

The party's leader, Balasaheb Thackeray, told the *New York Times*: "[The film] can corrupt tender minds. It is a sort of a social AIDS."

In announcing the formation of the Campaign for Lesbian Rights, organizers said: "The attacks on the film, the responses to the film and to the protests have pushed women's groups, human-rights groups and secular organizations to address the lesbophobia which prevails within large sections of Indian society."

"In the case of lesbians, their isolation and invisibility has meant the absence of collective identity. In the public domain there is no space for discussion of sexuality, leave alone women's sexuality. Culture, tradition, values and morals have consistently been used as tools of oppression and discrimination."

"The Campaign seeks to make lesbianism visible and dispel the myth that there are no lesbians in India; to create awareness about lesbian issues and concerns; and to develop public and state recognition of the rights of all lesbians to a life of dignity, acceptance, equality and safety."

The group will disseminate information, engage in public debate, and stage protest actions, organizers said.

Japanese gay pair 'marries'

In an apparent first, two Japanese men got married at a Shinto shrine, the facility's priest reported Jan. 20.

The union between a 28-year-old musician and a 23-year-old office worker at Wakamiya Hachimangu Kanayama Shrine in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, west of Tokyo, will not be officially recognized but the priest, Hirohiko Nakamura, admired the couple's commitment.

"I was very surprised when I got the request from them, but I was impressed by their strong will," he told reporters. "I turned down their request at first because I was really busy and didn't have time to re-write a Shinto prayer. But their keen request moved my heart. I wish them good luck for their married life."

Regional Shinto headquarters

officials said they disapproved of Nakamura's action.

Argentina gets gay TV

Argentina's first TV program for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transvestites and transsexuals will debut Feb. 2 on TCI Cablevision's "Ideas" channel.

The weekly *Asterisk gay* will offer news, interviews, street surveys, events promotion, and reviews of books, music and films.

Sixty percent of Argentineans have cable and Cablevision is one of only two cable providers. The program also will be seen in portions of Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile.

Fired gay soldiers sue Britain

Sixty people kicked out of the British military for being gay are suing the Ministry of Defence seeking monetary compensation for sexual harassment, London's *The Times* reported Jan. 8.

"They were like a terrier, refusing to give up," says plaintiff Calum McLean. "But there was no reason. There was nothing wrong with my work. I didn't commit any offense on base, never had sex on base. At that point my being gay was only a state of mind."

"I feel I should be compensated," McLean said. "They treated me like a dog. I want something back in order to start building my life up again. Since my discharge I've just floated around for four years. This will put a lot of devils to rest."

Plaintiff Duncan Lustig-Prean agreed: "I had a hellish interrogation. It was like verbal rape."

Ultimately, the plaintiffs hope to overturn the military's ban on homosexuals. The suit will be argued before an industrial tribunal in Croydon, South London.

Chile deletes sodomy law

Chile repealed its ban on gay sex last month as part of a general reform of sex-related laws, the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) reported Jan. 14.

Sexual relations between adults of the same gender had been punishable with up to five years in prison.

Under the reform, the age of consent for gay sex was set at 18, higher than for heterosexual sex.

"We hope that the governments of Nicaragua and Puerto Rico pay attention to the news from Santiago," said Mirka Negroni, an IGLHRC regional specialist. "These are the last states in Latin America that still criminalize homosexual activity."

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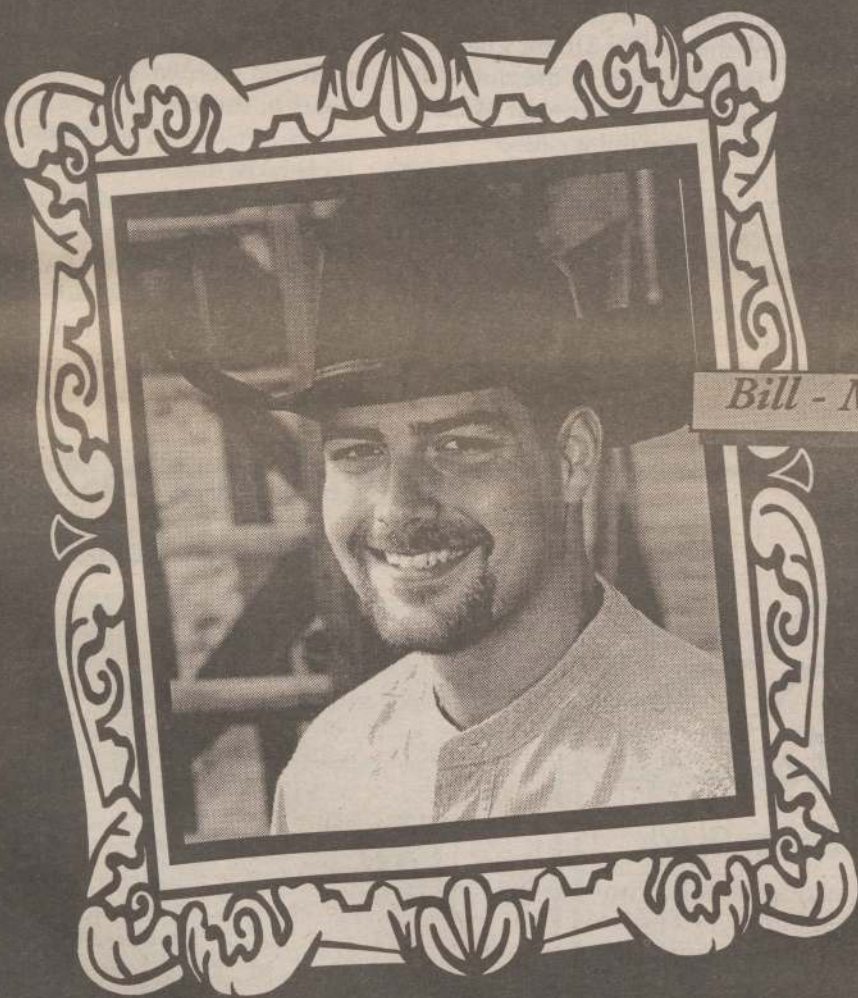
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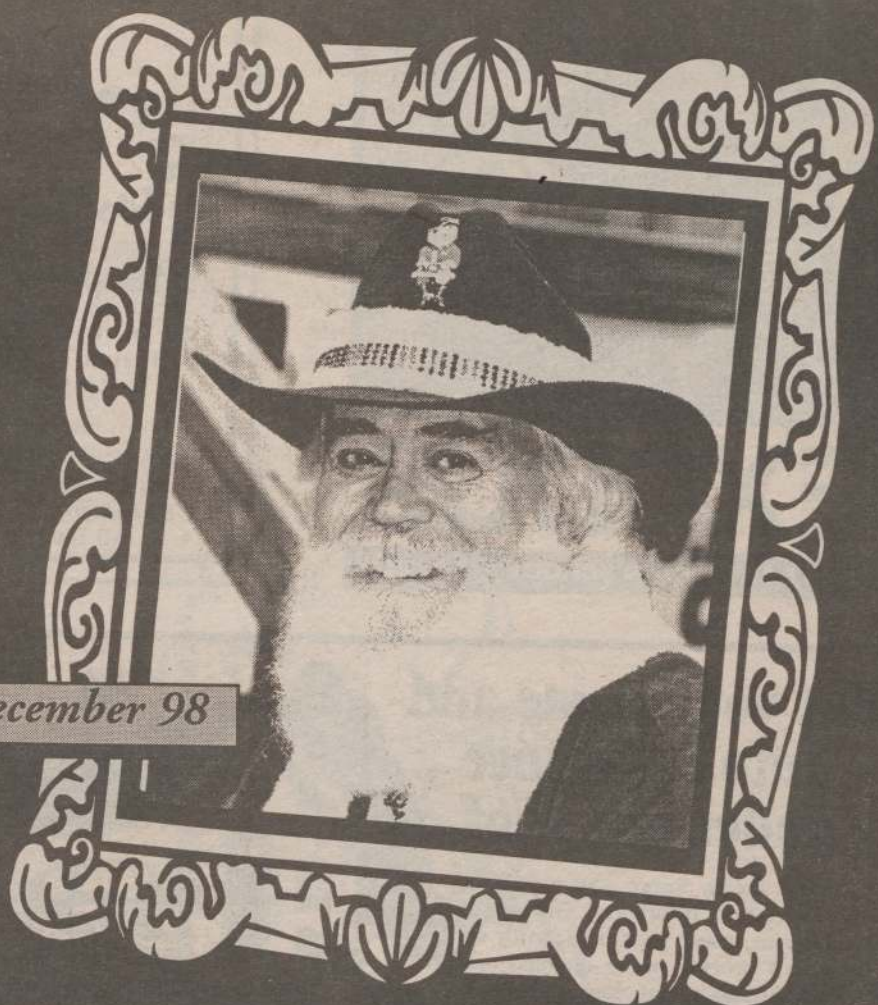


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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the
Phoenix Queer Community

Ryan White Council seeks members

Nominations are being accepted through Feb. 1 for people interested in joining the Ryan White Title I Planning Council in Phoenix.

Administrators are looking for persons who want to help determine the direction of federal spending for AIDS services. It's a great way to get involved in HIV issues and to make a difference in the community.

Call Valerie Brown at (602)506-6914 for a nomination form or for more information.

Superparty at the Center for Superbowl

The Community Center in Phoenix is hosting a Superbowl Party on Jan. 31 for gridiron fans and half-time show aficionados alike, and they'll be kicking things off at 3:30 pm.

Everyone is welcome to come down and watch the big event (it's a pro football game, for those who don't know) on the Center's big screen at 24 West Camelback Road. Bring a snack to share and your own non-alcoholic beverage.

Call Brian Heisterkamp at The Community Center for more info, at (602)234-2752.

Log Cabins to host Sheriff Arpaio

The Log Cabin Republicans of

Central Arizona will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at The Old Spaghetti Factory on Central Avenue just south of McDowell in Phoenix.

Slated to speak at the meeting is Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The social hour is set for 6 pm with dinner at 6:30. The cost is \$15 per person and LCR/CAZ needs an RSVP by Feb. 5. Call (602)428-3596, or e-mail LCRCAZ@swlink.net.

Phoenix College hosting STD/HIV seminar

Phoenix College will be holding a series of free forums on HIV and sexually transmitted diseases called "STD's/HIV & You" on Feb. 8 - 12 at the Bear's Den on campus.

The free, interactive and informative sessions will be held for students and the community and will focus on the prevalence, dangers and prevention of HIV and STDs.

Guest experts including Dr. Bob Fernie of the PC faculty and others will interact with participants during each 75 minute program. Health literature and condoms will be available.

The Bear's Den is in the lower level of the Hannelly Center/Cafeteira. The college is located at 1202 West Thomas Road in Phoenix.

Programs are scheduled for Monday, Feb. 8 from noon to 1:15 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 1 - 2:15 pm and 5:15 - 6:30 pm, and Friday, Feb. 12 from noon - 1:15 pm.

Call Liz O'Brien at (602)285-7313 for information.

Center holding bachelor auction Feb. 12

Eligible bachelors of both genders will be auctioned at Pookie's this Valentine's weekend during a fundraiser with proceeds to benefit the Community Center's youth services programs.

The fun is set for 7 pm on Friday, Feb. 12. The auction will feature about 20 men and women who'll be available for dates to the highest bidders. There will also be a number of pre-planned date packages available for couples, including a bed & breakfast stay and prepared picnic baskets.

For more information, call Donna at (602)264-5437. Pookie's is at 4540 North 7th Street in central Phoenix.

DA Heading Up, Up & Away

Desert Adventures, the long standing outdoor group that provides social activities away from the bars and under the stars for the Valley's gay and lesbian community, has several fun events coming up, including a hot air balloon adventure.

The group's annual Superbowl Party is set for Sunday, Jan. 31 at a home in north Scottsdale. The cost is \$7 for members and \$10 for guests.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, the club will head to the Mesa Southwest Museum for a look at an exhibit called "Arizona's Bizarre and Beautiful Bugs." The cost for this afternoon trip is just \$4 for members and \$6 for guests.

On Sunday, Feb. 7, DA members and guests will head to Jomax Road west of Cave Creek in the north

Valley and take a fabulous hot air balloon ride. The fee of \$91 for members and \$93 for guests includes a champagne toast.

For information on any of these trips or to find out how you can join the club, call Desert Adventures at (602)266-CAMP.

G & L Cribbage Club formed

The Rainbow Cribbage Club is sponsoring a two-hour, free Cribbage lesson on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 2 pm. at The Community center, 24 West Camelback Road in Phoenix.

