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Gay in the DNA

San Francisco comic says he's made that way

By Karyn Riedell, Staff Writer

Speaking to *HeatStroke* recently from his San Francisco home, comedian Scott Silverman is all set for a cold winter's day.

"I'm wrapped up in a huge blanket with leaves on it. It's about 50 degrees here and foggy. I'm in my flannel pj's, big old fat socks and an Acura sweatshirt."

Silverman, who lives in the Sunset District near Golden Gate Park, used to live in the Castro but was "kicked out for not being gay enough."

Today Silverman is feeling witty and gay. "It's cold and wonderful in San Francisco, and I actually have the night off. I'm going to go skipping down the street like some geek. It's Friday, so tonight I'm going to go out and torture some boys."

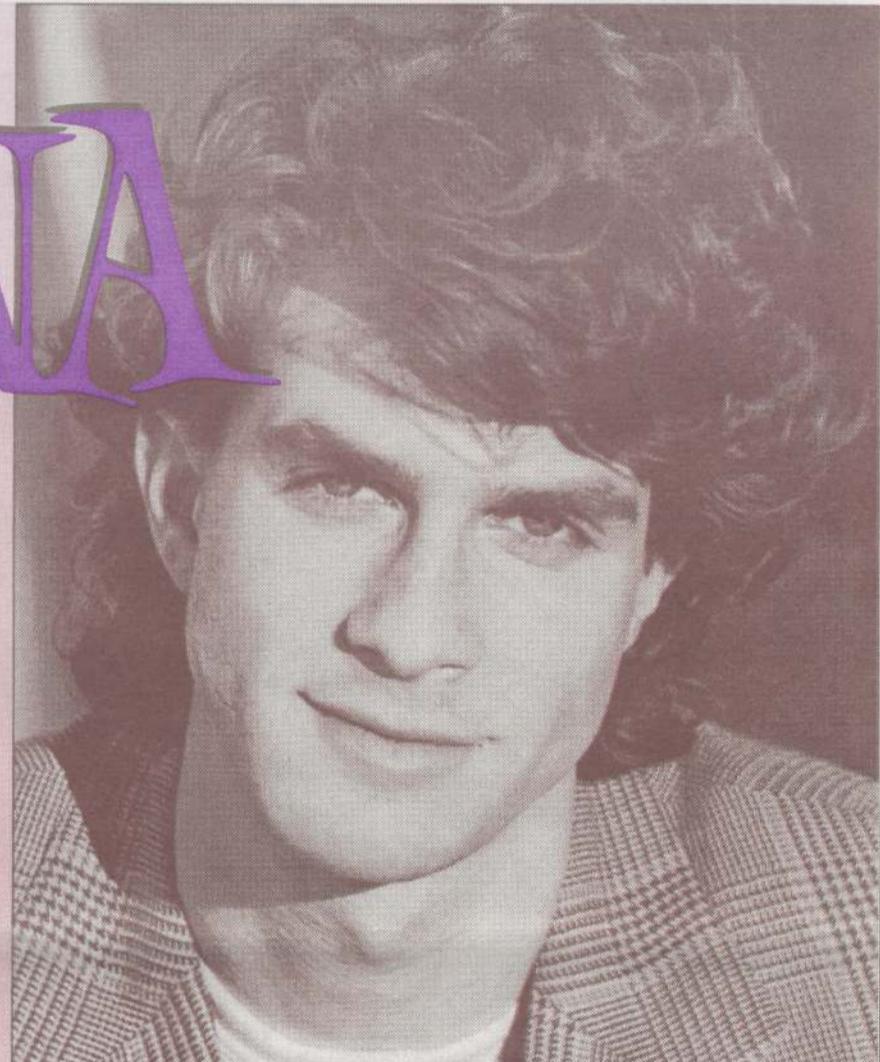
Silverman, 32, started torturing boys and doing comedy around the same time. At 23, he came out and shortly after that he got into comedy. In order to graduate from Cal State-Northridge with a communications degree, Silverman had to make up missed written assignments by doing last-minute

fast-talking to sociology and psychology classes about being gay.

In his case, this meant talking about the hardship of having understanding parents. "My parents love me. They're PFLAG parents. They're very into it and want to help other parents. They make it very hard to be rebellious."

After his classroom gigs, Silverman soon found his way to Josie's Juice Joint, a gay cabaret and performing space in San Francisco. "It was eight years ago tonight. It was completely life-changing," Silverman recalls. Since then, Silverman has been performing at colleges and clubs across the United States and Australia and has also appeared in television specials, including *Girls' Night Out*, *Evening Out at the Improv* and *Out There 2*.

His monologues are all about "me, me, me," Silverman jokes. "The things that interest me, me



and my family, and what being gay means to me."

Although his family and friends have been supportive, Silverman doesn't have any illusions about the difficulties of being gay. "Are you kidding? Have you opened up a newspaper? Go to fucking Nebraska and say to 2,000 people that you're gay. There is gay bashing, the pope says we're evil, and

See "Silverman," page 14

Television's next Sabrina?

Out comic sets her sights on the small screen

By Karyn Riedell, Staff Writer

Sabrina Matthews' life could be a sitcom—well, maybe down the road a few years.

Picture this premise: A lesbian comic lives in Los Angeles with two male comics, one gay and one straight. Her orange cat and shepherd/husky dog complete the ensemble cast.

In fact, Matthews is currently pitching a sitcom that she and a friend have written—but it isn't this one. She won't say what the plot is exactly, other than it is "avant-garde with out-there characters."

Matthews says she moved to LA from San Francisco more than a year ago because "that's where television is. What I really like is live entertainment, but TV can make you financially well off." So far, her television appearances have included *Premium Blend* and *Out There in Hollywood*, both produced by cable's Comedy Central. Matthews also had a guest appearance on *America's Most Wanted* playing a lesbian standup in what she describes as a "mood enhancer" role.

"I'd love to write for a sitcom or be a recurrent character in a sitcom,"

See "Matthews," page 15



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Horowitz:

One year ago, I wrote about Steven Cozza, a teenage boy scout from San Francisco trying to get the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to change its policy banning gay men from serving as scout leaders.

Steven's tenacity and the support he receives from his family impress me. I still get press releases about Steven's valiant effort. Unfortunately, BSA still doesn't get it.

BSA vigorously fights all efforts to overturn its bigoted policy. Several ousted leaders have taken BSA to court and the results have been mixed. In California, the state Supreme Court upheld the ban on gay scout leaders saying that BSA could discriminate because

I resent that Boy Scouts of America is spending a veritable fortune to keep qualified scout leaders out instead of spending the money to select the best people based on skills, education and experience.

they are a private religious organization not subject to non-discrimination laws.

Last week in New Jersey, however, the state Supreme Court ruled in the case of former eagle scout James Dale that banning him violated New Jersey's anti-discrimination laws because the boy scouts fall under the category of public accommodations. BSA vows to take the fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

I have very mixed and scattered emotions about the entire BSA issue. My own scouting experience sucked. I joined cub scouts in elementary school as a prelude to becoming a Boy Scout.

I recall that the scout leaders and den mothers were unpleasant, uneducated people. I don't generalize about all scout leaders, I'm just talking about the ones in my hometown. Activities centered on what the adult leaders would enjoy, and little attention was paid to the safety or enjoyment of the boys involved.

I would say today that all the adults involved needed therapy. Nobody spent any time teaching the youngsters anything resembling family values. I had similar experiences with little league and religious youth groups.

I've watched children these days having the same kind of miserable time I had as a young person. My little league coach was a foul-mouthed, tobacco-chewing redneck who played baseball in high school 30 years prior. He knew how to yell and he smelled. He assigned positions, told us the bat-

Scouting for Leadership

ting order and spit a lot. He didn't teach us anything about sportsmanship—or about baseball, for that matter.

He taught me that the kids who were talented got to play more, and those of us who weren't should stay on the bench or in the outfield.

I believe that most scouts and little leaguers have better experiences than I did. I also believe that leaders and coaches should be carefully selected and trained.

Compassion, kindness, honesty, trustworthiness and patience should be required character traits. Teaching, listening and first aid should be required skills. People with criminal records or incidents of domestic violence or child abuse should be screened out. Leaders should be carefully supervised to make sure that they have the right temperament and skills to work with children of any age and ability.

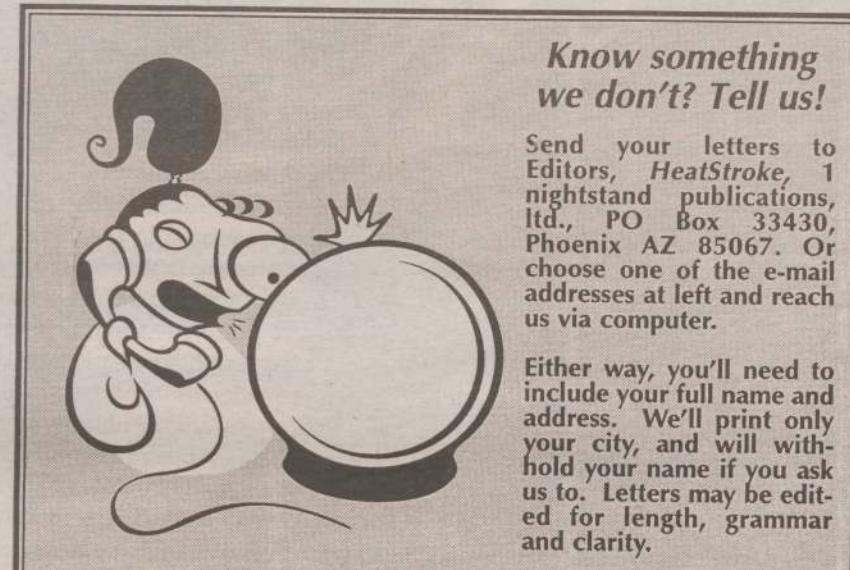
Instead, we get a system where gay scout leaders are dismissed solely because of their sexual orientation with no consideration of their skills. It's the same story in the military. It's the same throughout the country—because we have no federal law protecting gays and lesbians from job discrimination.

As long as there are bigots in the world, there will be discrimination, and changing laws and policies will not solve the problem. Anti-discrimination laws really only give us the chance to do something about discrimination after the fact. In and of themselves, laws don't change attitudes. But boys like Steven Cozza can change attitudes.

I resent that BSA is spending a veritable fortune to keep qualified scout leaders out instead of spending the money to select the best people based on skills, education and experience. I resent that BSA is the beneficiary of widespread charitable support because they have a program purporting to teach young men good values.

I hope that fair minded citizens will stop giving to BSA, and I hope that those interested in the welfare of BSA and of scouting will manage to create an environment where all boys can thrive in scouting—even the gay boys.

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



Know something we don't? Tell us!

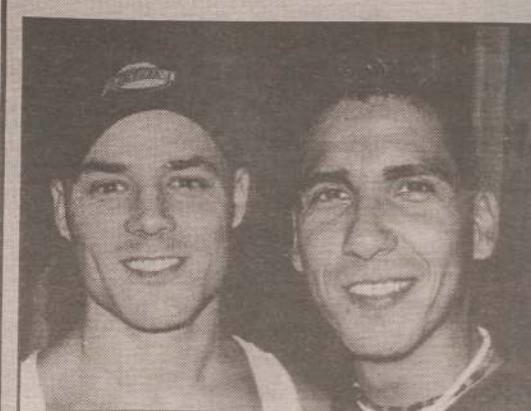
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On page 1: Comics Scott Silverman and Sabrina Matthews will perform at The Center's A Night of Comedy Aug. 28.

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Straight talk from McCain in AZ Republic irks gay readers

GOP candidate "doesn't get it" on same-sex marriage, military policy issues

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

A frank interview with Arizona Sen. John McCain in the state's largest daily newspaper has prompted one gay political activist to label the GOP presidential candidate's reasoning on equality issues, "bad, bad, bad."

"I'm just aghast at his comments," said Bill MacDonald, co-Chair of the Arizona Human Rights Fund, a statewide political advocacy organization. "He's trying to open the tent and not be exclusionary, but when you get down to it, he holds the same beliefs he held years ago when I met with him—that gays and lesbians are not equal and not entitled to the same treatment legally as the nongay population."

The McCain feature appeared in the *Arizona Republic's* Sunday "Arts & Ideas" section on Aug. 1. It was written by Scott Holleran, a freelance writer from Southern California, according to the paper's byline.

Under the provocative headline, *Straight Talk From John McCain*, the piece covered a broad range of issues, from the senator's thoughts on Jane Fonda's anti-war protests ("she was used by the North Vietnamese") to his ongoing battle for campaign finance reform.

Asked about the late Sen. Barry Goldwater's credibility in today's Republican Party—given Goldwater's progressive ideas on abortion and allowing gays to serve in the military—McCain said, "What gets unhealthy is when we get exclusionary."

The reporter was then prompted to ask the senator if it isn't exclusionary to oppose permitting gays to serve in the military and a legal recognition of same-sex unions.

McCain responded by saying he supports the current "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which does not exclude gays from the military but requires that they conceal their sexuality.

"That policy has worked with rare exceptions," McCain was quoted, "...all evidence indicates that this policy has been successful."

"Anybody who would suggest that a policy that forces people to lie is working—that's just outrageous," said MacDonald, adding, "The policy is not working. They discharge more

people now than they did before they implemented the policy."

MacDonald said that what McCain doesn't understand is that the sexual orientation of the military personnel he's talking about is innate. "It would be like banning left-handed people, and saying you're only allowed to serve in the military if you are right-handed."

MacDonald explained, "They look at it as a sexual issue and not as part of our nature." If the military were coming down against sexual activity between same-sex soldiers, then that would be fine, MacDonald said, because opposite-sex adultery is also

"His whole take on same-sex marriage is just disgusting. . . If someone is giving [McCain] guidance on being more open and inclusionary, they have a lot of work yet to do."

Bill MacDonald, AHRF

forbidden. "But the fact that you have to hide your sexuality is outrageous. It will go to the courts, and it will be overturned again. But clearly [McCain] is coming down against us."

As for same-sex marriage, McCain told the *Republic* reporter, "I do not believe that same-sex marriages should be placed on the same level as heterosexual marriages for a whole variety of reasons, but if people want to have same-sex marriages, as people in San Francisco practice frequently, that's fine."

In response, Rev. Darlene Garner of the United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a gay-inclusive Protestant denomination headquartered in L.A., said, "Our best guesstimate is that more than 1500 holy unions (same-sex weddings) are performed in this country every year and have been since 1969."

The practice of same-sex couples holding a wedding ceremony without legal recognition is quite common and extends to every state in the union, Garner said. It is definitely not limited to San Francisco, as suggested by the GOP candidate.

McCain further stated, "A marriage should be between a man and a woman rearing a family. If same-sex marriages should have the same level, then what about three people? Four people? twenty people? ...I want to know what this leads us into." The senator added that he had "already heard the advocacy of three people (getting married)."

"His whole take on same-sex marriage is just disgusting," MacDonald said. MacDonald said he agreed with McCain's assessment that the average heterosexual person still views marriage as a religious act, and that many heterosexuals still have a hard time

with the idea of a same-sex marriage.

"For him to express that he doesn't approve of it, that's his opinion and he has a right to that. But then to couple that with this idea of 'three or four or twenty people' is just outrageous."

MacDonald added, "If someone is giving him guidance on being more open and inclusionary, they have a lot of work yet to do. To emphasize that kind of a connection in order to make his point is just bad, bad, bad and proves that he just doesn't get it."

Prior to the *Republic* article, it was looked as though McCain might indeed be getting it regarding some basic equality issues. Phoenix activist and *HeatStroke* columnist David Horowitz has met with McCain in his Washington office to discuss the issue of employment non-discrimination and has reported the senator's response to be favorable—though McCain has voted against ENDA in past sessions.

And, in a crowded field of Republican candidates that includes arch conservatives Gary Bauer and Pat Buchanan, McCain has thus far been painted as a social moderate.

Only a few days before the *Republic* piece appeared, liberal lesbian columnist Deb Price wrote in the *Detroit News* that McCain, George W. Bush and Elizabeth Dole "have publicly vowed not to discriminate in their hiring and have signaled that they would welcome gay support."

Price's July 26 op/ed piece further reported that McCain has "successfully sought the presidential endorsement of all three of his state's openly gay Republican officeholders. Jim Kolbe, the GOP's only openly gay Republican congressman, serves on his national steering committee."

