Gay & Lesbian Life, Commentary and Culture

HeatStroke

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Take the Clowns On



A *HeatStroke* interview with Judy Collins

By Kelly J. Reidhead, Managing Editor

Described as a child prodigy at classical piano, singer-songwriter Judy Collins discovered folk music at age 15 and promptly traded in her piano for a guitar.

She recorded her first album in 1961 at the age of 22; she later achieved notoriety interpreting folk music in the late '60s. A longtime social activist, Collins participated in the Civil Rights movement, and testified at the trial of the Chicago Seven by singing the anti-war protest song "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"

Her recording career is credited with six gold albums, and includes a string of hit songs including "Both Sides Now," and "Send in the Clowns." In 1995, she published her first novel, *Shameless*. A second volume of her memoirs, *Singing Lessons* has just been released.

HeatStroke spoke with Judy Collins via telephone from her New York headquarters prior to kicking off her annual Christmas tour, which includes a stop December 19 at ASU's Gammage Auditorium with the Phoenix Boys Choir.

***HeatStroke*: What are you planning for your appearance with the Phoenix Boys Choir?**

Judy Collins: We will have a wonderful Christmas show—a real Christmas show with a lot of Christmas music. The choir will be joining me in "A Song for Sarajevo," "Amazing Grace," and some others. And I'll sing some songs from my new album that's in my new memoir, *Singing Lessons*. And some selections from my new collection on Elektra called *Forever*, which is a 35-year compilation. So I'll have some old, some new, some classic, and mix it up with Christmas.

HS: It's not a unique experience for you to appear with a children's choir, is it?

JC: No, I've worked with a lot of choirs. Each year when we do our Christmas tour I have a chance to work with all kinds of choirs: adult, children, teenage choirs. It's quite exciting. And it really makes me aware of, and happy about, the fact that there are so many good choirs in this country—it's truly remarkable.

See "Judy Collins," page 14

Suspected anti-gay killer walks

Judge grants defense motion, teen's homophobic actions inadmissible at trial; victim's family outraged

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Murder victim Robert Hernandez's siblings are blaming sloppy detective work for the Nov. 25 acquittal of the teenager who was arrested and tried for the shooting death of their brother.

Armen Harutiunian, 16, was set free the day before Thanksgiving when a grand jury found the youth not guilty of first degree murder after only a half-day's deliberation.

Hernandez, a 36-yr-old Phoenix resident, was killed last March in what police called an anti-gay, gang-related hate crime.

He was shot during a scuffle outside a north Phoenix apartment complex in the early morning hours of March 1, 1998.

Police arrested Harutiunian, then 15, the following day saying that he and two other teens, all members of a north Valley gang known as Vila Boys, had targeted Hernandez because they believed he was gay.

Police said that Hernandez was visiting friends who lived in the apartment complex, where Harutiunian also lived. The victim and the teenagers knew each other and, even though the teens had harassed Hernandez for being gay, he offered to give one of them—a 15-yr-old girl—a ride home.

While walking to his car, records show, Hernandez was shot once in the stomach at close range with a .25 caliber pistol and died as a result of the wound.

"My brother was not gay," Kathy Hernandez, the victim's sister, told *HeatStroke* after Harutiunian was acquitted. But, she said, her brother's sexual orientation didn't matter. What mattered was that the suspected killers thought he was gay and that they had a history of teasing him for it.

That history of harassment, Kathy Hernandez said, included a fistfight between Harutiunian and Hernandez that took place a few days prior to the murder and in front of several witnesses.

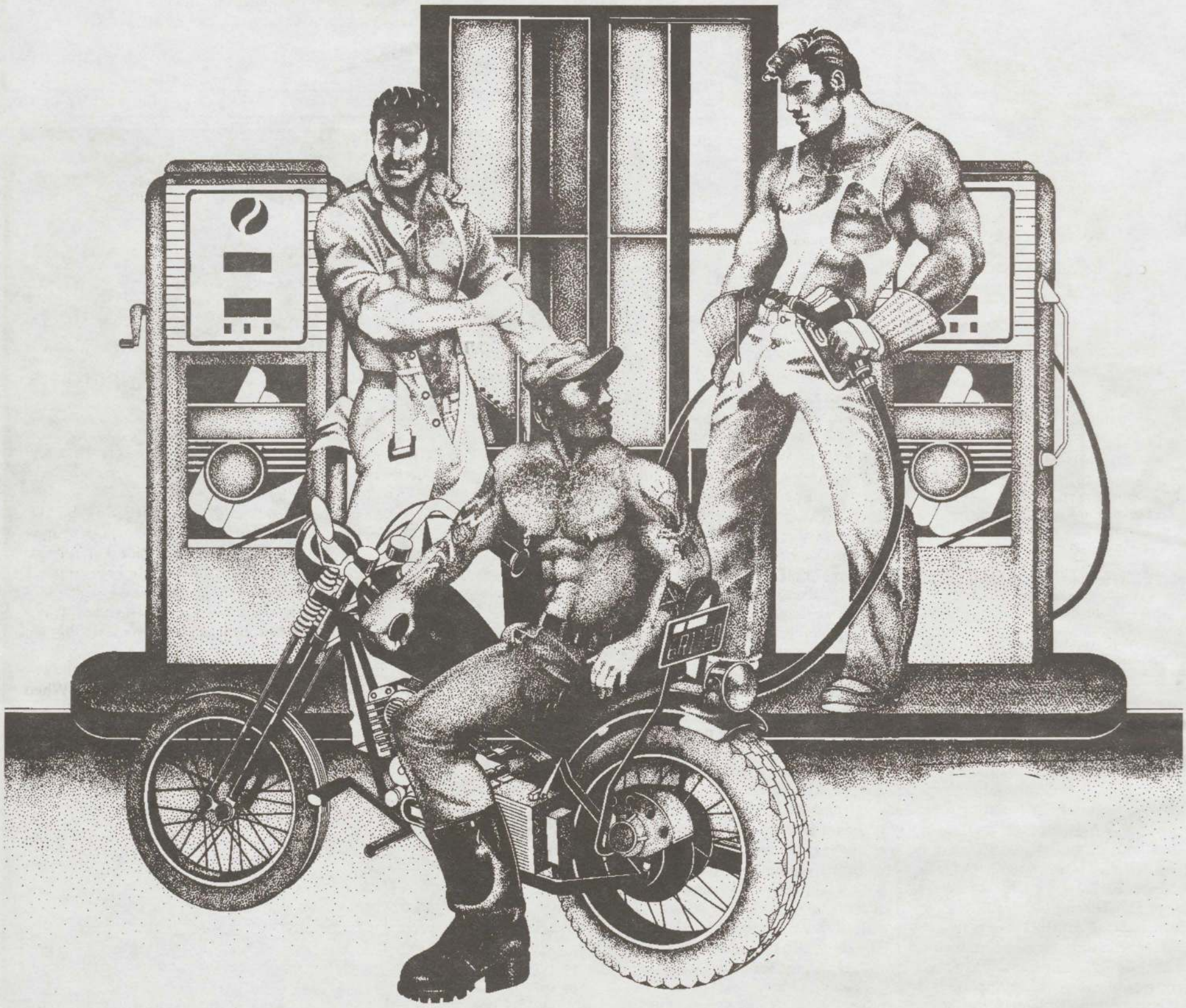
But neither the fistfight nor the antigay teasing came up during the trial, and that makes Kathy Hernandez and her family very angry.

"Robert was not gay but I am," his sister said. So, she explained, she is familiar with antigay prejudice and

See "Acquitted," page 5

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Horowitz: *Let go of marriage & the military*

Now that the election season is over, I'd like to offer my two cents worth regarding ongoing gay and lesbian civil rights battles.

I've worked with both the Arizona Human Rights Fund and the Human Rights Campaign, and I believe that the money I've donated to both organizations has been extremely well spent. Both organizations identify issues and candidates worth fighting for and supporting. Both advocacy groups have a policy of non-partisan activism, and both have shown a willingness to support candidates in both major parties.

Both HRC and AHRF had remarkable showings in last month's election with a combined success rate of over 85%. While I could not bring myself to vote for Paul Johnson, I understand and support AHRF's decision to endorse him. Jane Hull, however, was the better candidate and will be the better governor.

The gay and lesbian political lobby must show intelligence and foresight when endorsing candidates and issues. The American people are ready to respect individual rights and sexual freedom. We've certainly shown that with our willingness to ignore Bill Clinton's marital infidelities.

It's time, then, for our community to put some of the more controversial civil rights issues on the back burner in favor of a more politically savvy strategy.

It's time for gays and lesbians to appeal to Republican and conservative sensibilities and we should take our cue from the Clinton administration. This Democratic president is more Republican than many Republicans are.

The basis for the conservative movement—the one articulated by Barry Goldwater—is that the government should not interfere with individual liberties unless absolutely necessary. The government doesn't belong in our bedrooms. We can take the responsibility for educating the majority of Americans who would support legislation that would grant or restore basic human rights to gay people.

The first step is to at least temporarily abandon our fights for gay marriage, gays in the military and increased penalties for hate crimes. We should certainly take positions supporting these issues, but our resources and dollars should be devoted to more intelligent fights. We should be fighting for the repeal of archaic sodomy laws, employment non-discrimination laws and domestic partnership benefits. Economic equality and sexual freedom are issues that middle Americans can support.

The concept of gay marriage still doesn't sit well with most Americans. Now, I don't believe for a second that we should base civil rights judgments on the majority view. Yet it's time for us to log some big-time victories in the civil rights arena. Voters in Hawaii and Alaska recently changed their states' constitutions to avoid having to sanction gay marriage. It's simply not our wisest battle.

Equal financial and employment opportunities, however, provide a significant chance for political success for our movement. Even the staunchest Republican conservatives have a touch time arguing that an equal chance to hold a job or get health insurance falls into the category of liberal outrageousness. The only folks left arguing against these important pieces will be the fundamentalist religious nuts who picket gay funerals and insist on hellfire and damnation as the basis for governmental decisions. They are so far out of step with America that they're marching in a different parade.

We should be fighting for the repeal of archaic sodomy laws, employment non-discrimination laws and domestic partnership benefits. Economic equality and sexual freedom are issues that middle Americans can support.

Hate crimes legislation is too vulnerable to the "special rights" argument. Why should crimes against gay people be subject to greater penalties than crimes against any other American? I believe in hate crimes legislation as a decent means to combat bigotry and hate-related violence, yet that legislation should take a back seat to efforts to repeal any sodomy laws that still exist.

Straight people, too, are thoroughly tired of the sexual repression advocated by the religious right. When we educate the public to understand that the religious right hates non-traditional heterosexual sex almost as much as homosexual sex, legislatures will begin to get out of the sex regulation business and concentrate on the economic issues people want addressed.

Let's win where we can right now. The lesser battles should follow.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and President of the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project.

Editors:

For David Horowitz to find the gay/lesbian community complicit in Matthew Shepard's murder (*HeatStroke*, issue #53, Nov. 19-Dec.2) is a mind-boggling instance of the same homophobia Horowitz so righteously decries.

Ken Furtado
Phoenix

Oops!

In last issue's *Goings On* listings, *HeatStroke* erroneously tacked an extra zero to the amount of prize money going to the winner of Arizona Central Pride's annual logo contest.

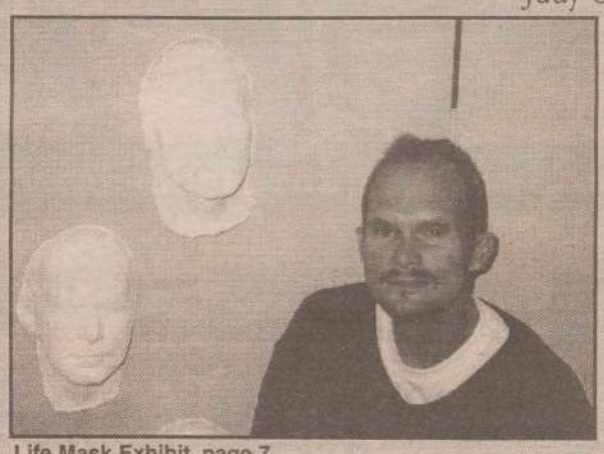
First Prize is actually $100—not $1000.

The contest is now underway, and interested designers can still contact ACP at (602)279-1771 for submission information.

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Gay advocates ecstatic after Georgia anti-sodomy law struck down

ATLANTA (AP)

The state Supreme Court's decision to overturn an anti-sodomy law has Georgia gay activists thinking the state—once known as one of the nation's most anti-homosexual—is quickly changing.

``I think that Georgia is preparing itself to move into the 21st century as a just state,'' said Lynn Cothren, an Atlanta gay activist, in reaction to the Nov. 23 ruling. ``We are moving forward. This is an issue we had been working on for a long time. There is still a lot of work to be done; it's a slow process.''

The state Supreme Court voted 6-1 to overturn the sodomy conviction of Anthony Powell. The former Norcross resident was found guilty of sodomizing his 17-year-old niece in 1996. He had been charged with rape, but his lawyers argued that the sex was consensual and the jury acquitted on that charge.

The court's majority opinion, by Chief Justice Robert Benham, said the law violates the state constitution's provision that citizens are entitled to privacy.

``We cannot think of any other activity that reasonable persons would rank as more private and more deserving of protection from governmental interference than consensual, private, adult sexual activity,'' he wrote.

The state's 165-year-old law banning oral and anal sex was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986 in the landmark Hardwick v. Bowers case. Voting 5-4, the court ruled that the U.S. Constitution provided no protection for private homosexual conduct in a case that infuriated gay activists nationwide.

Georgia State University law professor Victor Flatt said the federal court basically reversed itself when last year it struck down a Colorado state consititutional amendment prohibiting laws barring discrimination against homosexuals.

``And since the Supreme Court undercut itself, the state followed suit,'' Flatt said. ``And I think that politically this was the right time too. These are elected officials. That's not to say they had their eyes on the ballot box, but they felt it was an appropriate time do this now.''

The state court heard another challenge to the law in 1996, but that case turned on the solicitation of sodomy.

Three other states—Kentucky, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania—have recently overturned such laws. There is a suit underway in Texas challenging a state law banning homosexual acts in a a case where police stormed into a private residence. A similar Louisiana law is also being challenged.

Eighteen states still have laws against sodomy. Those challenging such laws now have ``fuel and ammunition to fight the battle,'' said Powell's attorney Steven H. Sadow.

The ruling cannot be appealed, because the Georgia Supreme Court is the ultimate authority on the state's constitution. Legislators would have to amend the constitution to pass a similar law.

Governor-elect Roy Barnes had no comment, while fellow Democrat and Lt. Gov.-elect Mark Taylor said the old law was useful in prosecuting sex cases in which more serious charges, such as rape, were hard to prove.

``I think there needs to be a law of some sort on the books,'' said Taylor, who will preside over the Senate when the Legislature convenes in January. ``I think, Republican or Democrat, it's an issue the Legislature would rather not deal with. But we don't have that option.''

Charles Shanor, an Emory law professor, said the sodomy law gave juries an out when they did not want to convict for either rape or aggravated sodomy.

``With this law, they could penalize what they saw as wrong conduct—such as a married man having relations with his 17-year-old niece and not send him away for life,'' Shanor said.

The states that ban sodomy are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

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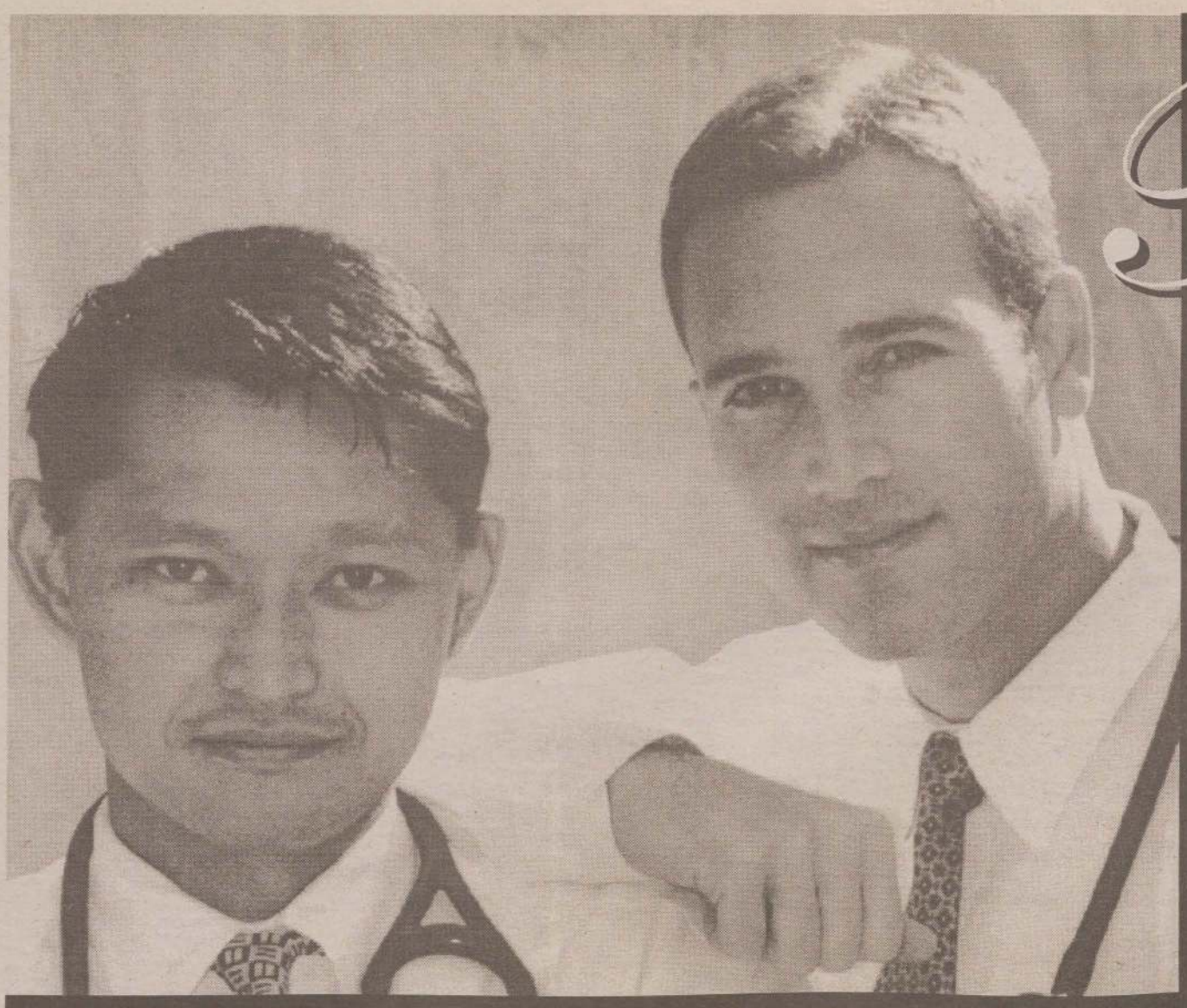
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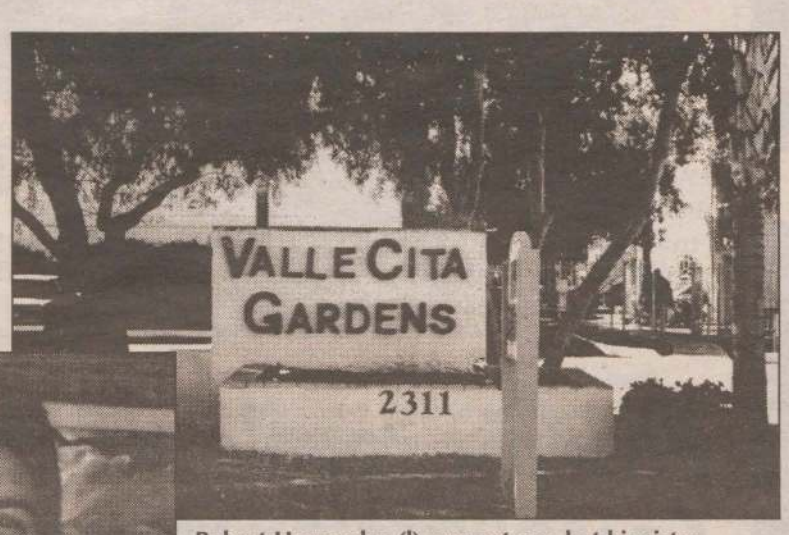
Continued from page 1

believes she knows where the gang members got the idea that her brother was gay.

Robert Hernandez was divorced, the father of two. "We would sometimes go to [gay or lesbian] clubs together and he was open about it so maybe they thought something from that," his sister said.

According to the police report: "several members of the gang to include Armen [Harutiunian] and Joshua (Josh Ponseti, 18, also alleged to have been in the parking lot at the time of the shooting) had been harassing the victim, Robert, for some time, calling him 'a faggot'."

Kathy Hernandez said that despite that written report, neither the county prosecutors nor Harutiunian's defense attorney opted to bring up the anti-gay issue. "They never said anything about it during the whole trial and I still don't know why."





Robert Hernandez (l) was not gay, but his sister believes his killer thought so. Above: the North Phoenix apartments where the shooting took place.

Deputy County Attorney Dan McElroy, who tried the case for the prosecution, said there was no evidence that the murder victim was a homosexual and that it was therefore an ancillary issue.

"The defense made a motion to keep both the gay issue and the gang issue out of it and the motion was granted," McElroy explained. Because Hernandez was not homosexual and was not a member of a gang, "The shooting seemed to be about something else."

The Hernandez family doesn't think so.

The police record reveals that in the moments before the shooting, one of the teens present, the female, allegedly witnessed the victim: "grabbing at Armen's butt, and he was making Armen very mad. Armen told Robert numerous times to stop it but Robert would not stop. . . Armen finally took out the .25 cal. gun he had and grabbed Robert in a headlock, and again told him to stop."

The victim's brother, Steve Hernandez, told *HeatStroke* that during Harutiunian's trial, that particular chain of events—events that led to the pistol being fired—changed from the way they were described for the police detectives' report.

At the trial, "They (defense witnesses and lawyers) said that Robert kept grabbing at the girl's butt." Steve Hernandez said the lawyers were successful at making it appear to the jury as though Josh Ponseti, the teenage girl's boyfriend, may have been motivated by jealousy to shoot Robert.

Steve Hernandez admitted that after watching the trial even he wasn't sure which of the two males in the parking lot actually pulled the trigger. He and his family wish the state had arrested and prosecuted all three of the teens.

McElroy said that the jury had a difficult time believing the other two teens during the trial. "The witnesses were not credible. They had lied before. The jury chose not to believe them."

A victim's advocate mediated with the Hernandez family on the jury's behalf. Both Steve and Kathy Hernandez said their family was told that, although most of the jury members believed Harutiunian was probably guilty, their hands were tied due to poor detective work.

The prosecutor said he was disappointed with the acquittal. He said the jury tried to reconstruct the angle of the bullet and compare it with the witnesses' description—that Harutiunian pushed the gun into Hernandez's stomach with his free hand while holding him in a headlock with the other, and then pulled the trigger.

Jurors concluded that Hernandez's wound was not consistent with that recounting of the shooting and were unable to convict for that reason.

"Basically, the police made a lot of mistakes," Steve Hernandez said. "They didn't question the other kid, they didn't check his clothes."

"The jurors didn't even want to talk to us afterward and I can see why," Kathy Hernandez said. She said she assumes jurors were embarrassed at having to free Harutiunian based on the poor evidence against him and confusion over the extent of the other teens' involvement. She doesn't blame the jury—she blames the police.

She has a copy of the police report, and thinks it indicates that the officers formed their opinions about the case early on in their investigation.

They thought Robert was gay, she said, so maybe they placed less importance on the investigation because of that. Perhaps the detectives felt Robert got what was coming to him for hanging out with gang members as a supposed gay man, and he should have known better.