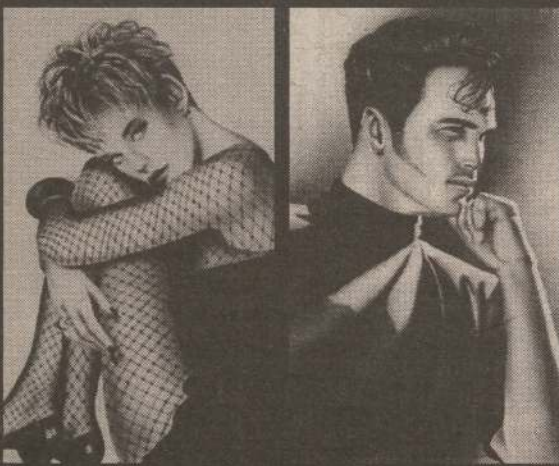
Participants will learn how to play one of the most interesting card games ever invented for two players. It's one of the fastest growing card games in America and the Rainbow Cribbage Club is a great way to meet new friends.

The club sponsors competitive Cribbage play in a gay and lesbian social environment. to reserve a seat for the lessons on the 20th, call (602)877-5452. Space is limited.

Hit the lakes with new G&L boating club

A new gay boating club is forming in the Valley. The club will be for gay men and women, both those with boats or those without who are boating enthusiasts. They'll be visiting local lakes at least once a month for boating fun and possibly for camping, too.

Now is a great time to start planning for summer fun, so contact Rick at (602)818-7686 for information.



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Same-sex inclusion up to individual departments, Canadian Minister says

OTTAWA (AP)

Canadian government departments are reviewing laws to see whether changes are needed to accommodate same-sex couples, Justice Minister Anne McLellan said.

McLellan said the national government hasn't ordered any changes or set any deadlines for the departments. But she said changes may be needed to conform to a 1998 court ruling that declared the definition of "spouse" under the Income Tax Act unconstitutional because it excluded same-sex partners.

"I presume that all departments and all ministers are respectful of the law," she said Jan. 20.

Officials say the federal government has been moving toward extending spousal benefits to same-sex couples for some time.

In 1996, Parliament responded to a Supreme Court ruling by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Since then, one court ruling after another has favored arguments by same-sex couples who say they're systemically discriminated against in provincial and federal laws.

The federal government sent a signal on its direction last year, said McLellan, when it decided not to

appeal the Ontario Court of Appeal ruling on the definition of a spouse.

Still, it may be under pressure to speed up its efforts because of a wide-ranging lawsuit filed by an advocacy group that wants the federal government to change nearly 60 statutes to become inclusive of gay and lesbian couples.

But Prime Minister Jean Chretien indicated Jan. 20 the issue of changing the laws will probably not get immediate attention.

"It's not on the agenda of the government at this time, in that form," he said following the Liberal caucus meeting.

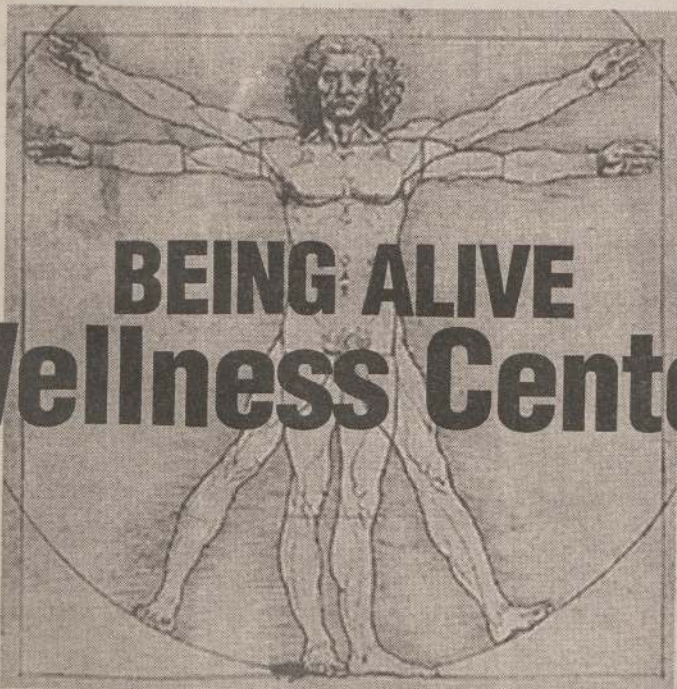
McLellan said it's unlikely the government would make all the changes at once because of the range of issues and statutes involved.

John Fisher of the advocacy group Equality for Gays and Lesbians everywhere said a gradual approach is to be expected.

"We recognize certainly that the process of advancing lesbian and gay equality issues has been a process akin to extracting teeth," he said Jan. 20 at a press conference.

The group is calling on the government to put in writing what it plans to do to end discrimination against same-sex couples.

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Arizona's ADAP

Continued from page 1

"Whenever we discuss the high costs with pharmaceutical reps," explained Norton, "the answer we get back is that it's all due to the cost of research and development."

Many of the 24 AIDS medications on ADAP's formulary (that's the menu of what the program can offer) were in development and in complex drug trials for years before receiving FDA approval.

"The bottom line is that the drug companies are not social services. They are a business. It's all tied up in the R & D, and whether that is going to change and prices are going to come down, who can say?" said Norton.

"The realization is that the drugs are so expensive that having to buy them without insurance would wipe you out," added Kroger.

She said that even though there is, unfortunately, still a stigma attached to the disease, there is nevertheless an awareness on both federal and state levels that lives are at stake and that funding ADAP is necessary.

The states each get their share of federal funding based on reported cases, so up-to-date statistics regarding new cases and infection rates are crucial.

"Nationally, we rank right about in the middle," Kroger said. Big states like New York and California get more money and therefore their ADAP offices may be more tied up in bureaucracy.

Arizona currently has approximately 6,000 reported AIDS cases and ADAP served 535 clients in December

of 1998. Kroger said that the office provides its services as part of a continuum of care for the clients.

"We try our best to make decisions based on local needs," she said. "We try to be aware and responsive to the needs of the community."

"When I think of the ADAP program, I think of one of the most remarkable public and private programs in the fight against AIDS," said Brian Spicker, Executive Director of Phoenix Body Positive.



Judy Norton is the state's HIV/STD Health Program Manager.

"They truly have developed a partnership between the state, the counties, and the service agencies—and it's phenomenal. They really make a difference because they include people, and they try to find out what the agencies' needs are."

Spicker called Arizona's ADAP one of the finest in the country. "The fact that Governor Hull included provisions for ADAP in her budget last

year and has done so again this year, I think speaks to the excellence of the program."

The agency director said that he attributes a lot of the success of ADAP to Judy Norton, Laura Kroger and to Christopher Brown, who is Chief of the Office of HIV/STD Services.

"They are all very committed to making this partnership work, and that kind of dedication is something we didn't have before," he added.

Working with Kroger in administering the program is Steve Stephens, Programs and Projects Specialist. "Steve and I have different titles but we share a lot of the responsibilities," said Kroger.

She and Judy Norton enjoy the challenges of their positions but both say they would love to see a day when their services in this aspect of the health field are no longer needed.

"Maybe someday there will be a vaccine and we'll merge with the immunization department," Norton suggested.

Norton grew up in New Jersey and holds a BA in Health Education from ASU. She has been with the state for seven years and in her present position for the last three and a half.

Kroger came to Arizona as a two year old from the state of Washington. Prior to joining ADAP, she worked for AIDS Project Arizona. "Working for an AIDS service organi-

zation really prepared me for what I'm doing now," she explained. "It's a very different environment but there are similarities, too."

"Judy Norton and Laura Kroger are two of the most conscientious, committed women I know of working anywhere," said BJ Peters, AzAPA Executive Director. "They do what they say they are going to do when they say they are going to do it, and I think they are both wonderful."

We are fortunate, she added, to have people working in state government who are as, "competent, committed and dedicated as they both are."

"Planning for an ADAP is like shooting dice," Norton related. "There are more new drugs in trials right now that will be FDA approved this year."

She said that if the program doesn't get the ideal \$5.7 million staffers are hoping for, administrators may be unable to add new medications to the formulary after they are approved.

Kroger takes great pride in the program's current ability to provide people with a full range of medications and worries about what will happen if funding falls short.

If ADAP can't put a new drug on the formulary, she said, "then we run the risk of telling doctors what to prescribe—and that is just not where we want to be."

HeatStroke

To find out how you can lobby your state representatives and senator for continued ADAP funding and support, contact the Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance at (602)279-4805.

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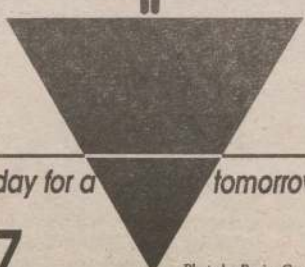


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Lesbian Comic Returns to Phoenix

Bas Bleu brings back Valley favorite in March to benefit the Victory Fund

Bas Bleu Productions will present an Evening of Comedy featuring lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhoefer at the Phoenix College Auditorium on Saturday, March 6 at 7 pm.

A former Houlihan's bartender, Westenhoefer entered a comedy contest nine years ago and stole the show. She's been a trailblazing gay performer ever since. The one-night only show will benefit the Victory Fund, a

Wash., D.C.-based gay and lesbian political organization.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door and are available at Obelisk, Changing Hands, Unique on Central and Movies on Central. Or, mail your check to Bas Bleu Productions, PO Box 7369, Phoenix AZ, 85011. There will be a performer's reception following, with limited tickets available at \$45 via mail only.



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Seeing/Being Scene



Out on film

HEATSTROKE SHORT TAKES

She's All That

Freddie Prinze, Jr., who stood out in smaller roles in *The House of Yes*, *I Know What You Did Last Summer* and *To Gillian on her 37th Birthday*, proves himself a capable young lead with his winning, honest performance in this otherwise fluffy and unoriginal teen romance.

Prinze plays Zack Siler, the choicest date for the high school prom since maybe ever. He's not only senior class president at So Cal's fictional Harrison High, but he's a star on the soccer team and straight-A scholar who can have his pick from any of a half-dozen ivy league colleges.

Laney Boggs (Rachael Leigh

Cook), meanwhile, is a nerdy painter whose main goal is to make it through another day of ridicule before rushing home to keep house for her dad and little brother. She and Zack may attend the

same school, but they live in different worlds.

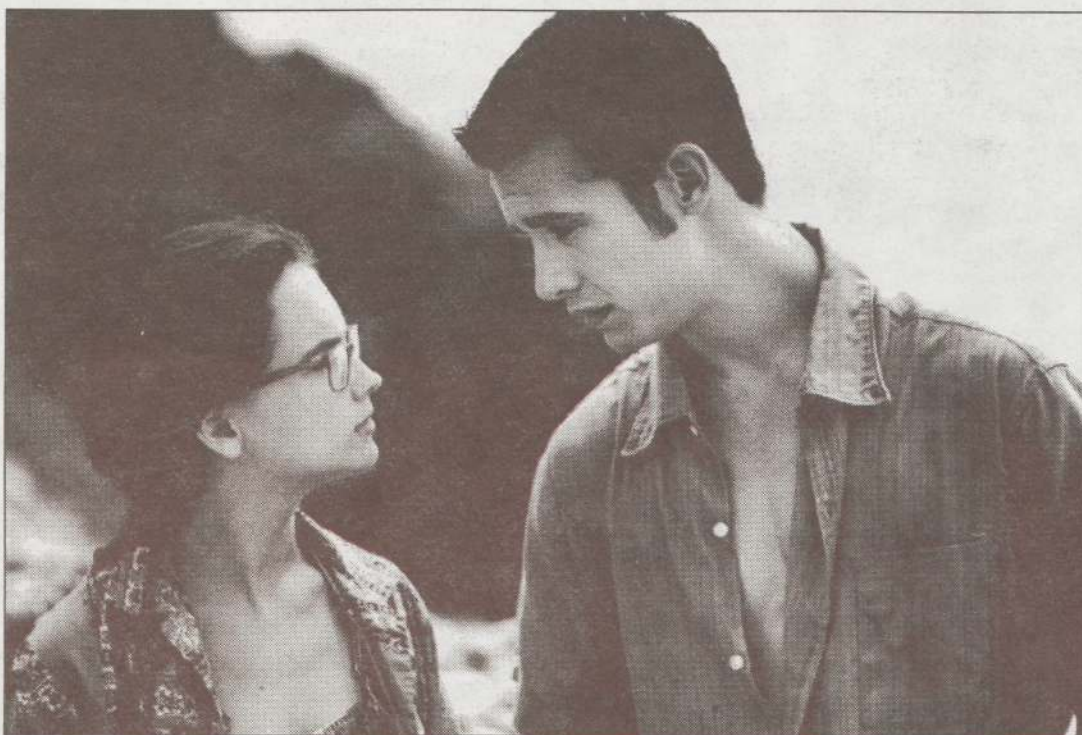
That changes after Zack is jilted by his main squeeze, the stuck up prom queen (Jodi Lyn O'Keefe). He bets his buddy Dean (Paul Walker) that, given his wealth and natural charm, he can turn the class loser into Miss Popularity by the time the big dance rolls around. Laney becomes Zack's project and the misfit pair soon find they have more in common than either realized.

The premise is contrived and the basic story is nothing we haven't seen before (remember

Sixteen Candles, *Say Anything*, and *Pretty in Pink?*). Once again, the Haves are pitted squarely against the Have Nots at a posh prep school and everybody gripes about how no one understands you when you're seventeen.