Also from Price's column: "Gay Arizona state Rep. Steve May, a McCain backer, says, 'McCain on a personal level is very supportive but hasn't yet translated that into his votes.'"

May told *HeatStroke* when asked

about the *Republic* interview that he fully supports McCain's presidential bid. May praised the Arizona Republican as "an independent thinker" and added that the senator is one of few—if not the only—GOP presidential candidate "willing to do the right thing" as far as gay equality issues.

"The challenge for the gay community is to convince him that the right thing to do is to support equality legally," May said. "He's shown a willingness to be educated. He's also shown a lot of growth in 20 years. But clearly we still have a lot of educating to do."

With regard to McCain's published remarks about same-sex marriage, May admitted he was surprised by the senator's rhetoric, but said, "He doesn't understand the complexity of the problem—like many Americans."

May also said that part of the challenge in educating McCain through the 2000 campaign would fall to him and to Jim Kolbe as gay acquaintances who are in same-sex relationships. May said he planned to inform McCain of his own situation with the military and insisted that McCain is "possibly the one candidate who can change 'don't ask, don't tell'." May added, "I know he truly is not prejudiced on a personal level."

In fact, McCain wrapped his remarks on same-sex marriage in the *Republic* article on a personal level—by bringing up his longtime friendship with Kolbe. He called the Tucson congressman, "one of my best friends. ...He was ousted by an organization, and I was asked about him at that time, and I said he was a dear friend, a great congressman, and I would do everything to support his re-election."

"Well, I'm glad Mr. McCain has one friend who is gay," said Rev. Garner. "Maybe that friend will

"The challenge for the gay community is to convince him that the right thing to do is to support equality legally. He's shown a willingness to be educated. He's also shown a lot of growth in the last 20 years."

Rep. Steve May

encourage him to expand his circle of gay friends and he will get to know and respect more gay people personally. And slowly his mind will be changed."

Rev. Garner added that the existence of committed, same-sex relationships is "as old as scripture. ...one day the laws will recognize the depth of our commitment to be equal."

"The tokenism of him mentioning his friendship with Jim Kolbe at the end was very interesting," MacDonald said. "I wonder. If Jim decided to marry his male partner, would McCain be his best man?"

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Gay Arizona soldier—and lawmaker—puts defense to test

By Deb Price, the Detroit News

Even before he tore open the certified letter from the U.S. Army last February, Arizona state Rep. Steve May knew in his gut that he was being ordered back into uniform because of the Kosovo crisis.

But what would have been a fairly routine order for the average soldier called up from inactive reserves was anything but routine for May: It would be difficult to be much more openly gay than the conservative Republican, whom Phoenix voters elected in November knowing he's gay. Just days before receiving the Army call-up, the freshman lawmaker had made headlines all over his state by standing up to the Republican sponsors of an anti-gay bill.

"It was surreal—here I am, openly gay on the front page of the paper, and a week or so later I get orders to go back into the active reserves! I didn't know what to do. (My partner) Paul was furious that I would go back to that 'bigoted organization that doesn't want you'; I was just confused. Well, I decided the honorable thing for a soldier to do is to follow orders. So I did," he recalls.

In an exclusive interview, Lt. May disclosed to me that the Army has launched an investigation of him — a

prelude to booting him out simply for making no secret of being gay. May's company commander, Steve Sherbondy, declined to comment.

While the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy applied to May even on inactive status, it wasn't until he was called back into active reserves that publicity about his work as a gay legislator apparently put him into the military's sights. Ironically, the highly decorated May, who is serving one weekend a month as second-in-command of a 200-person transportation unit, remains up for promotion to captain.

Of all the cases of patriotic, educated, well-trained gay men and lesbians faced with being drummed out of the armed services, none underscores the absurdity of the military's gay ban more than May's. By electing the openly gay May, Arizona voters elevated him to one of the most respected leadership roles in our democracy. Yet he is on the brink of being ousted from the military under a mindless policy that brands anyone who acknowledges being gay as unfit to serve our country.

Last year, the Pentagon kicked out 1,149 gay Americans, many of them specialists with much-needed skills. That's a stunning 86 percent jump since the anti-gay policy became law five years ago. The Servicemembers

Legal Defense Network, a gay watchdog group, estimates that it costs taxpayers \$29 million a year just to find and train replacements at the boot camp level.

Meanwhile, military personnel shortages are so severe that recruiters are combing shopping malls for high school dropouts who might be sweet-talked into enlisting.

No one had to talk clean-cut Steve

"It was surreal—here I am, openly gay on the front page of the paper, and a week or so later I get orders to go back into the active reserves! I didn't know what to do. (My partner) Paul was furious that I would go back to that 'bigoted organization that doesn't want you'; I was just confused. Well, I decided the honorable thing for a soldier to do is to follow orders. So I did."

Rep. Steve May

May, a Mormon and an Eagle Scout, into signing up for college ROTC. He was inspired by the heroism of Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, a Navy flier who spent five years in a prisoner-of-war camp after being shot down over Vietnam. May, now a prominent member of the gay Log Cabin Republicans and an avid booster of McCain's presidential campaign, spent two years on active duty

as a nuclear, chemical and biological weapons defense officer. Before completing active duty in 1995, he didn't hide his sexual orientation from his peers but didn't tell superiors.

"I didn't serve in the military to exercise a right," says the 27-year-old May. "I did it to fulfill my obligation as a citizen."

The Army is on the verge of sullying May's sterling service record.

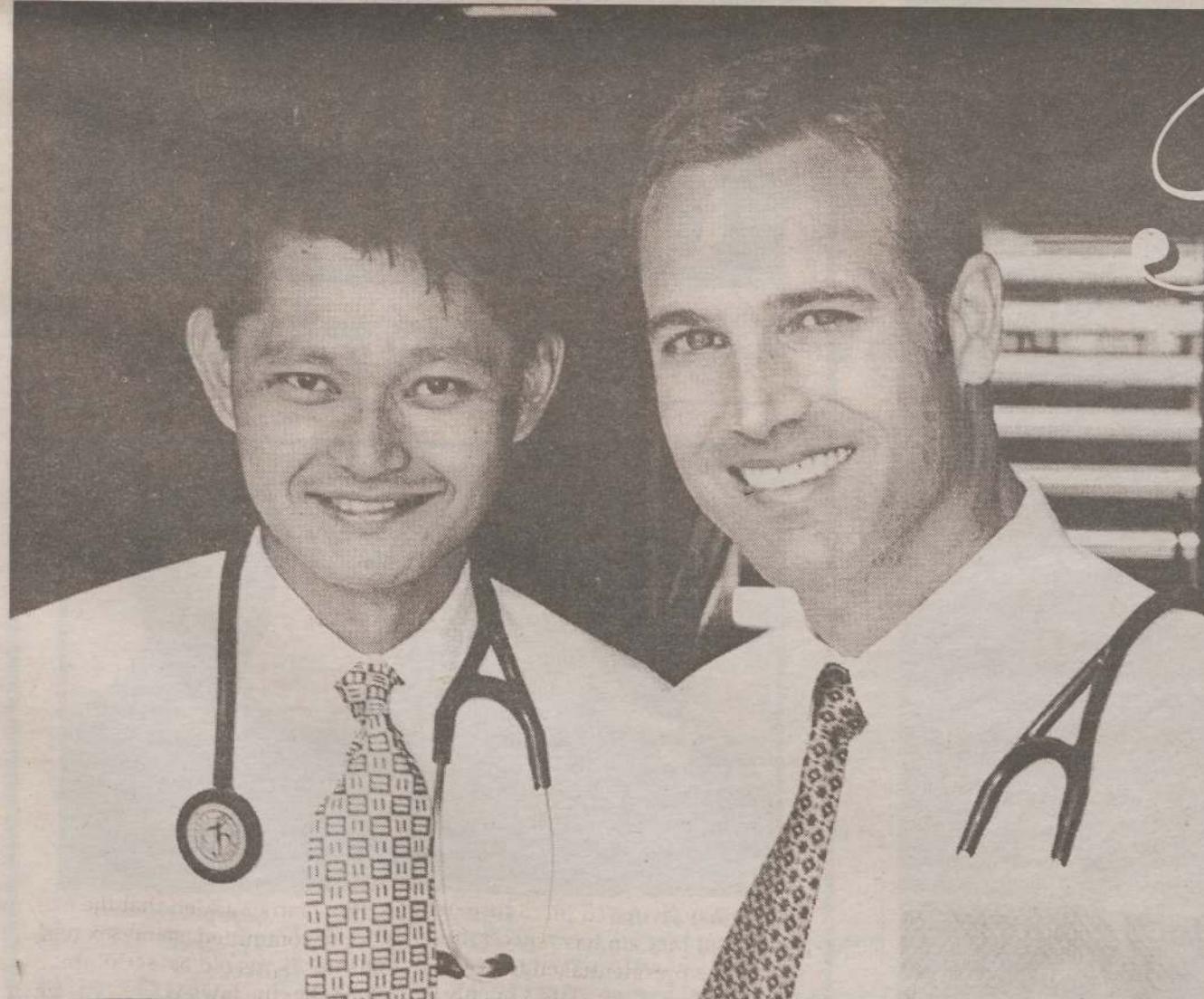
"Now that we are at peace, they'll toss me out," he says with anger and frustration.

May hopes his personal battle will spotlight the ludicrousness of the military's gay ban. "I want people to know that I am and always will be ready to serve. I want people to know that this policy hurts readiness. It puts our nation at risk by limiting the pool of otherwise qualified soldiers."

"There is too much at stake to allow our personal prejudices to endanger our national defense."

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

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AHRF lists recommendations in Phoenix city races

The Arizona Human Rights Fund has released its endorsement report and voter guide for the City of Phoenix Municipal Election to be held Tuesday, Sept. 7, 1999.

The following report on the candidates for Mayor and City Council seats that are up for election this year (council seats are elected to staggered terms. Of the seven Phoenix districts, only the odd-numbered districts are being voted on this year) is the result of a Candidate Questionnaire that was sent to all declared candidates and was reviewed by the Community Action Network of AHRF.

Any questions or comments regarding these endorsements should be directed to Carla Darby or Kirk Baxter at the AHRF office, 602/650-0900.

For the office of Mayor: AHRF is not making a recommendation in this race. The certified candidates did not return their questionnaires, nor did they otherwise contact the AHRF office. The incumbent did not respond.

Council District #1: Dave Siebert. AHRF encourages AHRF members and friends to vote for Mr. Siebert. His questionnaire answers were supportive and his stated positions on municipal issues critical to AHRF and its members has been good. His opponent did not respond.

Council District #3: AHRF is not making a recommendation in this race. The incumbent, Peggy Bilsten, did not return her questionnaire and her record of support on issues important to AHRF has not been made clear. Her opponent, Barry MacMurray, sent a letter to AHRF outlining his position on AHRF issues instead of completing the questionnaire. His

letter showed a general predisposition to support the notion of non-discrimination but did not make a clear declaration of support for enforcement of particular ordinances.

Council District #5: Felipe Zobia. AHRF strongly recommends that AHRF members and friends in this district vote for Mr. Zobia. His responses showed strong support for AHRF's positions on key municipal policy issues.

Council District #7: While either Doug Linger or Rosie Lopez would be very supportive of AHRF's positions on key municipal issues, the organization recommends Doug Linger because of his past support for issues that have come before the City Council during his term in office.

Propositions #101-#108: None of these propositions has any serious opposition nor do they directly affect AHRF's specific public policy and municipal governance issues at the City of Phoenix. However, they do represent wise public policy and are good public management measures. Therefore, AHRF recommends YES votes on each proposition.

All Phoenix voters should have received the green paperback "Sample Ballot & Publicity Pamphlet" in the mail for the Office of the City Clerk of Phoenix. The pamphlet contains information about your polling place and early voting options. If you did not receive a pamphlet, call the City Clerks' Elections Information Line at 602/262-6837.

If you are motivated to contribute money or time to a candidate, call the AHRF office at 602/650-0900 for the necessary information.

Witness: Soldier admitted to beating victim with baseball bat

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)

A soldier who guarded a fellow Army private after he was accused of bludgeoning a third soldier to death testified the private admitted repeatedly beating the victim's head with a baseball bat.

The testimony came Aug. 9 during a military hearing to determine whether there was enough evidence to send the case against Pfc. Calvin N. Glover to a general court-martial. The hearing was continued until Aug. 10.

Glover, 18, of Sulphur, Okla., was charged with pre-meditated murder in the killing of Pfc. Barry L. Winchell, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., in the hallway of Winchell's barracks at Fort Campbell last month.

Several soldiers have said they believed the killing was an anti-gay hate crime. Winchell was perceived as a homosexual by some soldiers in his unit, and friends said he was exploring his sexuality. The Army will not comment on his sexuality.

NBC reported Monday night that Winchell's mother and stepfather said if Winchell was gay, they weren't aware of it.

"The fact is, he was murdered, and he was on an Army base, where we thought he was safe," Pat Kuttle, his mother, told NBC.

Another soldier, Spec. Justin R. Fisher, 25, of Lincoln, Neb., was charged as an accomplice. A similar investigative hearing was scheduled for him at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Winchell, Glover and Fisher all served in the 502nd Infantry Regiment's 2nd Battalion at the post.

Chief Warrant Officer Alfred Brown testified that Winchell suffered massive head injuries when he was beaten with a blunt object after a party outside the barracks on July 5.

Brown said the left side of Winchell's skull had been shattered "like an egg shell." Winchell died at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., one day after the attack.

Pfc. Ryan Futch, who served in the unit with the three soldiers, guarded Glover after he was taken into custody. Futch testified that during that time, Glover told him he had hit Winchell several times with the bat.

Futch also said he overheard Glover make disparaging remarks about blacks and homosexuals to another prisoner.

Pfc. Gregory Clyde, a resident of the barracks where Winchell lived, recalled being awakened early on July 5 and told that Winchell had been badly hurt one floor above him.

"That's when I heard Fisher upstairs, yelling, 'Winchell, snap out of it,'" Clyde said.

Pfc. Arthur Hoffman, a member of Winchell's company and a good friend of the victim, described Glover as someone with an apparent drinking problem who often tried to pick fights with other soldiers when drunk.

Hoffman testified that Winchell, tired of hearing a drunken Glover "trying to make himself look like a badass" during a party on post late on July 3, had gotten the better of Glover during a fight. Winchell was beaten the following night.

Brown testified that blood-stained gloves and blue jeans that apparently belonged to Glover were discovered in a post trash bin. Tests were being conducted to determine whose blood was on the clothes.

The only visitors allowed to attend the hearing were relatives of the victim and the defendant. Members of the news media and some representatives of gay rights groups watched the hearing on closed-circuit television in a nearby building.

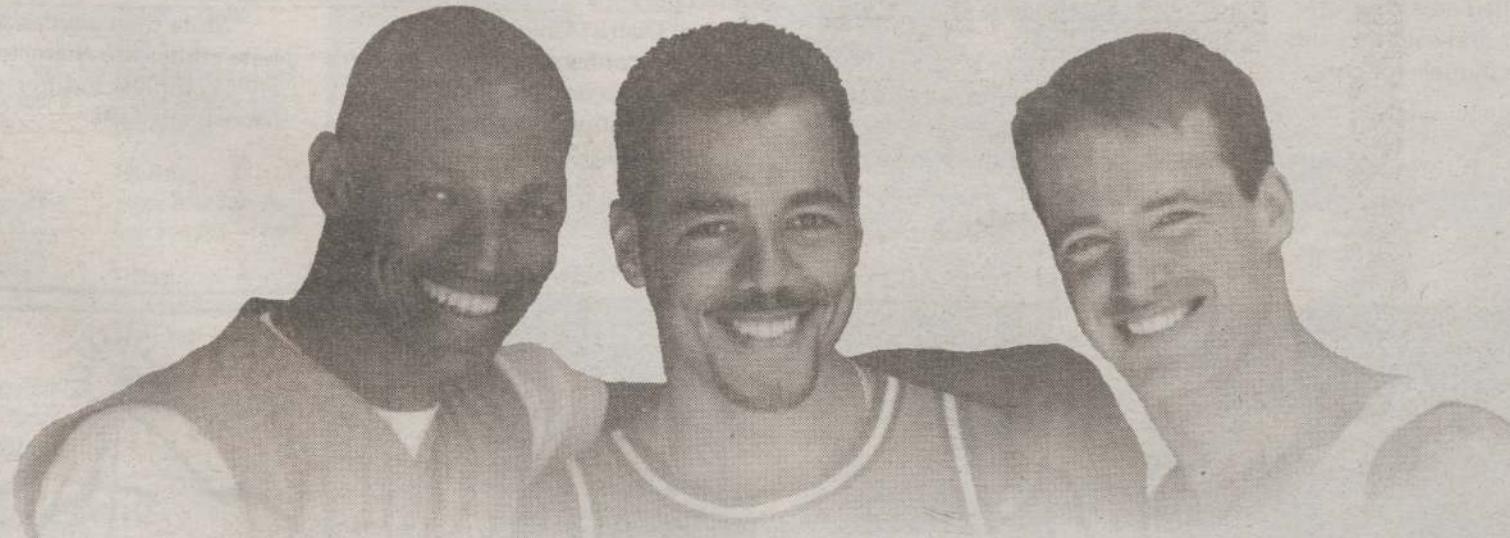
Bill Turner, co-chairman of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice, a Nashville-based group, said he attended the hearing because he was worried about the impact of this crime on the group's membership in Tennessee.