She and her family believed throughout the trial—and they still believe—that if police had held all three teens in the beginning, one of them could have been proven guilty.

"It's one of those things where you just don't know what to make of it," McElroy said of the not guilty verdict.

Now Steve and Kathy say that their family is considering a civil suit against the three teenagers, based on the fact that they all deserted the scene and went to bed, leaving Robert to die.

Her big brother didn't die right away, Kathy Hernandez pointed out. "He laid there still alive for at least five minutes and they didn't call any help. They just went to bed."

Deputy County Attorney Dan McElroy said there was no evidence that the murder victim was a homosexual and that it was therefore an ancillary issue.

She added, "All three were part of it. All three were there, and all three ran."

What makes Kathy Hernandez particularly angry is the fact that her brother was such a nice guy, and that's what got him into trouble that night.

Even though the kids bugged Robert and called him a faggot, he was willing to offer one of them a late-night ride home. "He was the type of guy who would do anything for anybody—which makes me mad. I wish he would have told them, 'No'."

"I'm really pissed, but what can we do?" said Steve Hernandez. "There wasn't enough evidence."

"I want to make a lot of noise about this and I don't want it to be over," his sister added. "Hopefully, somehow, justice will be served. Because basically, these kids got away with murder."

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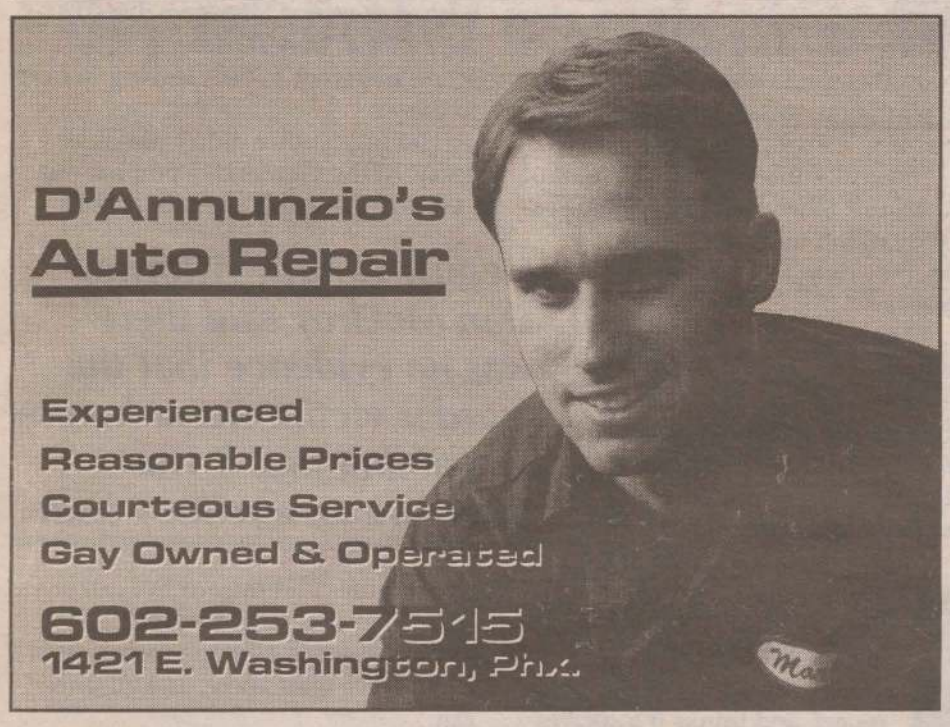
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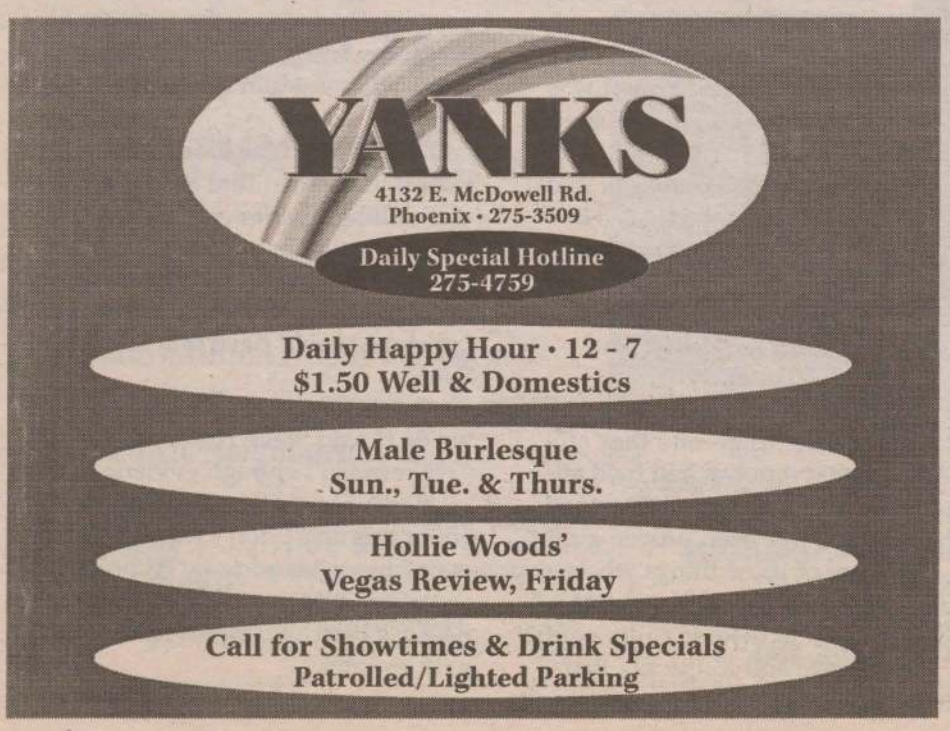
Jody Flowers (l), LADS' 1998 Char Humanitarian Award recipient, with other nominees.

The members of Los Amigos del Sol, a Phoenix-based social and support group, presented their 1998 Char Humanitarian Award to Jody Flowers at the annual Thanksgiving picnic November 21.

Flowers, an 18-year veteran of the group, received a $200 cash prize in addition to an engraved plaque.

Danny Klevin, President of LADS, said the recipient of the Char Award must be a "true humanitarian, someone constantly working for the community's betterment. Jody Flowers exceeds these expectations."

The Char Award was endowed as a memorial to Charlotte Scheidler, a much-loved LADS member who passed away in 1986.



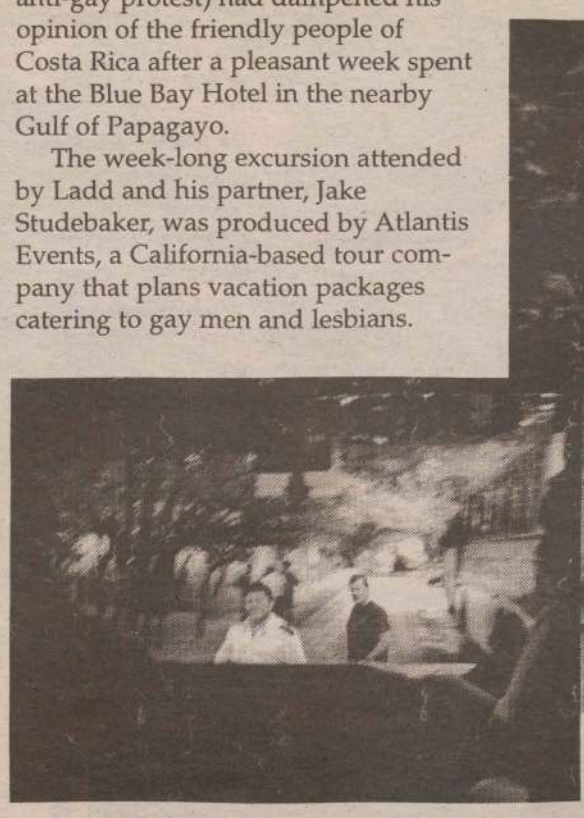
Phoenix couple caught in Costa Rica's anti-gay fracas

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Two Phoenix men were among more than 300 gay and lesbian American tourists who faced an angry mob of anti-gay locals while leaving the remote northern Pacific Province of Guanacaste in Costa Rica Oct. 24.

After the ordeal, Alan Ladd of Phoenix wrote a letter to the editor of *The Tico Times*, a Central American English-language newspaper, to point out that the last day's activities (the anti-gay protest) had dampened his opinion of the friendly people of Costa Rica after a pleasant week spent at the Blue Bay Hotel in the nearby Gulf of Papagayo.

The week-long excursion attended by Ladd and his partner, Jake Studebaker, was produced by Atlantis Events, a California-based tour company that plans vacation packages catering to gay men and lesbians.





The protest was led by priests and politicians from the nearby village of Sardinal de Carillo, who persuaded 200 to 300 residents to block buses on the narrow road that leads in and out of the vacation resort. Protesters were supported by Congresswoman Marisol Clachar of the ruling Social Christian Unity Party.

Clachar and other right-wing leaders apparently led the townspeople to believe that some sort of gay congress was taking place at the resort. She released a statement after the protest saying that she "will always fight to conserve the most sacred moral values of the Costa Rican family."

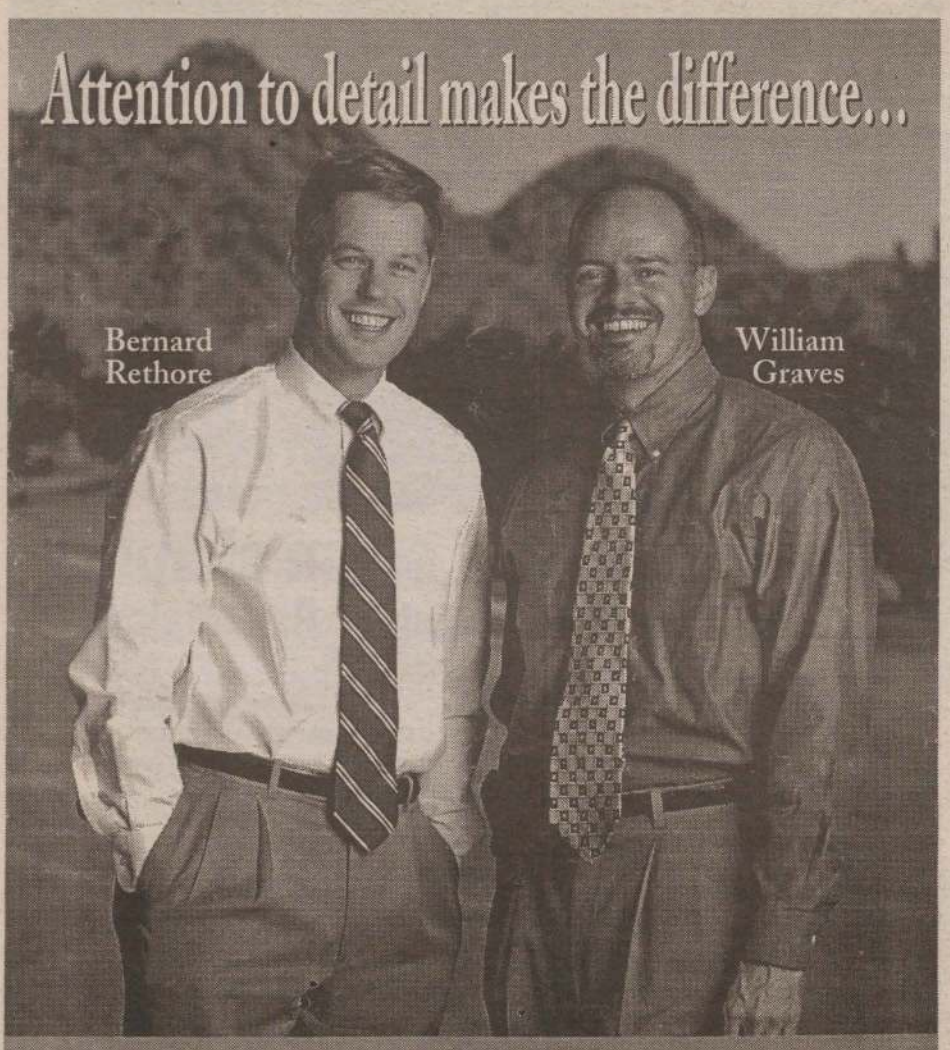
"It was kind of scary," Ladd told *HeatStroke*. "There were all these people along the sides of the road and then the bus had to stop for a tractor trailer to pass by. At one point it looked like they might start banging on the bus."

Ladd said that not everyone along the route seemed angry. "Some people would clap or wave as we went by. About every third or fourth one would yell or give us the finger." Another group of gay tourists who were just arriving in the country was also held up as they atttempted to reach the resort.

The Tico Times reported that Costa Rican President Miguel Angel Rodriguez intervened personally to get the buses moving again, phoning leaders of the protest in order to get them to lift the blockade. The second wave of gay tourists left the resort without incident one week later.

"I had a wonderful time otherwise and I would recommend the trip—if I could be sure that would never happen again," Ladd said.

A spokesman for Atlantis told *The Advocate* in November that the company has been promised letters of apology from President Rodriguez and from the country's minister of tourism, and that it has not ruled out future excursions to the Costa Rican Gulf.



Life Masks displayed in Mesa



The much-anticipated installation of the Life Masks art project opened at Mesa Community College Nov. 23, and several hundred people attended an opening reception for the project Nov. 24.

"It's really exciting," artist Michelle Milne said of the impressive turnout for the event. Milne worked for months on the groundbreaking multi-layered art project that incorporates sculpture and portraiture as a way of honoring and memorializing those with HIV/AIDS.

The molded plaster faces are mounted on a spiraling wall and notes, poems and statements from many of the participants are included. The exhibit is designed to travel and serve as an ongoing memorial and educational outreach.

Suing parents unfazed by ruling in Weaver case

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)

A federal judge's sweeping ruling in favor of Spanish Fork High School teacher Wendy Weaver neither surprises nor discourages the parents group pressing ahead with its own lawsuit against Weaver.

On Nov. 25, U.S. District Judge Bruce Jenkins granted every single request that Weaver, a lesbian who was dismissed from her volleyball coaching position after disclosing her sexual orientation, made in her civil-rights lawsuit.

The ruling orders Nebo School District officials to rescind a gag order that prohibits Weaver from speaking about her sexual orientation in school.

The judge also ordered Spanish Fork High to reinstate Weaver as girls' volleyball coach in the 1999-2000 season and pay her the $1,500 she would have earned for coaching the team this year, a position she was denied after making public her sexual orientation.

Weaver was gleeful about Jenkins' ruling. Her critics were not.

``That is not the issue we are addressing,'' said Roxann Barney, president of a parents group called Citizens for Moral and Legal Values in Nebo School District, which filed a lawsuit against Weaver and the Utah State Board of Education in Provo's 4th District Court.

``I've always indicated that she would win her free-speech claims,'' added the group's attorney, Matt Hilton, who estimates he has donated about $40,000 worth of his time pursuing the lawsuit.

``They unnecessarily regulated her private speech,'' he said. ``But we are talking about the statutes and regulations that are easily understandable.''

Hilton's lawsuit centers on claims that Weaver, a psychology teacher, practiced psychology on her students without a license and promoted a homosexual lifestyle despite the fact that sodomy is a crime in Utah.

Hilton's lawsuit centers on claims that Weaver, a psychology teacher, practiced psychology on her students without a license and promoted a homosexual lifestyle despite the fact that sodomy is a crime in Utah.

Hilton said Weaver's professional conduct contradicts her obligation ``to fulfill a state mandate to role-model morality and obedience to law.''

However, he said, the lawsuit is not driven by hatred of homosexuality.

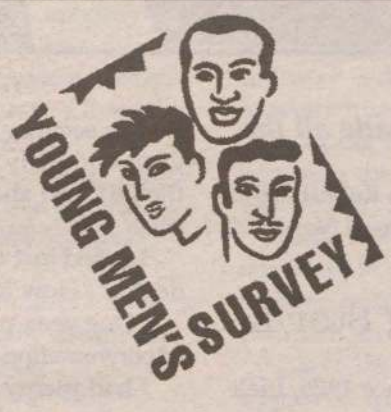
``We are addressing fact-sensitive individual situations that we believe were in violation of the law, whether one is heterosexual or homosexual,'' he said.

``There is a lot more at issue in this case than (the future) of one teacher.''

Hilton added that if his group loses, then ``we have redefined what public education is.

``If that occurs, then I would imagine there would be many parents in this state who would want to rethink their commitment to public education. And alternate concepts, such as vouchers, home schooling and private schooling, would be reexamined,'' he said.

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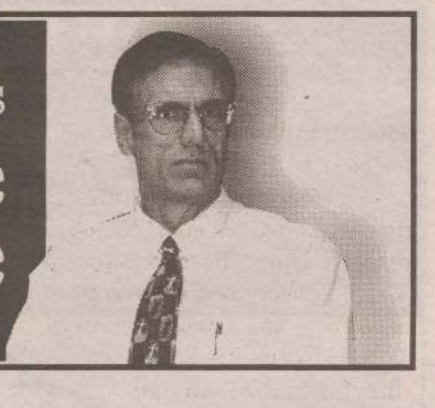
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Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



"And AIDS has made all the difference..."

—paraphrase from Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken*

The Gathering Storm

Living in Phoenix since 1976, I felt insulated from much of the world as did many others who moved here to escape the hubbub and information overload of larger metropolitan areas throughout the United States.

Then, one day in May of 1983, a headline in *The Arizona Republic* caught my eye: "AIDS Claims First Victims in Arizona."

I once thought that this disease would never touch me nor the desert's gay community in which I played an active part. But I knew then that I was wrong. I reacted—in order to preserve my life—by becoming celibate.

As the months and years ticked by and hundreds and thousands of people died, I thought I had it made. Until one day in 1986, when a friend told me that someone with whom I had been intimate five years earlier had just died of AIDS.

The security of having evaded the virus suddenly slipped away; I took the HIV test and the results were positive.

I asked just one question of my doctor: "How long?"

"One year, or so", he replied. End of conversation.

I had plenty of money and lots of spare time, so thus began the Decline and Fall of Mark Hoffman. Dinner parties, regular visits to the dog track, gifts for friends, alcohol, cocaine, and secrecy filled my days and nights.

The Deepening Storm

Two years later I was still alive and had managed to spend myself into bankruptcy. I now had a good reason to hate this virus, the doctors, my friends, and anyone or anything that crossed my path.

I tried to beat the virus and my feelings into submission with larger quantities of drugs and pills.

And so it went, on and on, as I continued to curse God and HIV and "those people" that gave me this disease. Why wasn't I sick or dead, you cruel Bastard?

I thought that I would die alone in a world of abject despair with intense resentments and total hatred for the misguided intruder that had entered my life.

Grey Skies are going to Clear Up

Then it was 1992 and I had grown sick and tired of hating HIV and myself.

I tried to imagine what it might be like if I could accept this virus as a part of my life. Maybe I could acknowledge its presence, learn from it, and then wrestle it into submission. I gave up alcohol, drugs, gambling, isolation, anger, resentment and depression through considerable effort and much hard work.

I had always doubted whether or not I had chosen the proper path in life, always wondering if I should have struck out upon another. This self-doubt had kept me from living; AIDS brought me from darkness into light.

Mary Fisher, HIV+ mother and activist, has called all of us that are infected pilgrims journeying upon an untraveled road that bends before us. Its corners keep us from clearly seeing what might lie ahead.

This uncertainty often brings a depth of involvement and intensity to one's life that I had thought to be unattainable—that this "living" was only for others, more dedicated and holy than I ever could be.

Some people in my life have seemed to possess a certain gift for honest living, to have been able to live life with their hearts and souls, not covering their personal truths with hypocrisy. I had always admired them but was afraid to become one of them. How I longed for what they experienced.

And now I have it. I have given up my profession of "acting" for one of living—and what a life it is!

One thing that AIDS forced me to do is to remain focused on what is happening this moment; everything that I do must have as much meaning and integrity as possible and my words shall always tell and reveal my passage rather than obscure it so that it might not be seen.

My intense involvement with the virus forced me to relearn biology, physiology, psychology, theology, nutrition, and all the other things that I had tried to learn when young only because good grades were all that mattered. Those grades don't mean much anymore—but knowledge regained is now priceless.

This intensity of being can be as strong as the desert sun on a cloudless summer day. It sears my soul. And when I stumble during this pilgrimage, I pick myself up and dust myself off, pushing forward toward the next bend in the road.

There I meet other pilgrims, constantly experiencing newfound fears and wonders, journeying together by singing and weeping, listening and teaching, consoling and rejoicing in a fellowship with strangers that deepens every day.

Mark Hoffman is HIV positive and works as Health Educator and Treatment Advocate for Phoenix Body Positive and A Place called Home, two non-profit organizations serving the Valley's HIV community.

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Pharmaceutical industry says new AIDS drugs lowering death rates

NEW YORK (AP)

The pharmaceutical industry added five AIDS drugs to its arsenal this year and has 113 more medicines in development to treat the disease.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, which released the figures Nov. 24, credit the 54 AIDS drugs now available in the United States as the major cause for the decline in the nation's AIDS death rate.

``We are trying to push the point that there is a lot of hope for the future,'' said Dr. John Siegfried, the trade group's senior medical officer.

AIDS patient advocates say they are grateful for the new drugs, but also say the medications are too costly and have too many side effects.

The five leading AIDS medications cost an average of $4,276 each a year, according to the company's wholesale prices, which are often 10 percent to 20 percent below retail levels.

Because most patients take multiple AIDS drugs, the federal government has estimated patients' annual drug costs at about $10,000. More than half the 240,000 people with AIDS in the United States receive combination drug therapies.

Siegfried said drug companies must charge prices high enough to recoup the millions of dollars in research and development costs.

``If you get a gusher you have to fund the drilling for the next gusher,'' said Siegfried, who also works as a volunteer doctor at an AIDS clinic in Washington, D.C.

That is what Agouron Pharmaceutical Corp. had in mind last month when it raised by 4 percent the price of its AIDS drug Viracept to $5,913 a year. The La Jolla, Calif. based-company made $13.1 million in profits from the drug on $466.50 million in sales for its 1998 fiscal year that ended in June.

A company spokeswoman said the price hike was needed to support research into other AIDS treatments.

``It's discouraging to see drugs becoming more and more expensive,'' said A. Cornelius Baker, executive director of the National Association of People with AIDS. ``From a purely money-making perspective it surely should be in any pharmaceutical company's interest to produce a vaccine or drug for HIV that is easy to take and readily accessible,'' Baker said.

Dupont Pharmaceuticals touted its pricing with its anti-HIV drug Sustiva that won Food and Drug Administration approval Sept. 18. The once-a-day antiviral drug's wholesale cost is $3,942 a year.

The number of AIDS drugs in development slipped this year from 124 to 113, and new approved drugs fell from 8 to 5, changes Friedman said did not signal a new trend. By comparison, the drug industry has 316 cancer drugs in testing and 96 drugs for heart disease/stroke drugs in development.

After much campaigning from the AIDS patient community, the drug industry is developing drugs aimed at women and children. And it is developing treatments aimed at restoring the immune system rather than just trying to contain the virus.

Meanwhile, seven companies are currently testing HIV vaccines. VaxGen of Brisbane Calif. is the only company in the final testing phase.

Glaxo Wellcome, which has seven approved AIDS drugs, more than any other pharmaceutical maker, is awaiting federal FDA decisions on two more drugs, Agenerase and Ziagen.

Former Denny's waiter loses wrongful termination lawsuit

SAN DIEGO (AP)

A former Denny's waiter who claimed he was fired because he was gay and has the AIDS virus has lost his lawsuit against the restaurant chain.

After a three-week trial and three days of deliberations, a San Diego Superior Court jury Nov. 24 found that Gary Hardin, 48, was not wrongfully terminated or discriminated against when he was fired in August 1997.