Of course, we're supposed to root for the poor kids while learning that

schmaltz, director Robert Iscove knows better than to take the story too seriously, and writer R. Lee Fleming throws in plenty of laughs aimed directly at the PG-13 set. Especially funny are several scenes that send up MTV's *Real World* and beach party dance shows with dead-on accuracy.



Claudette Barius

3rd Annual L & G Film Festival set

Some of the latest offerings in independent queer cinema will be shown in rotation over Valentine's weekend at Harkins Camelview 5 theaters in Scottsdale when the Valley's Third Annual Lesbian and Gay Film Festival gets underway Feb. 12.

The event has been expanded to include seven films this year.

An opening night gala featuring gay comic Jason Stuart will kick things off on Friday. Slam poet Regina Blakely will also appear that night, and two featured films, *It's In the Water*, directed by Kelli Herd and *Relax, It's Just Sex* directed by P.J. Castellaneta and starring Jennifer Tilly, will be screened.

Other films on the roster are the historic documentary *Over the Rainbow* by Dori Friend, *Entwined*

by Cecili Harrington, Paul Oremland's *Like It Is*, *All the Rage* by Roland Tec, and *The Sticky Fingers of Time*, a sci fi film by Hillary Brougner.

Tickets are available in advance at the gay-owned & operated video store, Movies on Central. General admission prices are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door per film. But you can pick up full festival passes for \$50 in advance, and these passes include admission to the opening night party. Tickets for the opening night double-header only are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the theater that night.

A portion of the proceeds from this year's festival will go to The Experience, a non-profit workshop aimed at gays and lesbians.

Planet Earth polishing up Silver comedy

Valley actor Ben Brittain (he's the Childsplay veteran who played the plucky emcee in *In Mixed Company's Pageant*, among other roles) slides into the director's chair at Planet Earth to present *Raised in Captivity* by Nicky Silver, opening Feb. 5.

Another Nicky Silver play, *The Food Chain*, played in Phoenix last year and garnered rave reviews as part of IMCO's regular season. But Brittain said *Raised in Captivity* wasn't chosen merely because *The Food Chain* was a local hit.

"We're doing this play because Nicky Silver is one of the best playwrights out there right now, and we should be doing even more of this plays in Phoenix," the director said. "You only have to read his work and already you're laughing. This is real-

ly good, funny stuff."

The "funny stuff" in this particular theatrical outing centers on an artist who only paints in white, a therapist seeking redemption through self mutilation, and a man who loves a convict pen-pal he's never met. Silver's work tends to include a spectrum of gay, straight and bi characterizations and *Raised in Captivity* is no exception.

Featured in the cast are D. Scott Withers, Ginny Harmon, Radford J. Mallon, Martha Brooks, Doug Wasbotten.

Planet Earth is located at 909 North 3rd Street in downtown Phoenix. The show runs through Feb. 20 and tickets are \$14. Call (602)252-8497 for showtimes and reservations.

the richies really aren't all that rich where it matters—on the inside. Thanks for the lesson.

But what's more interesting and is never adequately explained in any of these movies is how the children of working-class widowers (mom conveniently having died of cancer) come to be matriculated among the porsche-driving teen elite in the first place.

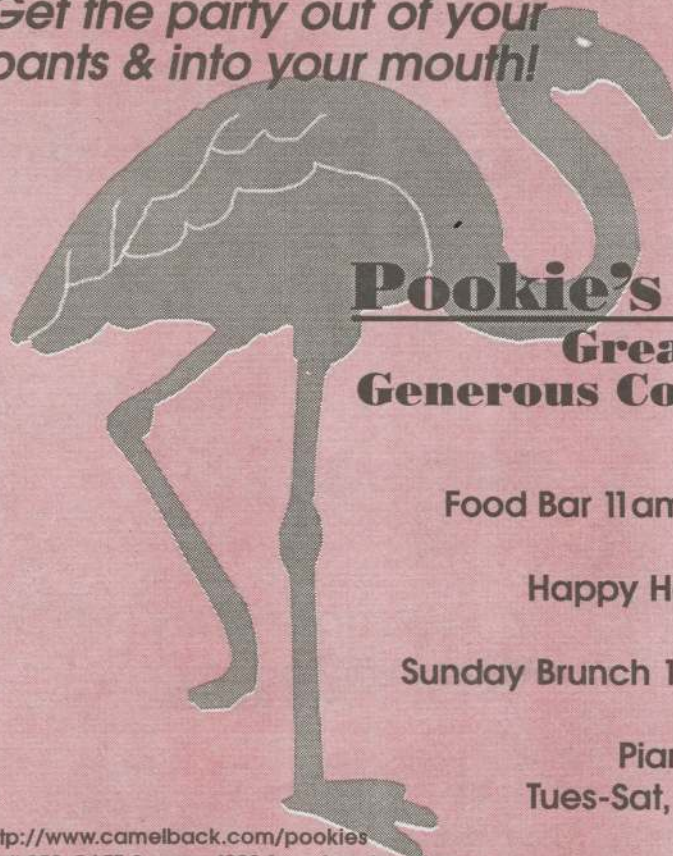
Despite *She's All That's* lapses into

She's All That isn't bad, it's just not particularly memorable and the choppy plot never really clicks. It works best as a running series of teen-angst jokes, but when the humor isn't happening, neither is the movie.

What is happening, however, is Freddie Prinze, Jr. This is one second-generation performer worth keeping an eye on. *She's All That* also features Kieran Culkin, Matthew Lillard, Anna Paquin and Kevin Pollak.

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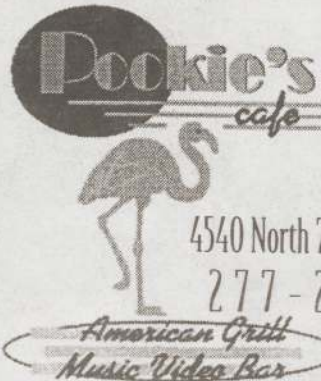
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GROWING PAINS

My Queer Life

By Michael Thomas Ford, HeatStroke contributor

I am a grown up. I know this because this morning for breakfast I ate half a bag of Reese's miniature peanut butter cups. If I were a child, someone would have probably stopped me.

But this was clearly an act of rebellion. I don't always feel like a grown up.

In fact, most of the time I sit around waiting for someone to tell me what to do next, as if the bell ending recess rang but I can't remember where my classroom is. I keep hoping a hall monitor will happen along and point me in the right direction.

Some people take to the whole grown up thing with ease. They get jobs and plan for their futures. They have cocktails with friends, take vacations, and follow the financial news.

These people frighten me. Sometimes I sit on the subway and look at them with their briefcases and stylish clothes, wondering how they got that way.

Clearly we all started out on the same road. But at some point they took the exit leading to adulthood while I, apparently, was too busy trying to find a really good station on the radio and missed my turn.

It's not that I don't do the requisite adult things. I pay my bills every

month. I have a credit card. I have a car.

But sometimes I still find myself sitting in front of the television set thinking, "You really should turn that off and go outside to play."

And on more than one occasion I have had to remind myself that no one is forcing me to get up at six every morning. But I do it anyway, urged on by some kind of groundless fear that if I continue to sleep someone is sure to give me hell for it.

When my parents were the age I am now, they had a house and three children. I have the dog, but it's hardly the same thing. For one, his toys cost less, and he doesn't demand being taken to a Spice Girls concert because all his friends are going.

I wonder if my father used to stand in front of the mirror in the morning and wonder when everyone would figure out that underneath the suit and tie he wore to work he was really still 13 years old. Because that's what I do.

Not that I own a suit or tie or have a real job. I sit at home in my boxer shorts and write. But I still worry that one day there will be a knock on the door and some official-looking person will announce in a loud voice that the jig is up and I have to go back with the other kids.

When I was 12, I used to look at my sisters' college friends and think

they were very grown-up. Then, when I was in college, I looked at people who had graduated and started their lives and thought that *they* were very grown-up.

A few years later, toiling in a real job, I started getting suspicious. The height of the adulthood bar kept rising, and it seemed as if I would never clear it.

Finally, I gave up. I admitted to myself that I am never going to be one of those truly grown-up people who knows what he's doing. And that's fine.

That's why the world has people like Dan Rather and Oprah. They fig-

ure it all out and break it to the rest of us in terms we can understand.

Thanks to them, I really don't need to be able to talk about health plans and politics with any sense of assuredness. I can just sit around playing with blocks until Oprah and Dan fill me in.

A couple of months back I spoke to a group of third graders at a local elementary school about what it's like being a writer. During the question-and-answer period, I looked around at all the shiny little faces staring at me. Choosing one, I asked an eager little girl what she wanted to know.

"How old are you?" she asked.

"I'm 30," I answered, having just endured that birthday.

All around me, eyes went wide. The children stared as if I were a newly-discovered relic pulled from the desert sands of Arizona or something.

"That's so old," said one boy.

"You're older than my mom," added another, disbelieving.

Things went on in this way for some time. The children wanted to know how someone as clearly aged as I was could write books, let alone walk to their school without the aid

of a cane.

When I left that day, the teacher accompanied me to the doors of the school. "You should never tell them how old you are," she said. "It's like throwing raw meat to coyotes. I just tell them I knew God when he was a boy. That shuts them up. Except for the ones who want to know whether or not he was a good kickball player."

But I know how those kids feel. They look at me and wonder what their lives will be like a billion years later when they too turn 30.

I'm sure they have all kinds of plans about being models and football stars, of having nice clothes and nice cars and big houses. Next time I'll tell them the truth.

"You still won't know what you want to be when you grow up," I'll say. "You'll wonder why everyone else has great jobs and wonderful relationships and dogs who like to sleep on the floor, because prob-

ably you haven't won that Oscar yet and your significant other really isn't that good in bed and your dog likes to throw up on your shoes.

"You might luck out and make a lot of money, but chances are you'll be eating spaghetti and shopping at Wal-Mart while you try to pay off student loans and those credit card bills you rang up when you were 23 and thought it would all take care of itself."

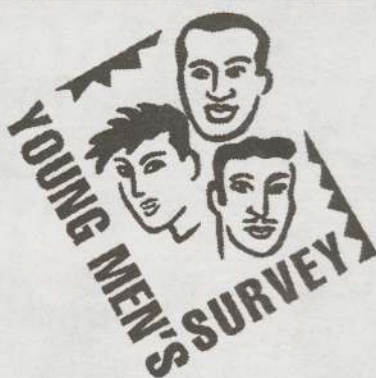
Probably they will just stare at me for a few moments, wondering if I've succumbed to some hideous form of mental illness brought on by my advanced age. And then I'll feel bad for ruining their lives.

"Okay," I'll tell them gently. "It's not all that bad. The good news is, you can eat peanut butter cups for breakfast."

That should give anyone hope.



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Michael Thomas Ford is the author of the books *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me* and the forthcoming *That's Mr. Faggot to You*. He welcomes e-mail at shopiltee@aol.com.

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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

The Butch Pack

The Oscar buzz is growing for former *Breakfast Club* member **Ally Sheedy** for her portrayal of lesbian photographer/heroine junkie Lucy Berliner in last year's indie feature *High Art*.

Sheedy recently received Best Actress kudos from both the super-choosy Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the National Society of Film Critics, so can an Academy nod be far behind?

After disappearing from the screen for several years, Sheedy made a strong comeback for herself in *High Art*, so listen for her name when the nominees are announced February 9th.

Sheedy's career is going full-throttle. She's just wrapped several projects including *To Wong Foo* writer **Douglas Carter Beane's** next flick: *Advice From A Caterpillar*. The film is a romantic comedy about a female New York artist who swears off romantic relationships, only to find herself falling for a bisexual fella.

Ms. Sheedy also stars in *Grace of My Heart* director Allison Anders' new film *Sugar Town*, about a group of has-been rockers who attempt to reclaim their past glory. For the sake of authenticity, **Duran Duran's** still-sexy **John Taylor** and former **Spandau Ballet** man **Martin Kemp** co-star.

The rest of the Brat Pack also is keeping busy. **Judd Nelson** is still getting work despite his post-80s weight gain. He can be seen weekly on the small screen in NBC's *Must-She* TV line-up playing **Brooke Shields'** boss and sometime lover on *Suddenly Susan*. Rumor around town says *Susan* may be suddenly removed from the line-up if ratings don't improve.

But Nelson needn't worry. He's starring in the film *Light It Up*, a high school drama produced by **Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds**.

The feature is about a group of disillusioned inner-city students who accidentally take a security guard hostage. They emerge from the ordeal with a better understanding of themselves and each other.