"We're concerned that if there are soldiers who have murderous impulses directed toward lesbian, gay, transgendered and bisexual individuals, then that's going to have an impact on those persons who live between here and Nashville," he said.

The city is about 50 miles southeast of Fort Campbell. The post, home to the 101st Airborne Division, straddles the Kentucky-Tennessee line.

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500,000 Attend Montreal Pride

Montreal's Aug. 1 gay-pride parade attracted half a million spectators, making it one of the world's largest pride events.

Ninety-five groups and 30 floats took part in the procession.

Mayor Pierre Bourque rode in the back of a white convertible and declined a request from the *Montreal Gazette* to give his opinion on legalization of gay marriage.

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

Denmark supports Swedish gay battle

The government of Denmark announced last week it will support Swede Sven Englund's European Court of Justice case against his employer, the European Council of Ministers, which refuses to give Englund's husband spousal benefits.

Englund and his partner are married under Sweden's gay partnership law, which grants all rights of matrimony except in the areas of adoption, artificial insemination and church weddings.

Thai male students wear pants

The Rajabhat Institute, Thailand's national system of 36 teacher-training colleges, announced July 30 that male students will no longer be permitted to dress as women.

The Education Ministry instituted the ban following news reports that half of the 50 male transvestite students at the institute's Suan Dusit campus were attending classes wearing skirts.

Education Minister Somsak Prisananatakul called crossdressers "sexually deviant" and said they are inappropriate role models for children.

British military welcomes transsexuals

People who undergo sex-change operations will be allowed to remain in the British military, the *Daily Telegraph* reported Aug. 2, citing confidential new Defense Ministry guidelines.

The British military bans homosexuals.

The policy change followed publicity in the case of Sgt. Major Joe/Joanne Rushton, 38, who has begun "gender realignment."

A former boxer who served in Ulster and Bosnia, Rushton joined the army at age 19, has been married four times and has a son.

German extremists attack gay party

A gay party in Zittau, Germany, was broken up by 30 rightwing extremists who harassed attendees and robbed the cashier, activists reported online last week. Zittau is in Saxonia in the former East Germany.

Fearing trouble, the party's organizers had requested police protection but the police refused and a private security service was hired. When the extremists attacked, however, the rent-a-cops fled, according to the report.

The party was financed by the European Union to further cultural cooperation between Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany, organizers said.

Sri Lankan lesbians plan conference

About 150 people are expected to attend Sri Lanka's first national lesbian convention in December.

The event is being planned by a group of women in Colombo who have been meeting at the offices of the gay-male group Companions on a Journey.

"Lesbians are generally accepted by society if they are financially independent and come from upper-middle-class backgrounds," one of the organizers, Tami, told Agence France-Presse. "It is when they are less independent that they suffer all sorts of problems from their homes and at work. It is such people we want to help. Maybe help them to get better jobs and also feel that they are not alone."

N.Z. Prime Minister supports gay partnerships

New Zealand Prime Minister Jenny Shipley said Aug. 4 that she

expects the nation to legally recognize same-sex partnerships within two years, including granting the right to adopt children.

Speaking to students at Hutt Valley High School, Shipley said: "This country has to face up both in law and reality to [same-sex] relationships. We have to talk about this and manage and accept it in law. ... This should not be a political issue."

However, Shipley does not support opening up marriage itself to gay couples, she said.

Manchester wants gays

Manchester, England, has launched an ambitious campaign to attract gay American visitors.

With funding from the European Union and local bars, hotels and nightclubs, Marketing Manchester will run advertisements across the U.S. promoting the city as "an international centre for gay culture and lifestyle," the *Manchester Evening News* said.

"We have to look at Manchester's strengths," said campaign spokesperson Andrew Stokes. "It does have a thriving gay community. We've got the gay village, the fantastic Mardi Gras event and the Queer Up North festival. We have a really marketable gay product and it's good business sense. It's a valuable niche market and we are building on what we have."

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Tony Burns, added: "Any asset of the city of Manchester has to be exploited for the benefit of all its citizens. This is sensible business."

According to research conducted by the British Tourism Authority, the U.S. has 18 million gays and lesbians with a typical income 70 percent above the national average.

Belarus cops confiscate rainbow flag

Police in Minsk, Belarus, confiscated a rainbow flag from a July 23 display of AIDS quilts after the chair of the Russian NAMES Foundation, which arranged the display, charged that "exposing the gay flag discredits heterosexuals" with AIDS.

The flag was brought to the exhibit by the gay group Belarus Lambda League. When they ignored Mikhail Nedelski's demands to remove it, he called the cops and Minsk Police Central District Chief Alexander Vyl came and confiscated it.

Police also ordered Lambda to stop distributing their magazine, *Forum Lambda*, during the event.

Gays organize in Murmansk, Russia

Russia's first gay organization, The Circle, announced last week that it was officially registered by the regional Justice Department.

The group aims to protect the rights of gay people, help them adapt to life in a homophobic society, fight discrimination based on sexual orientation, educate the public on gay issues, and provide support to people with HIV.

Members hope to create a consulting center, phone hotline, magazine, and book and video libraries.

For more information, e-mail krug@circle.murmansk.ru or write Murmansk Regional Public Organization The Circle, P.O. Box 7033, Murmansk 183018, Russia.

Murmansk is located north of the Arctic Circle near the northern tip of Finland.

Gays organize in Mexico

A gay-pride group organized in Guadalajara, Mexico, July 23.

Fifty-four men attended a meeting to set up the Tapatio Gay Pride Committee. They hope to stage pride events and a parade in the nation's second-largest city.

Meanwhile, the city of Veracruz on Mexico's southeast Caribbean coast saw its first gay-pride march July 18. Thirty-five people marched without incident.

Anti-gay hate crimes up in Mexico

At least 164 homosexuals were murdered in Mexico because of their sexual orientation between 1995 and 1998, the Citizens' Commission Against Homophobic Hate Crimes reported July 28.

The actual number of killings may be three times higher than what has been documented, said Carlos Monsivais, co-author of a report that was delivered to the Mexico City Human Rights Commission.

In three of the 1998 murders the victims were castrated, the report said.

Anti-gay crimes are rarely solved because of societal homophobia, Monsivais said. He also blamed the Catholic Church and right-wing organizations for fomenting anti-gay hatred.

"More than anything else, these hate crimes are characterized by society's complete indifference," Monsivais said.

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Health conscious? Taking vitamins, herbs, or protein supplements? Want better products for lower cost?

If so, and whether you are HIV-negative or positive, there are two local sources for your supplements that aren't that well known among health-conscious gay and lesbian consumers. These two places are the buyers' clubs at AIDS Project Arizona and Phoenix Body Positive.

The term "buyer's club" has changed during the past 15 years. Originally started by AIDS activists to provide imported and alternative medical treatments for the once-hopeless condition termed AIDS, clubs located in many cities across the United States now carry mainstream vitamins, minerals, herbs, protein supplements, weight-gain products and other health products at prices everyone can afford.

These membership clubs are commonly staffed by volunteers and are located inside AIDS service organizations, so overhead is low. Mark-ups are usually only 10 to 20 percent above wholesale cost, so the consumer pays far, far less than in any

retail health food shop, where products are usually keystoned to determine the retail price, which is 200% of the wholesale cost.

Phil Seeger, Coordinator of the Phoenix Body Positive Vitamin and Herb Shoppe said that "...several suppliers have given us discounts below the normal wholesale cost, and we pass these savings on to the consumer. Our non-profit status gives us advantages in purchasing products that the normal for-profit retail shop does not have."

The net result is that some products have retail prices less than half of what one might find in any outside health food store or in any grocery's supplements section.

Another advantage of purchasing health supplements at either of these organizations is that the buyers' club managers are trained to educate about each product that is carried and to point out how only the highest quality products are stocked on the shelves.

A few important pluses, according to Bev Brinkman, club coordinator at

APAZ, are these:

1- All products are of the highest purity and are standardized to ensure quality content, from capsule to capsule and bottle to bottle.

2- Hypoallergenic products are available for persons with sensitive stomachs or with allergies.

3- Vitamins are available in high potency with broad ingredients, especially anti oxidants.

4- Some products that cost prohibitive amounts in capsule form are carried in powdered form, which often reduces the cost by more than half.

5- Staff members will compare your present products to what the buyers' club carries to show how you can obtain more value for your dollars.

6- One will often find free samples of new products.

7- Products are guaranteed and

Any reader is encouraged to stop in and visit either buyers' club. The staffs at both PBP and APAZ have a personal interest in the health and welfare of their customers and have spent countless hours researching their products.

can be exchanged if unacceptable for whatever reason.

8- Free educational handouts are available with every product.

9- No sales taxes are added to the purchase price.

Any reader is encouraged to stop

in and visit either club. The staffs at both PBP and APAZ have a personal interest in the health and welfare of their customers and have spent countless hours researching their products and searching constantly for better and more efficacious products for both clients and consumers.

In addition, some products that are carried at both clubs are not available in retail health food stores—they are available only to medical professionals, and both PBP and APAZ have physicians and naturopaths on their staffs that allow them to order sophisticated products, particularly those that resolve problems of the gastrointestinal system.

It is increasingly common for HIV-negative men and women to use the services of these two agencies, and the stigma of being assumed positive by association is no longer attached to everyone that walks in the doors.

Finally, both buyers' clubs have financial assistance programs for HIV+ persons that have limited incomes. Details of these programs may be obtained from the store coordinators.

Don't be shy. Stop in, shop, and save today.



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Bev Brinkman, Coordinator
602/253-2437
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and 9-12 on Saturday

Vitamin and Herb Shoppe
Phoenix Body Positive
4021 N. 30th Street (Phoenix Early Intervention Center)
Phil Seeger, Coordinator
602/955-4673
Hours: 8-5 Monday through Friday

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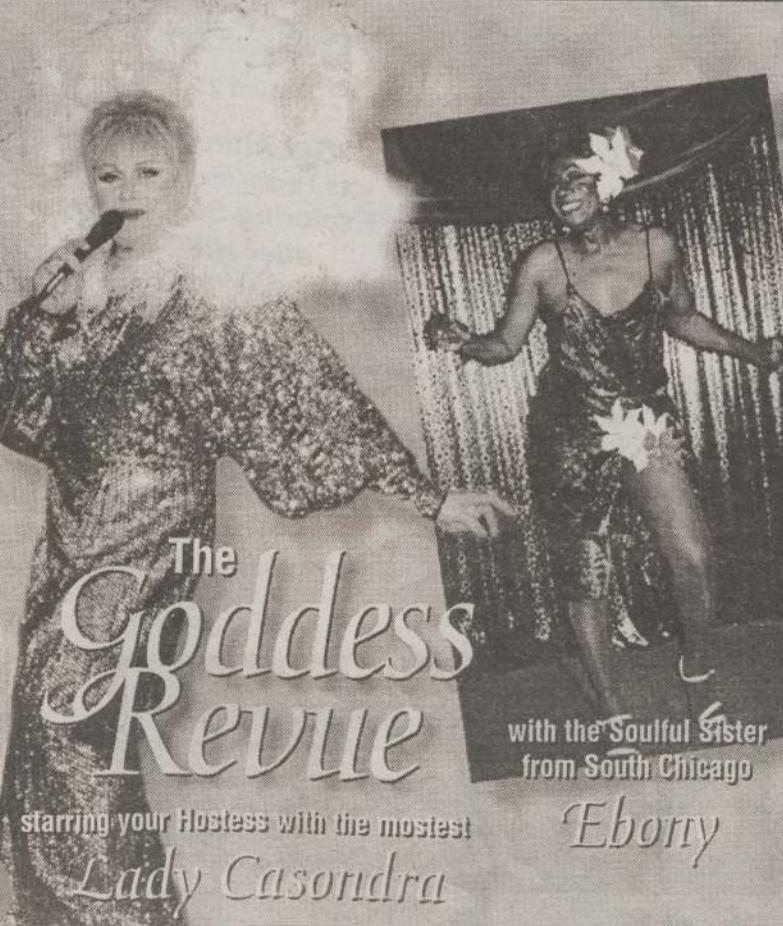
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National Drummer Contest picks up a Southwest beat

First competition in years bringing local leather community together

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"You realize I'm the kind of person who normally likes to stay in the background," Phoenix merchant Bob LeJardine said of his involvement in the upcoming 1999 Southwest Mr. Drummer & Drummer Boy competition.

LeJardine, owner of Tuff Stuff Leatherware, appraised the leather situation in Phoenix a few months ago and decided that he would no longer be able to stay in the background—not if he and other local leathermen wanted to see title contests taking place in the Valley once again.

So he stepped forward to co-sponsor and help advertise the contest, which will take place at Boot Camp, a leather bar in central Phoenix, on Saturday, Aug. 14.

There has not been a leather contest in Phoenix since the Bum Steer, a popular Levi/leather bar located near Camelback and 7th Ave., closed its doors in 1994.

"Since we haven't had a major leather function in the Valley for the last five years, I felt it was time to bring a function here that would carry on the traditions of the leather community we had established in the early '90s," LeJardine said.

He explained that there are two major leather contest systems operating throughout the country.

There is the International Mr. Leather competition (IML), held over Memorial Day weekend each year in Chicago. Competitors at IML come from all over the U.S., Canada and other parts of the world, winning their titles by representing gay bars and other businesses in their various home towns and cities.

Then there is the yearly Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy competition, held in San Francisco in September in conjunction with the famed Folsom Street Fair. Each contestant in the Drummer pageant system must first win a regional title at a pre-

liminary contest in one of 13 designated regions across the U.S. and Canada.

The regional contest for the Southwest (including Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona) is what LeJardine and bar owner Lynn Gerber will be presenting this month at Boot Camp. The winners in each category (Mr. Drummer and Drummer

resenting the bar in the Southwest regional competition. He said he got involved because he, "saw a need for leadership in the leather community."

Fierros, who tends bar at Harley's 2, another gay Valley night spot, has been a leather enthusiast for seven years. "I thought it would be fun, and a way to meet a lot of nice people," he said of his foray into title competition.

LeJardine is happy about the level of cooperation and participation the community has shown thus far. "We are very fortunate to have the cooperation and support of both the Leatherlords and Padlock," he said. Leatherlords is a social organization for Valley men interested in leather and the leather lifestyle. LeJardine has belonged to the group for many years.

Bringing together gay people interested in leather and S/M is the main reason LeJardine got behind the contest. "There are a lot of new leathermen and new residents who have never seen a leather event in Phoenix, so I felt it was time to do something like this again," he stated.

Spectators are encouraged to attend all the events. In addition to the Friday night



party at Padlock and the Saturday night contest, there will be a post-contest party at Boot Camp on Sunday, Aug. 15 at 1 pm.

"It's a somewhat educational process," leather aficionado Jeff Husing said of the competition. Husing fashions custom leather clothing and accessories at Tuff Stuff. "[Spectators] will get to know people, they'll get involved a little more, and have fun," he added. Husing also said the contest will be "a positive reinforcement of the leather community and consensual S/M."

LeJardine hopes the community will show enough support for the event that he will be able to return to his spot in the background and let someone else continue the contest tradition in coming years. The shy retailer said he only became a contest promoter because someone had to get the ball rolling.

He said that planning the event has been a lot of work, but that he hopes this will not be a one-time only competition, adding, "Whether we continue next year depends on how well this contest is received."



AGRA giving \$6,000 to local groups

Regional Rodeo in Phoenix in January and has donated a portion of the profits to charity for the past 13 years.