Hardin of San Diego asked the jury for $3 million. While the jury found in favor of Denny's, the jury awarded Hardin $16,029 because the panel believed the company did not fully explain to Hardin why he was fired. The amount represents what Hardin would have earned in one year with the restaurant chain.

Hardin, who had worked for Denny's for seven years, did not comment to reporters after the verdict.

Denny's spokeswoman Karen Randall said the decision shows the South Carolina-based chain was justified in firing Hardin because he violated the company's strict anti-discrimination policy.

Co-workers testified that Hardin often used racial slurs and refused to serve African-Americans and Hispanics.

``We applaud the jury's rejection of Mr. Hardin's highly publicized, frivolous allegations,'' Denny's President John Romandetti said. ``This verdict supports our strong stand against discrimination of any kind.''

An anti-discrimination policy was put in place at Denny's restaurants several years ago after several minorities sued the company because some managers had discriminated against some ethnic groups.

The policy prohibits discrimination against customers or employees because of race, color, religion, sexual preference or age. Randall said the company also holds seminars to explain the policy to managers and employees.

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International Gay & Lesbian News Briefs

Compiled by Rex Wockner

French Senator comes out

French Senator Bertrand Delanoe, a Paris Socialist, came out of the closet on the M6 network TV program Zone Interdite (No-man's Land) Nov. 24.

"I'm a homosexual," Delanoe said. "Perhaps I'm under-estimating the consequences of the discussion we are having today but I'm 48 years old [and] I must live my convictions. ... And my career has never been the most important thing to me.

"I would really prefer the citizens to be indifferent [to my sexuality]," he said.

Delanoe also is secretary of the Senate's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and is planning to run for mayor of Paris in 2001.

According to French media, the only other open gay in French politics is Pau Mayor and National Assembly Deputy Andre Labarrere.

Banana guilty of sodomy

Former Zimbabwean President Canaan Banana was found guilty Nov. 26 of sodomy and sexual assault against 11 of his bodyguards, cooks and gardeners between 1980 and 1987.

Just before the verdict was announced, Banana fled to neighboring Botswana and requested political asylum. He had been free on ZW$20,000 (US$546) bail. He faces a prison sentence of up to 22 years at his Dec. 10 sentencing.

During his June trial, Banana, 62, said the charges were fabricated to destroy his character following rumors he was planning a political comeback that would challenge the rule of vehemently anti-gay President Robert Mugabe.

Banana was brought to trial after a policeman shot to death a colleague who had taunted him as "Banana's wife." The policeman, Jefta Dube, testified that Banana forced him into a three-year sexual relationship from 1984-1986. In the first assault, Dube said, he was drugged and woke up naked with a smiling Banana saying, "We helped ourselves." When Dube finally ended the relationship, Banana had him jailed, he said.

Other victims described a scenario in which Banana would ask them to play cards, offer them a drink, put on music, insist on teaching them to dance, then kiss and fondle them while dancing. One man jumped out a window, one pushed Banana into a swimming pool and a third screamed so loudly that Banana's wife appeared.

Following the verdict, Keith Goddard, director of the group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, commented: "I can't see the logic in asking for political asylum from a gay-sex conviction in Botswana, which is almost as homophobic as Zimbabwe. But Banana's case has always been more about abuse of power and rape than about consensual sex."

President Mugabe loathes homosexuals. He has said: "[They are] repugnant to my human conscience ... immoral and repulsive. ... Animals in the jungle are better than these people because at least they know that this is a man or a woman. ... I don't believe they have any rights at all. [Gay sex is] an abomination."

Bishop urges gay priests to quit

The Bishop of Edinburgh, Scotland, is so disgusted with the Church of England's homophobia that he is suggesting gay priests quit their jobs.

"I am saying to some of my young gay friends [in the clergy] that they should think seriously about leaving the Church of England because things have got that bad," the Rt. Rev. Richard Holloway said Nov. 19.

"I could stock the Scottish Episcopal Church with sexual refugees from the Church of England. Hardly a week goes by when I don't get a letter from someone, usually with a heart-breaking story."

Holloway called the fight for gay equality "the next human-rights issue on the church agenda after the ordination of women."

In August, bishops attending the Anglican Communion's once-a-decade Lambeth conference in Canterbury, England, rejected gay sex as "incompatible with the scripture" and said gay priests must be celibate. The vote was 526-70 with 45 abstentions.

At the time, church leader the Most Rev. George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, said, "I stand wholeheartedly with traditional Anglican orthodoxy [and] see no room in the Holy Scripture or the entire Christian tradition for any sexual activity outside of matrimony."

The 70-million-member Anglican Communion includes the Church of England, the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada and the U.S. Protestant Episcopal Church.

Anglicanism was created in the 16th Century by England's King Henry VIII after Pope Clement VII refused to let him divorce his wife.

Gay Filipino sex slave seeks reparations

A 74-year-old gay man in Manila, the Philippines, is seeking reparations from Japan for being kept as a sex slave during World War II.

Walter Dempster says he and five of his drag-queen friends were kidnapped, taken to a garrison in suburban Manila, and forced to service Japanese soldiers for several months.

"We were mauled, punched, kicked, slapped, pinched with cigarette butts and hit with bayonets until we bled," Dempster told the Manila Standard newspaper. "Then we were pushed on the table face down where a long queue of Japanese soldiers waited their turn."

Dempster is receiving assistance in his court case from a Manila city councilor.

Slovenia bans workplace discrimination

Slovenia banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace Oct. 24.

Article 6 of the Law On Work

APOLLO'S

Daily Specials

Sunday
Happy Hour
10am-8pm
"Booze & Cruise"
8pm-12am
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Monday
Happy Hour
8am-8pm
Beer Bust
8pm-12 am
Domestic Beer $1.75
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Free Pool all day

Tuesday
Happy Hour
8am-8pm
"Vulgar Vodka" Night
Well Vodka $2.00

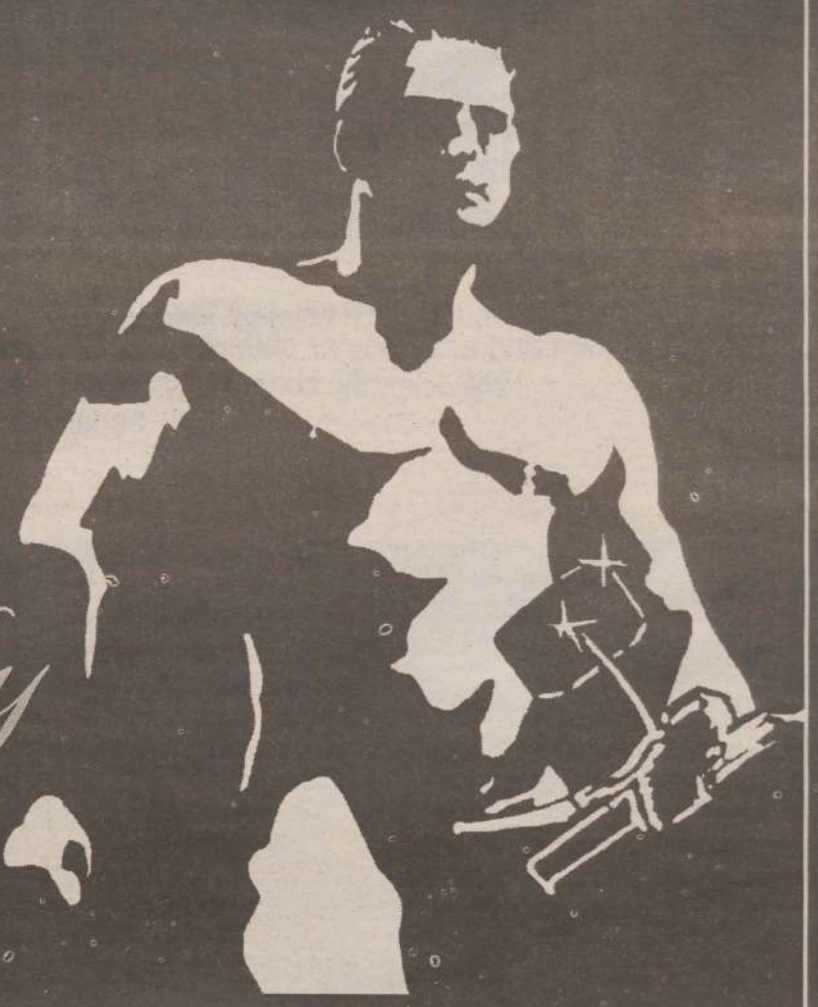
Wednesday
Happy Hour
8am-8pm
"Booze & Cruise"
8pm-12am
Reduced prices on well drinks, domestic beer & shot specials

Thursday
Happy Hour
8am-8pm
Beer Bust
8pm - 12am

Friday
Extended Happy Hour
8am - 9pm

Saturday
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200 Aussies strip for charity

Two hundred naked men ran around a roundabout (a traffic circle) in Weipa, Queensland, Australia, Nov. 22 to raise money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and other charities.

Tropical Weipa is a small bauxite mining town.

The group also hopes to enter the Guiness Book of Records as the largest number of nude men ever to do a radio interview.

Some 800 onlookers dropped about AU$2,000 (US$1,267) into plastic bags carried by the runners during the half-hour frenzy.

"There was a fantastic party mood with the runners and the spectators all dancing in the street," said Nigel Gould, founder and organizer of the annual event.

Tutu compares anti-gay discrimination to apartheid

In an appearance at the PeaceJam Youth Conference in Denver Nov. 15, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 67, compared discrimination against gays to apartheid, reported the *Rocky Mountain News*.

When asked by a conference attendee which injustice he most wants to reverse, Tutu said, "Will you give me two?"

He then called on world leaders to forgive the debts of developing nations and said persecution of gays is as wrong as apartheid because gayness is no more of a choice than race.

"For me it's a matter of human rights and a deeply theological issue," he said. "I believe they [gays] are as much God's children as anyone. ... I can't be part of a scheme for clobbering them."

Britons: gay Cabinet Ministers are OK

Fifty-two percent of Britons think it's OK if members of the nation's Cabinet are gay.

In recent weeks, three cabinet ministers were outed. A fourth one was already openly gay.

The ICM poll conducted for the *Guardian* newspaper found that 33 percent of those questioned believe cabinet ministers should not be openly gay and 15 percent don't know how they feel about the matter.

Women polled more gay-friendly than men and people aged 25-45 were the most gay-supportive. The survey questioned 1,222 adults.

Aussie police nix Tom of Finland

Police in St. Kilda, Victoria, Australia—a section of Melbourne—have ordered the public library to remove a book of Tom of Finland drawings after patron Steve Jones stumbled upon it and freaked out.

The Police Gaming and Vice Squad said the drawings of hypermacho hunks having sex breach censorship laws.

Jones, who picketed the library for a week to draw attention to his distress, told reporters: "I'm not for censorship and I'm not a moral crusader, but I find this totally repugnant."

Library officials acknowledged that the book is "sexually explicit" but said a lot of other library material is also.

Dutch air force seeks gay recruits

The Dutch air force has launched an advertising campaign in the newspaper *De Gay Krant*.

The ad shows an F16 fighter plane with the caption: "There are more exciting places on earth than a dark room. ... Imagine yourself in the cockpit of an F16. You start it up and only moments later you have 15 million people beneath you. ... Do you know a more exciting place than the F16's cockpit? Please let us know."

A "dark room" (called a "back room" in America) is a space in a gay bar set aside for sexual activity.

Skating champ outed

Canadian figure-skating champion and Olympic silver medalist Brian Orser was outed Nov. 18 when a 10-month-old, $300,000 (US$195,000) palimony suit by ex-lover Craig Leask became public knowledge.

Leask, 35, says Orser, 36, cheated on him, kicked him out of their house, stole his property and killed their dogs. The five- year relationship ended in mid-1997.

"This is very upsetting to me and my family," Orser told reporters. "This came as a total shock and obviously it's very serious."

In a court affidavit filed in an attempt to keep the suit secret, Orser said he had never publicly acknowledged "my gayness" and feared his career would be "irreparably harmed" if the court records were not sealed.

"I earn almost all of my annual income from skating in professional ice shows," he said. "It is highly likely if these allegations were made public that I would not be invited to return to a number of major ice shows. I have always been viewed as a role model for young skaters. I believe these allegations could do serious damage to my reputation and ability to earn a livelihood."

Justice Susan Lang rejected Orser's request, saying, "One anticipates that in today's society such a disclosure would not attract any public stigma let alone one sufficient to override the important principle of the public right of access to court documents."

Western Australian gays target Parliament

Gays in the state of Western Australia are in the midst of a campaign to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and lower the age of consent for gay sex from the current 21.

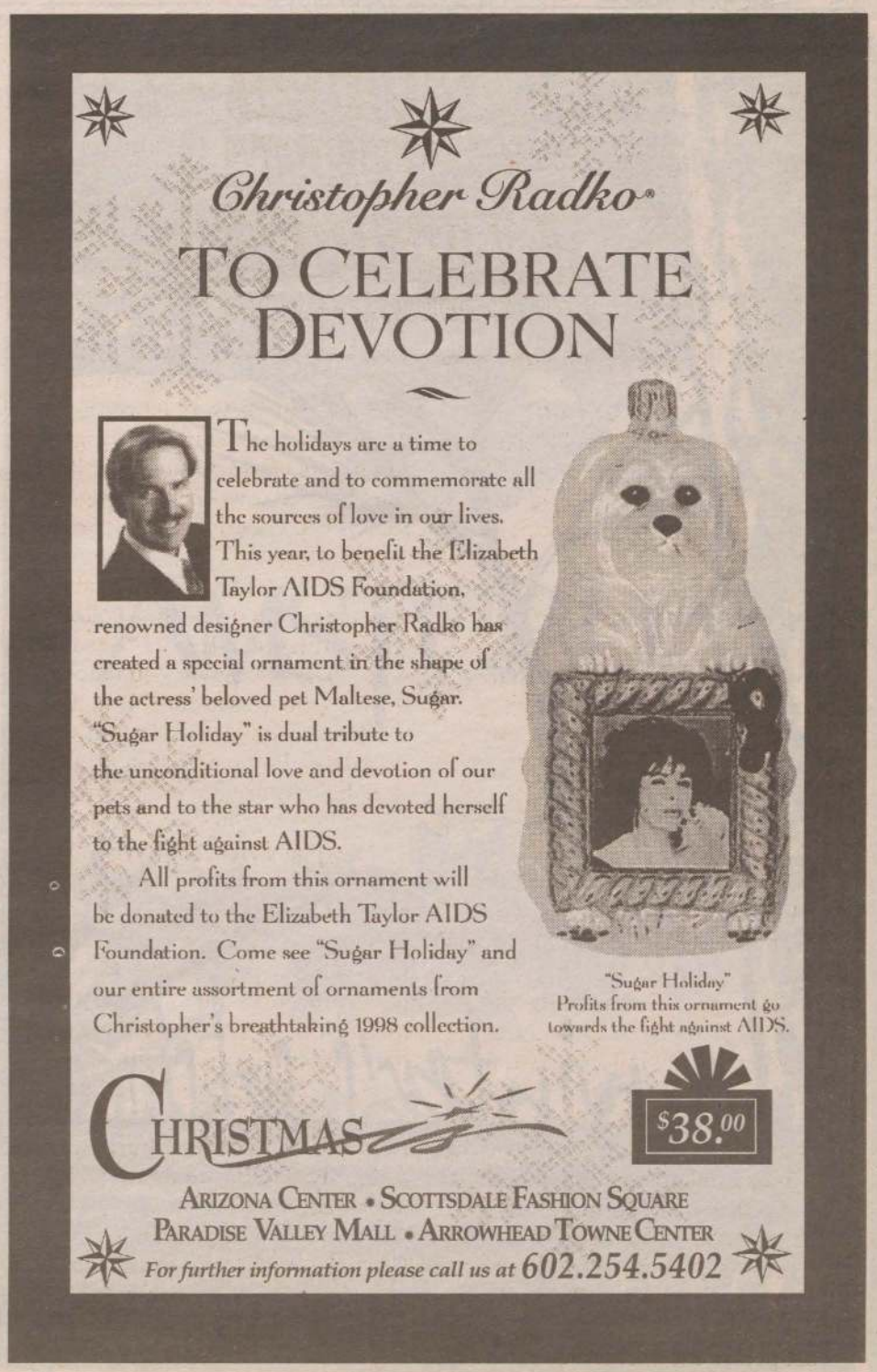
Six thousand postcards are being distributed to lobby the Upper House of parliament where the two-part bill will be introduced this month.

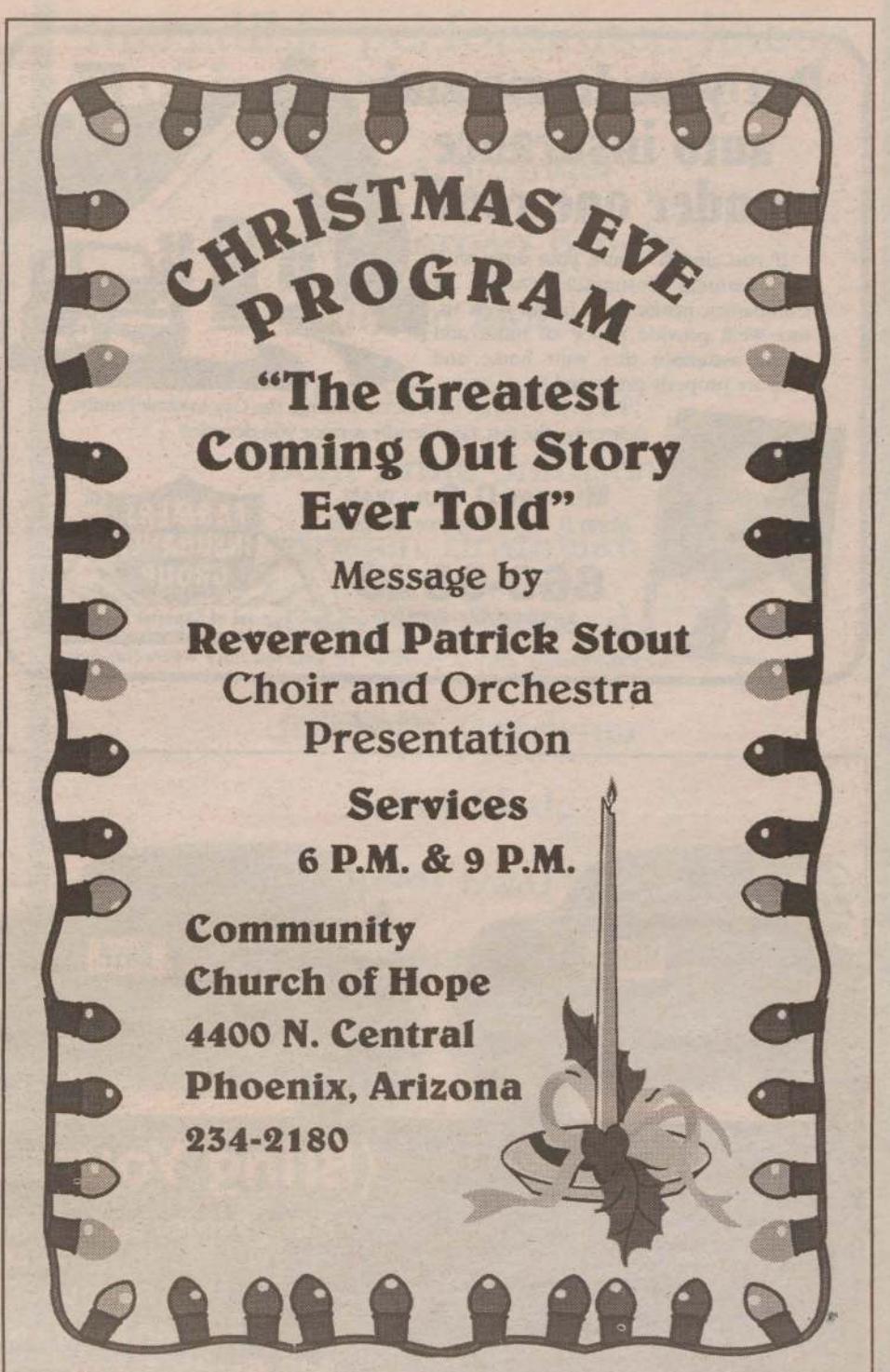
Aussie youth face high levels of abuse

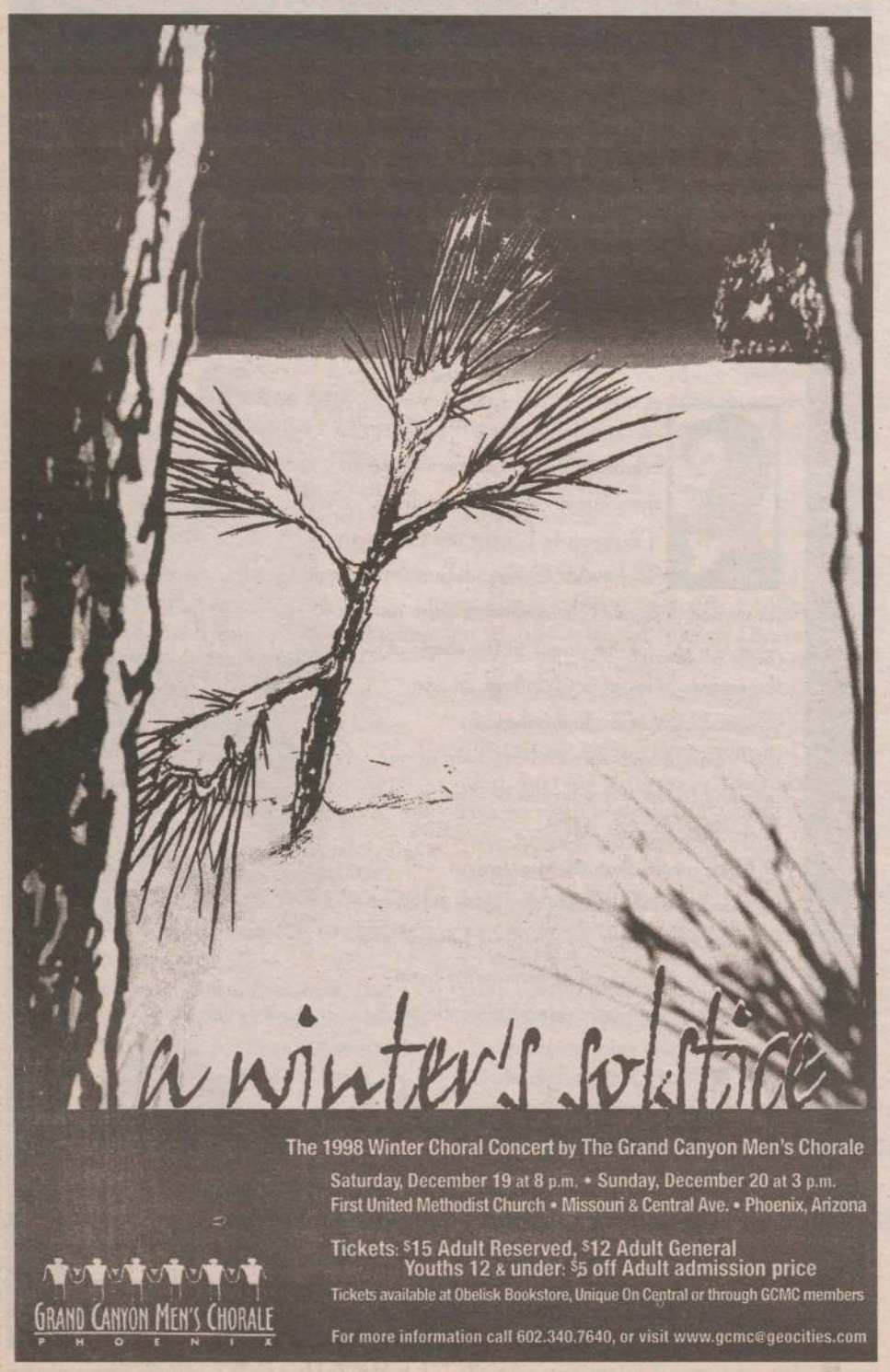
Gay and lesbian Australian youth face high levels of abuse, especially at school, a new national study has found.