Sounds a bit like the *Breakfast Club* dontcha think? **Usher**, **Vanessa L. Williams**, and **Roseanne's Sara**

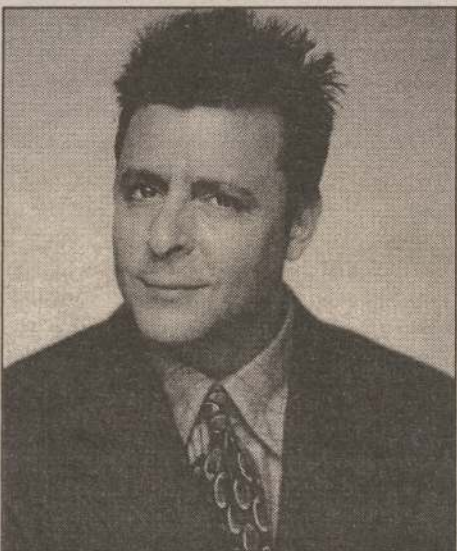
Gilbert co-star.

Well-hung *St. Elmo's Fire* hunk **Rob Lowe** (whose 1988 video sexcapade had tongues wagging in this town long before **Tommy Lee** even owned a video camera) is back at work, reteaming with *Wayne's World* star **Mike Myers** in next summer's *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged me*.

Lowe will also make an appearance in the upcoming comedy *The Specials*, a movie about superheroes whose personal lives are far from super. When not working, Raw Blow shuns the L.A. scene, choosing instead to live in the sleepy California town of Montecito with his makeup artist wife and their rugrats.

Still sexy *Pretty in Pink* stud **James Spader** continues to work in the movies. He's starring in a thriller with it-girl-of-the-moment **Minnie Driver** called *Slow Burn*.

The film, set in Mexico, is about a woman who attempts to retrieve long lost family heirloom jewels, which have been found by a pair of convicts.



The Fat Brat is still working: Judd Nelson bosses Brooke Shields around on NBC's comedy series *Suddenly Susan*.

Spader can also be seen in this March's \$60 million Sci-Fi flick *Supernova*, about a hospital rescue ship that rescues a space ship adrift in outer space.

The Gay Side of Cape Side

Sixteen Candles sweetie **Molly Ringwald** will be returning to the world of high school movies this summer in gay writer **Kevin**

Williamson's *Heathers*-esque film *Killing Mrs. Tingle*.

Katie Holmes stars in the black comedy, which is about a senior who will stop at nothing (not even murder) to claim her rightful crown as class valedictorian. The film, which was actually the first script Williamson sold in his pre-*Scream* days, is his first shot at directing.

Williamson, one of the hottest writers in La La Land, is finally letting his sexuality show more openly in his work.

The romantic comedy he set up at Universal Pictures, entitled *Her Leading Man* is about a gay writer who schemes to get his female friend to fall in love with a sleazy man he's paid to woo her. The film will spoof romantic comedies in much the same way *Scream* deconstructed horror films.

In other words, it sucks to be **Meg Ryan** right about now!

The King of Paranoia

Michael Jackson was recently spotted in the parking garage of a West Hollywood shopping and entertainment complex going "incognito" in a hat, sunglasses, and that annoying surgical mask like we're not gonna notice him dressed like that?

The crooner was less than "Thriller" to be around other people so he and his bodyguard waited until no one else was on the elevator before boarding. Uh, Jacko? Why bother to go out at all?

Xena the Lesbian Princess?

Rumors in television circles are spreading faster than chlamydia that Sapphic crooner **kd lang** may guest star in an upcoming episode of the butch television show *Xena: Warrior Princess*, playing a dyke-like character.

The Gay Bible

Jeffrey scribe **Paul Rudnick** has become the toast of NYC, this time for his latest play, which is a gay take on the book of Genesis which has been playing at the New York Theater Workshop.

The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told is two one-act plays. The first is a spoof of the tale of Adam and Eve, only Rudnick focuses on Adam and Steve and their lesbian counterparts, Mabel and Jane.

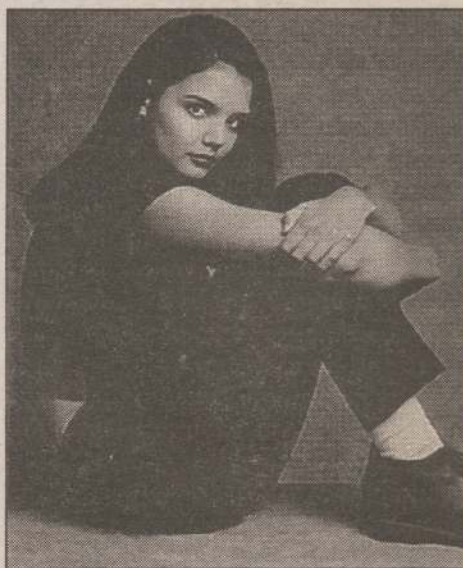
The second one-act focuses on a gay Christmas pageant complete with a pregnant lesbian in the manger. Rudnick's play has received rave notices from critics and hasn't caused the kind of picketing frenzy that

Terrence McNally's gay Jesus epic *Corpus Christi* unleashed last fall, probably because of its clearly campy nature.

Indians Don't Like Lesbians

Dykes in India who want to see the controversial chick flick *Fire* may have to wait for video.

Hindu fundamentalists shut down a recent screening at a Bombay cinema by buying up a bunch of the tickets and threatening to disrupt the



Katie Holmes will star in *Killing Mrs. Tingle*—the first film directed by gay screenwriter Kevin Williamson.

show. The theater chose to cancel the showing instead. Bummer.

Madonna's He-Man Harem

Now that **Carlos Leon** seems to be officially out of the picture, **Madonna's** love life is harder to predict than Internet stocks.

Seems that the Material mommy spent New Year's Eve partying with her on-again boy toy, British doorman/wannabe filmmaker **Andy Bird**. Madonna had been furious with the 28-yr. old Bird man, who had been quoted in a British tabloid discussing her and baby **Lourdes**.

Apparently, the two made up enough to ring in the New Year together, but not before the press had time to link Ms. Ciccone with another British director, **Guy Ritchie**. Ritchie just wrapped the Gramercy Pictures caper film *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels* starring **Sting**.

Poor Lourdes! We've got to get Chastity Bono to give the little lady some advice about having a difficult diva for a mama.

Romeo San Vicente, who falls somewhere between a **Rob Lowe** and a **Tommy Lee**, can be reached in care of *HeatStroke* or at RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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Out of Town

By
Andrew Collins



Philadelphia —by day

The first decade of the new millennium may very well mark Philadelphia's great renaissance.

Compared with other major East Coast cities—Boston, New York, Washington, and comeback kid of the '90s Baltimore—the United States' fifth-largest metropolis has been a sleeping giant during much of the late 20th century.

It is, despite its low profile, a leader in art museums, cutting-edge restaurants, pre-19th-century urban architecture, institutions of higher learning, theater and the performing arts, and historic hotels.

A bonus for gay and lesbian travelers: Philadelphia's queer district is in the heart of the city center, just steps from the best of its top attractions.

Hopes for a stellar future lie in a slew of new developments, including Lights of Liberty, a \$10 million light and special effects show presented nightly in the Independence National Historical Park.

Subsequent improvements at this park in Philadelphia's colonial-era Old City will include a new visitors center, Liberty Bell Pavilion, and interactive-exhibit center celebrating the city's contributions to the birth of America.

Disney comes to town in summer 2000 with a \$150 million virtual-reality and computer-animation theme park and entertainment-and-retail complex. A \$175 million park with a 20-screen movie theater, ice-skating rinks, and shops and restaurants is set to open along the city's burgeoning waterfront in 2001, and the new \$245 million recital and performance hall should become the home of the acclaimed Philadelphia Orchestra that same year.

A spokesperson for the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau noted that all of these attractions will be "family-friendly, in both senses." This city tourism office has long been a pioneer in courting gay

and lesbian visitors.

Downtown, aka Center City, contains the bulk of Philadelphia's leading attractions.

A good place to begin exploring is City Hall, which looms 548 feet above the intersection of Broad and Market streets. The ornate structure took 30 years (1871-1900) to build and is the largest and most stunning city hall in America.

Two blocks north, note the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, a grandiose high-Victorian Gothic structure built in 1876. The late-19th-century artist Thomas Eakins, who is believed to have been gay, was the Academy's director until the 1880s, when his insistence on



The Parisian-inspired Benjamin Franklin Parkway runs diagonally toward Fairmount Park and the esteemed Philadelphia Museum of Art—one of America's top such institutions.

using nude models in coed classes cost him his job.

Northwest of City Hall, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway runs diagonally toward Fairmount Park and some of the city's most notable museums, including the Franklin Institute Science Museum, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the stellar Auguste Rodin Museum.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art has imposing Greek architecture and 10 landscaped acres. Its contemporary collection contains works by Picasso, Braque, Matisse, and gay painter Marcel Duchamp, including renditions of his *Nude Descending a Staircase* (the "nude," people sometimes overlook, is male).

Check out the fine collection of Eakins's photos and paintings of young, virile men crewing and boating on the Schuylkill River.

North of the Museum and over-

looking the Schuylkill, Fairmount Park comprises nearly 9,000 acres of picturesque gardens, walkways, and bike and bridle paths, plus about a dozen historic (mostly Colonial) mansions, which are open to the public.

In this town, almost anywhere three queens are caught tanning together is dubbed "Judy Garland Memorial Park"—the entire east bank of the Schuylkill River has earned this distinction. Most popular for sunning is Schuylkill River Park. It's also busy along the Schuylkill from below the Philadelphia Museum of Art through Fairmount Park, from historic Boathouse Row to roughly East Park Reservoir.

On the southeastern edge of City

National Historical Park.

Most famous is the soon-to-be-renovated Liberty Bell Pavilion, the site of America's beloved and cracked 2,000-pound bell. Although commonly and mistakenly thought to have played a significant role in Colonial history, the Liberty Bell actually rose to prominence during the 1830s as a symbol of the movement to abolish slavery.

Independence Hall is where the Second Continental Congress met in 1775, the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, the Articles of Confederation were signed in 1778, and the Constitution was adopted in 1787.

Nearby is Old City Hall, where the

U.S. Supreme Court convened until 1800 and where anarchist Emma Goldman, one of the nation's first gay-rights advocates, was briefly imprisoned early in this century.

City father William Penn disembarked in 1682 on the banks of the Delaware River, a riverfront park now called Penn's Landing and consisting of shops, hotels, and condos; an amphitheater that hosts major concerts and festivals; the Independence Seaport Museum; several historic ships and homes; and the Riverbus, which runs

every 30 minutes across the Delaware to Camden, home of the impressive New Jersey State Aquarium.

The Camden-Philadelphia connection was also a notorious source of controversy: In the early 1950s the Bishop of Camden flipped out upon learning that a new bridge spanning the Delaware would be named after former resident Walt Whitman—a noted "deviant."

Despite a completely offensive antigay offensive, the Catholic Church failed to sway public opinion. You can visit the Walt Whitman House, where the poet lived during the 1880s and entertained a number of kindred spirits, including Edward Carpenter, Oscar Wilde, and Thomas Eakins.

Andrew Collins authored the greatly expanded second edition of *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*. He can be reached in care of *HeatStroke*.

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ETHAN'S CAMERA-MAN PAL SYDNEY

"FURBYS" ARE SUPPOSED TO ONLY SPEAK GIBBERISH... OH... REALLY? HUH... HEY, WHAT DO YOU GET FOR XMAS?

"BILLY'S GRIZZLY BEAR-UNCLE DON"

DAMN, I WANTED ONE OF THOSE...

Later Eeth is confronted by his boss, weather Personality Monty Poole

Green, I've extorted an EXTRA 10 GRAND from STATION MANAGEMENT TO TACKLE MY Y2K PROBLEM... BETTER THINK ONE UP, CHOPCHOP (...OR YOU'RE FIRED...)

...MONTY, YOU READ THE WEATHER FROM CUE CARDS. I STEAL YOUR COPY FROM THE NEWSPAPER... YOU DON'T HAVE A Y2K PROBLEM.

Looks Like Rain

That night our potentially unemployed hero has supper with his neighbor Charlotte

...SO LUPE SAYS THE GODDESS'S DISTRESS OVER PLANETARY ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION WILL REACH INTOLERABLE LEVELS SOME TIME NEXT YEAR. LUPE FIGURES AT THIS POINT HUGE TSUNAMI WILL DEVELOP SPONTANEOUSLY AND WIPE OUT MUCH OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION. SIGH, SHE'S SUCH A GREAT KISSER... ANYWAY, WHEN ALL THIS HAPPENS, LUPE THINKS YOUR APARTMENT WILL PROBABLY GET FLOODED.

THANKS FOR THE HEADS UP, LUPE.

After Dinner T.V. Offers no respite from the Diredness of the impending Y2k

MEMBERS MUST MAKE A MORE MORAL MILLENNIUM.

HONEY TURN IT OFF!

THAT CHANNEL DOESN'T GO OFF... EVER.

DID I MENTION WHAT A GOOD KISSER LUPE IS?...

NOT IN THE LAST 10 SECONDS.

Meanwhile Ethan's Best Friend Buck Telephones With the Gravest Millennium Difficulty Yet...