The next rodeo is scheduled for Jan. 15-16, 2000 at the Corona Ranch and Rodeo Grounds in South Phoenix, on the corner of Baseline Road and 29th Avenue. The event attracts approximately 125 competitors and thousands of spectators from all over the U.S., Canada and the UK.

The Sept. 12 meeting at which checks will be presented to this year's recipients will begin at 5 pm at Charlie's, 727 West Camelback in Phoenix.

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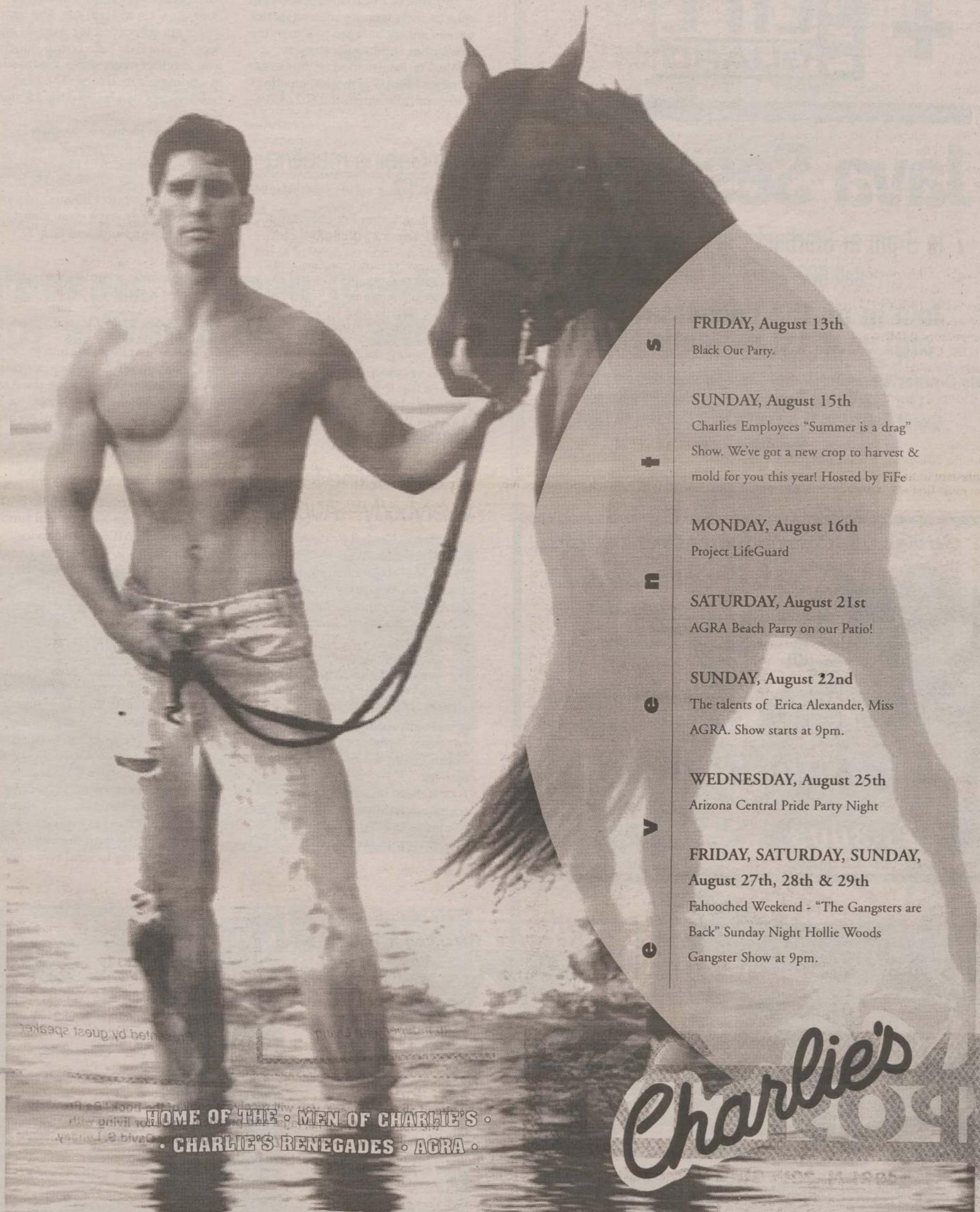
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Goings On

PFLAG to share stories Aug. 16

The Phoenix chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will feature members' "Success Stories" at the group's August meeting. The meeting is set to start at 7 pm Aug. 16 at the Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church, 3535 E. Lincoln Dr. in Paradise Valley.

A panel of PFLAG regulars will discuss their favorite success stories. Others are encouraged to join in the discussion and bring a story to relate. For information on this event or other PFLAG activities, meetings and support groups, call 602/843-1404.

Log Cabins meeting Aug. 17

The Log Cabin Republicans of Central Arizona will hold their monthly meeting on Aug. 17 at the old Spaghetti Factory on Central Avenue, just south of McDowell. Dinner is \$15 per person and U.S. Rep. John Shadegg is the tentatively scheduled speaker.

On Friday, Aug. 20, the Log Cabins are planning a social adventure—a trip to see the Phoenix Mercury play the Utah Starzz at America West Arena. Call Travis at 602/402-9235 to sign on.

Pride meeting for everybody—Aug. 22

Arizona Central Pride will hold its Annual Meeting and election of Board of Directors on Sunday, August 22, 1999, at noon at the Quality Hotel and Resort, 2nd Avenue and Osborn Road in Phoenix.

All interested community members are asked to attend and become involved with the planning for the 2000 Pride event. This will give the community a time to present any suggestions and/or offer assistance in producing the annual parade and festival.

For more information or board member qualifications, contact Garry Mangum at 279-1771, or e-mail "tish@azpride.org".

GPGLCC August events

The Greater Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is the Valley's networking and social organization for gay and gay-friendly business professionals. The active organization has several activities planned in coming weeks.

The regular Phoenix Lunch Bunch still meets every other Tuesday at Pookie's Cafe at 11:30 am. The next meets are scheduled for Aug. 24 and Sept. 7. The East Side Lunch Bunch gets together every other Wednesday at Chompie's in Tempe. The next two lunches will be on Aug. 18 and Sept. 1.

The next members' NetMix is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at Home Again Furnishings and Antiques, 15440 N. 7th Street in North Phoenix. To join the chamber or learn more about GPGLCC programs, call 602/225-8444.

PBP hosting Aug. 29 Bowl-a-Thon

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

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

Lot Sale Sept. 4 to benefit youth

The Community Center's Youth Services programs and the Phoenix Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veteran's of America (PGLBVA) are joining forces to host a fund-raiser to send participants to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference which will be held this year in Oakland, Cal.

Youth Services is aiming to send five participants and the veteran's group is hoping to send two. The



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**News & Events of Interest to the
Metro Phoenix Queer Community**

organizations are asking for community support in donating items to a Lot Sale.

The sale will be held at Charlie's, 727 W. Camelback, on Sept. 4 from 7 am till noon. For more information, call Donna McHenry at 602/264-5437.

Sept. golf tourney coming together

Team Arizona has scheduled a Pride golf tournament for 7 am on Sept. 18 at the San Marcos Resort in the East Valley.

The Phoenix based gay and lesbian community's established athletic group is seeking early commitments from interested golfers for the event, which will offer special prizes and will raise funds to help send local athletes to the Gay Games in Sydney. The tournament cost is \$75.

Other activities for Team AZ include the possible establishment of

a volleyball league set to start in Oct. with a six-week schedule planned, and the formation of a Front Runners group kicking off on Sept. 26.

Call 602/408-4311 to get an entry form for the golf tourney or to learn more about the group's coming events and membership meetings.

Women's dance Sept. 12

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

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

Call the center at 602/234-2752 for information.

Phoenix women looking for a World Series win

A top-rated Phoenix women's softball team is heading east the weekend of Aug. 13-15 to participate in the Gay World Series of Softball, held this year in Kansas City, Mo.

The female squad, sponsored by Nasty's Sports Bar, earned a trip to the annual event by finishing the Cactus Cities Softball League's sea-

son in first place in the Women's Division.

Two local gay men's teams also qualified but were unable to field enough players to attend the out of town tourney. The women on Nasty's team are therefore the only Valley representatives at the national event.



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Tuesday: Darts

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Thursday: Clogging lessons for beginners, 6:15-7:30.
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Country Western Music with DJ Molly

Country Western Music with DJ Molly

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Father McGivern?

Clever comic heeds his true calling

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

There aren't many gay men in the standup comedy business whose upbringings were more stereotypical than John McGivern's.

The Venice, California resident was born and raised in Milwaukee, third eldest of six kids in an Irish Catholic, working-class household.

"My father was a brick-laying welder who had a work ethic that was beyond belief," McGivern told *HeatStroke* by phone from his mom's house in Wisconsin. "His big line in life was that you don't want to die and on your grave have, 'Here Lies a Lazy Man'. I was like, eight years old. I'd think, 'I don't know what that means, but Christ, I guess I'd better go get a job!'"

McGivern's job today is making people laugh, something he's pretty sure Dad would be proud of if he were still alive.

"All my brothers and sisters are married and have kids, and they

"I still have a lot of friends from the seminary who are now priests. And they'll come to see my show and say, 'Ooh, McGivern, you're gonna go to hell!'"

come to see my act whenever they can. My whole family is just incredibly proud," he relates. McGivern's mother is now retired, so she's able to travel frequently to see and hear her son do his out-comic thing when he's on the road.

"I [performed for] the RSVP Alaska cruise and we could bring one guest, so I brought my mom," he explains. "I told her she was a straight woman on a ship with 800 gay men and 51 lesbians. So my mom says, 'Aww, who came alone?' She felt bad for that poor, single lesbian."

McGivern's family had him home for a week in early August. He was there to tickle funny bones at a local comedy club as part of Milwaukee's

annual gay pride celebration.

On August 28, he'll be one of four queer comics making up the bill for The Community Center's *A Night of Comedy*, an annual fund-raiser that will be held at Phoenix's Orpheum Theatre.

The contrast between McGivern's Midwestern roots and his current L.A. lifestyle gives him plenty of material. "There's a sensibility that comes with Midwestern people. I lived in Chicago for a while during college, and in Chicago, if someone doesn't like you they'll say, 'You know what? I don't fuckin' like you.' But in L.A. if someone doesn't like you, they'll say, 'Oh, I think you're faaaabulous!'"

McGivern's stand-up act arose from the work he was already doing as an openly gay actor. He has performed on and off for years in a long-running stage comedy called *Shear Madness*. He's also written three one-man shows based on his life experiences. Heavy touring with those pieces helped develop his comic monologue style.

"The first time I ever got on stage to do standup was in 1994," he recalls. Prior to that, he was a working actor in L.A.

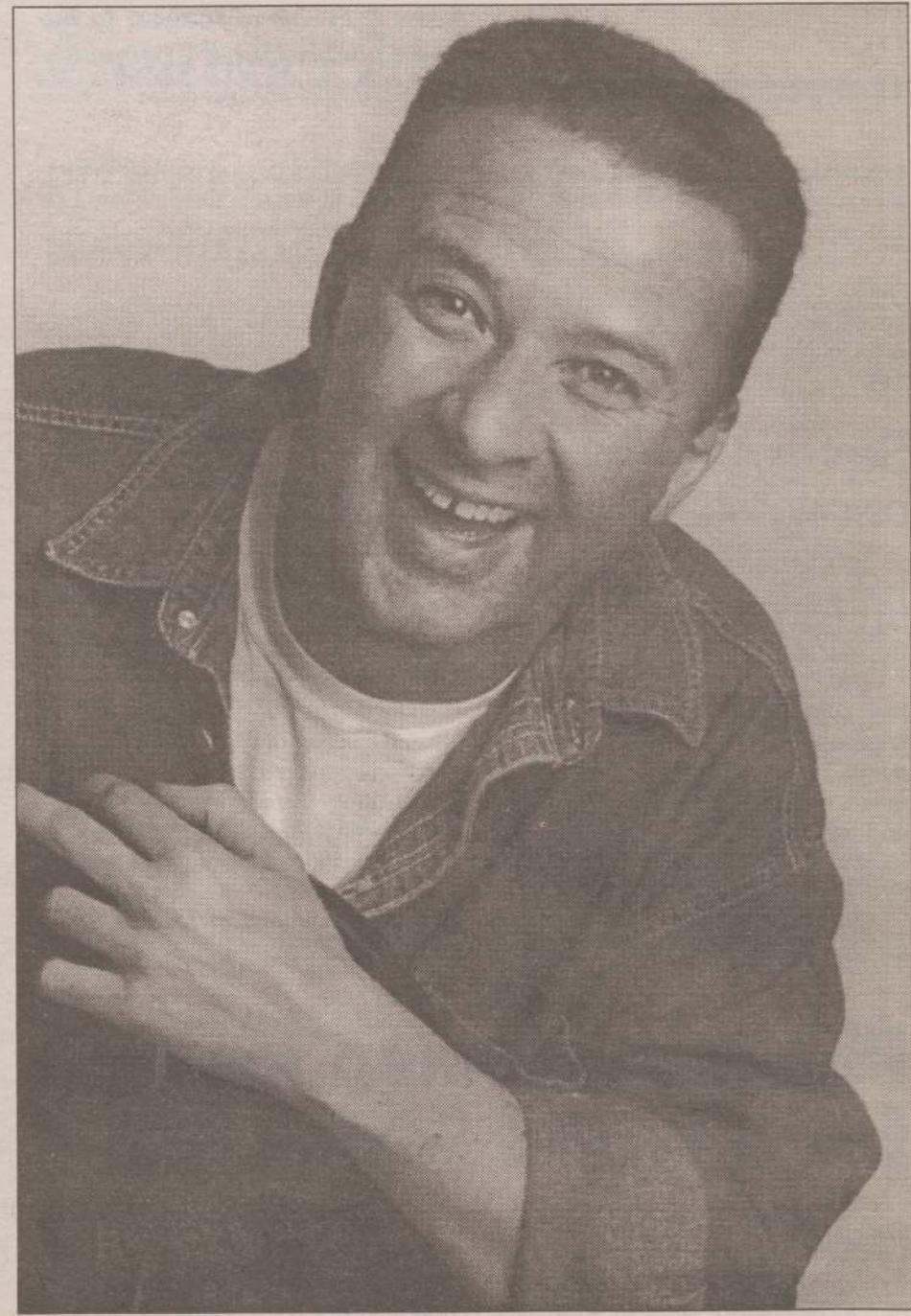
As an adolescent and young adult, McGivern's career path pointed toward the priesthood. It's a far cry from what he's doing now, but perhaps

not all that surprising, considering his family tree.

"I was the only one of four boys in my family who couldn't throw a ball. And in an Irish Catholic family, the boy who can't throw a ball is the one who's going to be a priest."

McGivern enrolled in the seminary after eighth grade and continued his religious studies through his early twenties. He gave up on the idea after accepting his sexuality, but still draws from his experiences on the inside to inspire his comedy.

"It's funny, because I come back to Wisconsin and I still have a lot of friends from the seminary who are now priests. And they'll come to see my show and say, 'Ooh, McGivern,



you're gonna go to hell!'"

McGivern has never been to Phoenix and is really looking forward to performing here for the Community Center benefit.

He says that he didn't design his act exclusively for gay and lesbian audiences, although there's no question about his sexuality in his material. In fact, he sees the education of the non-gay community as an important part of his role in entertaining.

"I just finished a show at a straight comedy club in a small town in Iowa," he says. "The club owner put an ad in the *Des Moines Register* that called me the world's first openly gay comedian." McGivern informed the club owner that he was definitely not

the first. "He said, 'well, around here, you are! And we've been selling tickets 'till there's a line out the door.' So I said, 'why do you think that is?' and he says, 'because! It's like the circus is in town!'"

McGivern doesn't mind. Of performing for mixed gay/straight crowds, he adds, "I think it's kind of fun for everybody. I think there's a mission out there to do it, and so I don't mind doing it."

HeatStroke

Tickets for *A Night of Comedy*, are \$22 in advance, \$25 on the day of the show, or \$40 for the show and a post-performance reception with the comics. Call 602/262-7272 to reserve yours.

Scott Silverman comes to the Orpheum

Continued from page 1

the Boy Scouts don't want us.

"I don't care what anybody says. It's just not easy coming out. I know people who are just coming out in their 30s and 40s. I think I would have been a lot further along in my career if I hadn't been gay. But I have to be gay. It's in my DNA. I wouldn't choose it—I fought it. But it's as genetic as my blue eyes."