Of 750 people between ages 14 and 21 who were surveyed, half had been verbally abused, a third had been treated unfairly, and 13 percent had been physically attacked because of their sexuality.

The study was conducted by LaTrobe University.







Anti same-sex group begins new ad campaign against Hawaii domestic partner benefits

HONOLULU (AP)

A group leading the fight to ban same-sex marriages began running televisions ads Nov. 30 criticizing Gov. Ben Cayetano's intention to push for additional reciprocal benefits for homosexual couples.

The Alliance for Traditional Marriage accuses the governor in the ads of trying to circumvent the will of Hawaii's people, who voted 70 percent in favor Nov. 3 against legalizing same-sex marriages.

``Governor Cayetano says he will fight to legalize homosexual marriage, but instead of calling it marriage, he'll disguise it as domestic partnership,'' begins the ad, which ran on local television stations through Dec. 1.

Cayetano said he too voted against the amendment to legalize gay marriages, but said he wants to expand on domestic partnership rights granted to same-sex couples by the 1997 Legislature.

``We're asking Governor Cayetano to honor that compromise that took place in 1997 and get on with the business at hand and fix the economy,'' alliance leader Mike Gabbard said. ``We do not want to grant societal approval to homosexual relationships and homosexual unions.''

The amendment approved by voters gives lawmakers the power to restrict marriage licenses to unions between one man and one woman. Such a bill was passed by lawmakers, but it's unclear whether that law will have to be reapproved in light of the recent vote.

Supporters of an expansion of same-sex benefits contend the amendment approved by voters earlier this month does not address the fundamental issue of equality raised by question of withholding benefits to gay couples that are granted to opposite-sex unions, such as health insurance, inheritance rights and hospital visitation.

A lawsuit based on those claims is pending before the state Supreme Court.

Gay rights advocates condemned the ads, calling them homophobic.

Tom Ramsey, a University of Hawaii professor who is a leader of the civil rights group Marriage Project Hawaii said many people who voted against legalizing same-sex marriage support granting domestic partnership rights to gays.

``Mike Gabbard is a professional anti-homosexual,'' Ramsey said. ``He's a professional hater and he's got to keep raising money, so he's got to have gays as an enemy.''

Gabbard said the issue is not about homophobia, but ``government respecting the will of the people.''

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Phelps leads anti-gay protest outside Falwell's church

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP)

About 20 people conducted an anti-homosexual protest Nov. 29 outside the Rev. Jerry Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church.

The Rev. Fred Phelps, pastor of Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., and the spokesman for the protesters, said Falwell is being too lenient with gays with his view of hate the sin but love the sinner.

``It is not OK to be gay or to even associate with someone who is gay,'' Phelps said.

Mark DeMoss, a spokesman for Falwell, called the protest ``absurd and hateful.''

``I can't imagine why anyone would join and share the sentiments of this group, but it is a free country and they can say and do what they want,'' DeMoss said.

Phelps said Falwell used to believe homosexuals were depraved ``but now he says people should love them. He is a heretic.''

Phelps also led a protest during the funeral of Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student who died Oct. 12, five days after being tied to a fence and beaten near Laramie.



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Ruling throwing out Georgia sodomy law could affect other lawsuits

NEW ORLEANS (AP)

The lawyer challenging Louisiana's sodomy law says his case got a big boost when the Georgia Supreme Court overturned that state's sodomy statute in late November.

The 6-1 ruling that the law violates the Georgia Constitution's privacy rights clause could help persuade an Orleans Parish judge to rule that the Louisiana law is unconstitutional, said attorney John Rawls.

``This is the first Deep South state to throw out its sodomy statute,'' said Rawls, who plans to file a copy of the Georgia court decision soon with Judge Carolyn Gill-Jefferson.

Gill-Jefferson presided over a one week civil trial in October on the constitutionality of the Louisiana law, which makes consensual oral and anal sex a felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

It's not clear when Gill-Jefferson will issue her ruling, but the losing side is expected to appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

During the trial, Rawls spent four days questioning witnesses who said the sodomy law discriminates against homosexuals by outlawing their only sexual option. State lawyers called only one witness, a therapist who testified that gay men and lesbians can be ``healed'' and become heterosexual.

They don't believe that the overturning of the Georgia law will have an impact on the outcome of the Louisiana lawsuit, said Denise Bottcher, a spokeswoman for the state Attorney General's Office.

``It does not have any jurisdiction or implication in the state of Louisiana,'' she said.

The Georgia law was the subject of previous challenges but was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986 after a homosexual sued state officials to have the law declared unconstitutional. The court ruled 5-4 that consenting adults have no constitutional right to private homosexual conduct.

But the majority opinion of the Georgia Supreme Court said the sodomy statute's reason for being ``can only be to regulate the private conduct of consenting adults, something which Georgia's right of privacy puts beyond the bounds of government regulation.''

Such an argument could help sway Gill-Jefferson or the state's Supreme Court justices, said Betty Cole, a professor at Tulane University School of Law.

``They're not governed by what Georgia does, but in terms of the theory that [the sodomy law] is violative of the right to privacy, Louisiana does have a pretty broad right to privacy,'' Cole said. ``This ruling certainly doesn't hurt [Rawls'] case.''

Gay rights campaigner in London court over church protest

LONDON (AP)

A gay rights activist appeared in court Nov. 30 charged with ``indecent behavior in a church'' under a seldom-invoked law that free-speech advocates are trying to get repealed.

Peter Tatchell, who heads the British gay rights group Outrage, was arrested under the 1860 Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act after he staged a three-minute protest beneath the pulpit as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Britain's top cleric, was about to deliver his Easter Sunday sermon April 12 at Canterbury Cathedral.

Tatchell could face two months in jail for the interruption, in which he criticized the archbishop's opposition to lowering the homosexual age of consent and the church ban on the ordination of gay clergy. He denies the charge of indecent behavior.

``A two-month jail sentence is extraordinarily draconian and hugely harsh, given that you can assault people and get community service these days,'' said Keith Wood of the National Secular Society, which is trying to get the law repealed.

The law was last used in 1966 when two anti-war activists were arrested after protesting the Vietnam War in a Methodist church as then-Prime Minister Harold Wilson delivered a sermon. The protesters were jailed for two months in 1967 for the offense.

``This is an archaic remnant of church privilege designed to stifle dissent,'' Wood said. ``It clearly isn't needed, otherwise it would have been used more frequently.''

Amnesty International has expressed concern that Tatchell will not have a fair trial because the courts have already refused him permission to call the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, as a witness in his trial.

``Mr. Tatchell is not being prosecuted on account of any views that he may hold in regard to the matters that were the subject of his protests,'' prosecutor Robert Montague told the court today at the start of the two-day trial. ``It was inappropriate both as to time and place. It was unseemly. It was indecorous.''

Playwright Harold Pinter was among those who called for the law to be abolished in a letter to *The Times of London* newspaper Nov. 30. Other celebrities such as actor Ian McKellan and actress Vanessa Redgrave have also come to Tatchell's defense.

Saudis deport 349 foreigners with HIV virus

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

Saudi Arabia has deported 349 foreigners because they have AIDS, *Okaz* newspaper reported Nov. 30.

The Jiddah-based daily said the men and women deported were discovered to have the HIV virus when they took tests required for work permits. It said the maids, drivers and laborers were deported between June 1997 and June 1998.

Foreigners with acquired immune deficiency syndrome are not allowed to remain in Saudi Arabia. The strict Islamic kingdom does not divulge figures for Saudis infected with the disease.

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Judy Collins Speaks Out

Continued from page 1

HS: Stephen Stills' song "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes" is about you. What is it like to have a song written about you that becomes a part of people's consciousness?

JC: Well it's wonderful. I didn't get any royalties from the song, but it was a great compliment. We were having an affair and Stephen is a great writer. Then we started breaking up and so. . . it's in song.

HS: Your relationship with Stephen Stills is something you have in common with Joni Mitchell—she also had childhood polio, which you suffered from as well.

JC: Oh yes, that's right.

HS: Are you and she friends?

JC: We certainly know each other.

HS: You've established a reputation for spotting fine music writers before they were famous. Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now" was a huge hit that you recorded when she was still an unknown writer. You are also one of the first to record Randy Newman's songs. Are there any new writers out there that you have discovered?

JC: No, not really. I'm always looking for great songs, and once in a while you find them, but most of the time you don't.

HS: You've got a song—"Nothing Lasts Forever"—that you composed with Jesse Valenzuela, who was a member of (the now-defunct Tempe Band) the Gin Blossoms. How did that collaboration come about?

JC: Yes, the Gin Blossoms were from your area of the country weren't they? I met Jesse socially, and we thought we would get together to do something and it just worked out.

HS: How would you describe the process of writing a song?

JC: The way I handle writing is to sit down at the piano and start to work. I generally work a couple hours a day for a long period—maybe a few weeks. When I sit down, I turn on the tap, and whatever is in there comes out.

HS: So it's a very gradual, workmanlike process?

JC: Yes, for me it is. Sometimes it happens a little different, but most of the time it's 'put your seat in the chair and start working.' And try not to judge what comes out.

HS: Your compositions have been covered by a number of different artists. Do you have a favorite—one that you enjoy listening to?

JC: I like Dan Fogelberg's version of "Since You Asked," that's a great compliment. I also love Nina Simone's version of " My Father."

HS: Is there a particular artist that you would like to have record one of your songs?

JC: Sure. I think immediately of Jewel and Bruce Springsteen. I'd like Jewel to do "Albatross," and I'd like Bruce Springsteen to do "Wheel Rolling"—that's a song from an album called *Shameless*. I'd also like to hear Cheryl Crowe perform a song called "Raised on Rock and Roll," which is also on that album. That's not a bad wish list.

HS: When you are on your own time, what music do you like to listen to?

JC: I listen to a lot of classical music. I also like classic folk music, and I love Sting and Annie Lennox—I'll sit down and listen to entire albums of their music. Opera, too.

HS: I want to ask you about the period of sexual liberation that this country experienced in the late '60s and early '70s.

JC: You mean when I was a sex



addict (laughs). Active. You mean when I was an active sex addict? Yes, go on.

HS: Did the sexual freedom of the period apply to same sex couples, and, if so, was gay sexuality looked upon by non-gay people with the same sort of liberated attitude?

JC: In my milieu it was, of course. But a lot of the sexual revolution in my case had to do with drugs and alcohol. When drugs and alcohol were over for me, so was the sexual revolution (laughs). So I'm afraid I have kind of a slanted view of that.

HS: David Geffen, one of your producers at Elektra, is one of a handful of openly gay men with positions of power in the entertainment industry. From your 35 years of experience, is it getting any easier for people in the music business to come out of the closet?

JC: I don't know about that. . . I suppose so. People that I know are either gay or not—they don't make any bones about it. Most of them are artists though, and they don't feel the kind of strictures that a lot of the community does.

HS: I mentioned Geffen because he's one of the few people in the industry who is both a public figure and openly gay. But there doesn't seem to be many people in the music business who are following his lead.

JC: I'm not sure that it's anybody's business if you don't want it to be. I am not in favor of outing people in any way. People have the right to privacy—to choose whether they want to be recognized publicly. That's just as much their right as it is your right, or mine, to be public. We live in a democracy, and you can't shade democracy. Everybody doesn't agree with us and they never will.

I also don't like the rise of the Christian Coalition anti-everybody movement. They'd like to get rid of us all, frankly, and that's very scary. And I think we have to confront this wherever it occurs and do whatever we can. This terrible murder of this boy in Wyoming is a horrifying testimony to what goes on in the name of morality. It's total bullshit.

HS: You were active in the Civil Rights movement during the '60s. Do you see any similarity between the African American struggle for civil rights and the gay rights movement?

JC: Any kind of prejudice is ridiculous and petty. Sexual prejudice, racial prejudice, religious prejudice all fall under the same category. That's the reason we came here—to live in a country where we didn't have to deal with that bullshit.

It's hard work, we have to keep fighting for our rights. But that's not anything unusual for me, or probably for you.

My favorite person in Congress right now is Rep. Barney Frank. He's a hero—I think he's absolutely a fantastic person.

HS: Many people believe that gays & lesbians have no right to compare ourselves to the Civil Rights movement. . .

JC: Well, any kind of prejudice against any group is, in my way of thinking, an essentially undemocratic point of view. You can take on the mantle of any group you want, but of course your issues are linked with those of others.

It reminds me of great debates in the 1800s about the women's vote. Frederick Douglass banded together with women because he realized that they were all fighting the same battles. Fighting for the rights of blacks to get the vote was very similar to fighting for the rights of women to get the vote.

HS: Is there anything else you would like to say to our readers, to your gay & lesbian fans?

JC: Hang in there. Do whatever you need to do—whatever you have to do. Have faith. Prejudice is prejudice wherever it exists and it always has to be dealt with and conquered.

ASU Public Events presents *Christmas with Judy Collins and the Phoenix Boys Choir* at Tempe's Gammage Auditorium on Saturday, December 19 at 7:30pm. Tickets range from $9 to $29, and are available from Gammage Auditorium Box office or Dillard's. Call 602/965-3434 for further information.

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For more information call 878-5430
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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

DA making annual Nogales excursion

Looking for that perfect gift for the holidays but don't want to spend a lot of money? Join the members of Desert Adventures as they travel by bus to Nogales, Mexico on Dec. 5 in search of bargains on all kinds of crafts and works of art.

The bus will be parked in the Bank One lot on the NE corner of 7th Avenue and Thomas Road in Phoenix. Continental breakfast will be served at 7 am, the bus will head out at 7:45 and return by 10:30 pm.

Cost for the festive holiday adventure is $18 for members and $20 for guests. Seating is limited. Call (602)266-CAMP for information.

Story district tour Dec. 5 & 6

Check out the historic decor and holiday decorations during the F.Q. Story District's 14th Annual Christmas Home Tour & Gift Sale, Dec. 5 from 6 - 9 pm and Dec. 6 from 11 am - 5 pm.

Eleven historic homes in the central Phoenix district will be decked for the season, and there will be carolers, an arts & crafts fair, food, free trolley rides, and more. Tickets are just $10 for either tour and you'll get a one dollar discount for bringing a perishable food item.

Pick up your tickets and your printed guide at 9th Avenue and Culver—that's three blocks south of McDowell and just north of the I-10 freeway. Call (602)258-9282 for information.

Xena Solstice Party & Dance

The Xena fan group for lesbian and bisexual women in the Valley thinks there's no better theme for a Holiday/Solstice Party than Xena, and they've scheduled just such a party for Dec. 12 from 7-11 pm at the Augustana Lutheran Church located at 14th Street and Virginia in Phoenix.

They'll be playing Xena games, watching Xena videos/interviews, having cake and socializing from 7-9, with dancing to follow. Non-Xenites are welcome, too. The group is asking a $4 donation per person, and more information is available by calling (602)813-8631.

CBPA December events

CBPA is the Valley of the Sun's gay, lesbian and gay-friendly chamber of commerce and this active social and business networking group has a number of activities planned for this month.

Don't miss the Lunch Bunch get togethers at Pookie's cafe, every other Tuesday at 11:30 am. The next meets will be on Dec. 15 & 29. The cost is just $10 and Pookie's is on 7th Street just south of Highland. It's a great chance to network, socialize, and meet new friends and associates. There's a new east side Lunch Bunch at Minder Binders, 715 South McClintock. It's $10 and the group is looking for everyone east of Phoenix to join in on Dec. 9 & 23.

Due to the holiday crazies, CBPA will suspend the regular monthly meeting in December, but the board members ask everyone to support the upcoming New Years Eve Party.

To RSVP any CBPA event or to join the organization, contact CBPA, PO Box 2097, Phoenix AZ, 85001. Or call (602)225-8444.

Men's chorale schedules concerts

The Grand Canyon Men's Chorale of Phoenix has chosen the weekend of Dec. 19 & 20 for its annual holiday concert. This year's event is titled "A Winter Solstice".

The songfest will be held at the First United Methodist Church, on the corner of Central and Missouri Avenues in Phoenix. There will be an evening performance on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 8 pm and a Sunday matinee on Dec. 20 at 3 pm.

Tickets are $15 reserved and $12 General admission. Contact any GCMC member or pick them up at Obelisk or Unique on Central. Call (602)340-7640 for information.

CCSL announces spring season

The Cactus Cities Softball League in Phoenix is encouraging anyone interested in playing softball (no matter what their skill level might be) to come out to the ballgame, have fun and take part in the gay and lesbian league's 1999 Spring Season.

There are a couple of open play dates scheduled before the season starts. These outings will give new sluggers the chance to get acquainted with other players, sharpen their skills and be placed on a team. The open play dates are set for Sunday, Jan. 31 and Sunday, Feb. 7 from 9 am -1 pm. The season officially gets underway Sunday, Feb. 21.

The Cactus Cities league offers an open division that includes teams for both Recreational and Competitive level players as well as a Women's division. For locations or more information, call the CCSL hotline at (602)848-8562.

Community New Year's Party set

The Camelback Business and Professional Association and The Community Center are joining forces to host a New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance Party for the Valley's gay & lesbian community at The Mill in Tempe on Dec. 31.

The party will begin at 7:30 pm, with dinner followed by entertainment featuring Hollie Woods and DJ dancing after hours. The Mill is located at 3300 South Price Road, on the corner of Southern and Price just off the 101 freeway.

Tickets for the event are $40 in advance and $50 at the door. Pick them up at Obelisk, Unique on Central, Harley's 155, Cruising Central, The Mill, The Waterhole and The Community Center. RSVP early at any of these locations.

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Sun:	Steak & Chicken Fry $3, 6-8pm Karaoke with Jamie 7-11pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday **Dec. 13:**	"Holiday Inn Christmas Cabaret" Show starts at 8pm. Featuring Jamie, Tracey Cruz, Barbara Brown, Joe Grube and Holly Lane. Dinner & show: $15 per person; show tickets only: $8 per person. Reservations required; call Cash Inn.
Friday **Dec. 18:**	"An Evening with Lisa Bryant & Special Guests," 9-12pm; $2 cover.
Thursday **Dec. 24:**	Cash Inn's Christmas Party from 4-8pm.
Friday **Dec. 25:**	We're closed for the holiday— ***Merry Christmas!***
Thursday **Dec. 31:**	Cash Inn's New Year's Eve Party; $5 cover. No reservations required.

CASH INN COUNTRY

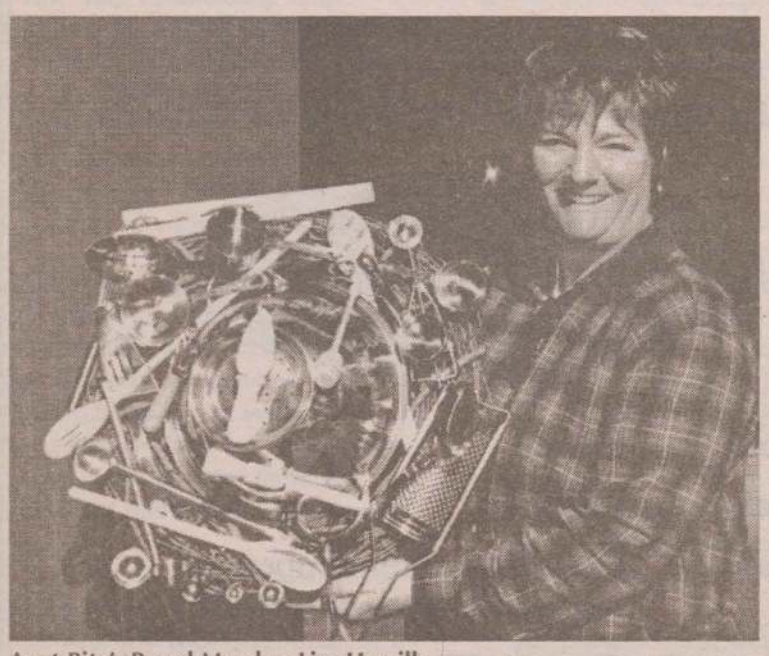
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Wreaths for Home, Proceeds for Life

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

For a lot of people, the holiday season is as much about shopping and sprucing up the house as it is about sharing and giving.

The clever administrators of one tony retail plaza in Phoenix have thrown their weight behind an annual Christmas tradition that not only brings more people into their shops, but that celebrates the charitable spirit of the season by raising money for AIDS—and it's a program that continues to grow year by year.



Aunt Rita's Board Member Lisa Harville shows off one of the more functional wreaths.

It's called "Wreaths for Life" and it's happening now at the venerable Biltmore Fashion Park located at 24th Street and Camelback Road in Phoenix.

This year, more than 250 individually decorated and donated wreaths are on display and available for purchase at the upscale, open air shopping center, with proceeds from each sale going to assist those living with HIV/AIDS. The program is administered by Aunt Rita's Foundation.

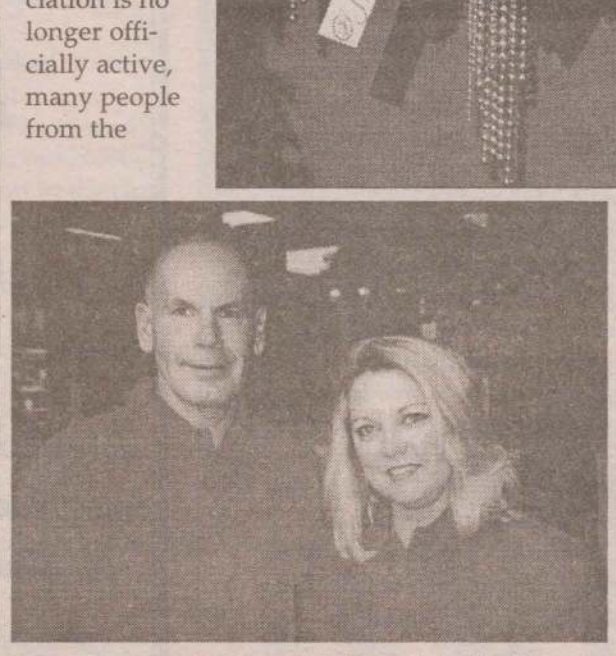
"It all started seven or eight years ago," says Tom Snyder, Aunt Rita's board member and director of Wreaths for Life. "Last year we brought in $25,000 and this year we are hoping for $35,000."

When the program was initiated, Snyder says, it was handled by the local chapter of DIFFA, a national interior design association formed in the early days of the epidemic to help fight AIDS.

DIFFA dissolved a few years later, but the wreath program had already earned a loyal following. So it was immediately picked up by Aunt Rita's Foundation. Snyder, a real estate broker, has overseen the project for the past four years.

And although the designers' association is no longer officially active, many people from the design community remain involved in the wreathmaking. "About sixty percent of the wreaths are made by the interior design schools at Phoenix College, Scottsdale Community College and Mesa Community College," Snyder says.





Board Member Tom Snyder works with Biltmore Marketing Director Linda Whitlaw to produce the annual Wreaths for Life event.



Ken Roberts, who heads up the Interior Design School for Phoenix College, says that in the six years he has been involved in Wreaths for Life, the day-long wreathmaking workshop he organizes each year has expanded from nine participating students to more than 80.

"We make most of our wreaths in the names of different corporations that donate money for the necessary supplies," Roberts explains. "I purchase the base materials, pull everything together in one big room, then the students get together and turn out the wreaths."