SOUTH BEACH IS BOOKED PALM SPRINGS IS BOOKED NEW YORK LONDON SYDNEY SANTA FE ALL BOOKED! WE HAVE NO Y2K RESERVATIONS WE ARE GOING TO BE HUGE LOSERS UNLESS YOU THINK OF SOMETHING REALLY FAST. I AM NOT SPENDING Y2K AT JO-JO'S WATCHING THE HOTTEST BUNS CONTEST ON THIS IS ANFUL. JUST ANFUL.

ericorner@aol.com www.stonewallinn.com

A Couple of guys
by Dave Broussard

LET'S SEE. BLACK OLIVES... OMIGOSH! AREN'T YOU ERIC PARKER?!

e-mail: acplfguys@aol.com

UH, YEAH, BUT... DERRIK, IT'S HIM! THE NAKED GUY FROM "FUN WITH DICK AND JAMES"!

WE LOVED THAT PLAY. YOU WERE TERRIFIC! A BEAUTIFUL BODY, AND SO MOVING. THAT LAST SCENE JUST TORE US UP!

THANK YOU SO MUCH. I POUR MY HEART AND SOUL INTO THAT SHOW EVERY NIGHT.

MY BOYFRIEND THINKS EVERYONE JUST LIKES IT FOR THE NUDITY. IT'S SO NICE TO KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE--THAT I'VE REALLY TOUCHED SOMEONE OUT THERE IN THE AUDIENCE WITH MY CRAFT.

WHAT A HAM! WHAT A BEEFCAKE!

©1999 Dave Broussard

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

the baby question

©1999 BY ALISON BECHDEL 305

SPANKY?? STOP FOOLING AROUND WITH YOUR E-MAIL AND COME TO BED! AAAH!

*SECRET PET NAME

GOD, I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASLEEP! YOU ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK! SORRY, GOT ANYTHING INTERESTING?

CLIK! CLIK!

OH... NOT REALLY. I WAS JUST, UH... RESPONDING TO YET ANOTHER DYKE BABY ANNOUNCEMENT. SHEESH, I GOT TWO THIS WEEK.

SNIK

"JESS AND B.J. ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF LIL XENA KAHLUA. SHE WEIGHED IN AT 18 POUNDS, 5 OUNCES, AND WAS 7 INCHES LONG." WHATEVER.

FLIK

WHY DO THEY ALWAYS TELL YOU HOW BIG IT WAS? SO YOU CAN IMAGINE EXACTLY HOW PAINFUL IT MUSTA BEEN TO SQUEEZE OUT? WHAT IS WITH THIS BREEDING FRENZY?

I MISS THE GOOD OLD DAYS. SMASH THE FAMILY! SMASH THE STATE!

WHAT ABOUT CLARICE AND TONI AND RAFFI? DO YOU WANT TO SMASH THEIR FAMILY?

PLEASE, SYDNEY, I'M EXPRESSING AN IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTION, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT REAL PEOPLE.

MEANWHILE, GINGER'S PREPARING FOR TRASH DAY. SPARROW, COULDN'T YOU GUYS DISPOSE OF THIS CONTRACEPTIVE DEBRIS MORE DISCREETLY? IT'S REALLY GROSS.

OH, AND YOUR BLOODY TAMPONS AREN'T?

I DON'T HAVE MY PERIOD. THOSE MUST BE LOIS'S, OR YOURS.

FLIP!

?

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Dear Cowboy,

Every time I walk into my boyfriend's house I want to throw up. It's not that he doesn't keep it clean—he does. But you should see how he has it decorated.

He's 27, has a good job, and is totally comfortable with being gay. But his place looks like a cross between the sets from All in the Family and Married With Children.

There's also this ugly, clunky dining set his grandparents brought over from Holland or something. And he sleeps on a mattress on the floor.

He wants me to move in but I told

him no way until he lets me redecorate. He got mad and now we're at a standstill. What should I do?
Signed, Tasteful Accessorizer

Dear Tasteful,

If you boys are serious about moving in together, you need to realize that there's a long, winding length of fence to put in ahead of you and the sooner you learn to compromise, the greener your pastures will be in the future.

It would be ideal for him to sell off his place so the pair of you can start out on a new spread together. But

that isn't always the optimum route financially, so let's assume your only option is to move in where he's already settled.

Ask him nicely where you can work your own furniture into the territory—maybe there's one bedroom he'll let you do up your way, as a kind of retreat. And you should both agree that any future purchases must have mutual consent before the delivery is scheduled.

But you have no business telling him to get rid of anything. If you can't get over yourself and learn to live with his stuff, you're better off staying put.

Dear Cowboy,

In eight months, the relatively masculine guy I'm seeing has never once mentioned having done drag, nor

has he demonstrated any sexual proclivities toward transvestism. But he has an extra closet full of wigs, makeup and women's clothes.

I wasn't snooping, but I've seen the stuff and he knows I've seen it. I've never asked about it even though I'm dying to. Maybe I'm afraid of the answer. What would you do?
Signed, Curious Carl

Dear Curious,

I'd check the dress sizes against his regular duds, and try to find out if they were his that way.

Seriously, being "afraid of the answer" is no reason to avoid a subject. After eight months with someone, I'd ask. And I'd try real hard to withhold any judgments if I really liked the guy.

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- B: Industria Supper Club
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Scottsdale 874-2383
- C: Espresso Country
1422 N. Scottsdale Rd.
Scottsdale 994-3110

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Phoenix 258-8122
3. Apollo's
3749 N. 7th Street
Phoenix 277-9373
4. Boot Camp
3702 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 212-8888
5. BS
7125 5th Avenue
Scottsdale 945-9028
6. The Bunkhouse
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix
7. Cash Inn
2140 E. McDowell
Phoenix 244-8943

8. Charlie's
227 W. Camelback
Phoenix 285-0224
9. Club Box
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Phoenix 285-9200
10. Crowbar
702 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 258-8343
11. Cruisin' Central
1011 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 253-3376
12. The Rose
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Phoenix 283-3233
13. Harley's Club 155
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2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix 953-9805
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Glendale 839-8528
16. Johnny Mc's
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Phoenix 288-8875
17. Marlys'
13015 Cave Creek
Phoenix 887-2483
18. Millennium
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Tempe 738-2480
19. Nasty's Sports Bar
1708 E. McDowell
Phoenix 287-8707
20. N-Towne
2002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 287-9939
21. Peco Peco
5043 N. 16th St.
Phoenix 283-8424

22. The Park
3002 N. 24th Street
Phoenix 957-8055
23. Roscoe's on 7th
4371 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 285-0833
24. Shooterz
808 E. Indian School
Phoenix 288-8640
25. 302 Lounge
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 252-0001
26. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 254-0231
27. Waterhole
8430 N. 43rd Ave.
Glendale 937-3139
28. Wink's
3707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 283-9002
29. Scandals
1137 E. McDowell
Phoenix 273-3589

Staples

30. The Adult Shoppe
111 S. 24th Street
Phoenix 388-1130
31. The Barn Adult Shop
2021 W. Indian School
Phoenix 243-3008
32. Book Cellar
4029 E. Washington
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(other Valley locations)
33. Castle Boutique
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Phoenix 244-8875
(3 other Valley locations)

34. Obelisk Books
24 West Camelback
Phoenix 288-8800
35. Movies on Central
4700 N. Central #121
Phoenix 274-0994
36. Tuff Stuff
1714 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix 254-9851

Tubs

40. Chure
1448 E. Indian School
Phoenix 234-1854
41. Flex
1577 S. Black Canyon
Phoenix 271-9011

Culture

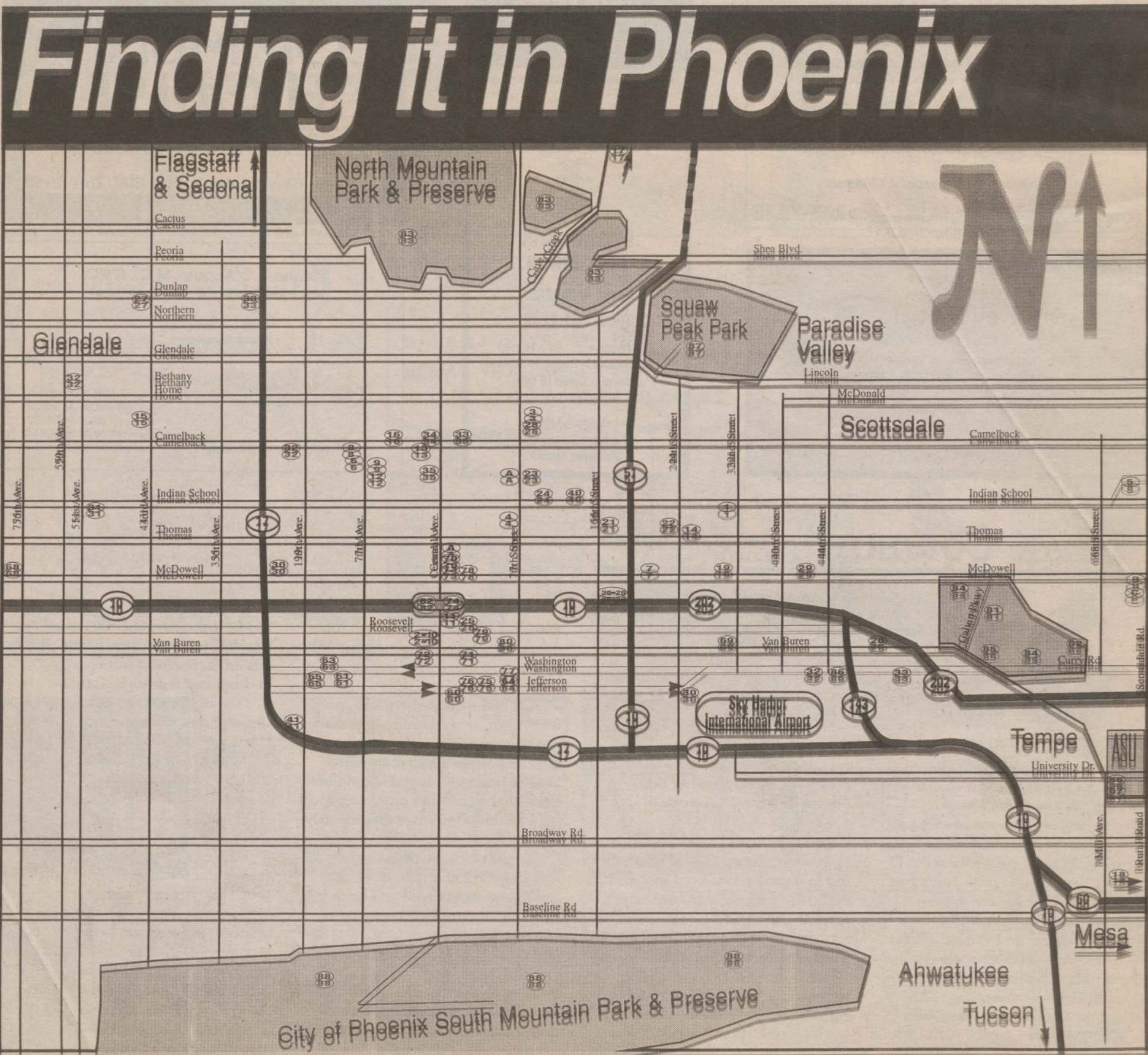
60. America West Arena
281 E. Jefferson
Phoenix 379-7800
61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum
1761 W. Washington
Phoenix 233-2110
62. AZ Historical Society
1388 N. College
Tempe 929-0292
63. AZ Mining & Mineral
Museum
1202 W. Washington
Phoenix 233-3791
64. AZ Science Center
600 E. Washington
Phoenix 718-2000
65. AZ State Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix 542-4875

66. ASU Art Museum
Nelson Fine Arts Center
Mill Ave. & 10th Street
Tempe 983-2787
67. ASU Gammage Center
Apache & Mill Ave.
Tempe 983-3434
68. Blockbuster Desert Sky
Pavilion
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Phoenix 254-7499
69. Celebrity Theater
440 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix 287-9373
70. Heard Museum
22 E. Monte Vista
Phoenix 252-8848
71. Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
Phoenix 254-7399
72. Orpheum Theatre
203 W. Adams
Phoenix 282-7272
73. Phoenix Art Museum
1624 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 257-1222
74. Phoenix Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 282-4636
75. Phoenix Civic Plaza
225 E. Adams St.
Phoenix 282-6225
76. Phoenix Symphony Hall
225 E. Adams
Phoenix 282-6225
77. Phoenix Museum of History
105 N. 9th Street
Phoenix 233-2734
78. Phoenix Theatre
108 E. McDowell
Phoenix 234-2151

79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural
Theatre
909 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix 241-1821
80. Union Hall
512 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 233-7100

Outdoors

81. Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 941-1217
82. Margaret T. Hance Park
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between
McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 334-2400
83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 282-6696
84. Papago Park
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 258-3228
85. Phoenix Zoo
452 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 273-1431
86. Pueblo Grande Museum
4610 E. Washington
Phoenix 493-0900
87. Squaw Peak Park
2401 E. Squaw Peak Dr
Phoenix 282-8898
88. South Mountain Park
18019 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix 493-0222



Directory of Community Services

Aids services

AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix, AZ 85064 234-6143

AIDS Project Arizona
111 E. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85012 265-2437

A Place Called Home
3431 W. Thunderbird #13-103
Phoenix, AZ 85023 942-1372

Arizona AIDS Information Line
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
Phoenix, AZ 85013 234-2732

Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance
8523 N. 13th St., #112
Phoenix, AZ 85014 279-4803

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

Aunt Rita's Foundation
3501 N. 7th Ave., #213
Phoenix, AZ 85013 279-0716

Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593

HIV Care Directions
1366 E. Thomas #103
Phoenix, AZ 85014 264-2273

Indian Community Health Serv.
1327 N. 3rd St., #100
Phoenix, AZ 85004 254-0456

Joshua Tree Seedling Program
P.O. Box 7936
Phoenix, AZ 85011 264-0223

Maricopa County Health Dept.