Silverman says he came out to himself when he was about 15 or 16, but didn't tell family and friends until many years later. "I didn't have any role models. I was attracted to 'guyish' guys, not effeminate Monroe types. My friends knew first, and they grilled me. I didn't want to make my sex life into this huge issue, but then I realized it is a huge issue."

His parents were immediately supportive and joined PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and Silverman's mother even

got on the speakers' bureau. But having such supportive parents can have its downside, Silverman discovered. One evening while he was making eye contact with someone in an LA bar, the guy suddenly blurted out, "I know your mother! You have her eyes!"

Being a public figure can also have its drawbacks, Silverman says. "I work a lot, and I'm kind of shy. Sometimes, I'll think someone is cruising me, but he's recognizing me. People expect comedians to be on all the time, but we're too weird—we're isolated, self-obsessed people."

"I'm a megalomaniac wearing big black boots and a scowl," Silverman says of his comedy style.

In addition to standup comedy, Silverman has also tried out for television roles. But when he auditioned for *Will and Grace*, he was told that he was too gay for Will and too straight

for Jack. Silverman is also writing a book and working on an Internet project, "which I can't tell you anything about, but it's going to be great."

Although television is where the money is, Silverman's real love is standup. "I'm not really an actor. I can act, but I think it's really boring. The scriptwriting is bad, and you have to wear a lot of makeup."

Besides comedy, Silverman's great loves are sports cars and women. "If you saw my bedroom, you'd think it was a 14-year-old's," he jokes, referring to his posters of cars, Reese Witherspoon, Madonna and Princess Diana. "I've loved cars since I was a baby. And women are my best friends. Women have always been the complete guiding force in my life."

Princess Diana was the fairy princess he'd always dreamed of, Silverman says. In fact, it was when he was 13 and glued to the TV watching the royal wedding that his mother first suspected he might be gay. His admiration for Diana grew even stronger after Prince Charles dumped

her, Silverman says, especially when she appeared at public events "looking as good as possible as if to say, 'You look at me, and look at who he's cheating with.' What fag can't identify with that?"

But Silverman admits that his Diana worship can sometimes get out of hand. "Once a friend saw me looking up through my eyelashes, and she said, 'You're trying to look coy, and you just look psychotic. You look like *Clockwork Orange*.'"

It's the women in his life who keep him going and help him to "recover from the damage men have done," Silverman laughs. "There's been a succession of fag hags. And they keep getting bigger hair, more makeup, and tighter clothing. I like my guy friends, but women are my soul mates."

HeatStroke

Silverman will appear at *A Night of Comedy*, presented by the Community Center and *HeatStroke*, at the Orpheum Theater in Phoenix on Saturday, Aug. 28. See page 32 for ticket information.

Cleveland rocks—with laughter

Ohioan included in four-comic show

By Allen Kalchik,
Editor

The Community Center's annual fall fund-raiser on August 28 will include the stand-up comedy of Cleveland's Karen Williams, who last performed in the Valley at a Bas Bleu benefit for the now-defunct Lesbian Resource Project in December of 1997.

A veteran of the lesbian comedy circuit, Williams is a professional comedian of national and international acclaim. Known as the Diva of Comedy and the Queen of Improv, Ms. Williams is also a multi-talented writer and actress.

Williams has hosted more than 16 Olivia women's cruises and has appeared at numerous festivals, comedy clubs and pride celebrations—including a stint at Phoenix's Pride Festival several years ago. She is also the founder of the International Institute of Humor and Healing Arts (HaHa) and the National Women's Comedy Conference. She presents humor workshops designed to build self confidence and self esteem.

Williams has been praised for her



pace, timing, and comic structure. The universality of her material makes her a proven crowd pleaser, and her social commentary is right on target.



HeatStroke and The Community Center present Karen Williams at the Orpheum Aug. 28 for the Center's annual fundraiser, "A Night of Comedy." See page 32 for details.

Sabrina Matthews hits town Aug. 28

Continued from page 1

Matthews says, "But it's a big waiting game."

Meanwhile, Matthews continues to perform in comedy clubs, colleges and gay events across the country and recently appeared at the Montreal Comedy Festival.

Matthews got her start in comedy as a summer camp counselor telling stories to kids. Then, eight years ago, she made her first appearance—on a friend's dare—at Josie's open-mike night in San Francisco. She couldn't believe that she was being paid to do something she loved. She was hooked.

"I might just be a road comic for the rest of my life," Matthews says. But she also decided to give TV a chance and headed for Los Angeles. She found it a far cry from the Castro District.

"It takes a year just to get used to LA," Matthews observes. "I'm not butch in San Francisco—I'm just an average lesbian. But in LA, I stick out like a sore thumb. Being a gay man or a very femme woman is very cool in LA. When I first went to The Palms (a women's bar), I said, 'These women are not gay.' I just couldn't believe it."

Health clubs have also been an eye-opener for her. "People in LA will tell you they're health conscious, but if you were really that health conscious, you wouldn't be that thin. Most of the men in LA look gay—buffed out and wearing tony clothes. When I see the women on the Stairmaster, I just want to pull them off and give them a snack."



Matthews will appear at the Orpheum Theater in Phoenix on Saturday, Aug. 28 in The Community Center's annual fall fund-raiser, *A Night of Comedy*. See page 32 for ticket information.

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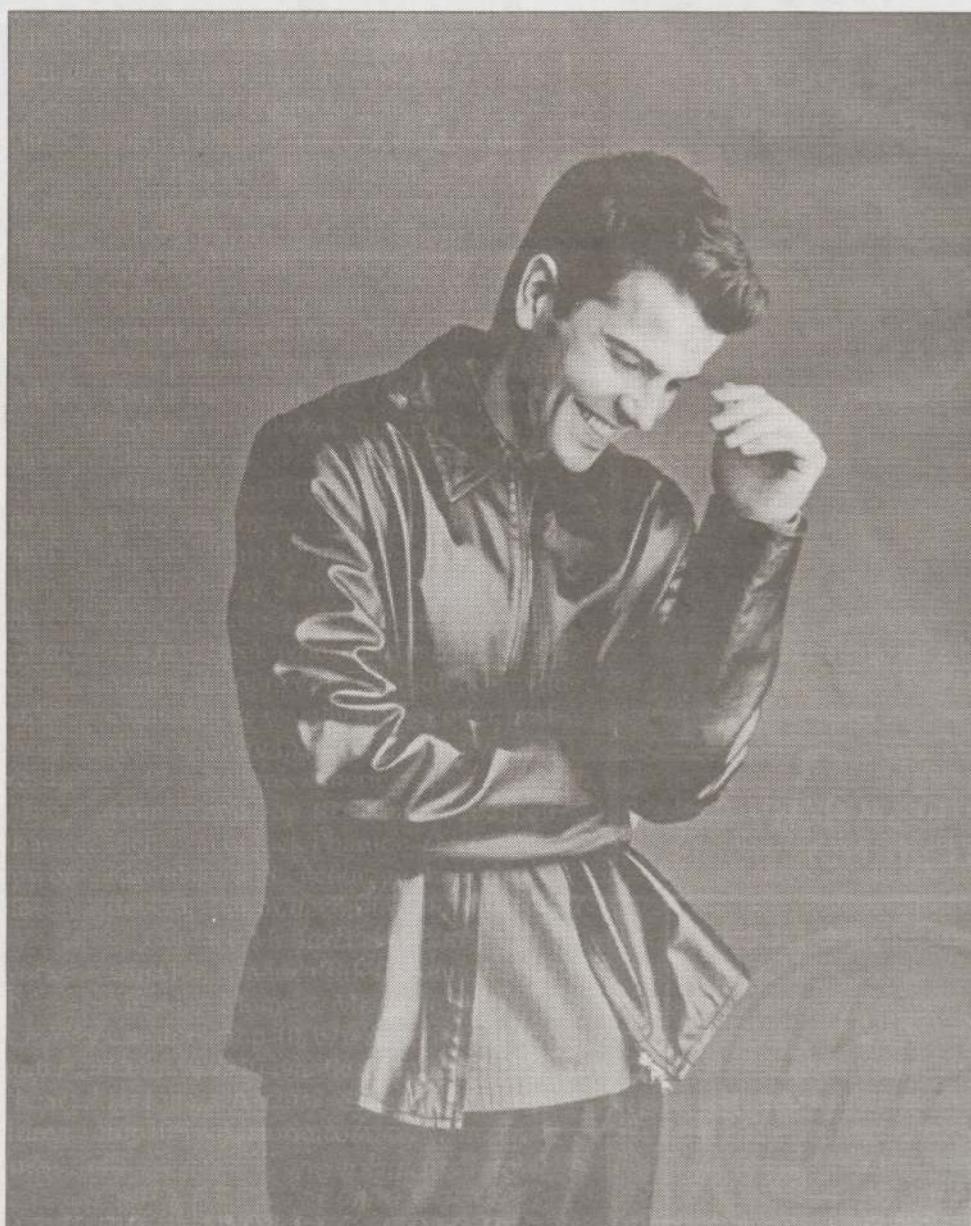
Barenaked buddies at Blockbuster Aug. 17

With the smash success of their latest hit, "One Week", the five guys who make up the Toronto band Barenaked Ladies have likely figured out by now what they'd do if they had a million dollars a couple times over.

The cubby Canadians are more popular than ever. They're all over the video channels these days and even

turned up on network TV last season with a featured group role on that ABC sitcom about those two guys, a girl & her pizza closet.

Check them out on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at Blockbuster Desert Sky Pavilion. Showtime is 7:30 and tickets are \$23-\$30. Alternative rockers Semisonic will open.



Around the block & back again

Turns out cool cutie Jordan Knight had more than the right stuff to head to the top of the charts a decade ago with the rest of the New Kids On The Block.

He's back at age 28 (28!) with a Jimmy Jam/Terry Lewis produced album and a grown-up attitude that are getting critical thumbs-up from some surprising sources—like *Rolling Stone*, for instance.

Knight will do his newfound solo thing as the opener on Aug. 18 at Blockbuster Desert Sky Pavilion. Then N'Sync, the boyband of the summer, will take the stage. Brave the screaming teens, take lots of pictures and report back to us.

Tickets for this in-the-flesh Abercrombie & Fitch fantasy are \$23-\$38, available through Ticketmaster and the Desert Sky box office.

GLAADAlert

GLAADAlert Special: Tell Dr. Laura the truth

Dr. Laura Schlessinger, a best-selling author and syndicated talk-show host, has recently escalated her homophobic remarks.

For example, Schlessinger repeatedly berates the American Psychiatric Association for its 1972 decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

Schlessinger, who refers to our community members as "biological mistakes," recommends reparative therapy for lesbians, gay men and bisexual people, as she advocates that our sexual orientation is something to be "cured."

She describes the adoption of children by lesbian couples as "despicable," "unhealthy" and "a travesty."

In recent months, Schlessinger's remarks about our community—which reach 20 million listeners—have become more frequent and she has been more frequently referencing the ultra-conservative Family Research Council as a source of her opinions. (For more of Schlessinger's thoughts on our community, visit <http://www.glaad.org>.)

Joan M. Garry, GLAAD's Executive Director, met with Schlessinger and received the following challenge: "If your organization doesn't agree with me then they will attempt to shut me down. Which, frankly, you've got to tell your people that when they do public attacks, it makes me more popular. It gets me more sponsors. It's counterproductive."

Clearly, Schlessinger needs to hear the truth about our lives and about how her comments incite hate. But remember, Schlessinger believes public attacks actually benefit her.

Therefore, GLAAD is making an appeal to you. Obviously, she is expecting (perhaps even hoping for) angry letters with attacks as personal as those she directs—fodder to use against us on the air. So we request that you write to her and register your opinions as clearly and strongly as possible without rising to her "bait."

Think about your own experiences and help her see the impact her words have upon real people—how they fan the fires of prejudice and discrimination. In addition, please send a copy of your letter directly to your local station that airs the program.

At the same time, GLAAD is working on other fronts, including with other members of the media and entertainment communities to counter Schlessinger's influence. You will hear more about that from us in the future. We are also contacting her program's

DIVERSITY ADDS SPARK TO NEVILLE'S SOUND

The four Neville Brothers are touring this summer to support their new album, *Valence Street*, named for the New Orleans avenue where they grew up. The album's mix of spicy funk and soaring ballads is earning critical honors from every corner.

TOUGH-GUY Tom IS BACK ON TOUR

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers have a hot new album out and 23 years of commercial and critical success behind them as they include a Phoenix stop on this summer's tour.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

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Please send your letters to: Dr. Laura Schlessinger, c/o PREMIERE RADIO NETWORKS, 15260 Ventura Blvd., Suite 500, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403, fax: 818.461.5140, e-mail: lmedel@premrad.com, webmaster@drlaura.com (Note: After e-mailing, please mail or fax your letters to ensure they are seen.)

Because real-life stories and experiences can aid GLAAD in our quest to gain understanding about the issues that face our community, we hope you will send a copy of your letter to the following address: Dr. Laura Letters, c/o GLAAD, 8455 Beverly Blvd., Suite 305, Los Angeles, CA 90048, fax: 323.658.6776, e-mail: glaad@glaad.org

Dr. Laura's radio program is aired locally on KFYI-AM910. Send a copy of your letter Attn: Marv Nyren, 631 North 1st Ave., Phoenix AZ, 85003. Fax: 602/817-1199, e-mail: info@power92.com.

A Top 10 Lesbian

Top 10, the latest offering from America's Best Comics, an imprint of the DC Comics-owned WildStorm, features a lesbian superhero by the name of Jack Phantom (a.k.a. Officer Jackie Kowalski). The new book revolves around the lives of police officers in the 10th Precinct of Neopolis, a town made up of superheroes and villains.

In the introductory storyline, Robyn Slinger, a new recruit to the 10th Precinct, goes out for a beer with Jackie after her first day on the job. After Robyn tells Jackie about her harrowing first day, Jackie says of Robyn's teaming with an unfriendly officer named Smax, "I can't believe they put you with Smax...I mean, that guy is such a pig. It's ridiculous how women fall all over him. I'd avoid him like typhoid, even if I was straight." When Robyn tells her there is somebody waiting for her at home, Jackie replies, "Can't blame a girl for trying."

While gay characters are not new to DC Comics and its imprints, Top 10 is a rare book whose inclusiveness is aimed at younger male audiences who comic books usually do not offer positive exposure to our community.

Please thank America's Best Comics and Top 10's creators for their inclusion of Jack Phantom/Jackie Kowalski, and encourage them to develop her in upcoming storylines.

Contact: Mr. Jim Lee, Editorial Director, America's Best Comics, and Mr. Alan Moore & Mr. Gene Ha, Creators, Top 10, c/o America's Best Comics, 7910 Ivanhoe Ave., Suite 436, La Jolla, CA 92037; e-mail: top10@wildstorm.com

Aaron Neville's instantly recognizable voice, meanwhile, is reported to be in its best form ever. Head to the Celebrity Theatre on Aug. 21 for a Saturday night show that starts at 7:30 pm, and hear for yourself. '70s icons Little Feat are slated to open.