Marco Morales is one of Roberts' students. He participated for the first time this year, making five wreaths in all for the HIV/AIDS fundraiser.

"I heard about it through my advisor and I wanted to be involved," Morales says.

Snyder prices each wreath himself. "I go by the amount of supplies included, and also by my instincts as to what the market will bear," he says. "It's a fundraiser, and these are original works of art. So obviously I'm trying to get as much as I can for each wreath."

The wreaths range in price from about $150 on the low end, to $400 or even more. Most are in the $200-$250 range and there are volunteers from the foundation on hand throughout the day to ring up sales and help buyers make their selections.

Who purchases the wreaths?

"All kinds of people buy them," Snyder says. "Mostly, they're people who just want something nice and really original and lovely for their home. But there are also people who purchase them specifically because they know the money is going to a good cause. And we do get those special people who'll write checks to the foundation even without buying a wreath."

The true heroes of the project—in Snyder's eyes—are not the buyers, but those who design, assemble and then donate the broad array of decorative pieces.

"We have one woman who has three children at home—she's unemployed—and yet she takes part every year. This year she made five wreaths."

He mentions another designer named Tom Steward, who last year made an unusual wreath covered with plastic toys that he dedicated to

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the partner he lost to AIDS. Steward repeated his design this year and dedicated the '98 wreath to all who have died.

Another woman, in her sixties, made six wreaths. And then there's the special "kitchen wreath" put together each year by local activist Ritchie Leitner. Leitner's creation incorporates kitchen gadgets and utensils from the Williams-Sonoma store. It's listed to sell for $400.



Marco Morales displays one of the five wreaths he created for this year's event.



There are wreaths for golfers, wreaths for horse lovers and wreaths covered with stuffed animals for the kiddies. There's a wreath decorated with crayons and a bridal wreath that's made from what looks like a wedding veil.

Most are evergreen; dozens are made from dried grapevine, while still others are made entirely of fabric, wood or even welded in metal. Some are whimsical, many are traditionally elegant. No two wreaths are alike.

"You only have to look around for a little while to see that they are just incredible," Snyder says.

"There's really nothing else around like it, and it's become such an important part of the Biltmore's decorating tradition to have them hanging here."

The wreaths are displayed in groups of four and mounted on simple, wooden doors that have been painted bright red to match the mall's traditional poinsettia theme.

"People spend hours shopping, and what are they talking about even after they go home? The wreaths they saw. It's become the main Christmas theme of the Biltmore."

The tradition certainly helps the Phoenix-based charitable foundation, but it's also great public relations for the proprietors of the well-established mall, according to Marketing Director Linda Whitlaw.

"We've been in the community for 35 years, and so we know how important it is to participate in community events," Whitlaw says.

One reason she feels the annual wreath display is particularly worthy of the mall's support is because the AIDS epidemic has hit the retailing industry in a major way, she says. It helps everyone to remember, and it's such an worthy cause, she adds.

The shopowners love it, and so do the Biltmore's patrons. Whitlaw says the Fashion Park's receptionists were fielding calls at least a month before the project was installed with shoppers asking, "When will the wreaths be available?"

"This is our seventh year and it gets better and better. It's not only a lovely thing to have on the property, but it's become an important community tradition."

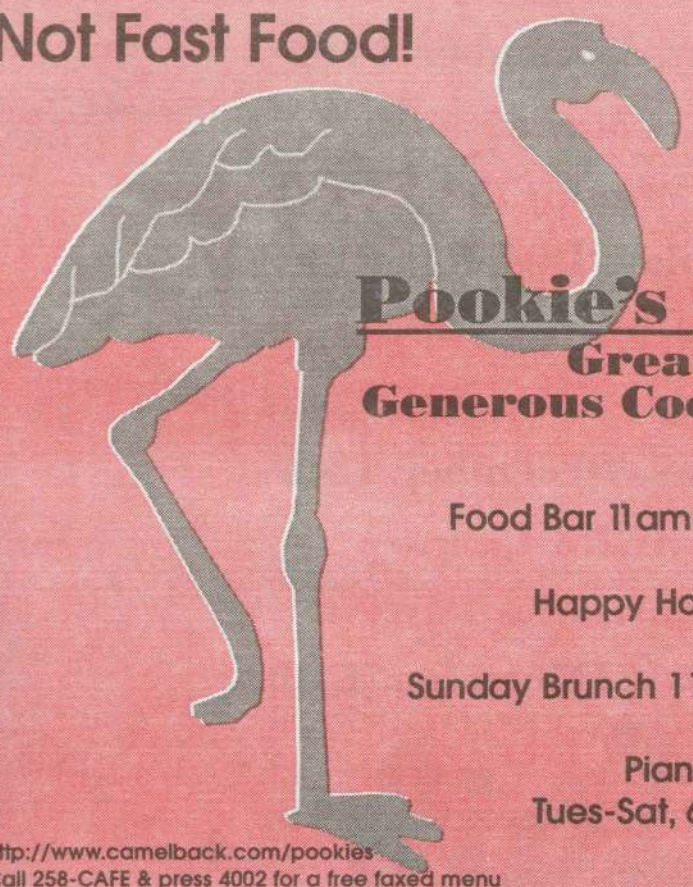


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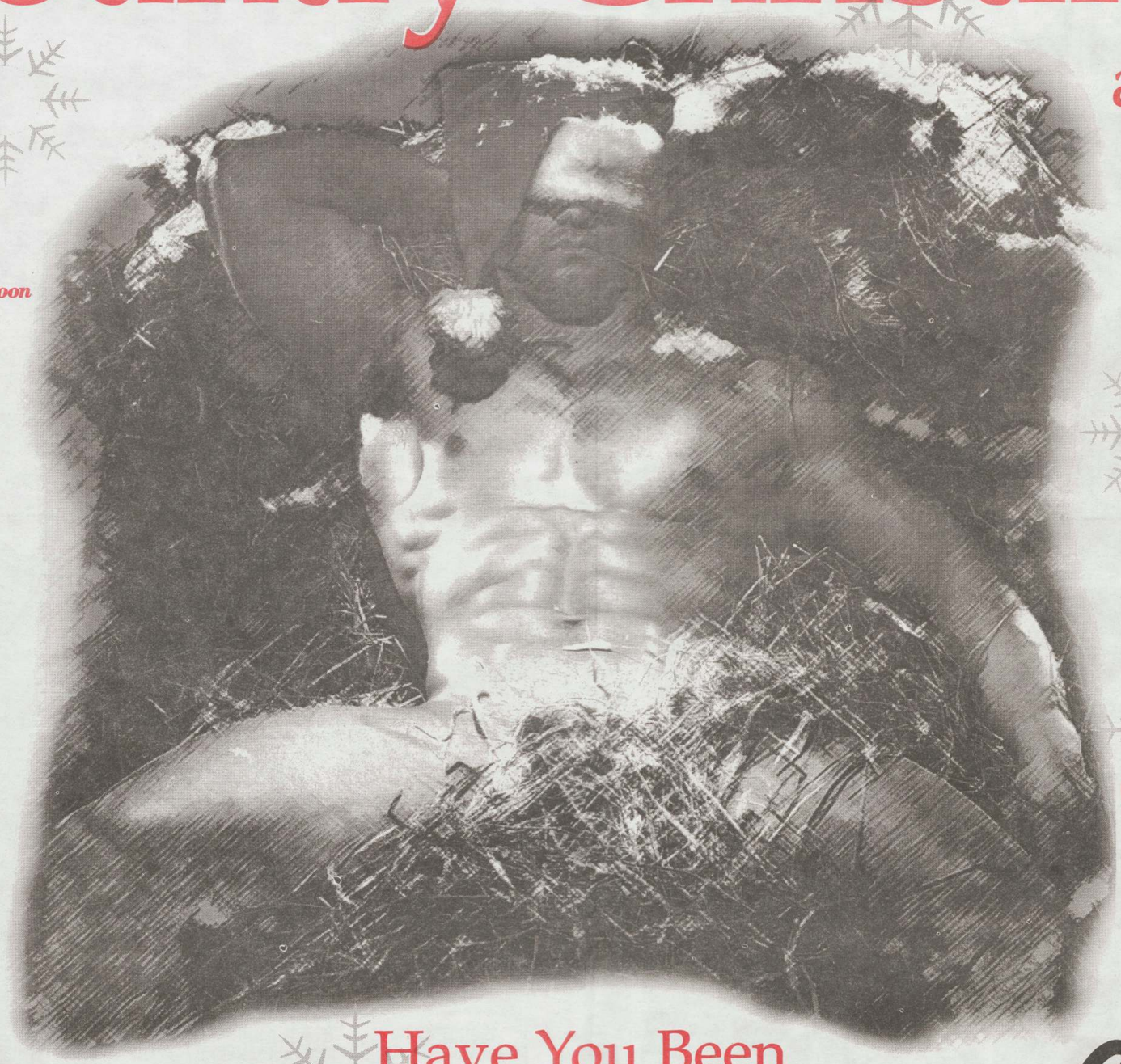
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The 21 days of a Country Christmas at Charlie's



Friday, December 4th
Mr. Charlie's December Contest
Saturday, December 5th
Church of Hope Celebration
Sunday, December 6th
Inter-bar Volleyball Tournament @ noon
Monday, December 7th
Movies on Central Giveaways
Tuesday, December 8th
Dart Tournament
Wednesday, December 9th
Christmas is a Drag (Show)
Thursday, December 10th
Musical Christmas with the Grand Canyon Men's Chorale
Friday, December 11th
Mr. Charlie's "Man of the Year Contest"
Saturday, December 12th
Christmas night out with the Charlie's Knights
Sunday, December 13th
An AGRA Country Christmas Party
Monday, December 14th
Joshua Tree
Tuesday, December 15th
A Night of Pride
Wednesday, December 16th
America West Lands at Charlie's!
Thursday, December 17th
The Blizzard Hits Charlie's
Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

Friday, December 18th
Desert Valley Squares
Saturday, December 19th
Tap into Christmas with the Charlie's Renegades
Sunday, December 20th
Teddy Bear Christmas
Monday, December 21st
Project Lifeguard Christmas
Tuesday, December 22nd
Charlie's Employee Christmas Show
Wednesday, December 23rd
A Mexican Christmas
Thursday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Candle-Light Sing Along
Friday, December 25th

Merry Christmas!

Have You Been Naughty or Nice?

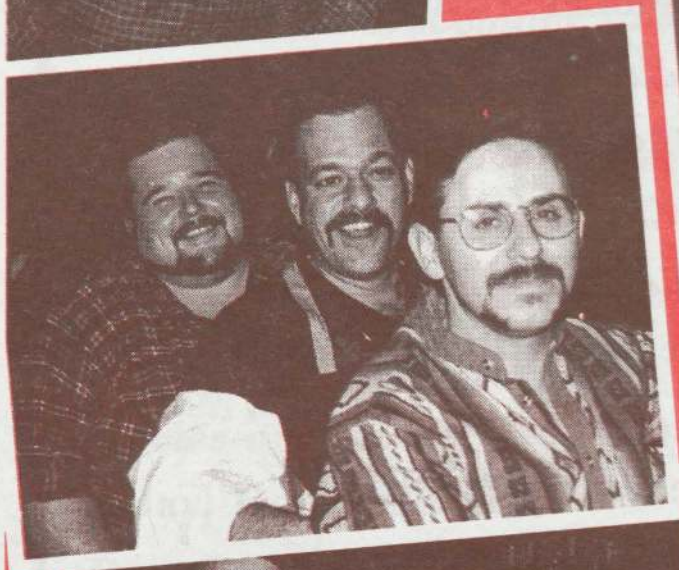
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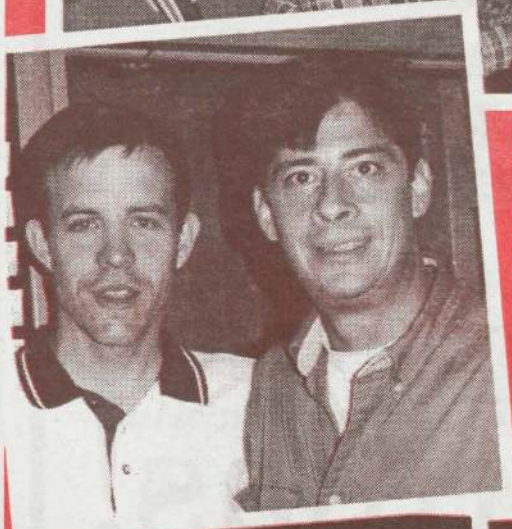
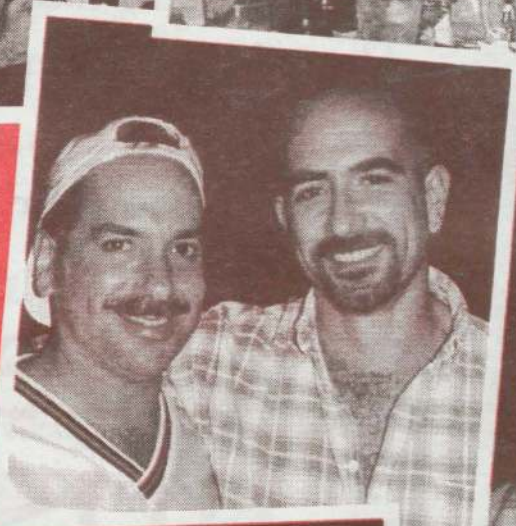
Seeing/Being Scene



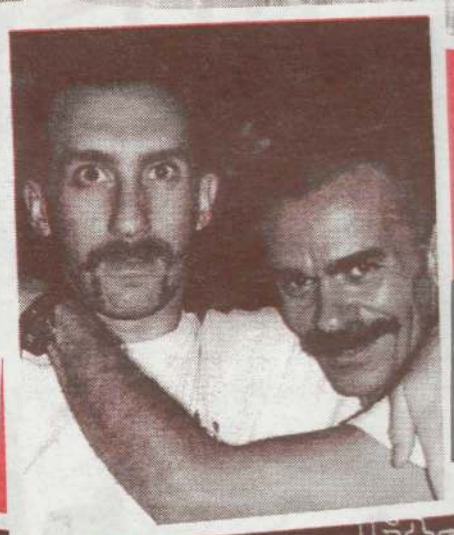
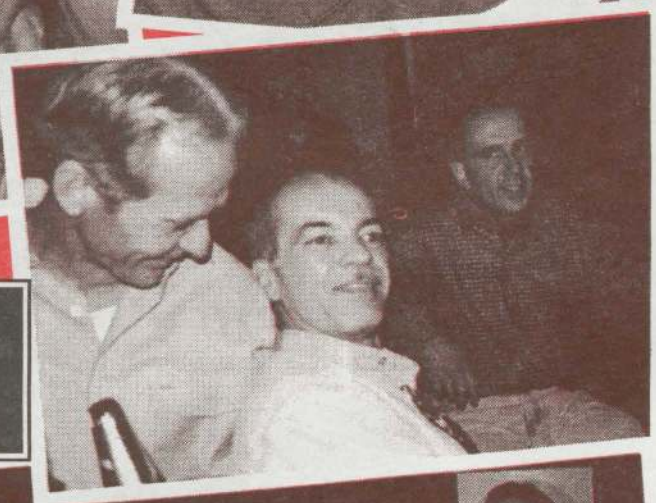






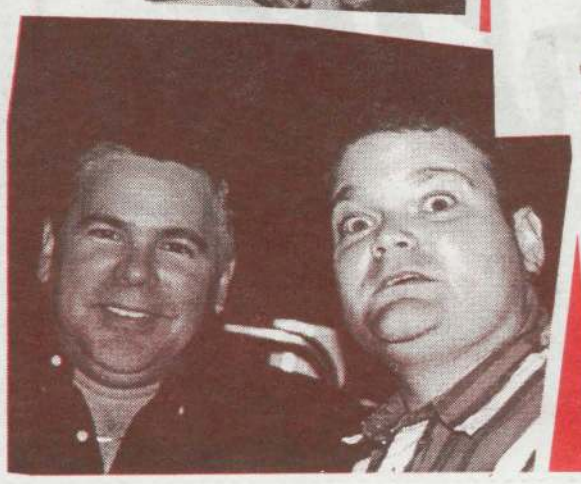






Apollo's

Photos by Mario Rodriguez






Celebrating the Season in Song

By Ty Robins, **HeatStroke** *Contributor*

Sometimes, raising angelic voices in joyful song is a job for the ladies.

And here in Phoenix, the women of TLC Chorale are ready to bring their heavenly sounds to the masses.

According to founding member Dawn Bates, the group sounds more polished than ever. "When people hear us now, we constantly get comments that, 'You guys are getting so good' It's really wonderful," Bates says.

Much of the maturing of the group can be attributed to learning so much that we find if you don't have some musical training it's a little bit hard to keep up. But we try to welcome any woman."

The group has performed at several Pride festivals and has produced full length concerts before, but this month's holiday concert promises to be their largest undertaking yet.

Joining the group for two numbers at the upcoming event will be the Grand Canyon Men's Chorale, Phoenix's gay men's chorus.

"We have performed with them in the past," Bates says, "and it's a very powerful experience to merge the men's choir and the women's choir. Of course, there's a lot of musical literature that is written for men and women together. What a concept for the lesbian and gay communities!" says Bates, laughing.



Barbara Wodrich

Kim McCreary (l) is the conductor of the TLC Chorale.



Conductor Kim McCreary, who holds a music degree from Grand Canyon University and a Master's degree in music from ASU, with a concentration in choral conducting.

"We have stability in the group now, people are individually growing as singers. And certainly we're learning under Kim's direction how to work effectively as a team," Bates says. "We're gifted to have her. She's very talented and well-trained."

The group began five years ago as a common-interest group of the now-defunct Lesbian Resource Project.

"We think of ourselves as a legacy of the LRP," says Bates. "We were one of their most successful programs and we feel good about continuing at least some of their work for lesbian visibility and creative effort."

According to Bates, TLC is able to represent a diverse group of women because of its policy of inclusiveness. The only prerequisite is a love of music.

"We don't actually have auditions." Instead, "We encourage any woman who wants to come sing with us to do so. As we practice more and more, many of us are

The show will also feature soloist Tracey Cruz and the sounds of TLC's own percussion ensemble.

"We're very excited because we're going to perform a range of holiday music, some traditional and some non-traditional pieces," Bates says. Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukah and Winter Solstice will all be celebrated.

As a member of GALA, the international federation of Gay and Lesbian choruses, one of the goals of TLC Chorale is to participate in a major GALA event. Other plans for the twenty-member group include some travel as TLC looks ahead to the spring Pride festival season.

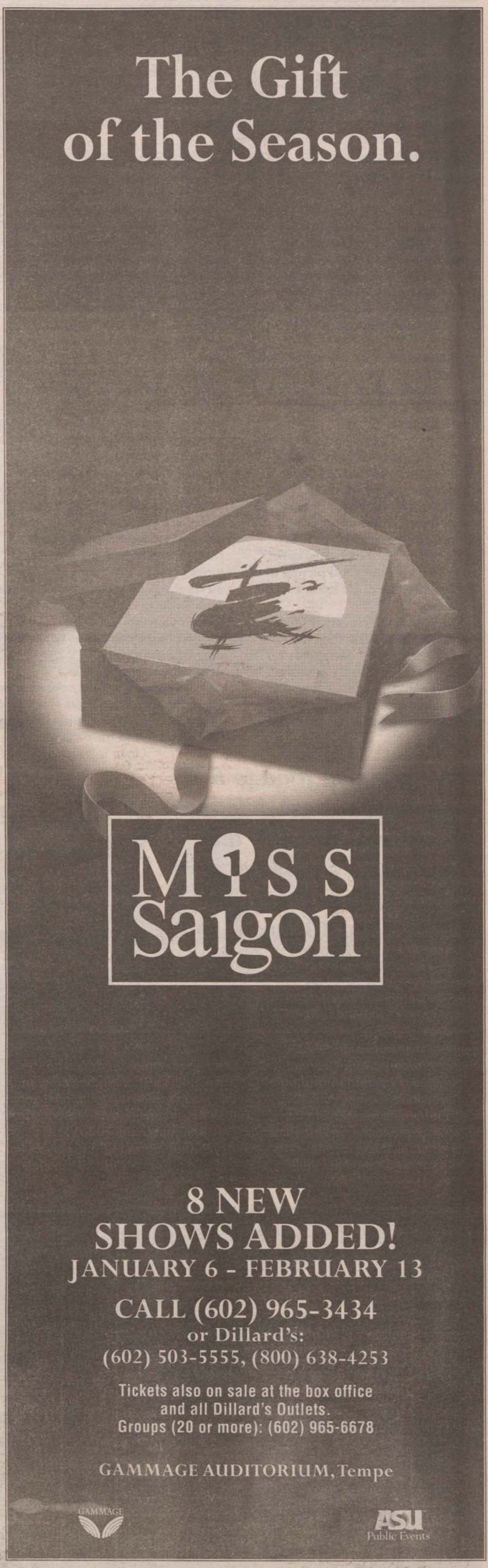
Bates enthusiastically voices her support for the Chorale. "It's a great group. We've had women who are just coming out who have a lot of choral experience—so they can be very comfortable with the activity of the singing and also learn about the Lesbian environment. Then we have lifelong Lesbians who don't have much choral experience and we can share those two different kinds of experiences in a very effective way," she says.

"Singing is very intimate. I think we learn how listen to each other in all ways."

HeatStroke

The TLC Chorale will present its annual holiday concert, *Make the Yuletide Gay*, on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 pm at the Community Church of Hope, 4400 North Central Avenue in Phoenix. Tickets are $8 and available from chorale members or at the door. Call (602)878-5430.

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My Queer Life

It's All in the CarQs

Michael Thomas Ford,
HeatStroke *Contributor*

I can't believe it's that season again. I'm talking, of course, about that dreaded annual chore—holiday cards. It used to be easy. I only had a couple of friends. Every year all I had to do was buy a single box of cards and send them out.

But as I've gotten older, I've accumulated a lot more friends, and even more acquaintances. I now have several lists of people who expect to receive cards.

Every year I go over them, weeding out the editor who didn't buy anything from me in the previous year or the former friend who said my last book wasn't all it could have been. Then I add the new people, the editors I desperately want to buy things from me, the photographer who took the only good picture of me in existence, the dog's latest vet. It's endless.

These lists are crucial. If I forget my editor's assistant, then my next check mysteriously disappears for three weeks. Innocently omit the reviewer who gave my book such a rave? The phrase "a piece of trash" is sure to appear in her critique of my next one.

Have you ever tried to find something clever while looking at stacks of cards that come ten to a package for $15, calculating that you need at least 13 boxes, and trying not to throw up?

We won't even discuss what happens when friends are forgotten in the madness. Let's just say that weeping is involved.

Once the final lists are drawn up, the tension shifts to choosing the perfect card. The holiday card must be something personal, a reflection of my own personality. No longer can I get away with sending the same thing everyone else is sending. Now I have to pick something clever.

Have you ever tried to find something clever while looking at stacks of cards that come ten to a package for $15, calculating that you need at least thirteen boxes, and trying not to throw up? It's not easy, I can tell you. That box of seventy-five cards with pictures of kittens wearing Santa hats for six bucks at Wal-Mart starts to look pretty appealing right about then.

Besides, it's not just the outsides I have to worry about. I also have to consider the message. Not everyone appreciates a jolly "Merry Christmas" greeting. I need to worry about my Jewish friends. And my pagan friends. And my American Indian friends. And everyone else out there.

I used to have one pile of Yule cards, one pile of Hanukkah cards, one pile of "Season's Greetings" cards, and a pile of generic snowy-looking cards. But then I would get all confused and send my Jewish editor a Kwanza card, and my pagan friends were not really all that pleased to see baby Jesus when they opened their envelopes. Now I demand one-size-fits-all.