1825 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix, AZ 85006 506-6900

Planned Parenthood
3631 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85016 277-7326

Phx. Body Positive
2021 N. 30th St., #2
Phoenix, AZ 85016 933-4873

Phx. Shanti Group
2020 W. Indian School Rd., #53
Phoenix, AZ 85013 279-0008

Temps, Inc.
320 E. Virginia Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004 234-8900

Volunteers in Direct Aid
P.O. Box 4073
Phoenix, AZ 85007 279-8432

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

Political Action & Education

American Civil Liberties Union
P.O. Box 17148
Phoenix, AZ 85011 650-1967

Arizona Central Pride
P.O. Box 18847
Phoenix, AZ 85011 279-1771

Arizona Human Rights Fund
P.O. Box 23044
Phoenix, AZ 85002 650-6900

Arizonaans for Fairness

P.O. Box 3478
Phoenix, AZ 85007 265-7283

AZ Democratic Party
Gay & Lesbian Caucus
2003 N. Central #180
Phoenix, AZ 85004 257-0136

Feminist Lesbian Activist Coalition
P.O. Box 26031
Tempe, AZ 85283 866-4521

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project
P.O. Box 60881
Phoenix, AZ 85082 331-3080

Log Cabin Republicans
P.O. Box 60994
Phoenix, AZ 85082 428-3506

Maricopa Civ. Libertarian Party
P.O. Box 301
Phoenix, AZ 85001 248-8425

Social & Support Groups

Alpha Zeta - Transdressers Supp. A Rose - Transgender Support
P.O. Box 1738
Tempe, AZ 85280 488-0939

APEX AZ Power Exchange
apex@aroads.com 413-1123

Arizona 2-series
277-8796

Arizona Nude Budes
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Boys of the Arizona Desert
4133 E. Camelback Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85018 343-8733

Copperstate Leathermen

P.O. Box 40172
Phoenix, AZ 85067

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

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

Ennis Nosotros
506 E. Osborn, #22
Phoenix, AZ 85012 285-0970

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America, Phoenix
864-6692; glbva@aol.com

Glee and Mirth of AZ
P.O. Box 18243
Phoenix, AZ 85011 855-8229

The Leatherlords
254-9051

Lesbian & Gay Alton
2622 N. 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008 548-0936

Los Amigos del Sol (LADS)
P.O. Box 27335
Phoenix, AZ 85061 997-2411

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
P.O. Box 37525
Phoenix, AZ 85009 843-1404

The Phoenix Bears
P.O. Box 9027
Tempe, AZ 85068 216-8000

Protect LifeGuard
P.O. Box 17148
Phoenix, AZ 85011

Boys of the Arizona Desert
4133 E. Camelback Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85018 343-8733

The Community Center and Youth Services

263-7283
Lesbian & Gay Community Switchboard
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
P.O. Box 33387
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

Professional Organizations

Camelback Business & Professional Association
P.O. Box 2067
Phoenix, AZ 85001 225-8444

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Mormons)
P.O. Box 26031
Tempe, AZ 85283

Asbury United Methodist Church
1601 W. Indian School
Phoenix, AZ 85013 278-2368

AVIV of Arizona (Jewish Group)
P.O. Box 68804
Phoenix, AZ 85082 952-1612

Casa De Cristo
1029 E. Tumey
Phoenix, AZ 85014 265-2831

Community Church of Hope
2400 N. Central
Phoenix, AZ 85014 234-2180

Dignity and Integrity
P.O. Box 60933
Phoenix, AZ 85082 222-8664

Western Orthodox Catholic Church
241-9778; pasison@cis.com

Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch.
1700 W. Warner Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85224 899-4249

Cactus Cities Softball League
P.O. Box 43101
Phoenix, AZ 85064 848-8562

Gentle Shepherd MCC

P.O. Box 33758
Phoenix, AZ 85067 285-9020

Healing Waters Ministries

223 W. University, 103
Tempe, AZ 85281 894-8681

Lutherans Concerned

P.O. Box 7319
Phoenix, AZ 85011 870-3611

Presbyterians for Lesbians & Gays

P.O. Box 61163
Phoenix, AZ 85082 275-0506

Southwest Miracles Center

2441 E. McDowell
Phoenix, AZ 85008 244-9001

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.

2027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Paradise Valley, AZ 85283 840-8400

Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch.

1700 W. Warner Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85224 899-4249

Western Orthodox Catholic Church

241-9778; pasison@cis.com

Music, Sports & Hobbies

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
P.O. Box 18363
Phoenix, AZ 85011 265-0618

Team Arizona
P.O. Box 36031
Phoenix, AZ 85067 464-1461

TLC Chorus
P.O. Box 37835
Phoenix, AZ 85009 878-5130

Valley of the Sun Community Band
Jame: 947-9007; Terry: 934-9244

Charlie's Rascals

P.O. Box 17802
Phoenix, AZ 85011 277-9142

Desert Adventures

P.O. Box 2008
Phoenix, AZ 85001 266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares

P.O. Box 33813
Phoenix, AZ 85067 248-0048

Gay League Association of Bars

P.O. Box 83231
Phoenix, AZ 85082

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Social Tennis Club

279-0709

Grand Canyon Men's Chorus

P.O. Box 18363
Phoenix, AZ 85011 340-7640

Lambda Car Club

P.O. Box 36211
Phoenix, AZ 85067 409-3160

Phoenix United Gay Bowling Alliance (PUGBA)

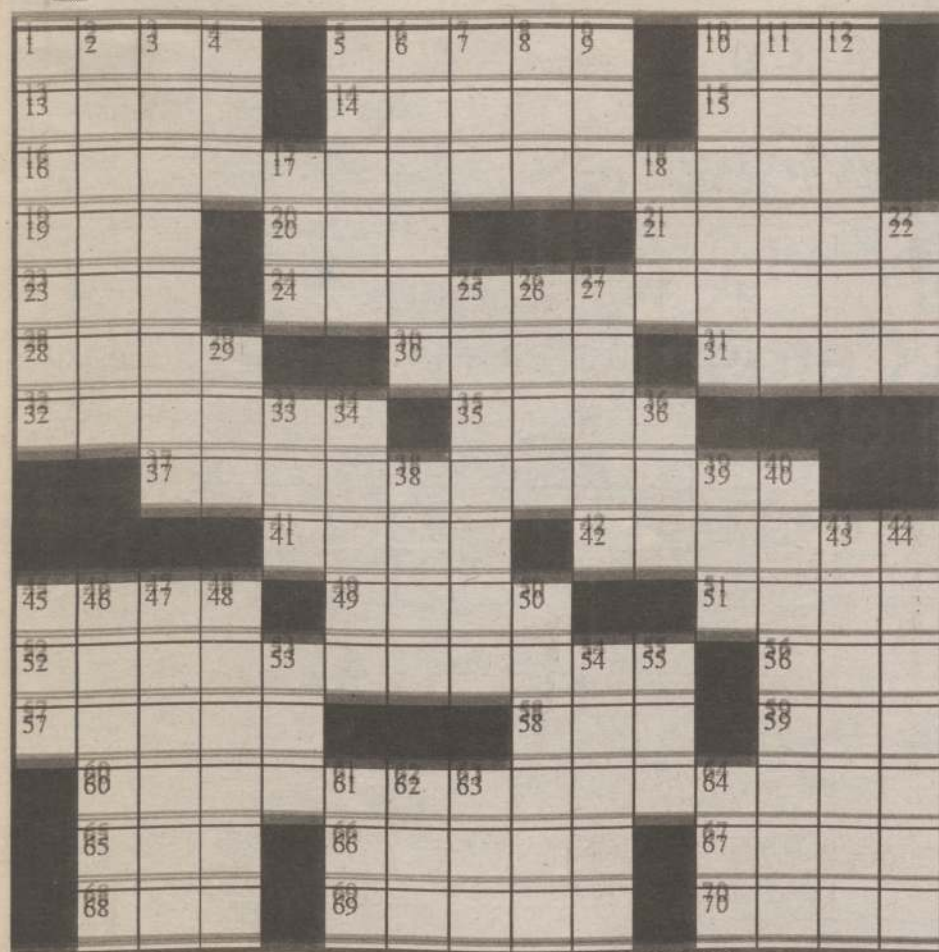
P.O. Box 44422
Phoenix, AZ 85064 246-9643

Spartan Wrestling Club

340-8070
e-mail: mathbms@aol.com

Q Puzzle

"Seasons of Love"



ACROSS

- 1 The X-Files sightings
- 2 Miss Thing
- 3 Chi Chi LaRue puts it out
- 4 Jonathan Larson Broadway hit
- 5 — West, Florida
- 6 Montague and San Vicente
- 7 Puccini opera upon which 13-Across is based
- 8 Slip by
- 9 Bathhouse attire

- 10 Patsy's AB fab friend
- 11 Sine — non (necessary condition)
- 12 Category for which 13-Across won 35-Across
- 13 Makes a boner
- 14 Stink — heaven
- 15 U.S.S.R. secret police
- 16 Whoop — (merrymaking)
- 17 Pioneering gay publication
- 18 Facilitates
- 19 1996 conferral for 13-Across

- 20 Committee for an Open Process (Millennium March protesters)
- 21 He — (breath-mint brand)
- 22 "Come — uted?"
- 23 Garland of Hawaii
- 24 Singer Brewer
- 25 "Flaming —" (Elvis Presley tune)
- 26 One of the original Broadway stars of 13-Across
- 27 Singer DiFranco
- 28 Ikea offering
- 29 Taking advantage of
- 30 Ukrainian peninsula
- 31 1996 conferral for 13-Across
- 32 Russian czar known as "the Great"
- 33 Abbr. in many business names
- 34 Not missing any marbles?
- 35 Declares positively
- 36 Lube, essentially
- 37 Concerning

DOWN

- 1 http://www.gayspace.com; for one
- 2 "Science Fiction/Double —" (Rocky Horror song)
- 3 In a plane, e.g.
- 4 Put in the overhead compartment
- 5 It may be in the closet
- 6 Fashion line?
- 7 It has a ball
- 8 Apple — (loady)
- 9 Native of Muscat
- 10 Uses a different suitcase
- 11 Denials
- 12 Suffix with malt or verb
- 13 Excavated anew
- 14 Language of the O.T.
- 15 Janet Jackson's rec. label
- 16 Math proof abbr.
- 17 Playstation producer
- 18 Medium of 13-Across

- 25 What Peter Pan never did
- 26 Many 82:
- 27 Explorer Hernando de —
- 28 Fruity drinks
- 29 National Coming Out Day months
- 30 I — Make War Bride (Earl Grant comedy)
- 31 Mexican resort on the Pacific
- 32 Chicken — king
- 33 Bear's hangout
- 34 Uriah the — (Bathsheba's husband)
- 35 Sapphic ode divisions
- 36 Go off on a —
- 37 Jackie's "8"
- 38 Communist leader Zhou —
- 39 Kind of bread or whiskey
- 40 "Gay gene" pioneer Bean
- 41 Sorority letter
- 42 — Wonderful Life
- 43 Tax-form pre
- 44 Title for MEC's Troy Perry
- 45 Sex —
- 46 Cinco minus cuatro
- 47 — Speedwagon



Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle:
"Look Both Ways"

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HOROSCOPES

By Deane Jaye, HeatStroke Contributor

Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)

You're an enormous, spotted Holstein in a herd full of bland little Jersey heifers these days and that means all eyes are on you. Take advantage of the extra attention and use your moment in the spotlight to make a point—you have so many you'd like to make, anyway, that it could be hard to focus on just one. Throw your creative powers around the room and see where they land at a happy gathering during the week of the 1st.

Pisces (February 21 - March 20)

Slow and steady may have won the race for old Mr. Turtle, but that doesn't mean he didn't feel a pang or two of jealousy for that wacky Mr. Hare's wild style when they crossed paths along the course. Maybe the fact that you know where you're going isn't enough to get you there with all the flair you've been craving. A simple diversion—planned or unplanned—could be just the thing to put a spark back into the process.

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

Look over your shoulder and make sure the sight lines are clear before you start changing lanes with wild abandon. At the very least you should signal the folks around you as to what your intentions are, Aries, so that those who will benefit from getting out of your way will have the opportunity to do so. Communication is not your strongest suit but if you're willing to make an effort you'll be rewarded.

Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

From the full sized rack of barbecued ribs to the entire left side of the Burger King menu, your tendency this month is toward over indulging. This carries over to matters of the heart as well, so know when to say when in all areas and watch your intake of anything addictive or otherwise intoxicating, particularly at large gatherings where you'll begin to feel lost in the shuffle. A Virgo friend or relative could provide a calming influence.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

You just had to get caught up in all that drama and make things difficult for yourself these past few weeks, didn't you? Maybe if you'd focused a little more on what you want from others and paid less attention to what others want from you... There's still time to undo any damage and the weekend of the 29th should prove most relaxing. A few close friends and some hearty dishes to share will help sort things out.

Cancer (June 21 - July 20)

Everyone around you is getting down to serious business when all you really feel like doing is playing. That doesn't necessarily mean you'll wind up playing with yourself, but it does indicate that you could be on your own unless you can gather some like-minded individuals around your table. Another Cancer native may be waiting for the chance to explain or investigate a point further—see what he or she has to say.

Leo (July 21 - August 20)

You've been traveling all over the map and now is finally the perfect time to kick back, relax and enjoy a little solitude. As in quiet, reflective moments. By yourself. Alone. Oh, stop feeling so threatened by the idea of momentarily losing your precious audience and bask in the warmth of your own company for a while. The change will do you good and you'll be ready for more frolicking soon enough. Wet your thirst around the 31st.

Virgo (August 21 - September 20)

It only seems like every time you stick your neck out for someone else, you get strep throat. In fact, you do many little things for many others in subtle ways and the rewards coming your way are often quite subtle as well. Take some time to assess your standing at home and office, and you'll feel less resentment once you see that your generosity is indeed appreciated. A Capricorn with financial advice could enter the picture around the 4th.

Libra (September 21 - October 20)

You can pull out your key pipe and blow all you like, but life is not a barber shop quartet. And getting perfect harmony out of all the separate components you have been dealing with lately is going to be next to impossible, particularly when you realize there are other personalities involved. The strong-willed types you've been surrounding yourself with these days provide as much excitement as they do frustration. Stick it out.

Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)

All the odds are in your favor when it comes to separating the real from the ideal in relationships this month. Travel is recommended, especially if you've got a hankering for somewhere festive and loud. Vegas is a good pick, or maybe Washington, D.C.—anywhere the action seems to be centered is where you'll feel at home. If you can't get out of town, try taking some action home with you on or around the 8th.

Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)

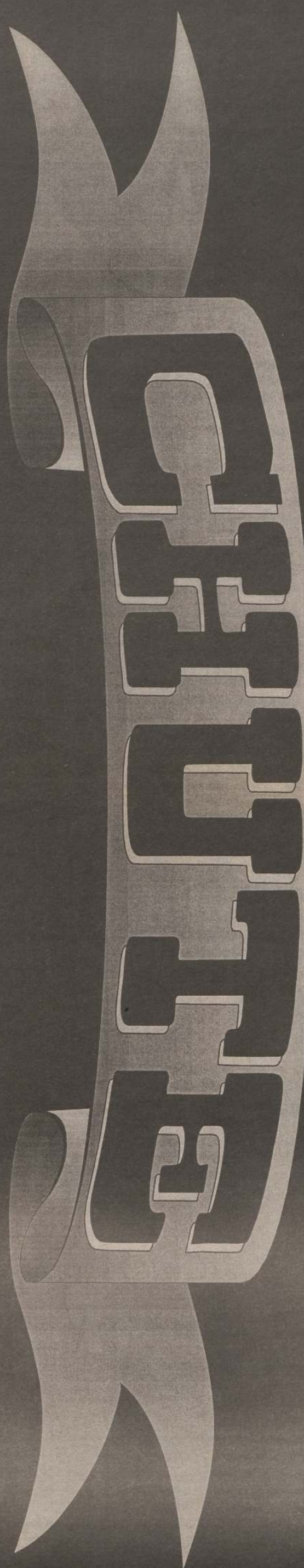
Out of all the gin joints in all the world, Ingrid Bergman just had to come walking into Bogie's, didn't she? Of course, there wouldn't have been much of a movie if she'd gone somewhere else, and you Sagittarians wouldn't have much excitement in life if it weren't for all the little coincidences that rise up from your own pasts to entertain you in the present. Deal with whatever comes your way around the 30th—it could be big.

Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)

You are trying to determine the terms that will allow you to come out ahead in current negotiations. The big ticket purchases you're working to get will only provide temporary happiness, especially if details are chosen too hastily. It's the love of the deal more than the merchandise itself that often sustains you—remember that, and you'll make out fine. Speaking of making out, a reclusive Cancer could rub you the right way later this month.

PRIVATE MEN'S HEALTH CLUB 24 HOURS 1440 E. INDIAN SCHOOL RD., PHOENIX, AZ 85014 (602) 234-1654

WHERE THE BEARS & LEATHERMEN ARE IN PHOENIX...



Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"I declare you queen of the realm."
—Outgoing San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Barbara Kaufman presenting a tiara and feathered scepter to incoming President Tom Ammiano, who is gay, at Ammiano's Jan. 8 installation.

"We're not in Kansas any more."
—Ammiano's response (see above).

"Gosh darn it, just be the best darn homosexual you can be then."
—Horizons Community Services ad campaign appearing on public-transit vehicles and elsewhere around Chicago.

"You're a great big wonderful lesbian, you great big wonderful lesbian you."
—Horizons Community Services ad campaign appearing on public-transit vehicles and elsewhere around Chicago.

"[Boy George has] never said anything that really bothered me until his *Advocate* article this year. He's always said horrible things, but in that article

he said I thought I was too good for the gay community. I felt like that was really over the top. He did an article directly after I was arrested — interestingly enough, he writes a column for one of the tabloids, which is exactly where I think he belongs. It's an English tabloid called *Daily Mail*. It's also pretty right-wing and homophobic. I think it's quite interesting that he writes for them, so I guess he'll go for anyone who pays him. ... Am I too good for the gay community? No. Am I too good for the likes of Boy George? Yes."

—Singer George Michael to the *Advocate*, Jan. 19.

"Straight men don't find it easy to get quick casual sex with attractive women without paying for it. They normally have to do a lot of ground-work. They are different hunts, but they are still hunts. I've been there with my mates in clubs when we were younger, cruising for women. I know all the stupid games you have to play. I also know the lack of game-playing that goes on between gay men. Men have that easy access to meaningless, casual sex, which gives them a totally different thrill."

—Singer George Michael to the *Advocate*, Jan. 19.

"I left [my lover] Kenny a message that said, 'Darling, I'm in big trouble. You're going to have to get me from the police station.' He called me back and said, 'What did you do, darling?' I said, 'Use your imagination.' And he said, 'DUI?' I said, 'Fuck—if only. Think again.' He said, 'Oh no!' I said, 'Please just come down and get me.' But because of the honesty in the relationship, I wasn't terrified about calling him. My immediate

thought was, Thank God I have him."

—Singer George Michael to the *Advocate*, Jan. 19.

"The media can only deal with gay personalities if they are sexless. You never see RuPaul on the arm of a six-foot strapping basketball player, and that's the same thing that kind of happened to me, I became this gender-less exotic doll. I think that's the only way people can deal with it. But, I love RuPaul. I think RuPaul is a trooper, and I think that drag queens are the suffragettes of our community."

—Boy George to the San Diego gay publication *Buzz*, Dec. 31.

"[H]ear it one more time perfectly clearly: If you're gay or a lesbian, it's a biological error that inhibits you from relating normally to the opposite sex. The fact that you are intelligent, creative and valuable is all true. The error is in your inability to relate sexually intimately, in a loving way to a member of the opposite sex — it is a biological error."

—Radio therapist Dr. Laura Schlessinger on her Web site, <http://www.drlaura.com>, Dec. 8.

"As for 'Ex-Gays' Who Feel You Can Walk Away From Your Sexuality: You always could. It's called the closet."

—Village Voice columnist Michael Musto, Dec. 30.

"I felt it was a terrible intrusion on my privacy [when I was outed after starring in *The Madness of King George*.] Ian McKellen always said I should come out. But why? I make my living playing heterosexuals. ... My partner [Trevor Bentham] and I don't want to stand up and say we're gay, because we think [announcing it publicly is] wrong. The best way to get people to accept you is to move about the community and show them there's nothing to be afraid of."

—Newly knighted British actor Nigel Hawthorne, star of TV's *Yes, Minister*, to the *Times of London*, according to the *New York Post*, Jan. 5.

"It looks like something sleeping up there. It's like it's fur."

—Make-up artist and stylist-to-the-stars Glenn Alfonso on Sir Elton John's hair transplant, to Los Angeles' gay *In* magazine, Jan. 19.

"In the porn world there are a lot of people who are saying, 'Enough with body and leg shaving and the dyed, arched eyebrows.' It's getting to the point where those hairless, pumped-up things in gay porn look like Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade floats having sex."

—Make-up artist and stylist-to-the-stars Glenn Alfonso to Los Angeles' *In* magazine, Jan. 19.

"I find what you said totally reprehensible. I have no problem promoting gay rights. My heart is racing. My blood is boiling. I'm so disgusted by what you said."

—Denver School Board member Elaine Berman to an anti-gay bigot who delivered a standard-issue rant at the board's Jan. 7 meeting. The board plans to expand gay protections in the public-school system.

"We've always had a big gay following and we've always had many gay friends whom we love and adore. There's a lesbian couple who are

friends of ours and have been for years. One of them is my golf teacher. We spend Christmas day at their house, a house they built with their own hands in Northern Nevada. It's usually just the two of them, and Daryl and myself, and that's how we spend our Christmas. I don't know if you know this, but Howie Greenfield, who wrote the lyrics to 'Love Will Keep Us Together,' died of AIDS in 1986. He was a wonderful man, and he and his lover were very dear friends of ours. We have many friends in the gay community."

—Toni Tennille (of the Captain & Tennille) to Boston's *Bay Windows*, Dec. 23. Their song *Love Will Keep Us Together* was number one in 1975.

"Years ago when AIDS was new, we all had a great sympathy for people who developed the disease. We did not at first know it was caused by a virus, nor how it was contracted. People who developed AIDS were not at fault for what happened to them. That was then. We now know that HIV is transmitted largely by unprotected anal penetration. The information is pervasive, the message is constant. What about people in 1999 who engage in unprotected anal sex? If they contract AIDS are we going to feel the same sympathy for them that we felt for the early victims? We might pity them, we might take care of them, but we are entitled to think they have been damn fools. We are going to blame them."

—Syndicated gay columnist Paul Varnell, in a January filing.

"I had, in fact, never had unprotected anal intercourse before my infection. In some ways, it would have been more of a relief if I had. I could have beaten myself up for a stupid lapse, and isolated the sense of failure and shame I felt."

—Writer Andrew Sullivan in the *San Francisco Examiner Magazine*, Jan. 10.

"Theorists on the right are too busy asserting that homosexuality is wrong to explain at any length why it occurs, and theorists on the left are too busy explaining why the whole concept of normal is meaningless to figure out how homosexuality arises. The vast terrain in between lies oddly unexplored."

—Writer Andrew Sullivan in the *San Francisco Examiner Magazine*, Jan. 10.

"The existence of an extreme left wing as the representation of gay people prevented me from coming out. It prevents other people from coming out, because if they have to be 'queer,' they're not going to come out. The establishment of these left-wing elites actually impedes the possibility of gay people's living fulfilled lives. It keeps them back in the ghettos."

—Gay writer Andrew Sullivan in the *Advocate*, Jan. 19.

"[Will] represents a large slab of the gay community that doesn't get shown enough. To some people it's not as colorful to think your brother or your neighbor or your doctor could be gay. It's more interesting to have wacky drag queens. But there are a lot of Wills out there. It's insane to expect us to represent everyone's issues. Will can represent only who he is."

—Will & Grace star Eric McCormack to the *Advocate*, Jan. 19.