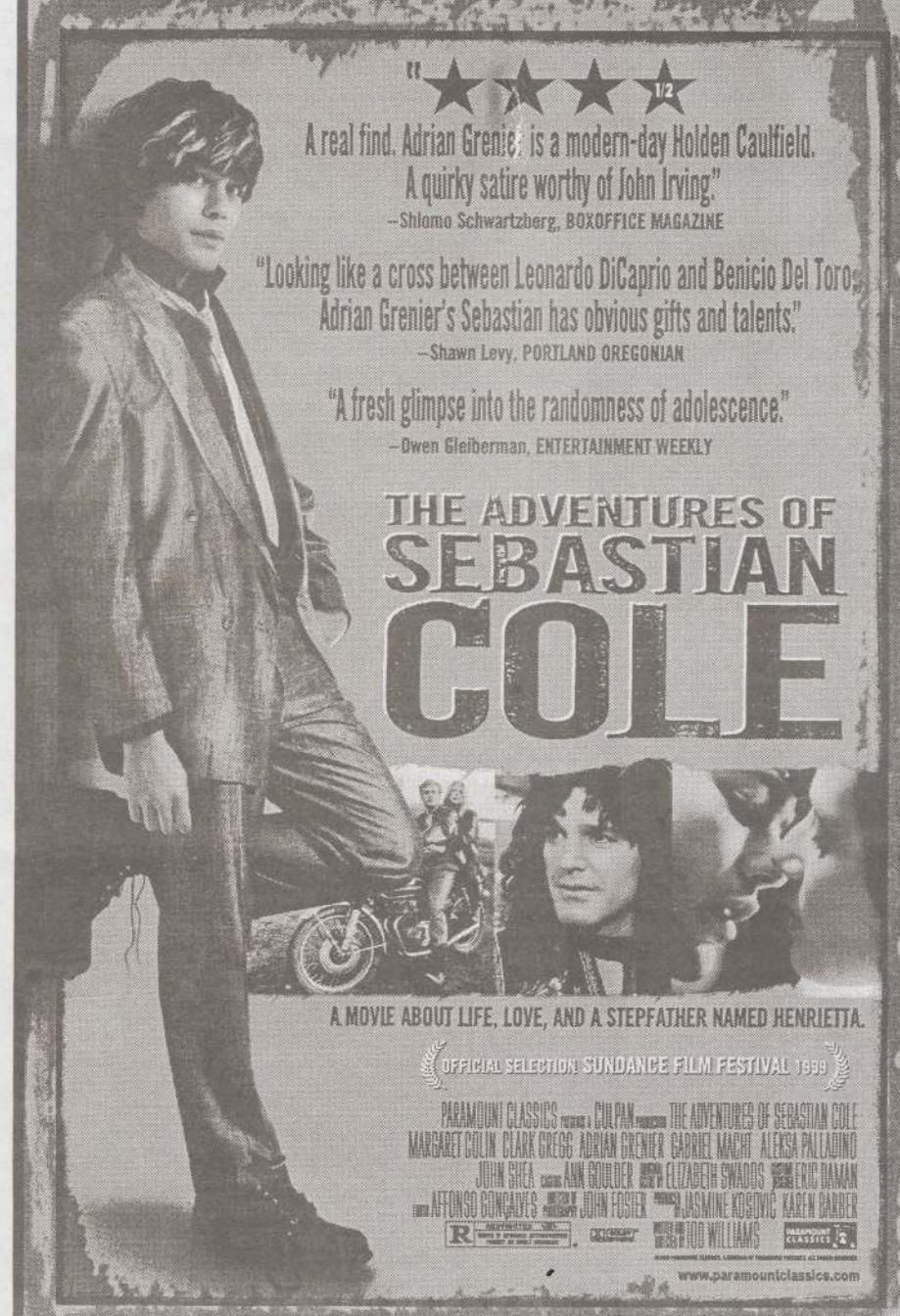
Petty and the boys will play America West Arena on Aug. 19 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$28.50-\$45, available through the arena box office or Dillard's outlets.



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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"Homophobia is a disease which desperately needs to be cured. We need to get beyond this fear, ignorance, and bigotry and move on to a mature society in which we recognize that all people deserve dignity and respect, regardless of their gender, color, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation."

—Barbra Streisand to the *Advocate*, Aug. 17.

"The far right uses the phrase 'special rights' as an excuse to hate and a way to confuse people into voting against measures which would give all people equal protection under the law. Gay and lesbian rights advocates do not seek to gain 'special' rights, but rather they want to ensure that they are able to enjoy the same civil rights as everyone else."

—Barbra Streisand to the *Advocate*, Aug. 17.

"I lost the love of all the homosexuals in the world by saying that Princess Diana was trash and got what she deserved. She could have been Queen of England—and she was swanning about Paris with Arabs. What disgraceful behavior. Going about saying she wanted to be the queen of hearts. The vulgarity of it is so overpowering."

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

"When I was young, we thought that Oscar Wilde was a great nobleman who had thrown his life away for love. Nothing could be less true. He slept with East Enders who were procured for him by Lord Alfred Douglas. He knew them only 'in Braille'—the curtains were never drawn back in the rooms in Oxford where he met those boys. It was the most sordid life you can imagine. And he was bleating about love and dragging the fair name of Mr. Plato into the trial—after a life like that?"

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

"I've never been out of a relationship. My first relationship was 12 years, and I was single for about 35 seconds, and I'm in a two-year relationship now."

—Gay actor Mitchell Anderson (*Party of Five; Relax, It's Just Sex*) to Miami's *The Weekly News*, July 7.

"The head of Falcon Video took me to a workshop where this cute boy gave me a hard-on—I can't remember how. We did three casts because they want to use the best balls, the best head and the best shaft. The boy put his hand between my bum and pressed on the base of my balls to keep me hard. It felt nice."

—Former gay porn star and now author Aiden Shaw when asked by *POZ* magazine, in the August issue, "How was the Aiden Shaw dildo made?"

"If it's true, that's lovely. It's not something I carry around with me. I just live—eat and sleep and shit. I'm just getting by."

—Former gay porn star and now author Aiden Shaw when asked by *POZ* magazine, in the August issue, "How is it being the object of so many fantasies?"

"I'm ... proud of correcting the idea that you can't be publicly sexual and HIV positive. Positive men need to know they're allowed to be sexual animals. I think a lot of the unsafe sex that goes on is to do with people thinking they'll be rejected if they reveal their status. I hope I'm helping to prevent that."

—Gay porn star Cole Tucker to Britain's *Positive Nation* magazine, July/August issue.

"Within the nature of gay men there is the tendency toward the abundance of sex. We've turned promiscuity into an art form. I have known people who claimed they've been kept from suicide at certain times in their lives ... because there was the possibility of abundant sexuality that bludgeons the senses. I think we have so many pressures that simply don't go away—for example, the pressure of being despised so openly—that we become defiant. Sexuality for us is truly revolutionary."

—Gay author John Rechy to the AIDS magazine *A&U*, July issue.

"I was never tested outright for the AIDS virus. It was my own choice not to be tested. I have a very good doctor who knows me very well. He performed tests all around the symptoms and immune-related defi-

cies associated with HIV, but tests that avoided the definitive one. I never was sick. Many years now have passed, and I am, and have been, entirely well. I never had any manifestations that actually made me believe I had AIDS, but I had all the anxieties that everybody did."

—Gay author John Rechy to the AIDS magazine *A&U*, July issue.

"Unfortunately, the rain stopped. Had it continued throughout [Chicago's gay-pride parade], it would have been an appropriate comment on this dead(ly) tradition. But, sadly, the grey skies sorta cleared up right at the kick-off of yet another long and mostly lackluster pink-tinged tribute to American consumerism, to the excitement and happiness and sense of belonging the gays feel when targeted as potential buyers. And how we looooooo to buy. Like our checks and American Express, we're accepted, we're really accepted! Here's some money, love us. And the proof is in the Miller Lite beer trucks and the Logan Square Pest Control vans and Jewel's shopping cart ... and Bert Weiman Ford and some tired radio stations playing The Who..... ooooooooh, the pride is overwhelming..... ooooooooh, our chests are swelling..... ooooooh the selling, the selling! Sorrah, it doesn't work anymore, it's not enough, it's not anything, it has no meaning. Stop the Pride we wanna get off."

—From "the Skinny" column in Chicago's *Gab* magazine, July 7.

"The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is obliged to declare for the good of the Catholic faithful that the positions advanced by Sister Jeannine Gramick and Father Robert Nugent regarding the intrinsic evil of homosexual acts and the objective disorder of the homosexual inclination are doctrinally unacceptable."

—The Vatican July 13 in banning the founders of the U.S.' New Ways Ministry from pastoral work with homosexuals.

"[Bill Clinton] proclaimed June the month of 'celebrating homosexuality.' I think he must be nuts. He designated a whole MONTH to celebrate this? You only get a DAY if you're Irish. Right? Do we have a month to celebrate heterosexuality? President Clinton's proclamation said that businesses, families and all of us should 'celebrate' the fact that some people cannot or will not mate with members of the opposite sex, be married and have children. In my opinion, that is not something to celebrate. It's very sad, and I have great compassion for homosexuals."

—Syndicated columnist Dr. Laura, July 15.

"Human Rights Campaign leader Elizabeth Birch and her partner, Hilary Rosen, who is a lobbyist for the Recording Industry Association of America, recently adopted male and female twins, born Jan. 7 in Texas. ... The two women have proudly announced that the children will be raised by nannies. Do we not have sufficient empirical evidence that fatherless homes are not the best environment for raising children? And these particular babies aren't even going to have an attentive mother, either! How could any adoption agency give twins to two lesbians

who don't even want to care for them when there are heterosexual, committed couples waiting for babies to adopt and dying to stay home and parent them? Talk about the power of ideology run amok! That the government permits a child to be robbed of a father to satisfy the political demands of gay activists is an outrage. Since when do people have a 'right' to practice deviant sexual behavior and bring innocent children into their homes?"

—Syndicated columnist Dr. Laura, July 15.

"In my life I have a lot of friends who are gay, and I made a lot of friends in show business, and I found out that they are always interesting, intelligent and good people, and fun to be with. They are very open-minded. They are not narrow-minded. If I am an icon to them it is wonderful, because gay people are always very loyal. ... And, you know, when you go back in history, there are great names in the arts in every field, so be my guest."

—Siegfried Fischbacher of the Vegas superduo Siegfried and Roy when asked by *Vanity Fair*, in the August issue, "Do you realize that Siegfried and Roy are perceived, if not as lovers, as homosexual icons?"

"I am flattered to think that people think that I am versatile. You don't have to define everything, and I don't want to disillusion people. Besides, I'm not a guy who kisses and tells."

—Roy Uwe Ludwig Horn of the Vegas superduo Siegfried and Roy when asked by *Vanity Fair*, in the August issue, "Do you realize that Siegfried and Roy are perceived, if not as lovers, as homosexual icons?"

"The way they deal with the perception of them as a couple is as much sleight of hand as their act. ... I mean, they used to be lovers a long time ago, yeah? In this day and age, who cares?"

—Actress Shirley MacLaine on Vegas superduo Siegfried and Roy to *Vanity Fair*, August issue.

"A shrill, bitchy edge that never stops."

—Bisexual actress Sandra Bernhard when asked by *Vanity Fair* in the August issue, "What is the quality you most like in a woman?"

"I get to go back as the rock star like everyone dreamed, and I actually am. I'll probably have to sign a few autographs. ... I'm not one of those artists that were tortured in high school. I had lots of friends."

—Singer Melissa Etheridge on her plans to attend her 20th high-school reunion in Leavenworth, Kansas, to AP, July 20.

"Anybody with half a brain would be out of his or her mind to be a leader of this community. You get nothing but shit, and in the end you cannot take it anymore. If you give your opinion and it happens to be a strong opinion, you get letters from The Advocate, or shit sent to you. When you're young you can take it. But after a while you can't, and I don't know any gay leader who wouldn't say the same thing."

—Author-activist Larry Kramer to the *Advocate*, Aug. 17.

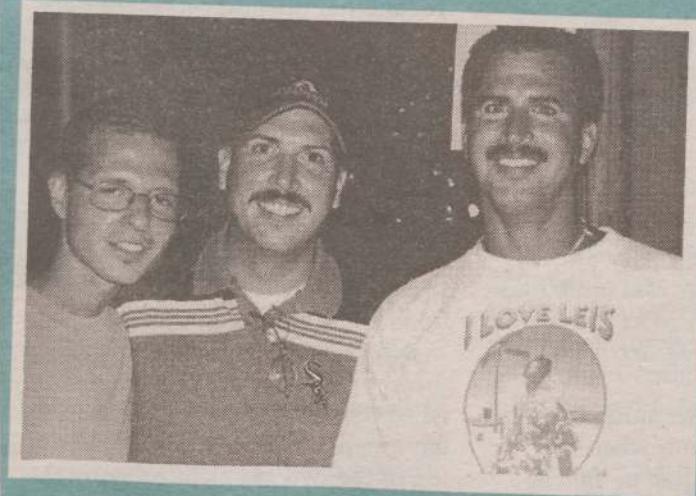
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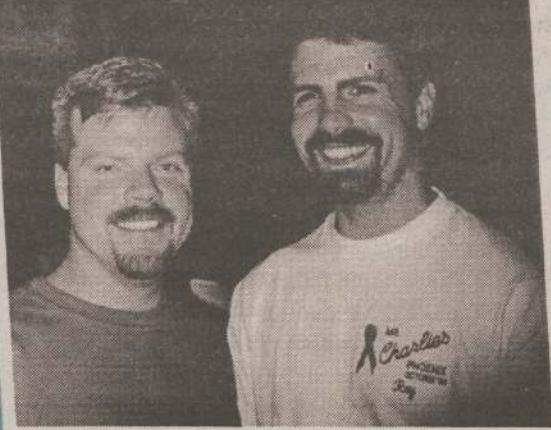
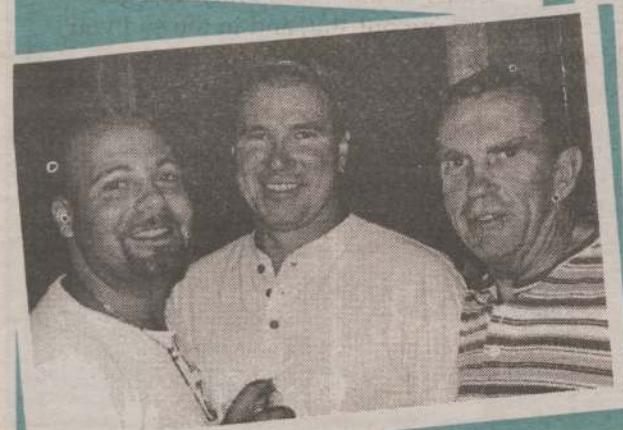
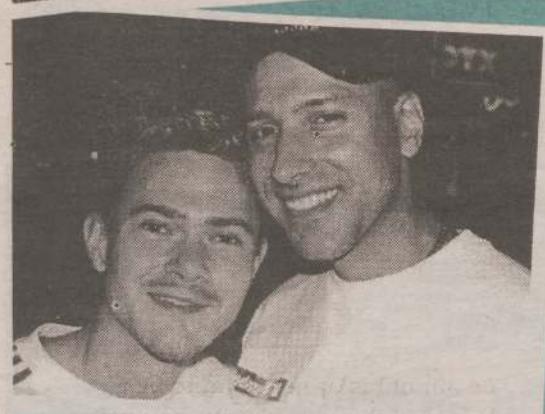
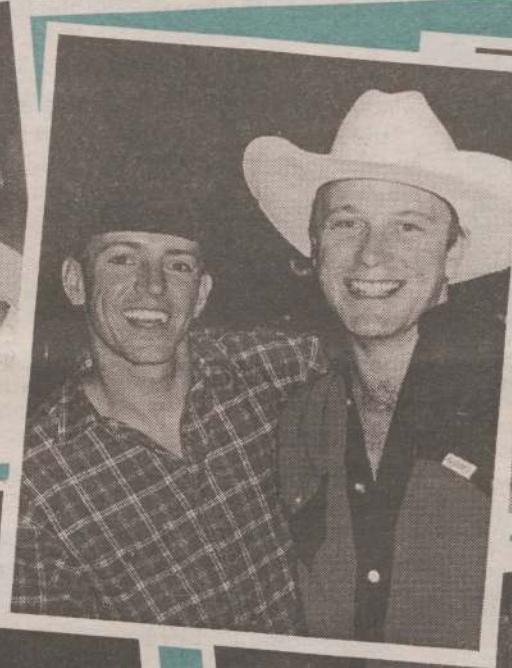
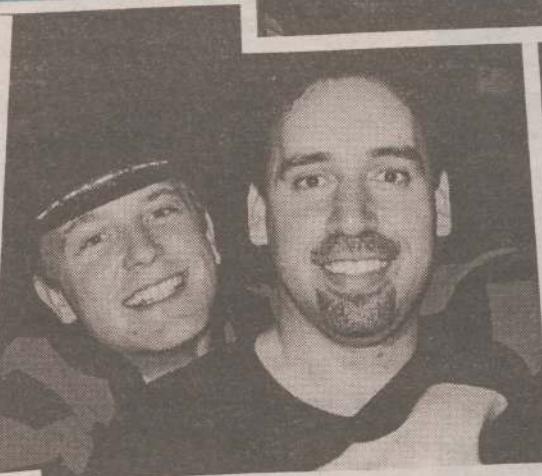
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Seeing/Being Scene



Charlie's

Photos by Mario Rodriguez



Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Baltimore—by Day

If you haven't been to Baltimore in a while, you owe yourself a visit. This earnest, unassuming city has experienced a rebirth of late, gaining back some of the ground it had lost earlier this century to flashier East Coast towns.

