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Daddy's Little Girl

Baby makes two—with love to spare—in this Phoenix family

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

The really important people in Doug Henderson's life aren't shocked to hear that the Phoenix resident recently became a father, even though he is gay, single and about to turn 40.

"The only thing that surprises me is that it took him so long," Henderson's youngest sister, Sarah, said of the Sept. 9 birth of her brother's daughter, Becky.

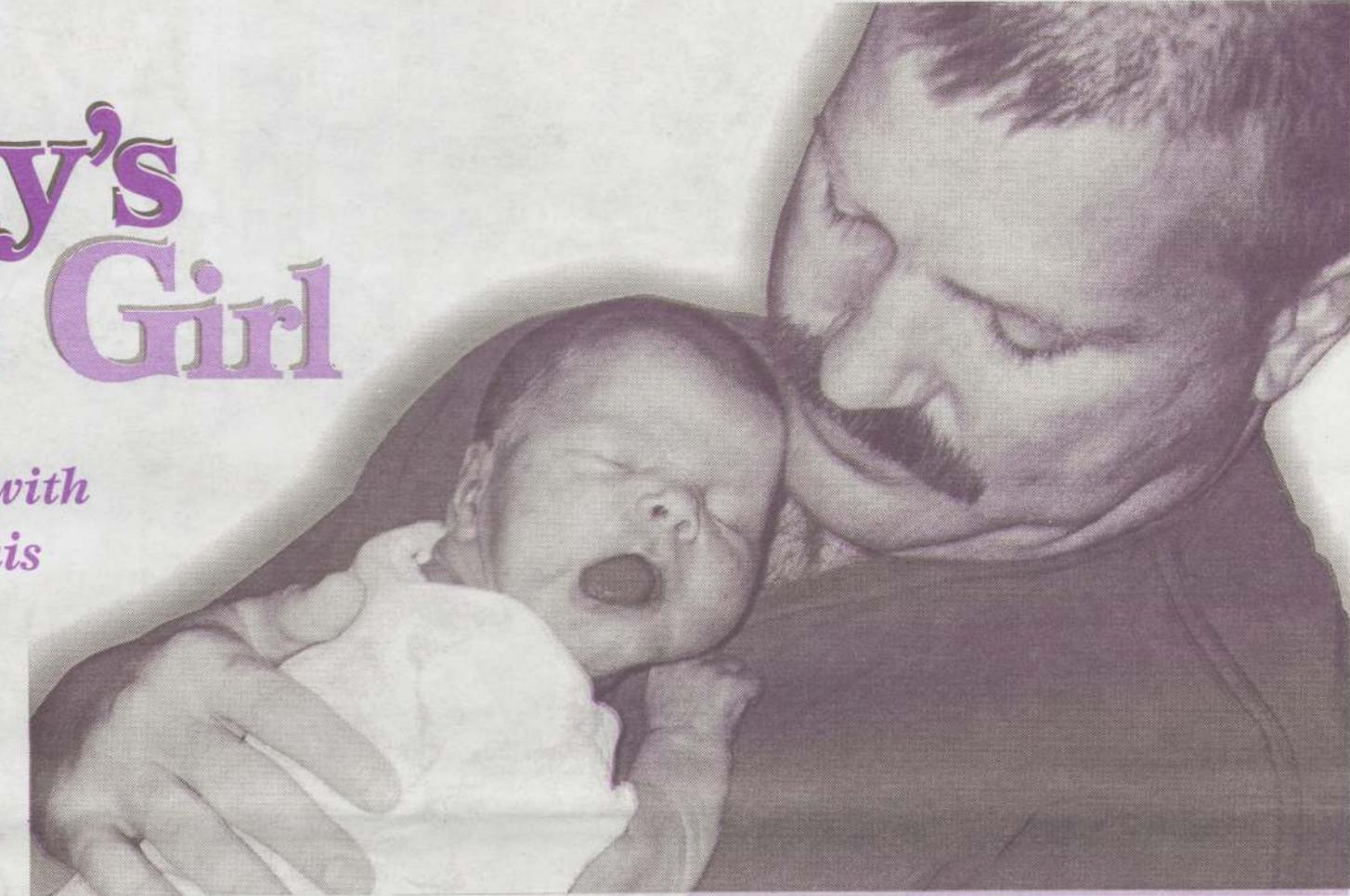
To many others—queer or not—the news that a newborn baby has been added to this affable and handsome gay man's life is not only surprising, it's extraordinary. For Henderson, Becky's eight-pound, two-ounce arrival marked the culmination of 20 months in planning and waiting, and signaled the start of a life-long commitment he's been ready and willing to make for years.