Let's assume, for the sake of argument, that this is a perfect world and I both manage to find cards that work for everyone and the bank gives me a loan to purchase them all. The battle still isn't over. Now I have to write something in them. Simply signing them isn't an option. That looks cheap and unfeeling. At least that's what my publicist told me last year when I tried it.

No, everyone wants a personal message. This means I actually have to think of a good reason for why I'm sending each card. Sometimes that's easy. I usually remember why I like my friends. And telling your agent that she "makes life worth living" is always sure to please. But occasionally a name pops up on the list that I can't for the life of me put a face to. Clearly there was a reason for adding the person to the roster, but why?

In those cases, I have to come up with something vague yet cheerful. Even then, you never know. Last year I found a dozen names on my list that I couldn't account for. Undaunted, I wrote out cards to them all with the message, "May the new year be as good to you as this one has been."

A week later, the phone calls started coming in.



"Um, hi. I just wanted to say I think your card was in really poor taste given what happened."

I'd gotten my lists mixed up. The unfamiliar names had come from a list of writers whose work I'd soundly rejected for an anthology I'd put together earlier in the year.

Even after the cards go out, there's the whole insecurity issue. Every year, about two weeks after I send out my cards, I start getting cards in return. But I'm not convinced those people actually meant to send me cards. I think they only did it because they got mine and felt obligated. This simply adds to my agony. I hate to think that I'm not already on someone's list, and that I only get cards from them out of guilt.

So I keep track of the days that go by between when I send my cards out and when I start getting them from others. Three or four days in between suggests that our cards crossed in the mail, bringing a sigh of relief. Anything beyond that and I get suspicious.

Then I have to examine the received card minutely for clues. One with a scribbled signature and no message is suspect, but if the card is appealing enough I let it slide. One that looks like it came from a sampler pack, or has a preprinted address label, is a dead giveaway, and I remove the sender from my own list.

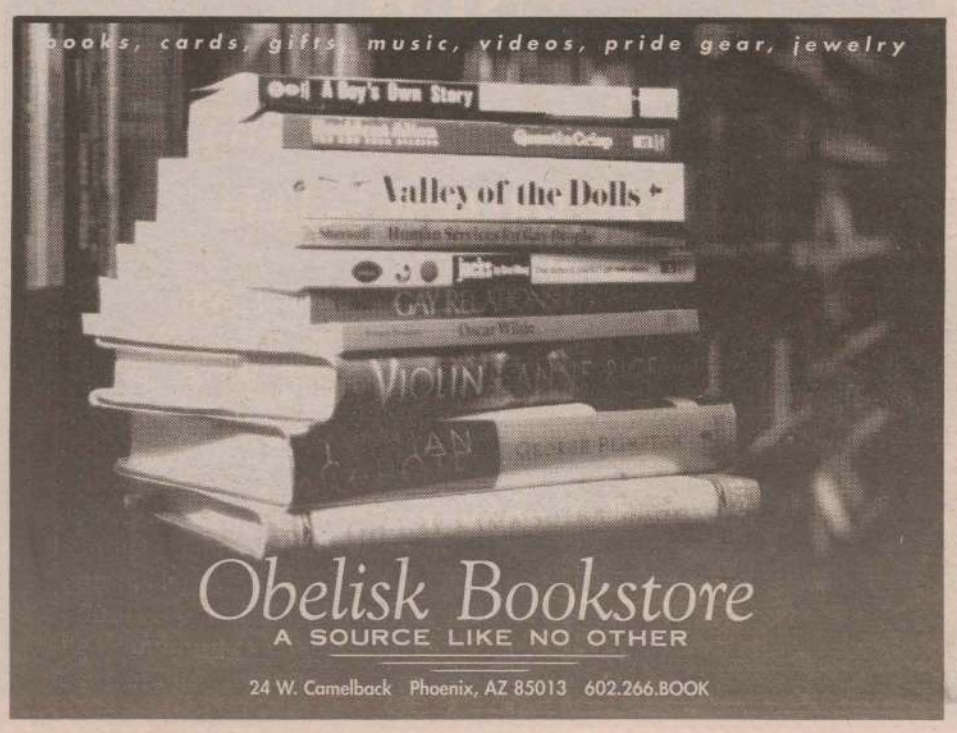
I know, I sound petty and awful. I'm still better than my friend Julia. She actually keeps a list on her refrigerator of all her friends' names. If one of us fails to send her an appropriate card, we get crossed off.

Then, when we go to her house for her annual holiday party, our shame is right there for everyone else to see. You can just imagine the wonderful cards she gets. I make sure to enclose cash in mine.

So here I am again. I've made my lists. I've checked them twice. I'm sitting here surrounded by mountains of cards. I'm working feverishly to get them all written and sent out in time. But I would just like to take this opportunity to say that if you don't receive one, it's not because I don't like you. It's just that my hand cramped up.



Michael Thomas Ford is the author of *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me & Other Trials from My Queer Life*. His new book, *That's Mr. Faggot to You: Further Trials from My Queer Life*, will be out in February.





Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"Will is as gay as I am, and I'm pretty gay. Eventually, if we don't realize a relationship for him and flesh out the character, then it isn't fair and it isn't the truth."

—Max Mutchnick, co-creator and co-executive producer of NBC-TV's *Will & Grace*, to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Nov. 9. Mutchnick plans to cast a major star for Will's first same-sex kiss.

"If Brad Pitt wants to do some TV, I'm sure that would work out fine. George Clooney, Tom Cruise, Antonio Banderas would all be OK. I never kissed a guy before, but I'm sure it's much the same as with a girl. Just a bit rougher."

—Eric McCormack, Will of NBC-TV's *Will & Grace*, on Will's first same-sex kiss, which the producers say is coming.

"I am excited for the opportunity to bring health-care reform back into focus in the Congress. I know there have been a number of proposals out there like the patient bill of rights, the patient protection act, but none of the proposals that are currently pending in Congress really tackle the issue of the very, very large number of uninsured people that we have in this country and in this state. I think it's high time that that issue become center stage and front burner again, and I want to play a role in my freshman term to sort of reinvigorate leadership around health care."

—Openly lesbian Congresswoman-elect Tammy Baldwin of Madison, Wis., to the *Wisconsin State Journal*, Nov. 9. Baldwin is the first open lesbian ever elected to Congress.

"I want my kids to see their heroes—Schwarzenegger and Cruise— march down Fifth Avenue in the Gay Pride parade."

—Talk-show pioneer Phil Donahue to *POZ* magazine, December issue.

"Here we were in the '60s, marching and singing 'We Shall Overcome,' feeling liberal and proud, and this gay world was opening up to me. I began to question what it must mean to live a life in the closet. To live life as a lie. To have to endure the humiliation of the YMCA arrests and things of that nature. Meanwhile, the Catholic Church was saying, 'Love the sinner, hate the sin.' The Church was legitimizing homophobia while it is one of the world's largest institutional closets. So, I began to see that gayness is not a moral issue, and that we all had to do something about homophobia."

—Talk-show pioneer Phil Donahue to *POZ* magazine, December issue.

"I feel that the only thing I've ever had to give up ... because of any kind of fame is bad sex. I can't go to a backroom somewhere. I mean, not that I would, but at least you have that option."

—Gay filmmaker John Waters to Vancouver's *Xtra! West*, Oct. 29.

"He's the only real Clark Gable of porn."

—Gay filmmaker John Waters on Jeff Stryker, to Vancouver's *Xtra! West*.

"Having children was a dream most gay men and lesbians had to give up when we came out, like flying for the Blue Angels or becoming Ambassador to Luxembourg. There weren't sperm banks 30 years ago, or agencies that would place a baby with two women, or courts that would finalize an adoption by a gay couple. But as more things have become possible—save flying for the Blue Angels or becoming Ambassador to Luxembourg—more of us have started acquiring babies."

—Seattle journalist Dan Savage writing in the Nov. 15 *New York Times Magazine*.

"That so many gay men are having children at this moment is perhaps the best evidence that we are coming out of our AIDS- crisis bunkers. And many of us have decided we want to fill our time with something more meaningful than sit-ups, circuit parties and designer drugs. For me and my boyfriend, bringing up a child is a commitment to having a future. And considering what the last 15 years were like, perhaps that future is the ultimate status item for gay men."

—Seattle journalist Dan Savage writing in the *New York Times Magazine*.

"I understood the backlash [against the first Sex Panic Summit] in two primary ways. First, we'd committed heresy. By daring at the public level to value sex, pleasure, and the benefits which emerge from our sexual cultures—and to argue that the Monogamites have no corner on the market on ethics, values, or morality—we broke ranks with the gay rights movement's primary strategy of assimilationist politics and showed it for what it really is: a bankrupt, Faustian bargain which opts for a narrow package of concessions rather than authentic human rights, privileges cultural conformity over cultural pluralism, and affirms the status quo over the status queer. ... By standing as examples of gay men who appear before the public unapologetically as neither members of monogamous gay couples nor de-sexed celibates sacrificing personal lives to the demands of community work, we achieved a bad-boy status among those who continue to grovel before a community self-image as the best little boys in the world."

—Activist Eric Rofes in a speech delivered Nov. 13 at The Second Annual Summit to Resist Attacks on Gay Men's Sexual Civil Liberties.

Notable Quotes continues on page 32

Class 6 Specials for December

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HollyWood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, *HeatStroke* Contributor

Drop and Lose Me 20!

Sinewy heartthrob and bicoastal party boy **Leonardo DiCaprio** is under orders from the director of his new film, *The Beach*, to shed 20 pounds.

No, he's not going to be playing **Calista Flockhart** in the 20th Century Fox movie, which is based on the novel by **Alex Garland**. It seems our little Leo has put on some weight, as was evident in tabloid photographs of him lumbering along the beach (pasty skin and love handles do not a sex symbol make).

The comedy/drama is being directed and written for the screen by the team that brought us *Trainspotting*, **Danny Boyle** and **John Hodge**, respectively.



Before he strapped on the feedbag: Leonardo DiCaprio (center) in his latest film "Celebrity."

DiCaprio stars as a pop-culture buff who finds a map left at a hotel in Bangkok by his neighbor, who just committed suicide. The map supposedly leads to an island paradise where other wayward souls have settled.

DiCaprio's role will require him to take off his shirt a lot, so much is at stake for the leading man (just ask **Keanu Reeves**) when filming begins the first of the year in Thailand. To see Leo's body before the Ding Dongs took their toll, check out **Woody Allen**'s new film, *Celebrity*, which features the bratty young star as a bratty young star fond of going topless.

Speaking of that "other" Romeo, one of the members of his social circle is making news. Our favorite tomboy, *Roseanne* alum **Sara Gilbert**, has a new sitcom in development with CBS that she'll star in and co-produce.

You'll Notice that Rainbow in the Peacock's Feathers....

Yes, NBC can lay claim to being America's queerest network, featuring (at last count) 11 gay or lesbian characters in its prime-time line-up, most notably Will Truman of *Will and Grace* fame. But Will (played by **Eric McCormack**) is still playing hag fag to **Debra Messing**'s Grace.

NBC isn't quite ready to give the character a sex life, telling the show's producers they want to delay any big commitments, choosing instead to let the audience "fall in love" with the character before treating them to such a jolt. Either way, don't hold your breath for the kiss this season, though when it comes, expect a well-known stud to be on the receiving side (McCormack, who is straight, suggests **Brad Pitt**).

The network also nixed a coming-out plot line involving Josh, the sexually ambiguous assistant on *Veronica's Closet* played by **Wallace Langham**. NBC is worried people will think they're "too gay."

Guess I shouldn't mention their latest project in development, a sitcom starring **Harvey Fierstein** and **Lea DeLaria** as a mismatched couple trying to adopt a baby.

Just kidding.

And so was Paul Lynde...

Although it came as great surprise to blue-haired women everywhere who thought of him as **Elizabeth Taylor**'s "special friend," deceased actor **Roddy McDowall** (*Planet of the Apes*) was, in fact, gay (though he never publicly declared his sexual orientation).

He was recently outed by writer and pal **Dominick Dunne**, who took time off from his search for **Nicole Brown Simpson** and **Ron Goldman**'s killer to provide the country with the answer to one of our other great mysteries.

That's what they Told Jessica Tandy!

The Object of My Affection director **Nick Hytner** has reportedly told producers he wants someone younger than **Goldie Hawn** to play the Roxie Hart character in the long-awaited film adaptation of the Bob Fosse stage classic, *Chicago*.

Hytner, signed to direct the roaring 20s satire, is said to be mulling other actresses for the role opposite **Madonna**, who's still on board (although with this film's dotted history, she could be gone tomorrow).

Nicole Kidman, 31, and 23-year-old **Charlize Theron** (*The Devil's Advocate*) have been mentioned as replacements for Hawn, who, despite the rumors, remains on board. As well she should. Older actresses (most notably **Gwen Verdon**) played Hart on stage. And Goldie doesn't look like any child of the '40s I know.

Hytner is also said to be dissatisfied with the two scripts written for the movie, by, respectively, *M*A*S*H** scribe **Larry Gelbart** and famed playwright **Wendy Wasserstein** (surprisingly, he didn't seem to have that problem with the formulaic *Object*).

Nonetheless, the film's producers are touting February 19th as a start-up date for production. As Hytner's fellow Brits might say, not bloody likely.

Diva Duets

Divas everywhere are joining together in song, most famously **Whitney Houston** and **Mariah Carey**, who's *If You Believe* is featured on Houston's new album as well as the soundtrack to Dreamworks's animated release, *Prince of Egypt*.

As you might expect, the chart-topping singers weren't the model of accommodating professionalism on the set of the video for their duet.

In what amounted to an old-fashioned face-off, both singers kept the crew waiting as they holed up in their trailers, refusing to be the first on set, where they would be faced with the humiliation of having to wait on the other. Miss Whitney was the first to emerge, surprisingly enough, so I must give Mariah her diva due.

As for the song itself, each camp is denying that their duet was recorded separately, as had been reported. Believe it or not, their publicists will have you think they are the best of friends, as I'm sure will be evident on a promotional special for the movie, airing December 13th on NBC, five days before opening nationwide.

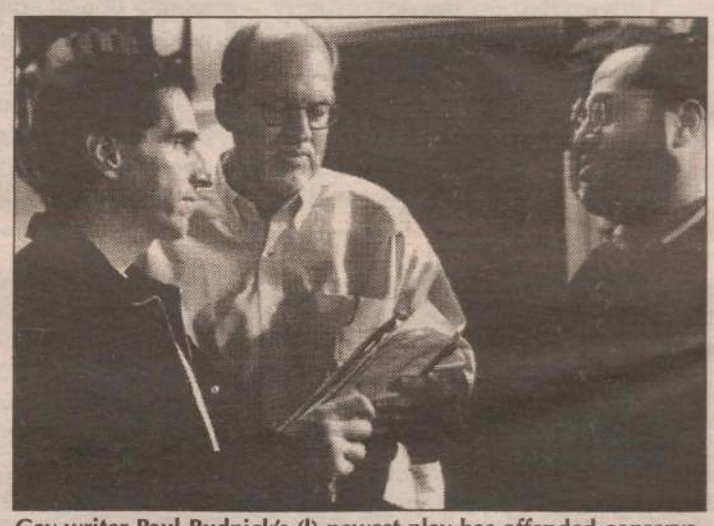
Well, the vibes were more cordial between two other divas, **Elton John** and **Janet Jackson**, who joined to record *I Know the Truth* for the cast album of *Elaborate Lives: The Legend of Aida*, written by **John** and **Tim Rice**.

The pop superstar is scoring another production, this time for the big screen, his first such work in 26 years (remember the movie, *Friends*? Didn't think so). John was tapped by **Albert Brooks** (who could teach **Adam Sandler** a million things or two about comedy) to provide the music for next year's *The Muse*, co-starring **Sharon Stone** and **Jeff Bridges**.

The Gospel According to Paul

Just a month after the controversy generated by **Terrence McNally**'s *Corpus Christi* comes word of another play raising some eyebrows.

Gay writer **Paul Rudnick** (*Jeffrey*) is drawing criticism from conservatives for his new work, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, which chronicles the Garden of Eden adventures of Adam and *Steve*.



Gay writer Paul Rudnick's (l) newest play has offended conservatives with his tale of Adam and Steve.

A horny rhino, gay rabbits and a gang of dominatrixes also populate Rudnick's paradise, which is being staged by the New York Theater Workshop.

Romeo San Vicente, who is suing to keep nude photographs of himself off the internet, can be reached in care of *HeatStroke* or at RSVicente@aol.com.

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Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Memorable Daytime Diversions

As I travel about, I'm repeatedly asked to name places, businesses, and experiences that stand out in my memory as truly stellar.

Here's a roundup of 10 favorite daytime destinations, from gay beaches to queer bookstores. I attempt no logical or scientific defense of their inclusion here—some of them are justly famous and others rather obscure and off the beaten path. They share but one common trait: I visit them as often as possible.

1. Hampden, Baltimore.

There are several cities in North America —some of them quite hot gay destinations—that I can't stand visiting for more than a day or two. And because I am a coward, and I don't wish to be inundated with hate mail, I will refrain from ever naming them publicly.

I will, however, tell you that Baltimore is a city I can't get enough of, mostly because I love urban neighborhoods that retain a sense of community, heritage, and nostalgia; this thriving port city is loaded with such enclaves.

My favorite is Hampden, the workaday neighborhood where John Waters set his most recent film, *Pecker*. This one-time mill-workers community exudes retro charm, and its main drag, West 36th Street (a.k.a. "the Avenue"), is lined with antiques shops, piercing parlors, quirky restaurants, and neighborhood businesses. It's a place where sleeveless undershirts and beehive hairdos remain very much in vogue.

2. Mae's Phinney Ridge Cafe; and Julia's, Seattle.

These two neighborhood bruncheries in northern Seattle rank among my all-time favorites: Julia's, near the University of Washington, and Mae's Phinney Ridge (and the adjoining Mud Room espresso bar), which is just north of Woodland Park, near the zoo.

Both places swell with colorful crowds, from dykes with tykes to alternateens to yuppies. Julia's has the more healthful menu of the two, which is why I tend to spend more time at Mae's, where I once attempted to scarf down my weight in cinnamon rolls.

3. Black's Beach, La Jolla (near San Diego).

This expanse of sandy beach, and specifically the rugged cliffs high above it, has dazzled me with spectacular sunsets on several occasions. Black's Beach is the local moniker for San Diego's gay sunbathing mecca, Torrey Pines City Park Beach. I've never visited early in the day, but I'm told the scenery—human and otherwise—maintains a constant level of supreme beauty.



Andrew Collins

Neatly kept row houses are a hallmark of Baltimore's colorful Hampden neighborhood.

4. Outwrite Books, Atlanta.

There are a few queer-oriented bookstores I've been to that truly stand out, not necessarily because they are enormous or internationally famous, but because they're homey and welcoming—bathed in warm lighting, staffed by friendly employees, and evoking a mood that induces lingering (even loitering).

I'm drawn to Outwrite Books partly for the above reasons, partly because it contains a comfy little coffee bar, and partly because the last time I sipped a caramel latte here a customer actually recognized me (this does not happen often).

5. Hippie Hollow Park, Austin.

I love Austin, and that's coming from a guy who spent five days there in July '98 during one of the worst heat waves of the century. No matter. I, like seemingly every other queer guy in Austin, spent as much time as possible at Hippie Hollow Park, which fronts massive Lake Travis and has a wildly popular gay section.

Scenic cliffs extend along the shoreline, the water is warm and calm, and the grounds are ideal for sunbathing—why people spend thousands of dollars squeezing onto crowded resort-studded beaches is beyond me.

6. Memorial Union Terrace (University of Wisconsin), Madison.

The considerable reputation of this expansive stepped terrace that overlooks rippling Lake Mendota preceded my visit: the most intellectual and charming pick-up spot in the Midwest, gay or straight, I'd been told.

I was not disappointed. Some 40,000 students attend the University of Wisconsin, and on the sunny fall afternoon that I dropped by, it seemed that a significant number of them (along with just as many "townies") were out here reading, playing chess, gossiping, and admiring the views both of the lake and each other.

7. Farmers Market, Los Angeles.

While it's true that people-watching accounts partially for the lure of every spot I've mentioned, I've yet to find a more invigorating venue for this activity than the L.A. Farmers Market.

It consists of several shopping centers, but the original market building serves as the spiritual hub for all manner of people: gay, straight, old, young, alone, in packs.

I've been known to spend three or four hours milling about the food stalls sampling fresh strawberries or savoring breakfast at queer-popular KoKoMo, a glorious diner with a discreet celebrity following.

8. Stanley Park, Vancouver.

This verdant Pacific Northwest metropolis is prettier, as far as I'm concerned, than either Seattle or San Francisco (my two other West Coast favorites), and the jewel of Vancouver is spectacular Stanley Park, a peninsula comprising more than 1,000 unspoiled acres of greenery, forests of cedar and Douglas fir, and panoramic maritime vistas—all within the shadows of downtown skyscrapers.

My approach is to drive (or bicycle) the circumference before parking at one of the inexpensive lots and zeroing in on a particular inviting stretch of beach pathway.

9. The Royal Palms Resort, Fort Lauderdale.

This is one of my favorite gay resorts, in part because the rooms are nicely decorated and the staff highly professional. But mostly I'm drawn to the lush grounds, which remind me more of Hawaii than of southeastern Florida.

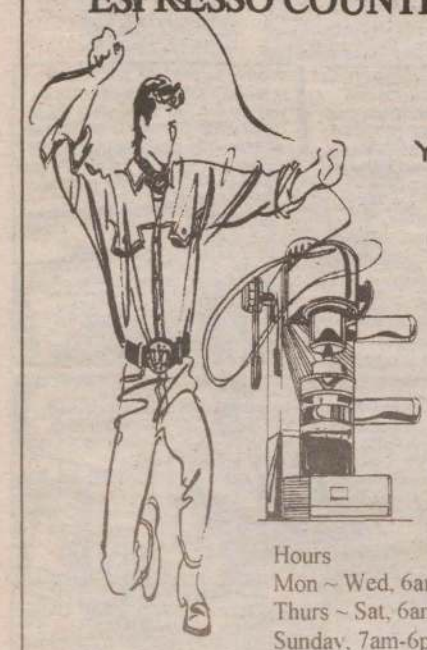
The beach is just two blocks away, but my idea of relaxation is lazing around the Royal Palms' intimate swimming pool, which is shaped and landscaped like a private lagoon.

10. The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh.

Crafted out of a 1911 steel supply warehouse in Andy Warhol's hometown, this eight-story museum is all the reason I need to visit Pittsburgh year after year. I'm not even a Warhol junkie, but I'm completely impressed with this tribute to life and work, which ranges from Marilyn Monroe prints to countless earlier sketches and drawings.

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 gayfodors@aol.com.

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Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ, or e-mail to alkalphx@aol.com — we'll pass them along to the wise one for you.

Dear Cowboy,

I was hoping to take my boyfriend to my office Christmas party but he won't come.

I work for a small company. We all get along great and they know I'm gay. We are going to a nice but casual restaurant and then dancing. The company is paying for significant others, including same-sex dates (my boss made that very clear) and several of my coworkers are looking forward to meeting him.

He won't go only because he is closeted at his own job and he feels that if he can't invite me to his work party then he won't be comfortable at mine.

He works for a huge corporation that is not known for its progressive attitudes on gay rights, to say the least. He says he'll feel uncomfortable with my coworkers and he's mad that I already accepted on his behalf.

I think his reasoning sucks. If I go by myself I'll feel like an idiot. What should I do?

Signed, Out and Proud

Dear Out,

You were wrong to tell folks your boyfriend has never met to expect him at a party without clearing it through him first. Your first step is to apologize for assuming he'd want to do what you want.