Nearly 30 years ago, local political and business leaders began a mammoth public and private rehabilitation of the Inner Harbor that continues to this day—converting dilapidated piers and wharves into museums, shops, restaurants, hotels, and condominiums. Once the butt of jokes, Baltimore is now a legitimate tourist destination with a friendly and low-keyed gay scene.

Fortunately, the city's success hasn't gone to its head. It's hard to find a more genuine and down-to-earth breed of urbanites than the residents of Baltimore, who retain a special affection for their hometown.

This civic pride shows up in the works of locally bred filmmakers who shoot many of their works here. Barry Levinson's *Diner* and *Tin Men*, set in the late-1950s and early 1960s, evoke a small-town sensibility that can still be felt in many neighborhoods, and the films of camp queen John Waters, among them *Pink Flamingos* and *Hairspray*, lovingly poke fun at local fashion faux pas and other foibles.

You may be lured to Baltimore by the many highly publicized attractions that circle downtown's Inner Harbor—and indeed most of these places live up to their billing—but be sure to save time for the city's many quirky residential enclaves, a few of which are within easy walking distance of downtown.

The Inner Harbor's conversion into an entertainment and museum district places it among the most engaging and picturesque harbors in any American city.

Popular attractions include the glass-enclosed Harborplace pavilions, where you can browse through more than 100 shops and graze your way through a serious food court.

History buffs will want to visit the U.S. Frigate Constellation, the

nation's only surviving Civil War era ship, which recently returned to the Inner Harbor after more than a year in dry-dock. To the east, beside piers jutting into the harbor, are a few other historic ships, which together comprise the Baltimore Maritime Museum.

You can also visit the tallest pentagonal building in the world, I. M. Pei's World Trade Center, with its 27th-floor observation deck, and the highly acclaimed National Aquarium. South of Harborplace, along the wharf that borders Light Street, is the kids-oriented Maryland Science Center.

A regal grassy knoll south of the harbor, Federal Hill rises majestically above downtown and the Inner Harbor. It's an ideal spot to laze under the sun on warm afternoons. The surrounding neighborhood has gentrified over the past two decades, with many young professionals (guppies included) moving in and refurbishing early and mid-19th-century brick homes.

Along Light and Charles streets, there are several good ethnic restaurants and interesting shops, plus the bustling Cross Street Market, a great place to sample local seafood or grab a sandwich from one of the delis.

East of Federal Hill, the American Visionary Art Museum ingeniously blends two historic warehouses in a striking contemporary complex. AVAM contains six exhibition galleries of works by self-taught artists and others outside the mainstream, a research library, a sculpture garden, and a cutting-edge restaurant, the Joy America Cafe, where the kitchen churns out such sensuous fare as fresh-mint flautas with green pumpkin seeds, farmer's cheese, and bitter chocolate.

East of the Inner Harbor, and just past the restaurant-lined streets of Little Italy, Fells Point may be America's best-preserved Colonial waterfront. Perfectly maintained Federal-style town houses, which date to an era when 16 shipyards bustled nearby, adorn Thames and Fell streets and nearby blocks.

Eastern European immigrants, artsy slackers and Gen-Xers, yuppies, and more than a few queers reside in this diverse neighborhood. Fells Point's prosperity has recently spread east into adjacent Canton, where construction to revitalize more of the waterfront is proceeding briskly in the form of high-profile shops and restaurants.

While quite a few gay men and lesbians have led the refurbishment of neighborhoods like Canton and Federal Hill, Baltimore's queer epi-

center lies north of downtown in historic Mount Vernon, which you can reach from the Inner Harbor by strolling up Charles Street, the city's backbone.

Among the many shops worth a peek along this stretch are A People United, a women's clothing and arts cooperative, and Nouveau, which has a dazzling collection of art deco and art nouveau furniture and collectibles. Louie's Bookstore Cafe, favored by gay and straight locals for its intelligent selection of books and great food and coffee, makes for a fine lunch or brunch break.

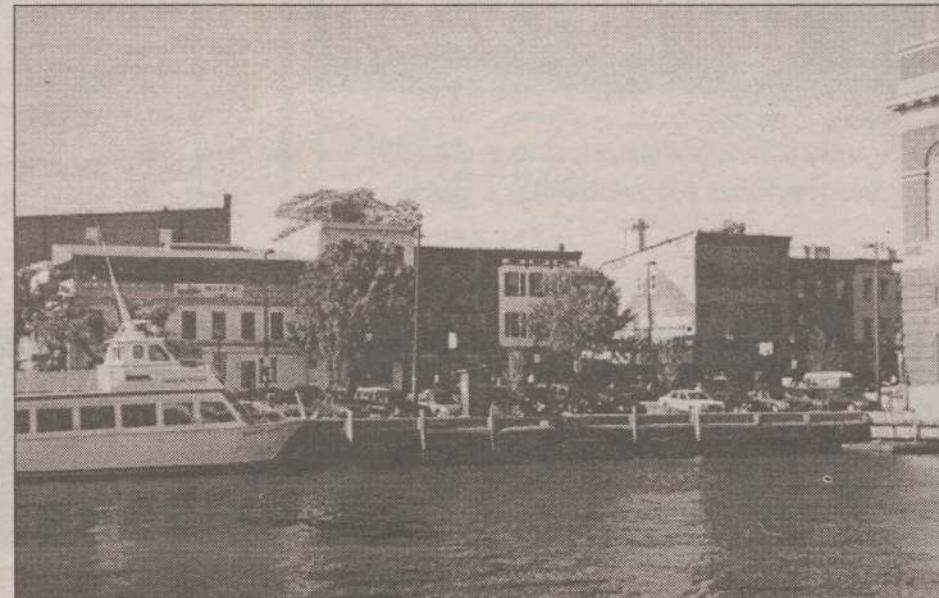
Mount Vernon Place and its 178-foot-high Washington Monument anchor the neighborhood. Southwest of the monument, the Walters Art Gallery contains an estimable collection of Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and a strong collection of medieval, Byzantine, Islamic, and Oriental works.

Southeast of the monument, the Peabody Institute continues to earn

century American painting, and 20th-century sculpture. The recently added New Wing, for contemporary art, contains a good sampling of Warhols.

A few thousand of the museum's holdings were donated by Baltimore natives Dr. Claribel Cone and Miss Etta Cone, two unmarried sisters who with help from their friends Gertrude and Leo Stein (also Baltimoreans) collected works by Matisse (500 of them), Picasso, Gauguin, and others. The museum's gay-trendy restaurant, Gertrude's, celebrates the cuisine that has made the Chesapeake Bay area a treasure among foodies: temptations like pan-fried chicken and oyster stew.

West of Hopkins, Hampden is a good old-fashioned "Bawlmer" neighborhood, a former mill-workers' community that has in the past decade developed a major funk factor. John Waters, who lives nearby, occasionally strolls these parts; he set his 1998 film, *Pecker*, in this slice of retro Baltimore.



Baltimore's eminently strollable Fells Point neighborhood contains arguably the best-preserved cache of Colonial buildings in any American port city.

accolades as the oldest and one of the most prestigious classical music schools in the country.

You'll need to drive or take a bus up Charles to reach the 140-acre Homewood Campus of Johns Hopkins University, which is ideal for strolling. As a side note, the esteemed Hopkins medical school (which has a separate campus by Johns Hopkins Hospital, just north of Fells Point) was begun with funding from a woman with tremendous determination and foresight, Mary Elizabeth Garrett, who also happened to be a lesbian.

Adjacent to the Homewood Campus is the Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland's largest museum, whose strengths include French Impressionist painting, 18th- and 19th-

Along West 36th Street (a.k.a. "the Avenue"), you'll find piercing parlors, antiques shops, quirky restaurants, and plain neighborhood businesses. But despite its recent trendiness, Hampden remains an unplanned and only slightly self-conscious celebration of what any workaday urban neighborhood might have felt like 35 years ago, and a preserve of the aesthetics and values that still define much of Baltimore today.

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

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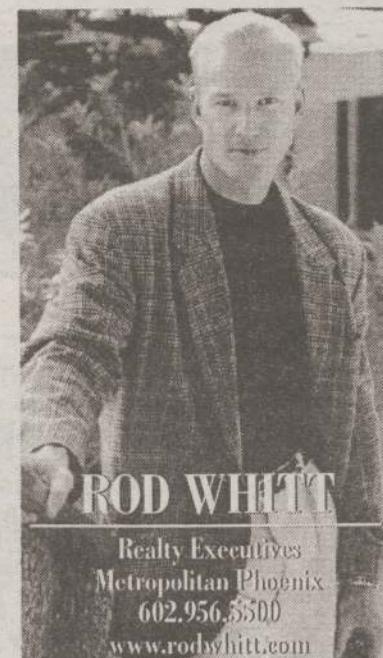
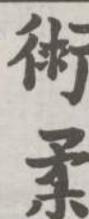
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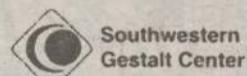
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Dear Cowboy,

There's this guy I think is attractive but he keeps jerking me around, and I don't know what to do.

I first met him at a bar. We talked a lot and hit it off. I gave him my number and he gave me his. I called a few days later to ask him to a movie, left a message and never heard back. When I ran into him a week later, he apologized. We talked even more at the bar and he gave me his work number that time, saying we should have lunch. So I called during the week and—you guessed it—he never returned my call.

Next time I saw him I just said "hi" and steered past him, but he came over and said he was sorry about not get-

ting back to me, he's just very busy. He said he would like to go out some time, for sure. We were both a little drunk and ended up making out in the bar. He said I really turn him on. We went our separate ways at closing time and he said he'd call the next day. Of course he didn't, and still has never called me.

Why would someone act so interested in me every time I see him out, then ignore my calls during the week? What do I say when I run into him again? I'm mad.

Signed, Tired of Bar Games

Dear Games,

No use being mad about a situation you helped get yourself in.

The guy is obviously interested in nothing more than a good time at the saloon. He only enjoys your attention for the ego stroking he gets out of it. You're looking for more, so you need to move on down the trail and stop worrying about what he thinks of you, or how you can make something happen that won't.

Next time you run into him tell him he hurt your feelings and you're sorry he's such a busy guy. End of conversation, see ya. So what if he feels bad? He should.

I'd also suggest that if you want more than a late-night grope, you ought to start looking beyond the bars. Join an outdoor club or sports group, or try placing a personal ad. The saloon is a fine place for social interaction, but it isn't the best place to fire up the kind of relationship you want.

Dear Cowboy,

I'm wondering what two men do when they love each other but both are bottoms. My new boyfriend is great in so many ways, and he really turns me on physically. But I'm starting to wonder if we'll ever be compatible sexually when it

comes right down to it, because we both like the same thing—if you catch my drift. Is an open relationship the only way this can work?

Signed, Receptive But Not Passive

Dear Receptive,

I've been around the arena a time or two (the whole arena), so yeah, I caught your drift. As I've said before, there's more than one way to satisfaction in the bunkhouse and if more gay cowpokes would open their minds to new ideas and experiences, there'd be a lot more satisfied same-sex couples around.

Open relationships and multiple partners are always a possibility, but not every couple's cup of coffee. My suggestion, apart from open communication, is that the two of you go shopping. There are products just made for your situation that should provide you both with plenty of enjoyment. They come in a variety of sizes and shapes, their significant feature being something we usually refer to as "double ended". If you catch my drift.

HeatStroke's Funny Page

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN...



BY ERIC ORNER,

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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QSCOPES

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES: As the Sun transits your house of creativity, think about what your next big project is going to be. A healthy dose of self-confidence mixed with a big bowl of self-indulgence actually makes you more appealing - so be the star you are, sweetie. A Sag will cheer for you.

TAURUS: It's time to finish up your spring cleaning (the physical and emotional kind) even though it's almost the end of summer. Several outer planets are still "square-dancing" with your chart, so a little compromise will do you good. Try to be flexible, honey, especially with a Pisces.

GEMINI: Your social life could get positively confusing during mid-August, as everybody wants a piece of you. Spread yourself around and weigh all your options—exactly what you do best! Don't get tied down in love yet. An Aquarius can wait a little longer.

CANCER: It's time to stop wasting your money and your energy on short-term conveniences and start planning for a future in which you hold all the cards. In romance, be the strong, silent type, and you'll get the attention you want, perhaps from another Cancer.

LEO: Enjoy your time in the Sun, darling, especially since the Sun's close proximity to Venus (in your sign) these days bodes well for your love life. If you lead your life with glamour, soon it will become as glamorous as you want it to be. A Capricorn makes a love offering you can't refuse.

VIRGO: Get more in touch with your own psyche, and stop trying to please everyone else, darling. This is an incredibly spiritual time for you, despite the sexual

escapades and panic-stricken challenges. Carve out a new path for yourself, and take a Pisces along for the ride.

LIBRA: Your friends are bringing you extra good vibes so make sure you see them as much as possible during this highly social cycle. Mars in your money house suggests that it's time to expand your financial horizons and take a calculated risk. But in romance, stick by a faithful Virgo.

SCORPIO: While Mars is passing through your sign, butch up and demand what you want in life and in love. Be ready to make some sudden moves to get ahead with your career. Romantically, too, you'll have to make the moves if you want a Gemini.

SAGITTARIUS: Do something to celebrate your body, darling. Jupiter is bringing you a spiritual connection to your own flesh, while Saturn is encouraging you to take better care of your health. The Moon in your sign on the 19th brings you extra pizzazz and maybe a breakthrough. Share it with a Scorpio.

CAPRICORN: Your friendships may be going through a period of volatility these days, but this might be a good thing, sweetie. In love, you'll be tempted to make a deeper commitment, but focus on the relationship itself, not the symbols. An Aries wants to be more than just pals.

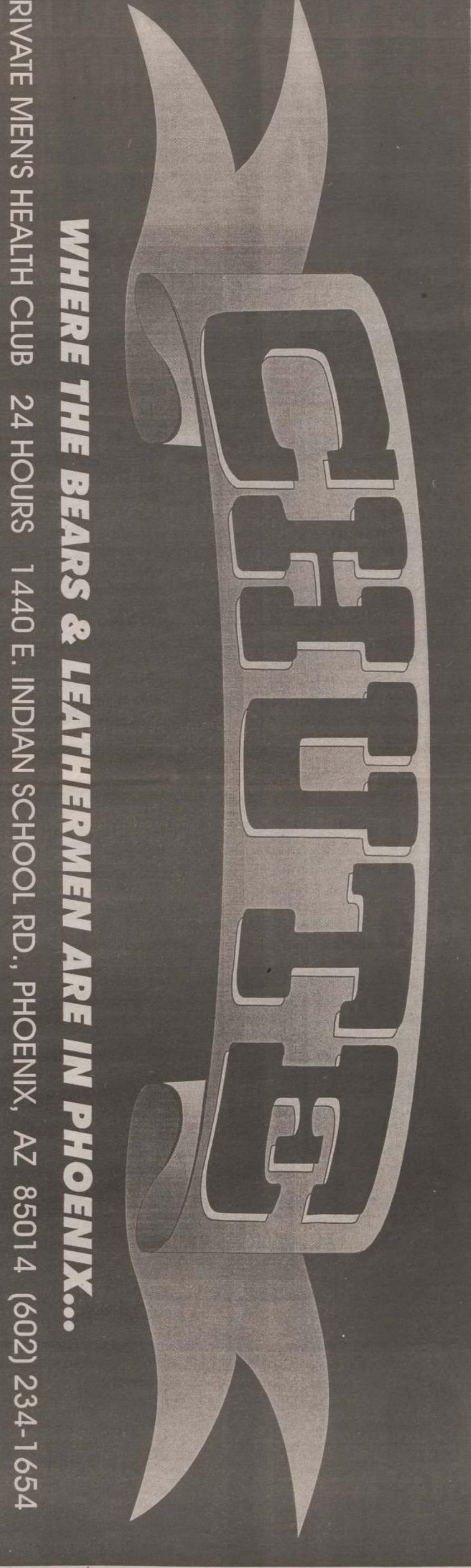
AQUARIUS: If you're feeling frazzled and flustered, why do you pretend to be so cool and collected? Let your hysteria show, baby! Your friends will come through for you. But you need to focus as much energy as you can on the love in your life. A Leo wants to be the one.