A computer analyst for a large national bank, Henderson is Becky's biological father. The baby's birth mother lives on the East Coast. One year ago, she was a stranger to Henderson. Today, he calls her a "great, wonderful person" and considers her a friend. She is a surrogate, a woman who was contracted and paid a fee to conceive and then carry his baby without having a continuing role in Becky's life.

Henderson knows his quest for single fatherhood is unusual but prefers to downplay the uniqueness of his situation. "It's just important to me, and I want to do it. And I'm very well prepared to do it," he said while sterilizing baby bottles in his kitchen on a quiet, Central Corridor cul-de-sac.

The new dad is willing to share his story in the hope that other childless gay men who also have the resources, desire, and love to give will be encouraged to take action and become natural fathers, too.

Henderson met Becky's mother through Surrogate Mothers, Inc. SMI is an Indiana agency that helps couples and



single people become parents via surrogacy when a traditional pregnancy is either impossible or impractical.

He first learned of SMI in early 1998, spotting the company's ad in the *Advocate*, a national gay magazine. He logged on to the SMI Web site, then called for more information and was mailed an application packet.

When a prospective client returns the application, a \$500 non-refundable

"I struggled with [the surrogacy application] a little but then decided I would take a chance because this was the most important thing in the world to me... so I sent it in."

deposit is required which, Henderson said, "they kind of didn't mention. So at the time, it was a little spooky." But the company also sent him plenty of supporting material, including references from past clients and positive reviews from the Better Business Bureau.

"I struggled with it a little but then decided I would take a chance because this was the most important thing in the world to me... so I sent it in."

Attorney Steven Litz founded SMI in Monrovia, a suburb of Indianapolis, 15 years ago. He said the \$500 deposit goes toward the total legal expenses a client incurs should he or she go forward with the surrogacy.

"I spend three hours in the initial interview with a client," Litz said, "the purpose of [the deposit] is to make sure I am dealing with people who are serious about this."

Henderson was. He flew to Indiana to meet with Litz and to look at photographs and bios of potential surrogates. "They said they had a book of women, 40 or 50 available women that want to become surrogate mothers," Henderson said.

He recalled getting very excited at that point. "That whole experience, ahead of time, seemed like it was going to be really cool. Going in, I thought, I'll have this book of 50 women to pick from and how great that would be. And when I went through the book I found none. Through the whole book—none."

Frustrated, he carefully went through the book again "and I found a couple of possibilities. They help you, ahead of time they send you a checklist of things to think about."

He said the catalog takes into account "things like smoking and nonsmoking, about their positions on pro-life and pro-choice, which are things that may or may not ever come up, based on things that may happen during the pregnancy."

The guide includes pictures of the various women and describes their family history, their health histories and their children's histories. "You get a wealth of information about them and you have to weigh out all these different things as you read through." Henderson was also told whether or not they were gay.

"This organization is very up-front, which is really good. They tell [the mothers] if you're gay and if you're single. A lot of the women just don't want to do it for a gay man, or they don't want to do it for a single man. That reduces the possibilities. It's not that bad, though, I was kind of surprised—maybe half of them would do it."

SMI is one of just two firms in the U.S. that regularly works with gay people seeking surrogate births. As of mid September, the company's assistance in matches between clients seeking babies and women who are willing to carry a fetus for someone else has resulted in 147

births (Becky Henderson represents #146).

Litz, who is heterosexual, said his program has never discriminated based on sexual orientation, neither against the gay men who have sought his services nor against lesbians who have offered to become surrogate moms.

He began advertising to the gay community about ten years ago, after the first gay couple he worked for was featured on *Oprah* following the birth of their daughter. The men, both California lawyers, had read about SMI in a book on surrogacy in which Litz was interviewed and quoted.

That high-profile California case brought Litz many more inquiries from gay men, coupled and single. "I suppose I would say that the gay community kind of found me, rather than the reverse," he said.

Today, the company's clients and the women who apply to become surrogate mothers come from all over the country. Henderson, who grew up in Colorado and has lived in the Valley for nearly four years, racked up many frequent flier miles in his trips between Phoenix and Indiana prior to Becky's birth.