There are some other issues simmering in the stew pot of your relationship that are barely scraped by this Christmas Party issue. Sounds to my old ears like you are trying to force your level of un-closetedness on him by showing him off to your straight pals, while he's trying to pass some of his frustrations with his own job onto you with that "I don't wanna go to yours since you can't come to mine" attitude.

You boys best cut the passive-agressive crap, accept one another's differences and start communicating.

That said, I'm on your side of this fence—I think your shindig sounds like a fun evening. Maybe he'll tuck in his pride and go along where he's so welcome. But if he won't, he won't.

You could ask a friend instead, or go solo and explain to your pards at the office that you goofed when you accepted the invite.

Dear Cowboy,

Why do guys take your phone number and then never call you? I've met three guys in three months who seemed really cool at the bar and said they wanted to go to a movie or dinner. Then they never called.

Is saying, "Give me your number and I'll call you," some kind of phony bar-talk for, "If we don't sleep together tonight, then I'm not interested" ? I give up.

Signed, Three Strikes and I'm Out

Dear Strikes,

Sorry, but there is no magic decoder for "bar talk", and there's no way of knowing what someone you've just met in a bar situation is really like.

But here's one idea. The next time someone says, "Give me your number and I'll call you," you say, "Why don't you give me yours instead." If he gives it to you, call him and ask him to dinner or a movie. You may not get that date, but at least he'll know where you stand.

Baseball players are the ones who get only three strikes. If you're in bars trying to find a guy who wants dinner and a movie, you'll need to allow yourself a lot more strikes than that.

Edibles

A. Coffee Central
2825 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 274-8433

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

C. Industria Supper Club
7107 E. McDowell
Scottsdale 874-2585

Libations

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

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

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

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

5. BS
7125 5th Avenue
Scottsdale 945-9028

6. The Bunkhouse
4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix

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

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

9. Club Roxy
4343 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 285-9200

10. Crowbar
702 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 258-8343

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

12. The Rose
44301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix 265-3233

13. Harley's Club 155
Harley's Too!
155 & 125 W. Camelback
Phoenix 274-8505

14. Incognito
2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix 955-9805

15. JC's Fun One
5542 N. 43rd Ave.
Glendale 939-0528

16. Johnny Mc's
138 W. Camelback
Phoenix 266-0875

17. Marlys'
15615 Cave Creek
Phoenix 867-2463

18. The Mill
3300 S. Price Rd.
Tempe 756-2480
(101 loop & Southern)

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

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

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

22. The Park
3002 N. 24th Street
Phoenix 957-6055

23. Roscoe's on 7th
4531 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 285-0833

24. Shooterz
998 E. Indian School
Phoenix 266-5640

25. 307 Lounge
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 252-0001

26. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 254-0231

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

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

29. Yanks
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 275-3509

Staples

30. The Adult Shoppe
111 S. 24th Street
Phoenix 306-1130
2345 W. Holly St.
Phoenix 253-7126

31. The Barn Adult Shop
5021 W Indian School
Phoenix 245-3008

32. Book Cellar
4029 E. Washington
Phoenix 275-0015
(other Valley locations)

33. Castle Boutique
5501 E. Washington
Phoenix 231-9837
(3 other Valley locations)

34. Obelisk Books
24 West Camelback
Phoenix 266-Book

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

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

Tubs

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

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

Culture

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Outdoors

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

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

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

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

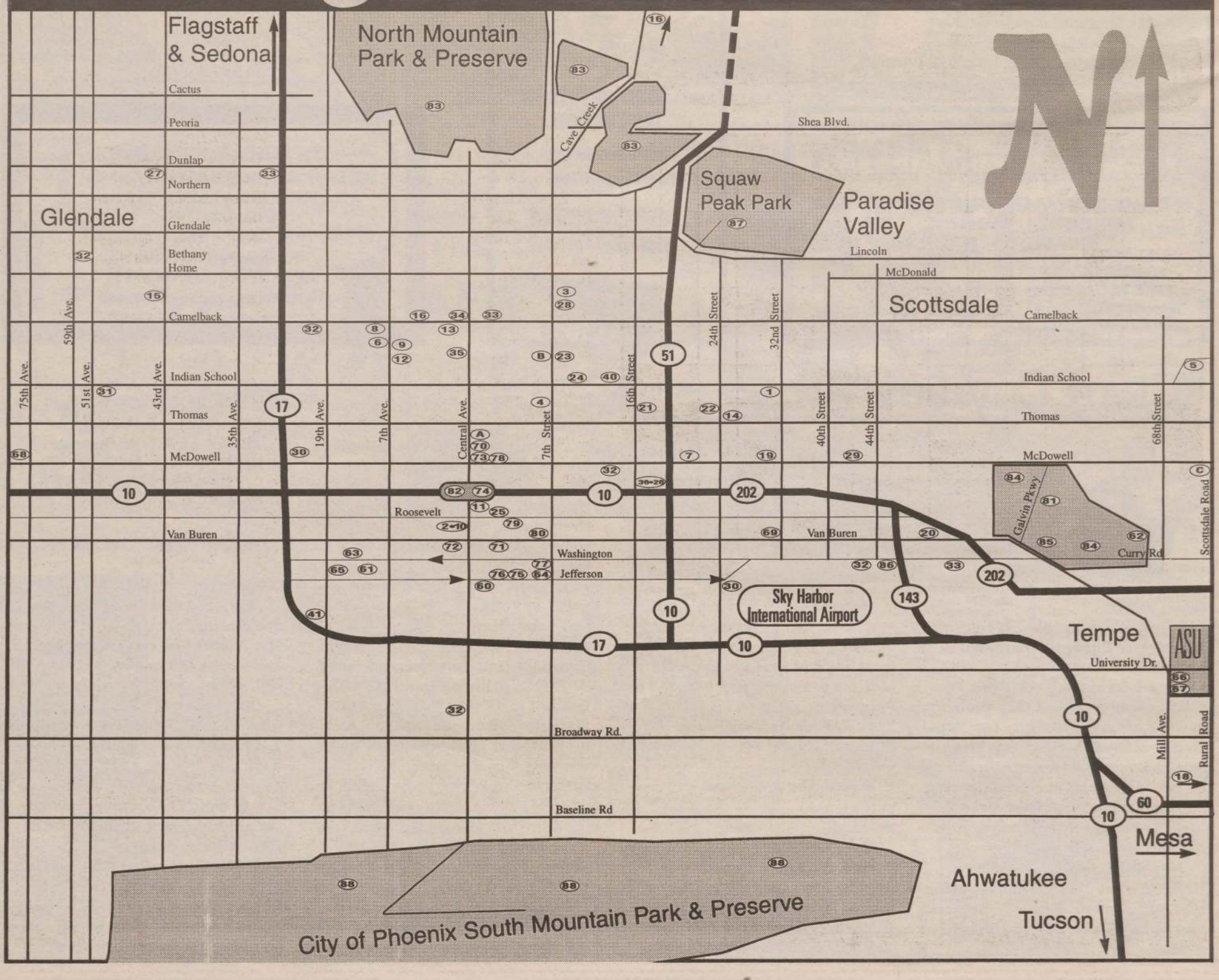
85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 273-1431

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

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

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

Finding it in Phoenix



Directory of Community Services

Aids Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aunt Rita's Foundation
5501 N. 7th Ave#215
Phoenix, AZ 85013 279-0716

Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593

HIV Care Directions
1366 E. Thomas#105
Phoenix, AZ 85014 264-2273

Indian Community Health Serv.
1427 N. 3rd St. #100
Phoenix, AZ 85004 254-0456

Joshua Tree Feeding Program
P.O. Box 7056
Phoenix, AZ 85011 264-0223

MALTA Center
3033A N. 7th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85013 212-0222

Maricopa County Health Dept.
1825 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix, AZ 85006 506-6900

Planned Parenthood
5651 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85016 277-7526

Phx. Body Positive
4021 N. 30th St. #2
Phoenix, AZ 85016 955-4673

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

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

Volunteers in Direct Aid
P.O. Box 40476
Phoenix, AZ 85067 279-8432

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

Political Action & Education

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

Arizona Central Pride
P.O. Box 26139
Tempe, AZ 85285 279-1771

Arizona Human Rights Fund
P.O. Box 25044
Phoenix, AZ 85002 650-0900

Arizonans for Fairness
P.O. Box 34766
Phoenix, AZ 85067 265-7283

AZ Democratic Party
Gay & Lesbian Caucus
2005 N. Central #180
Phoenix, AZ 85004 257-9136

Feminist Lesbian Activist Coalition
P.O. Box 26031
Tempe, AZ 85285 966-4521

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

Log Cabin Republicans
P.O. Box 60994
Phoenix, AZ 85082 428-3596

Social & Support Groups

Alpha Zeta—Crossdressers Supp
A Rose—Transgender Support
PO Box 1738
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APEX-AZ Power Exchange
apex@xroads.com 415-1123

Arizona 2-somes 277-8796

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Phoenix, AZ 85064

Bears of the Arizona Desert
4133 E. Campbell Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85018 345-8755

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

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

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

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

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America, Phoenix
864-6092; pglbva@aol.com

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

The Leatherlords 254-9651

Lesbian & Gay Alanon
2622 N. 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85006 548-0936

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

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
P.O. Box 37525
Phoenix, AZ 85069 843-1404

The Phoenix Bears
PO Box 9627
Tempe, AZ 85068 216-8000

Project LifeGuard
Project Q
TRIBE
4700 N. Central,#204
Phoenix, AZ 85012 266-7233

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

Professional Organizations

Camelback Business & Professional Association
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix, AZ 85001 225-8444

Religious & Spiritual Organizations

Affirmation (Gay Mormons)
P.O. Box 26601
Tempe, AZ 85285

Asbury United MethodistChurch
1601W Indian School
Phoenix, AZ 85015 279-2369

AVIV of Arizona
4704 E. Paradise Village Pkwy N. #314
Phoenix, AZ 85032 996-8622

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

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Phoenix, AZ 85014 234-2180

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222-8664

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P.O. Box 17312
Phoenix, AZ 85011 266-4111

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

Lutherans Concerned
P.O. Box 7519
Phoenix, AZ 85011 870-3611

Presbyterians for Lesbians & Gays
P.O. Box 61162
Phoenix, AZ 85082 275-0506

Southwest Miracles Center
3644 E. McDowell
Phoenix, AZ 85008 244-9001

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Paradise Valley, AZ 85283
840-8400

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

Western Orthodox Catholic Church
241-9776 pasisozi@cris.com

Music, Sports & Hobbies

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix, AZ 85011 265-0618

Cactus Cities Softball League
PO Box 45101
Phoenix, AZ 85064 848-8562

Charlie's Renegades
P.O. Box 17602
Phoenix, AZ 85011 277-9142

Desert Adventures
PO Box 2008
Phoenix, AZ 85001 266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares
P.O. Box 34615
Phoenix, AZ 85067 248-0048

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Social Tennis Club 279-0709

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

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

Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling Alliance (PUGBA)
PO Box 44422
Phoenix, AZ 85064 246-9643

Spartan Wrestling Club-340-8070
e-mail: mattbirns@aol.com

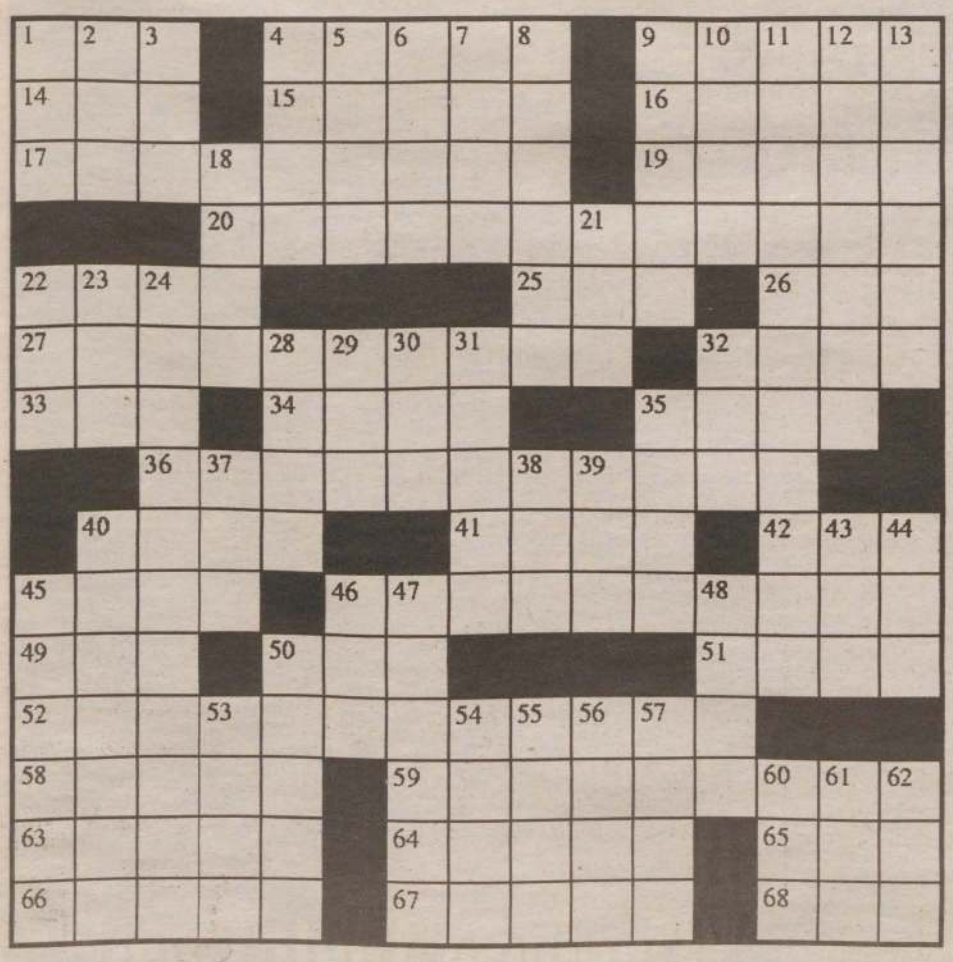
Sunburst Squares
727 W. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85013 265-0224

Team Arizona
P.O. Box 36431
Phoenix, AZ 85067 464-1461

TLC Chorale
PO Box 37855
Phoenix, AZ 85069 878-5430

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

Q Puzzle "Of Comics and Cartoons"

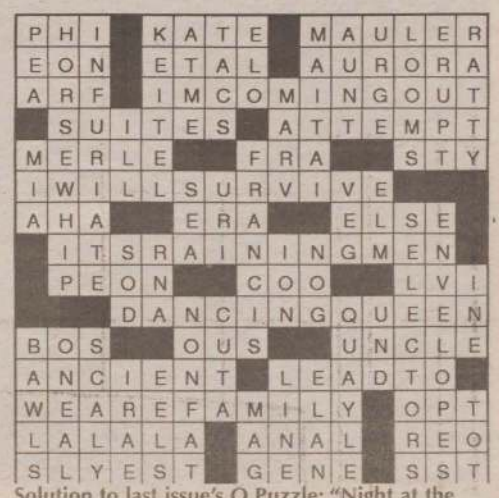


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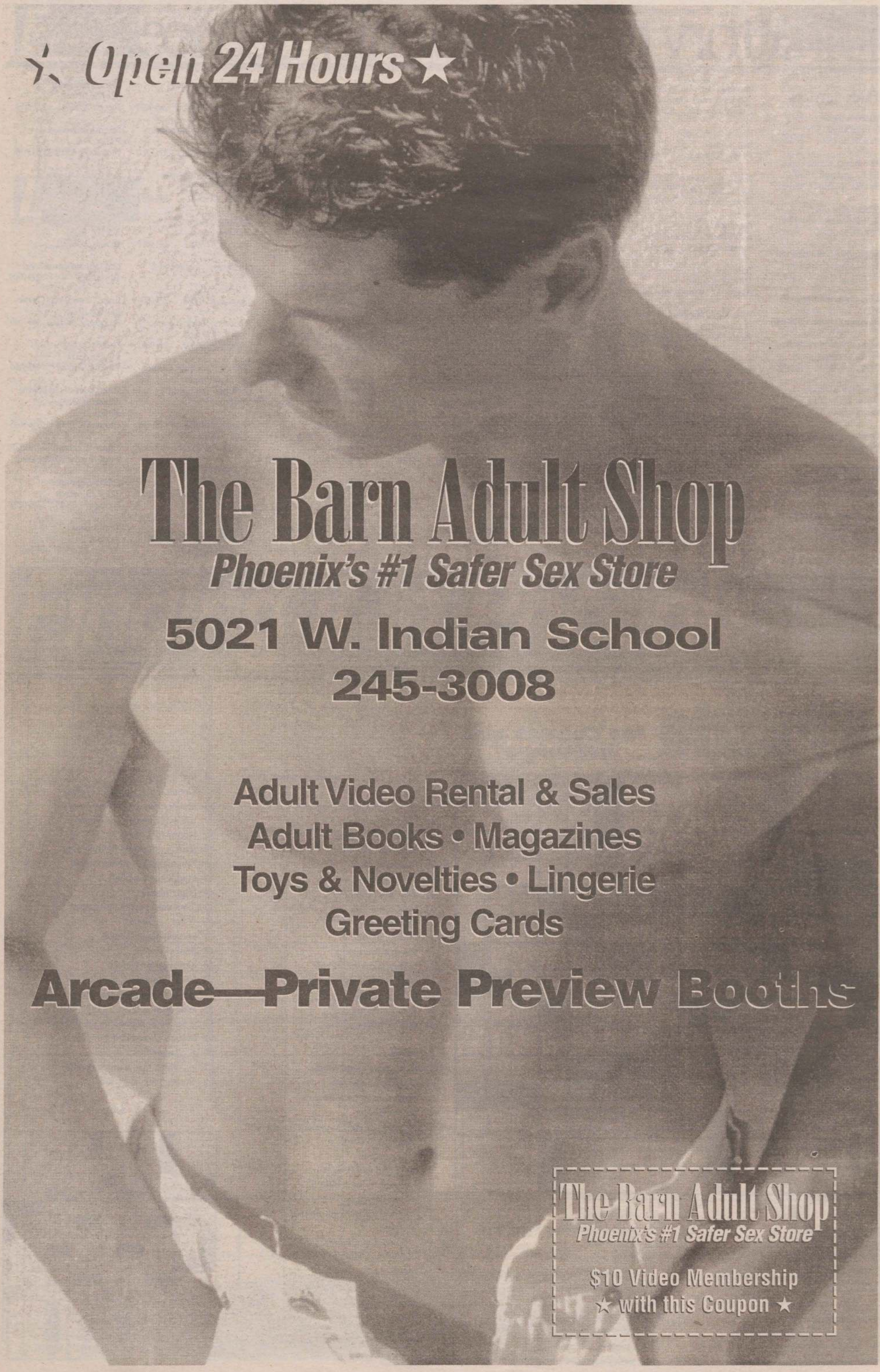
1 Disney channel?
4 Ayn Rand's ___ *Shrugged*
9 Fruit ___
14 Composer Harrison or singer Reed
15 Get a handle on
16 Labor organizer's cry
17 Mythological maze
19 Reese of *Touched by an Angel*
20 Leader of the Metropolis Police Special Crimes Unit in *Superman*
22 Kind of jockey
25 Singer Romanovsky of Romanovsky & Phillips
26 Prefix with practice
27 Eric Orner character with a "mostly unfabulous social life"
32 Tied up
33 Miss Piggy, self-referentially
34 Use a rotary phone
35 Littlest of the litter
36 Hanna-Barbera's effeminate pink cat
40 Chiang Kai-___ (Chinese president, 1950-75)
41 Features of French geography
42 Piggy, so to speak
45 Walleye or jackfish
46 *Simpsons* sycophant
49 Panasonic rival
50 Quilting party
51 Ticks off
52 Matt Groening's *Life in Hell* lovers
58 Cello's cousin
59 Braking signal
63 Balance-sheet entry
64 Laura's *Jurassic Park* role
65 "Old MacDonald" ending
66 Imbeciles
67 Take a breather
68 Psychic power

DOWN

1 Musketeers motto word
2 Drag queen's wrap
3 Bear's younger counterpart
4 Taj Mahal site
5 High school math
6 "Sexuality" singer
7 ___ spumante
8 1997 film which co-starred Lea DeLaria
9 Largest African country
10 All over again
11 Yvonne DeCarlo's sitcom role
12 Minimally
13 First word of a funeral service
18 Village People hit
21 Member of the family
22 Barney Frank's party (abbr.)
23 Most televised judge of 1995
24 Skewered beef chunks
28 Neighbor of Minn.
29 Jazzman's job
30 Cum ___
31 Immigrants' island
32 *Get on the* ___ (Spike Lee film)
35 Hanky color for cowboy-lovers
37 Hillary Clinton, ___ Rodham
38 Horror-film street
39 Shar-___ (Chinese fighting dog)
40 Homosexuals, to Fred Phelps
43 Mork's home planet
44 Lisper's bane
45 Communist party's newspaper
46 "Give ___ break!"
47 Security-deposit payer
48 Kind of stereo
50 Kindergarten terrors
53 What Washington couldn't tell
54 Gay-rights pioneer Jennings
55 *Four Jacks and a* ___ (1942 musical)
56 *A Streetcar Named Desire* director Kazan
57 Imitate a conceited gym bunny
60 "___ whiz!"
61 ___ Video (gay porn company)
62 "Active" sexual partner



Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle: "Night at the Disco."


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HORROR SCOPES

By Deane Jaye, *HeatStroke* Contributor

Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)
Ahhh-so. Pay close attention, Grasshopper. It isn't like you to scrimp and save along with the workmanlike ants, but lately you could be feeling the urge to stash something away for a rainy day. Good thing, because heavy rains are headed your way and the better stocked up you are now, the better off you'll be during the deluge. A Leo native may wish to tickle your fancy around the 10th—by all means, go for it.

Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)
Chant along with me, honey. "Wheel!" "Of!" "Fortune!" Now stop clapping like a lame-brained spokesmodel waiting for someone else to take their turn, and give the damn thing a spin yourself. Take charge, make a plan, and financial matters will lead to even greater rewards as the month progresses. You'll be bouncing up and down with joy by the weekend of the 12th—curb that tendency to overindulge as the holidays draw nearer.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)
Memories, like the corners of your mind. . . This is the time of year when you forward-thinking Aquarians tend to dwell on events of the past. This is not necessarily a bad thing, provided you know when to pull yourself out of the melancholy mood and move on to what's now and what's next. What's too painful to remember you can always simply choose to forget, so use your imagination and do some forgetting when the need arises.

Pisces (February 21 - March 20)
Instead of admiring all those talented and capable people you seem to be finding yourself surrounded by these days, perhaps it's time you realized that you're one of them. Stop waiting for someone else to tell you you're okay—especially on or around the 7th when the spotlight could be shining directly on you. You're mental health will be fine but you could be particularly susceptible to physical ailments as mid-month approaches—wash your hands.

Aries (March 21 - April 20)
It's so like you that when everyone else has vacations and holidays on their minds, all you can seem to worry about is work, work, work. Funny how you always manage to come out ahead of the game after episodes like this—nobody ever believes that you Arians are the slightest bit conniving but it's clear you know how to manipulate people and situations when it's required. A Virgo native may have a secret to share around the 15th.

Taurus (April 21 - May 20)
If only you'll take a break from trying to handle what's bothering everyone else, you might recognize that those things which are truly within your control are more deserving of your attention in coming weeks. Unfold your energies slowly and carefully where a Gemini may be intimately involved—you don't want to stomp on any toes. Big parties on or around the 6th may be better off avoided.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
No one is accusing you of being miserly, and yet the value you tend to place on objects and possessions could lead you to trouble before the month is fully underway. You might want to loosen those purse strings up a bit for the benefit of someone apart from yourself, if only to prove that you can. Then forget about what others expect from you and push yourself in a new direction, especially when surrounded by friends around the 5th.