PISCES: Do something to improve the way you feel physically, my pet, while the Sun passes through your house of health. Get your act together now, take care of your responsibilities, and romance will soon follow. A Sag is just waiting to pounce.

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

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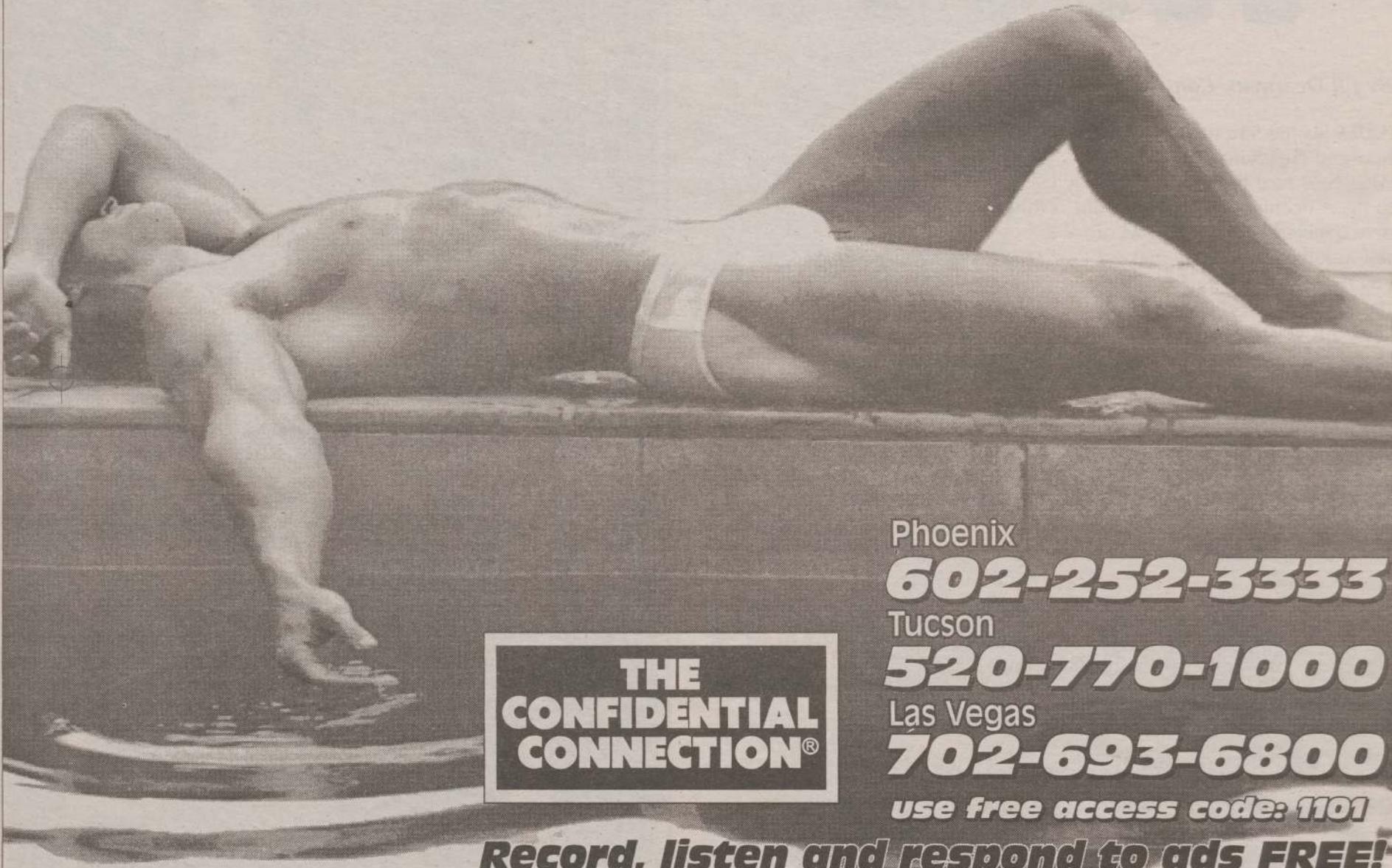
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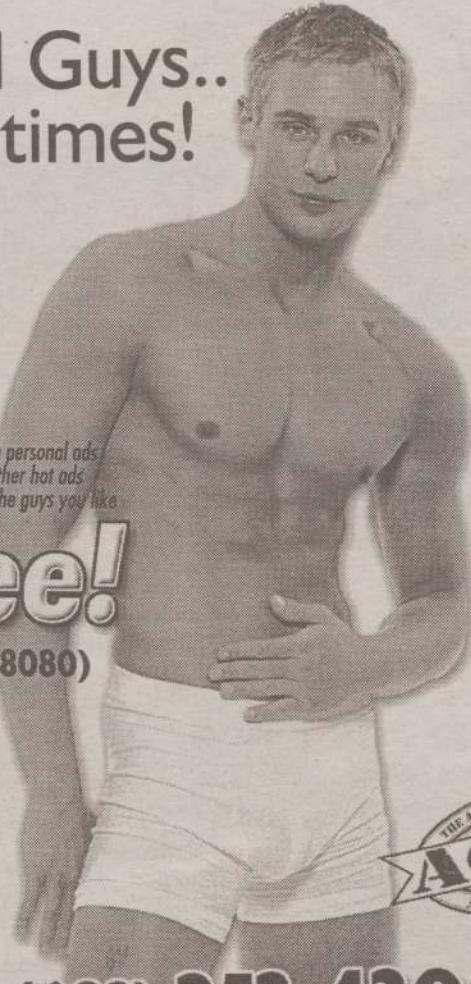
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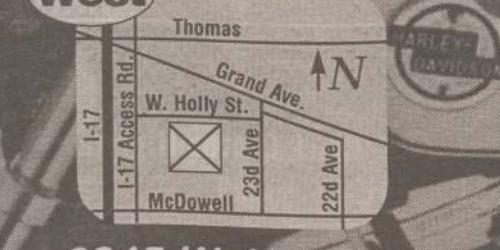
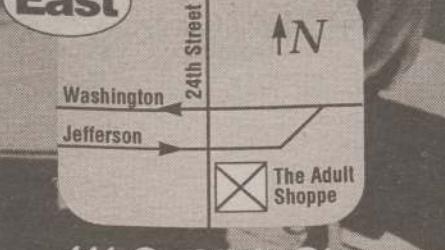
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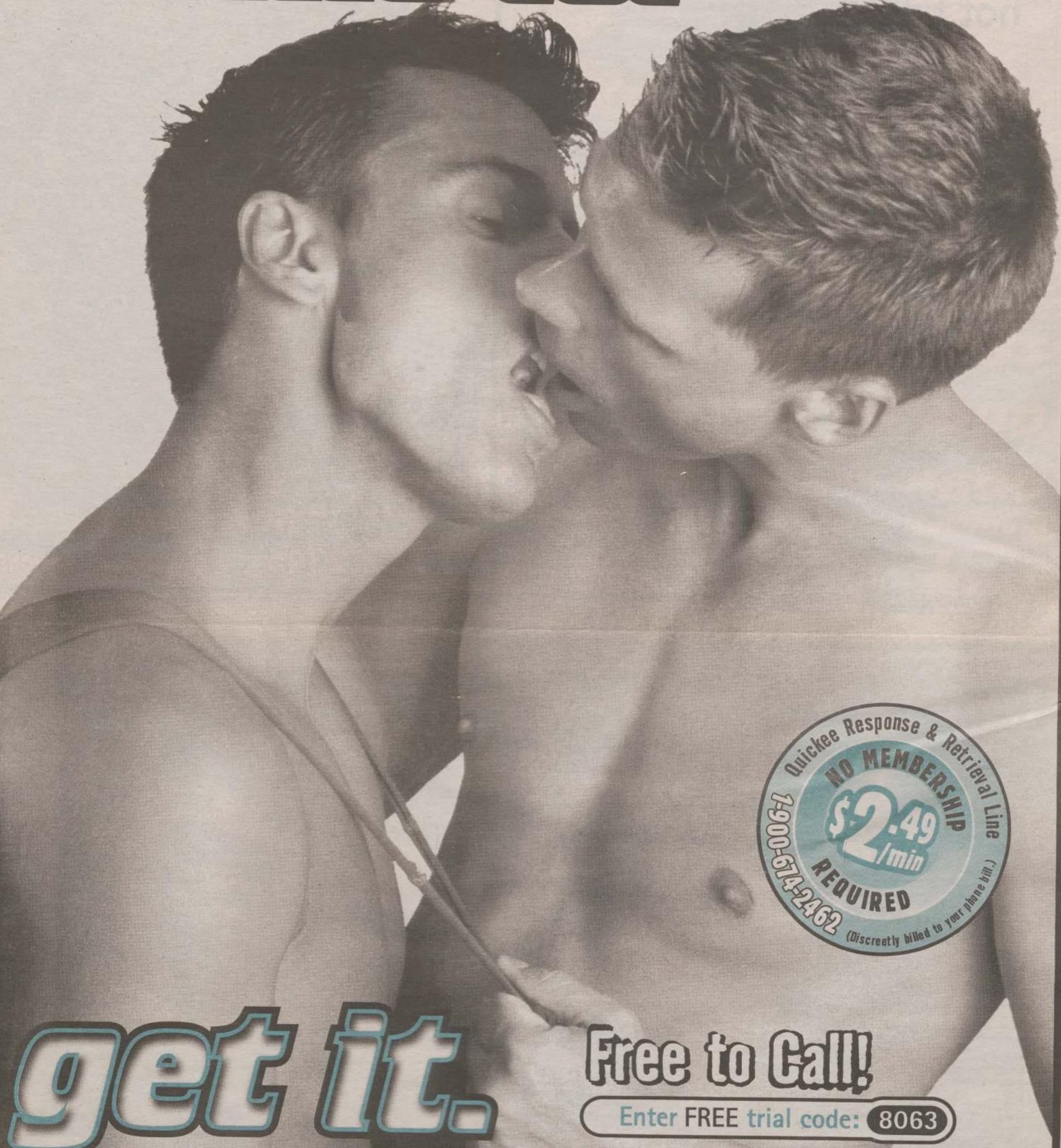
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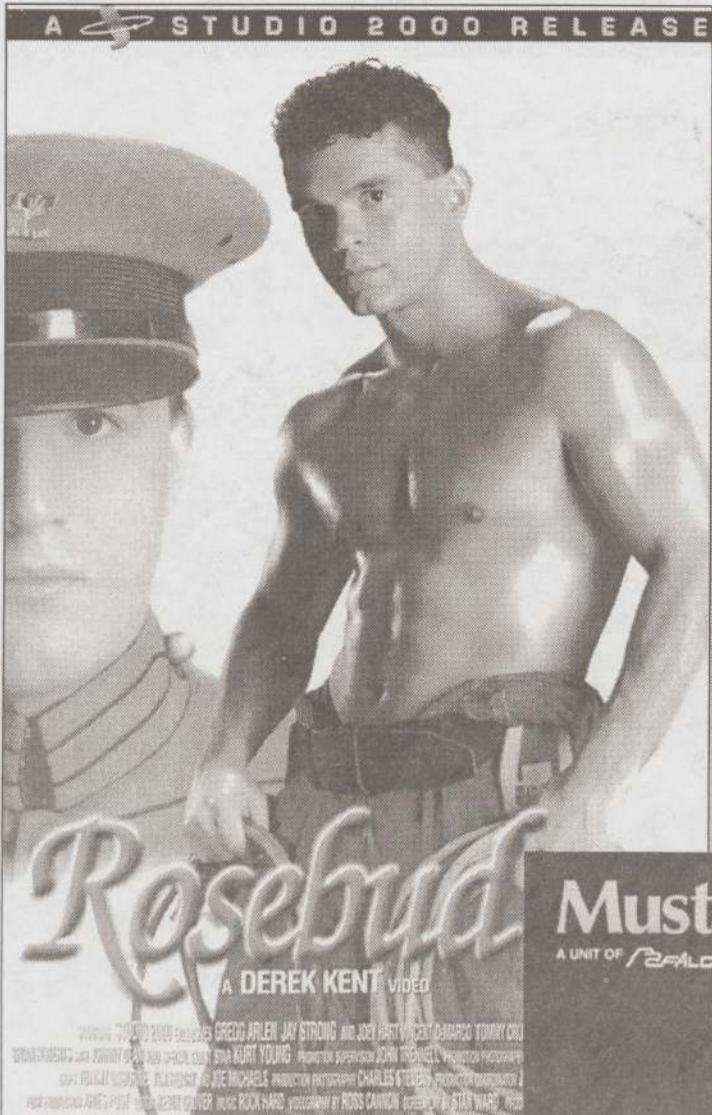
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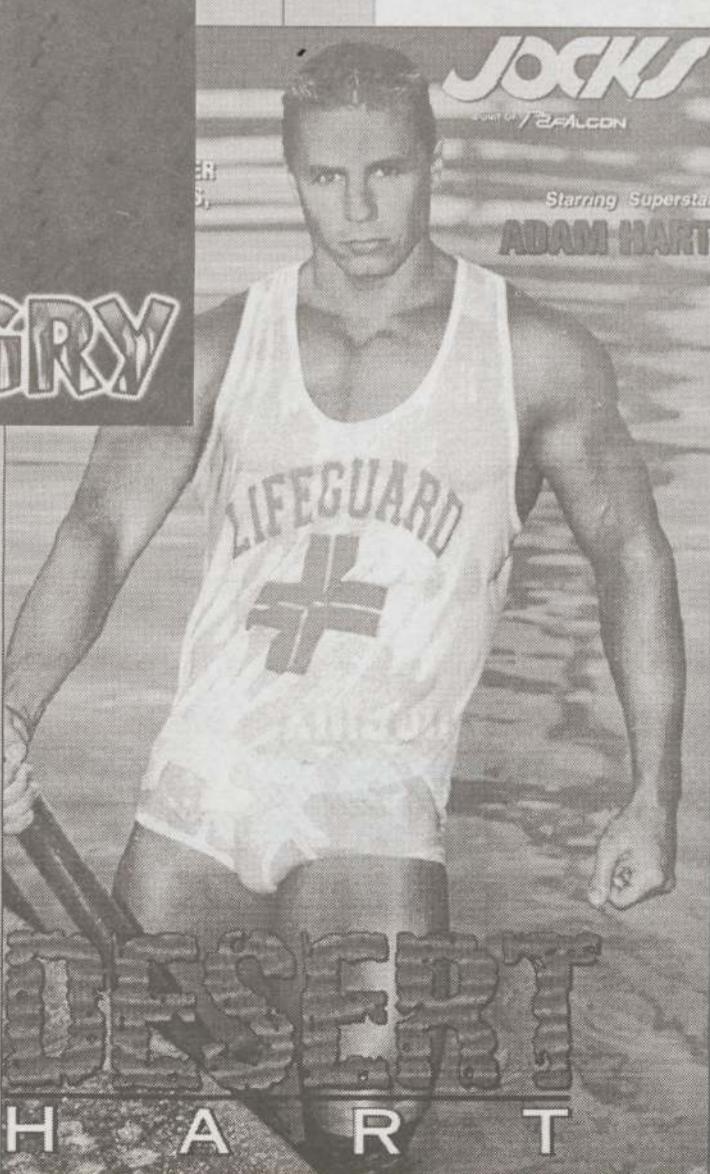
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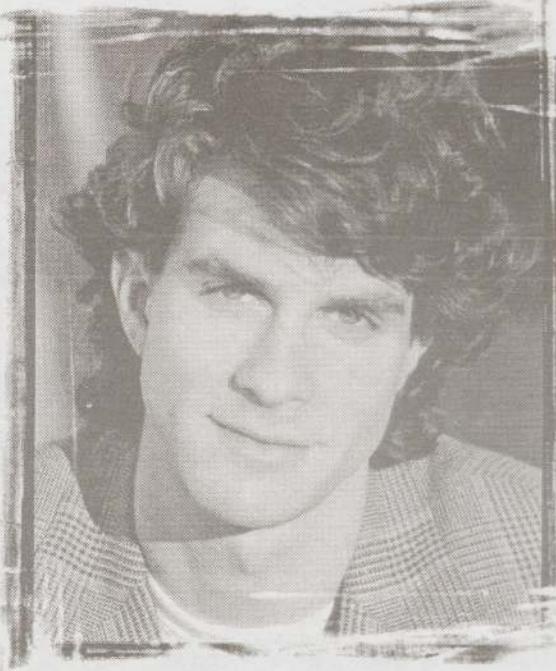
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