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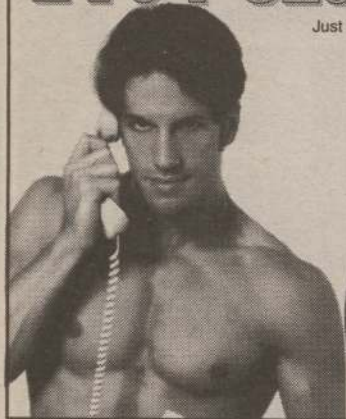
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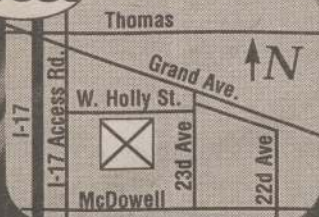
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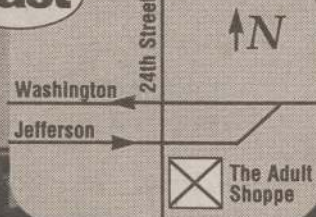


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Phoenix

Los Angeles

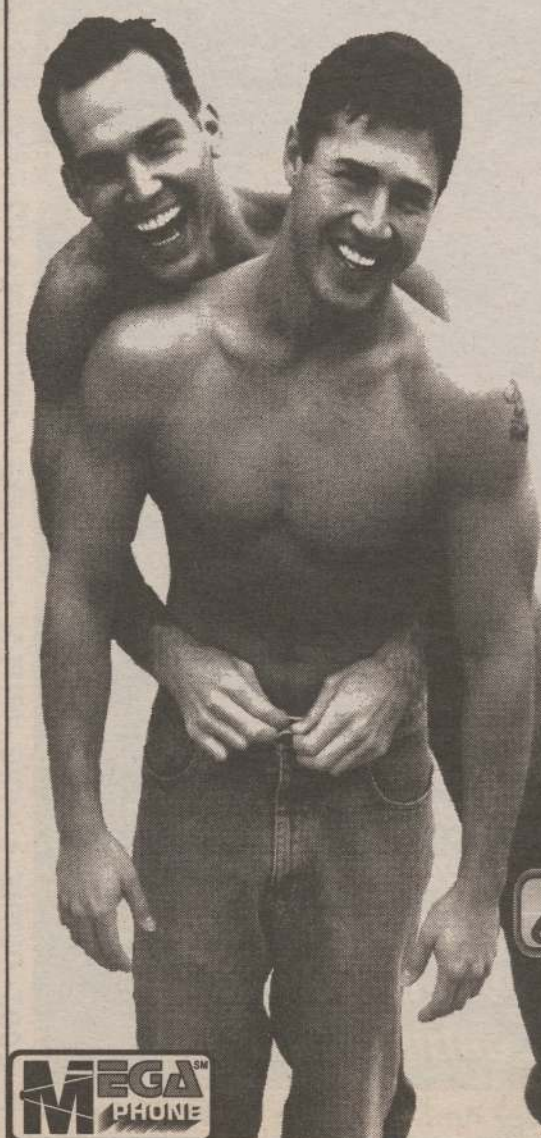
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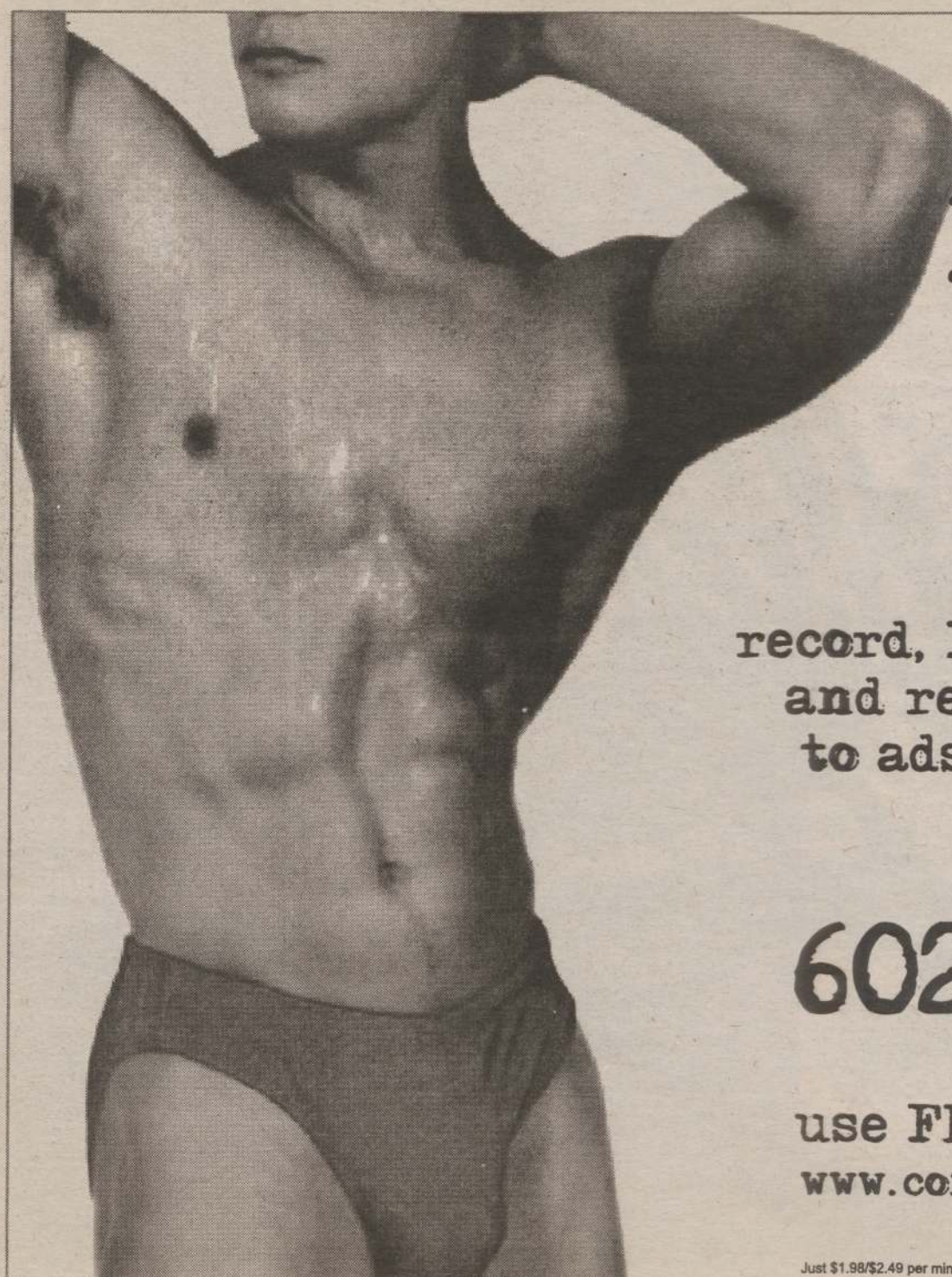
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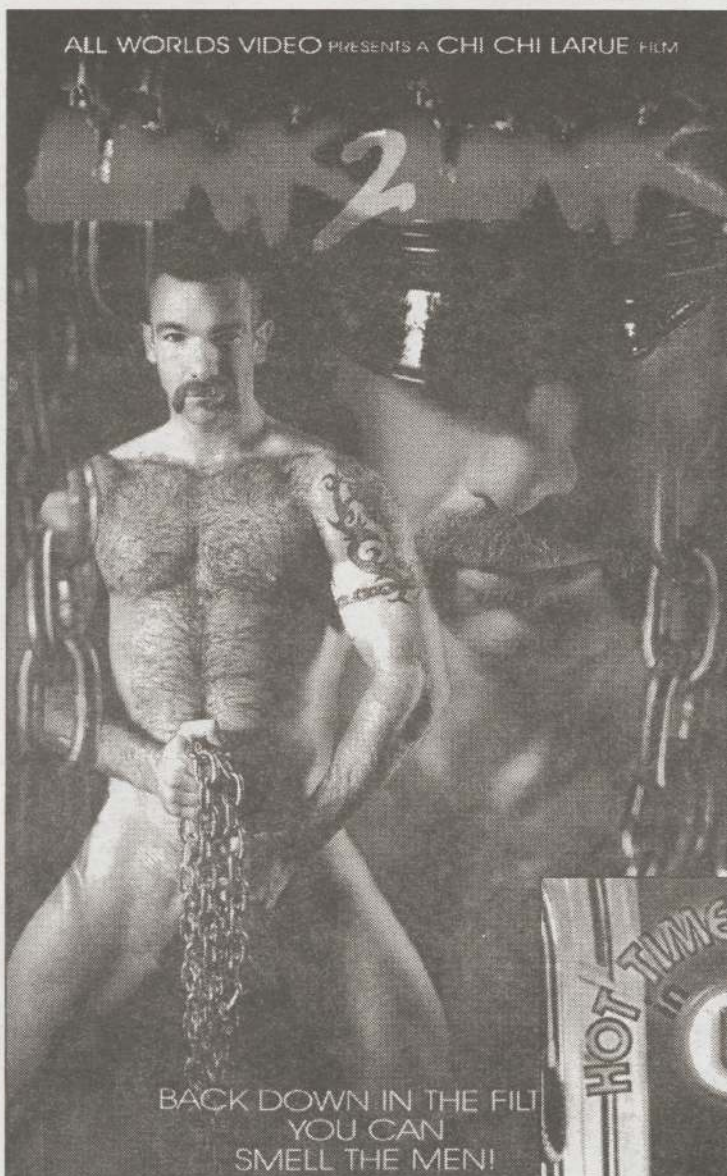
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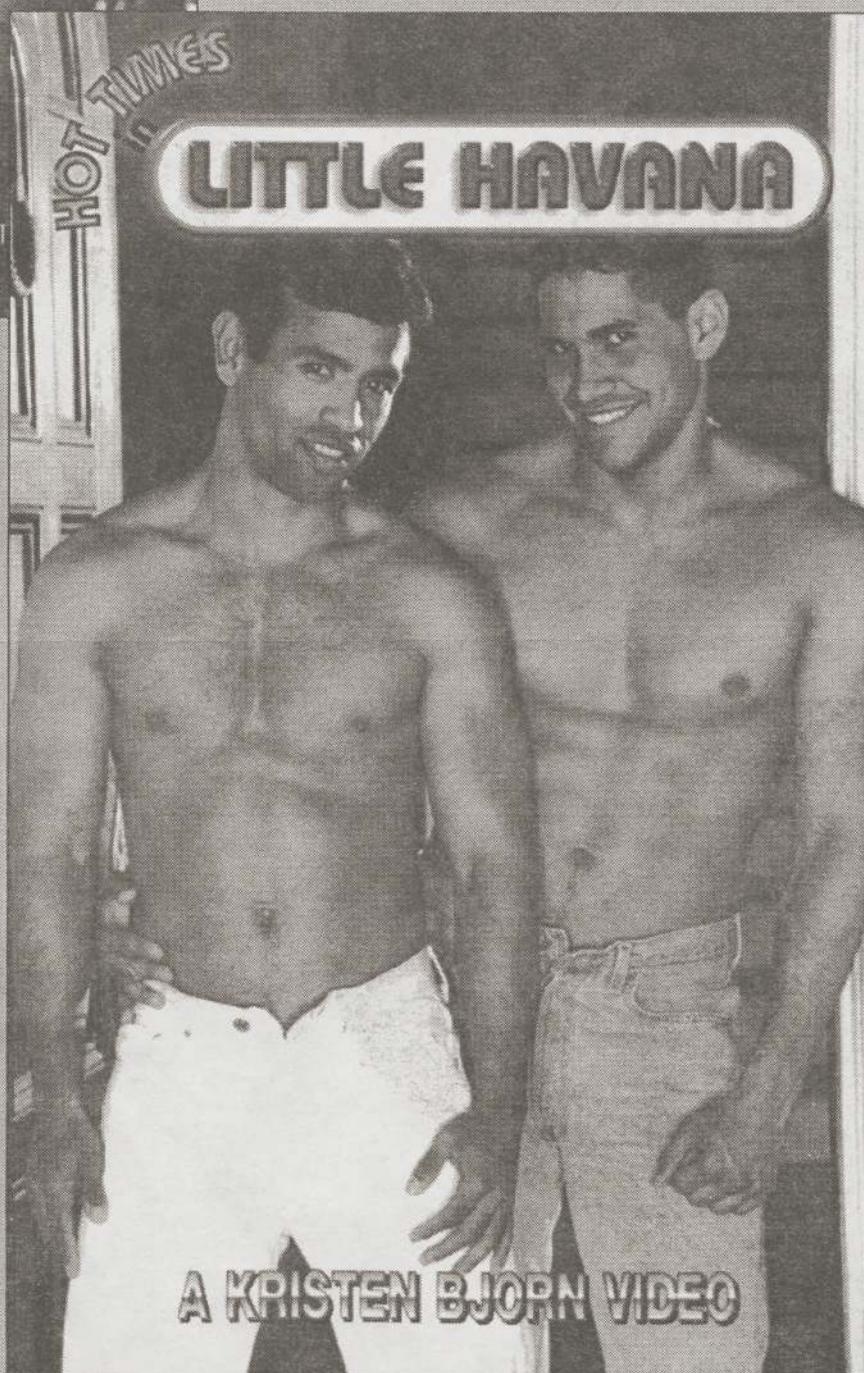


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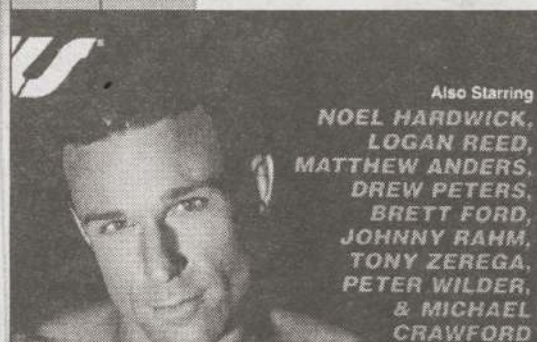
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Sweethearts Ball
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