Cancer (June 21 - July 20)
Home for the holidays means something special to you Crab folk, but if for some reason you can't be where you want to be this year, then try bringing some of what you're missing to where you are. Get in tough with your artistic side later in the month and express yourself through baking or craft projects that will enhance your mood as well as your comfort level. A Tauraen's stubborn influence could be felt after the 9th.

Leo (July 21 - August 20)
It's thumbs-up and thumbs-down by turns as your self-critical habits bubble to the surface and you begin Siskel & Eberting yourself silly. Try to look at the whole situation before passing judgment, and let your wiser intimates in on the decision-making process if you think that will help. You'll be your sunny self in no time as the solstice approaches. Good health and good cheer will be yours if you'll relax and go with the flow.

Virgo (August 21 - September 20)
Get out the white flag and dust off the trumpet—a battle you've been waging for some time suddenly seems trivial and you'll be ready to toss up the signs of surrender once certain conclusions have been reached. So put the mouthpiece to your lips and blow. Travel is definitely in the picture later this month, so finalize plans now to take advantage of space and price bargains. And let your traveling companion choose you.

Libra (September 21 - October 20)
Spirituality is the key these days as you feel more self-reflective than usual—perhaps even slightly antisocial. Don't be alarmed by your feelings, explore and honor them and you may be pleasantly surprised by what can be learned from nobody but you. By the 17th you'll be right back on that party horse and riding for all she's worth straight on through 'til New Year's Eve. Expect to be dazzling and you'll bedazzle, for sure.

Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)
The Laverne DeFazio in you has nothing but vodeeo-do-do on the brain these days, while your Shirley Feeney side is suggesting you hold back until you're sure your partner can be trusted and counted upon. Try to merge the battling halves of your psyche into one unit before you find yourself making dates and then breaking them left and right. It was only charming when the gals from the brewery did it because they were on TV.



Continued from page 23

"I am no longer with GLAAD and very glad not to be with GLAAD."

—Chastity Bono at a San Francisco book-tour appearance, as quoted in the Nov. 12 *Bay Times*.

"I believe she's just mad in general, but I do believe she [Ellen DeGeneres] blew the opportunity of a lifetime. What my sentiment was and is, is that being the first show ever to have a gay or lesbian leading character on prime time network television, you want to put something out there that is broad and inclusive of everyone; and I would have much rather had the show be on this season and next season and have her deal with less gay-specific issues on an every-episode basis. That could have been spread out and still be silly and funny."

—Chastity Bono at a San Francisco book-tour appearance, as quoted in the Nov. 12 *Bay Times*.

"It's impossible. He can only get an erection when someone sticks a finger up his anus."

—Poet Federico Garcia Lorca when informed that painter Salvador Dali had fallen in love with a woman, according to the December issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine.

"It's actually much more exciting being in a sex scene with a man. It's something outside of my normal experience. It's another example of an extreme situation — snogging a man."

—Film actor Ewan McGregor (currently starring in Todd Haynes' *Velvet Goldmine*) to *Vanity Fair*, December issue.

"I am saying to some of my young gay friends [in the clergy] that they should think seriously about leaving the Church of England because things have got that bad. I could stock the Scottish Episcopal Church with sexual refugees from the Church of England. Hardly a week goes by when I don't get a letter from someone, usually with a heart-breaking story."

—The Rt. Rev. Richard Holloway, Anglican bishop of Edinburgh, Scotland, in a Nov. 19 speech.

"There are more exciting places on earth than a dark room. ... Imagine yourself in the cockpit of an F16. You start it up and only moments later you have 15 million people beneath you. ... Do you know a more exciting place than the F16's cockpit? Please let us know."

—A new ad from the Dutch air force in the newspaper *De Gay Krant*. A "dark room" (called a "backroom" in America) is a space in a gay bar set aside for sexual activity.

"I think there's an element of hypocrisy when people denounce the president because he lied about his private sexual affairs. Some of the people who are now attacking the president for lying about sex are some of the people who criticized me for telling the truth about it."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., addressing the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials Conference Nov. 21 in Cathedral City, Calif.

"Thanks partly to the flock of posturing Hollywood personalities who swooped in on the case, [Matthew] Shepard's death was immediately transmogrified into a moral parable of sweet, saintly gay boy set upon by bigoted thugs and crucified for his homosexuality. But the truth seems to be (from the scanty evidence thus far) that Shepard was attracted to his assailants because they were thugs. Does anyone really believe that Shepard, educated in Switzerland, thought those two, barely literate hoodlums were gay or that he left the bar with them for cozy tea and conversation? It used to be called 'rough trade'—the dangerous, centuries-old practice of gay men picking up grimy, testosterone-packed straight or semi-straight toughs, sometimes moonlighting as hustlers. Before Stonewall, urban newspaper obituaries were coded for such typical scenarios as 'the 49-year- old unmarried antiques dealer was found bound and gagged in his ransacked, lavishly furnished apartment.'"

—Writer Camille Paglia in her Oct. 28 *Salon* magazine column.

"Phelps, you're NOT in Kansas anymore."

—A protest sign outside Chicago's Broadway United Methodist Church Nov. 22. More than 1,500 gays and lesbians circled the church as anti-gay bigot the Rev. Fred Phelps of Topeka, Kan., and six members of his clan (four of them children) cowered behind a police barrier protesting a gay wedding that had taken place at the church. Phelps is online at www.god-hatesfages.com

"I, for one, have grown tired of the misrepresentations and mindless attacks from a handful of people in our community over the past several months. I understand all rage related to the D'Amato decision as I know this was difficult for many. But HRC has been used inappropriately and unfairly as a whipping post for those who cannot or will not work to bring the community to higher and more common ground. One example is the so-called Ad Hoc Committee for An Open Process which has been brokering in misinformation regarding a 2000 march on Washington for months. The participation of one organization like HRC, among many, in an event such as a march on the nation's capitol should not be the basis for open civil war."

—Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch in a Nov. 13 press statement.





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Debbie Reynods hits the road to recover from Las Vegas financial disaster

LOS ANGELES (AP)

The unsinkable Debbie Reynolds once again demonstrates her recuperative powers. After a financial disaster with her Las Vegas hotel-casino, she's taking her act on the road and also starring in a television movie.

In her 50th year in show business, Miss Reynolds has survived a series of personal and business setbacks. The latest came last year when the Debbie Reynolds Hotel and Casino—and Miss Reynolds herself—were forced to file for protective bankruptcy. She returned to traveling the country with her nightclub show, and made *The Christmas Wish*, a movie that appears on the U.S. CBS TV network Sunday (Dec. 6) at 9 p.m. EDT.

The Christmas Wish is one of those heart-warmers that proliferate at this time of year. Neil Patrick Harris, grown out of his teen-physician role in the television show *Doogie Howser, M.D.*, is a Wall Street wheeler-dealer who returns to his home town to be with his grandmother (Reynolds) and modernize her late husband's real estate business.

The grandmother has a wish: that her grandson trace a mysterious woman whose name recurs in the grandfather's diaries. The young man discovers the secret and finds himself as well.

``I liked the script because I felt it was a good family picture,'' Ms. Reynolds said. ``I've always liked films for the family; I really don't feel that we have enough of it out there.''

Ms. Reynolds says she is unlike her character, who seeks help from the grandson: ``I'm the opposite kind; I always say I'll have to do it all myself ... I fight a lot harder.''

She exhibits a remarkable calmness in the role, as she did in her recent breakout film, Albert Brooks' *Mother*.

Yet it's not her own style, which is more like Ms. Reynolds' Academy Award-nominated turn in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* or her role as Mama Rose in *Gypsy*.

In 1992, Miss Reynolds poured her fortune, her rare collection of movie costumes and memorabilia and her endless energy into a defunct hotel-casino in Las Vegas. For a few years, the investment seemed to be paying off. Now, however, the whole effort is in bankruptcy.

What happened?

``The theater worked, the museum worked,'' she said. ``But when you have a hotel that was run by other people, you make leases for television sets, you make leases for furniture. Those who were handling that end of it were not handling it well, and they put the property into debt. Once you get into debt, it's very hard to pull out.

``I worked there four years for nothing. I can't keep doing that. I'm 66 and I gave it four years on-stage, Monday through Friday, and I never kept a penny. I just kept pushing the money back into the property, and I finally had to give up. I'm just running out of years to subsidize the world.''

Two months ago the World Wrestling Federation bought the Vegas property at auction for $9 million. Miss Reynolds considered it worth $22 million.

As always in times of financial stress, the entertainer has turned to live audiences. She was interviewed before performing in Palm Springs. The next day she would fly to Florida for shows in Fort Lauderdale and Boca Raton, moving on to Biloxi, Mississippi, and to Laughlin, Nevada, for holiday shows.

Her 1999 schedule includes shows aboard two cruise ships to Hawaii, performances in San Jose, the Napa Valley and Texas.

``I've been on the road since the hotel went down,'' she said. ``I bought the place in Vegas to get off the road. When that fell through after six years, I went back. I'll just stay on the road now, because obviously I don't want to give six years to a project that doesn't work.''

Viagra role probed in plane crash that killed actor

EDGEWATER, Maryland (AP)

Federal authorities are looking into whether the impotence drug Viagra caused the plane crash that killed actor William Gardner Knight by impairing his vision.

It's the first such investigation into whether Viagra played a role in a plane crash, said Kathryn Creedy, a Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman.

Knight, 56, was killed Nov. 21 when his light plane crashed in Maryland. Investigators have asked the state medical examiner to determine whether he was using Viagra, but declined to comment about why the request was made.

``Viagra affects pilots' color vision, possibly impairing their ability to distinguish between blue and green. These colors are used extensively in airport lighting and cockpit instrumentation,'' Creedy said.

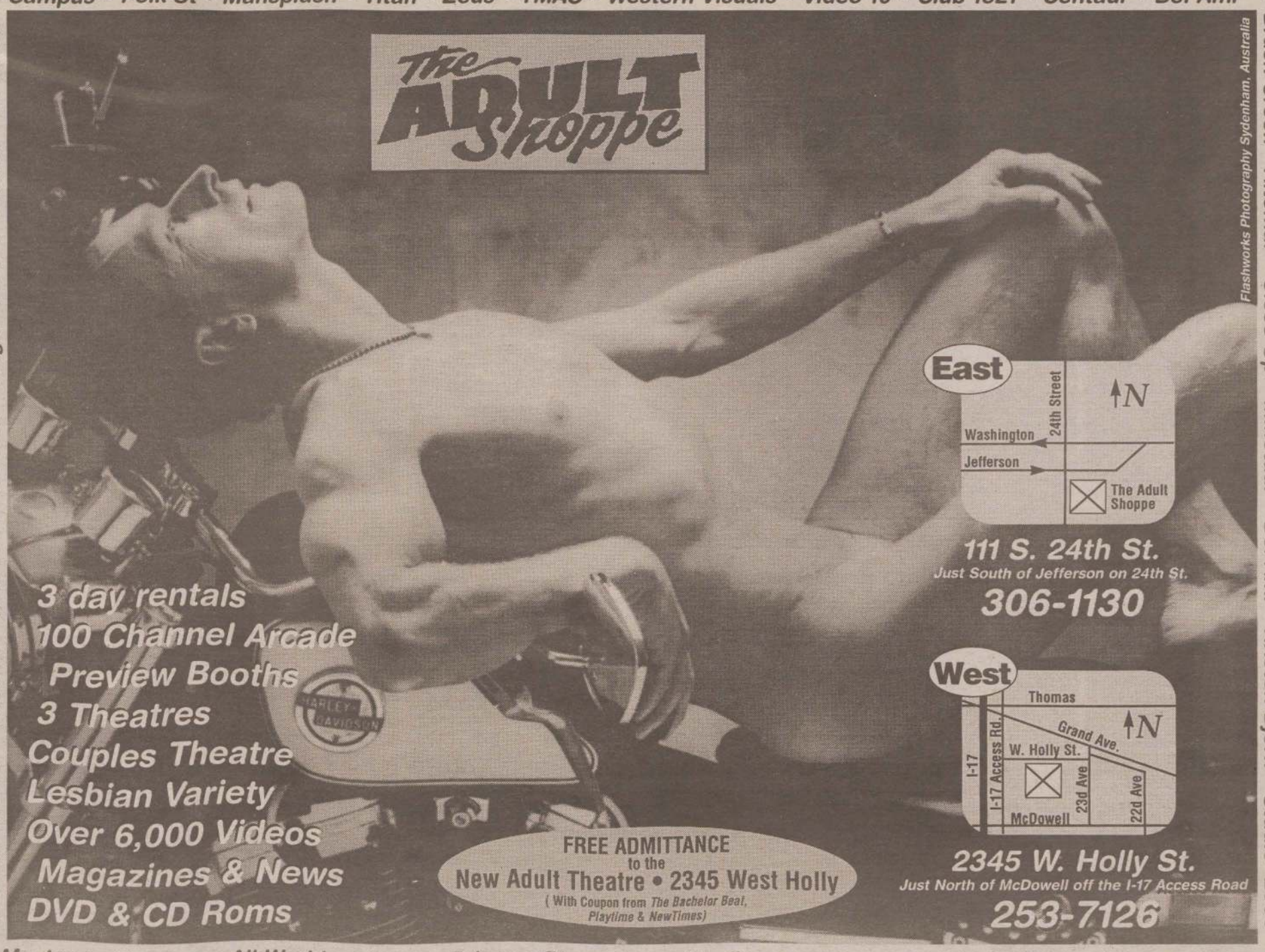
Last month, the FAA recommended that pilots avoid taking the drug within six hours of flying because its side effects can include difficulty in distinguishing certain colors.

Pamela Gemmel, a spokeswoman for Pfizer, the pharmaceutical company that makes Viagra, said that during testing on men, 3 percent reported ``visual disturbances'' that ranged from sensitivity to light to seeing a bluish-green haze.

Knight, who appeared in films including *Wall Street* and *Born on the Fourth of July*, left Delray Beach, Florida, on the morning of Nov. 21 and made two stops before trying to land at Lee Airport in Edgewater about 5:30 p.m.

The engine appeared to have been stopped before the plane hit the water, said Larry Walker, who is heading the investigation for the Anne Arundel County Police.

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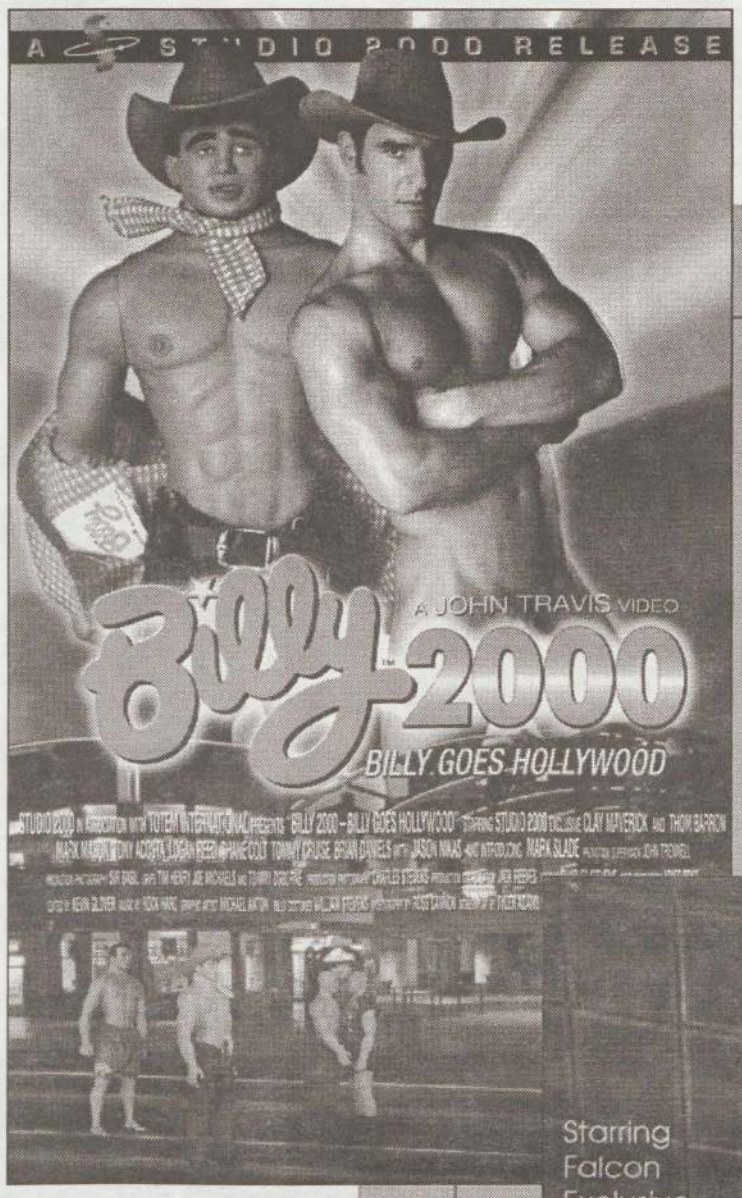
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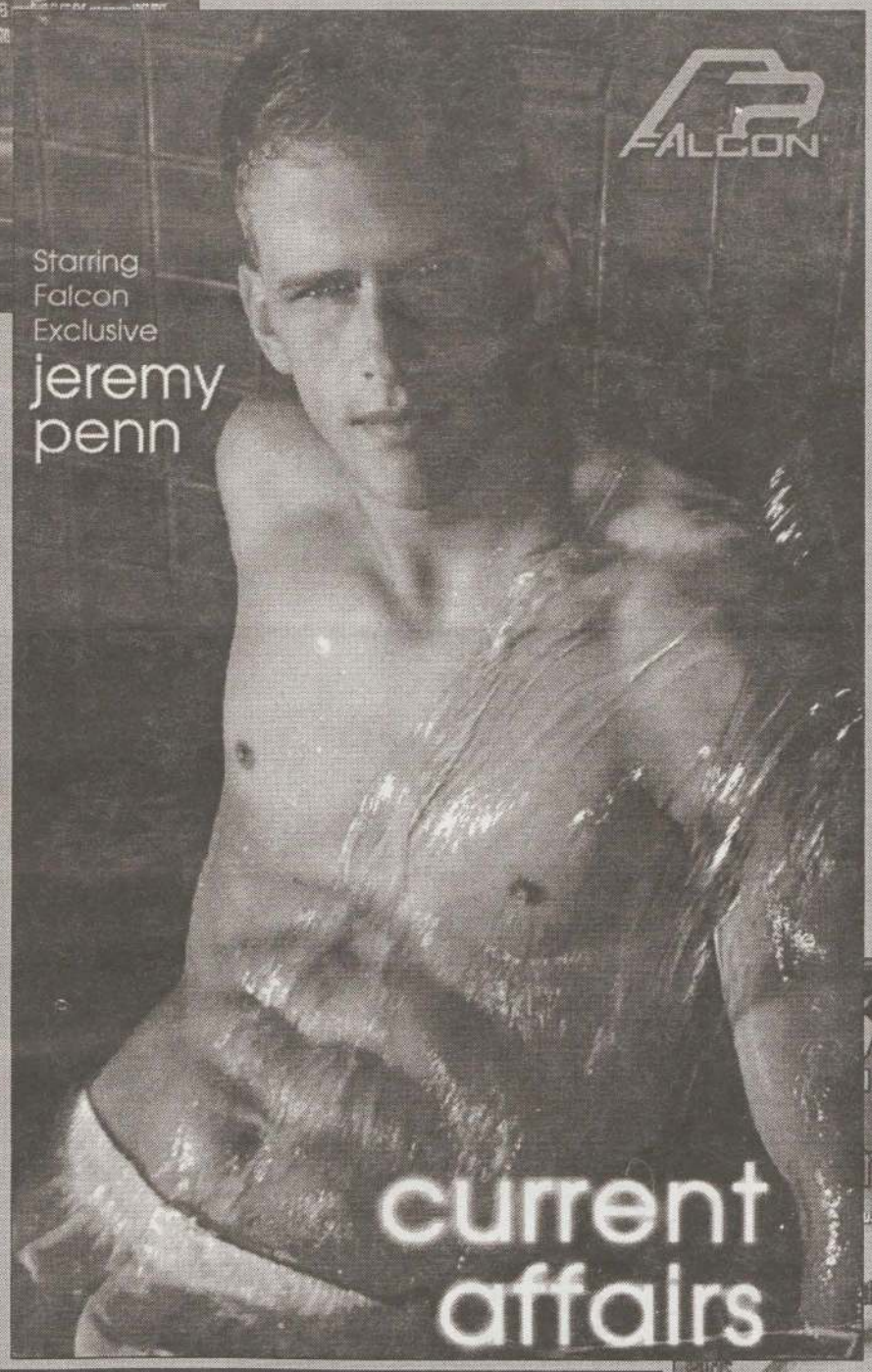
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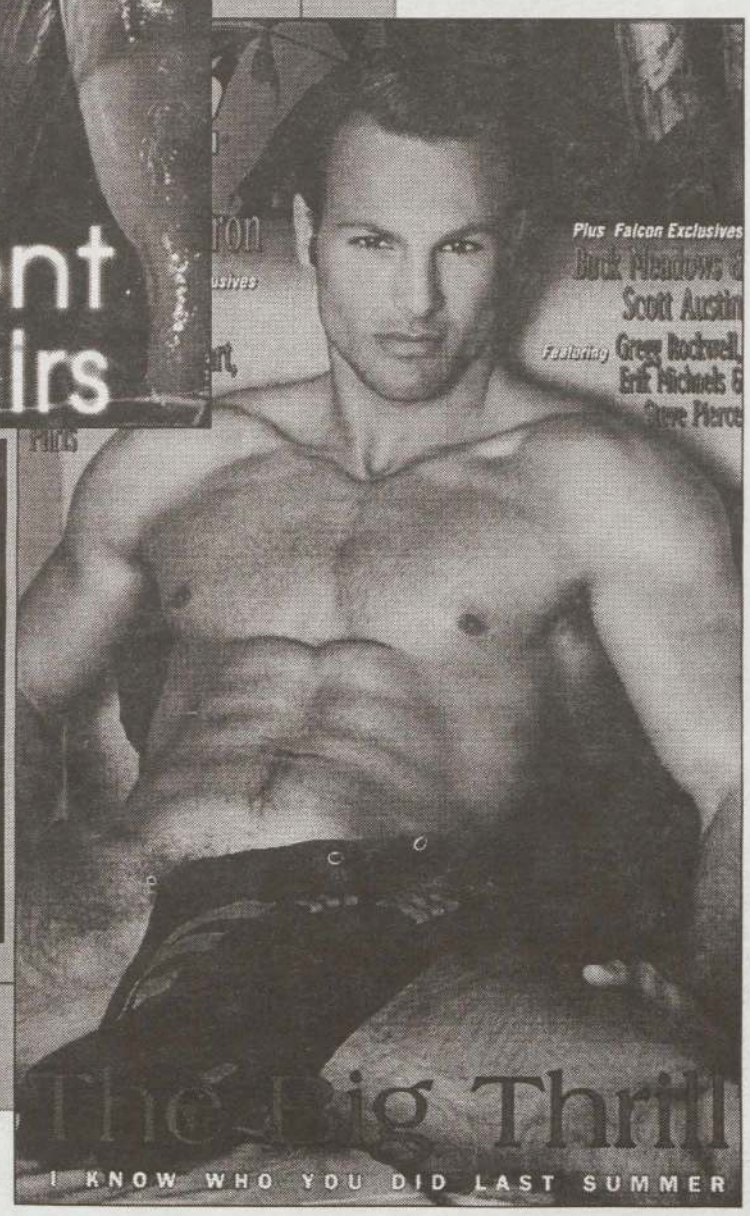


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