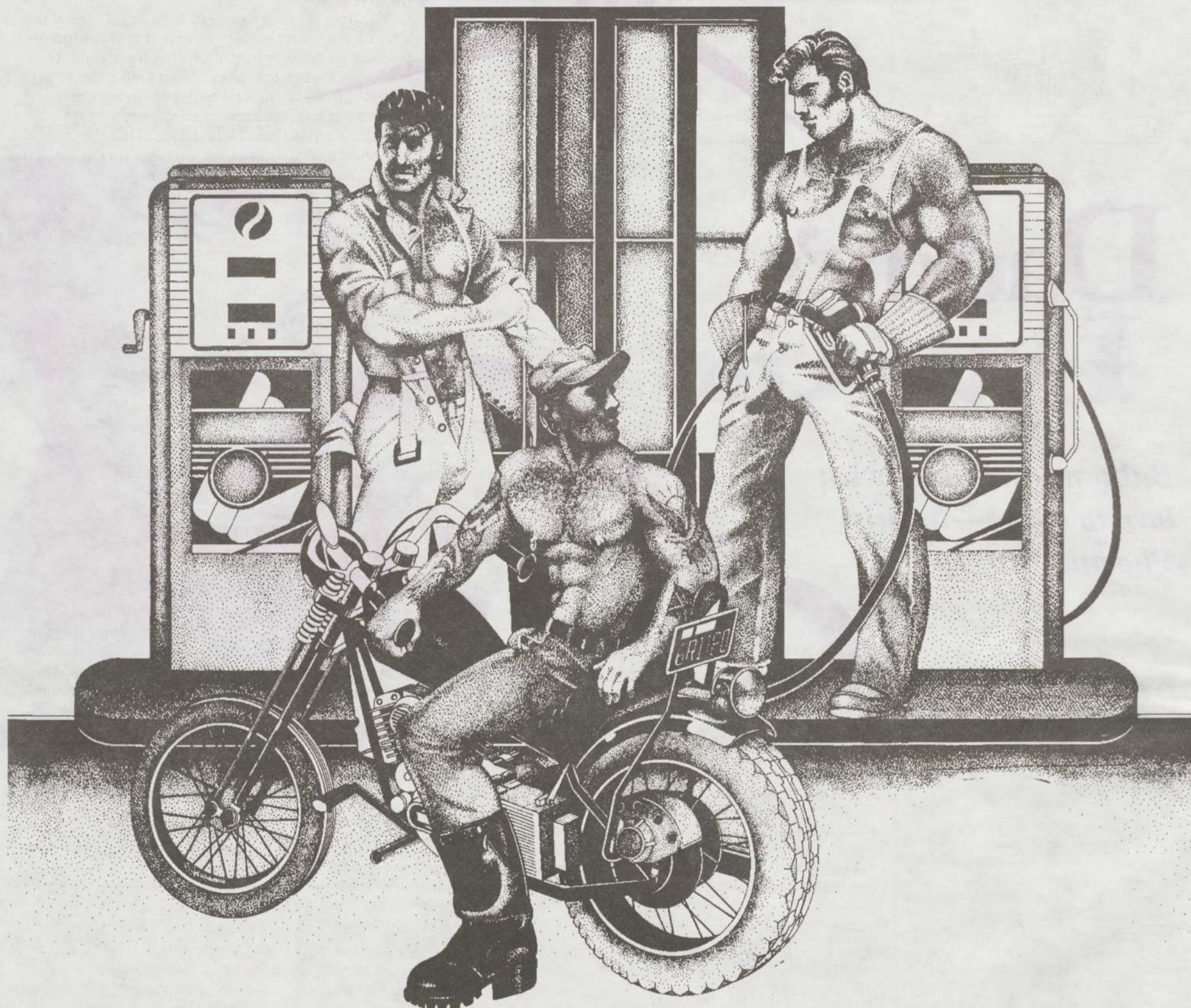
A surrogacy contract—gay, married or otherwise—would not have been possible here because Arizona has a decade-old law criminalizing surrogacy. Arizona Revised Statutes § 25-218 states: "No person may enter into, induce, arrange, procure or otherwise assist in the formation of a surrogate parentage contract." The law was passed by the legislature in April, 1989. Lela Steffey, a former state lawmaker remembered for her conservative record and anti-gay positions on numerous issues, was the primary sponsor of the prohibition.

The woman Henderson eventually found lived in New Jersey, which solved the legal issue. Surrogate parentage is

See "Daddy," page 14

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Horowitz:

It's an honor.

If anyone suggested I would voluntarily run 26 miles, I would have said, "You're crazy!" Growing up unathletic and uncoordinated, I only ran if I was running away from something scary.

Yet I've recently joined the Leukemia Society's Team in Training, and I'm preparing to participate in the Honolulu Marathon on December 12. Program participants raise money for leukemia patient services and efforts to find a cure. In return, the Leukemia Society provides running coaches, physical therapy experts, mentors, training schedules and group support.

I've wanted to complete a marathon for some time, and I even trained on my own last year. Unfortunately I got sick and chose not to continue. However, I made a personal commitment to run a marathon by the end of the year 2000, so I decided to get busy.

The Leukemia Society's pitch was filled with typical fundraising marketing and buzzwords. At an informational meeting, we saw videos about children with leukemia and the great work made possible through our donations. They also told us about the Honor Patient Program—that every runner ran in honor of a person with leukemia. We got a list of honor patients. Since leukemia remains the number two killer of young children, most of the honor patients are children.

None of the stories from the honor patient list really spoke to me, so I called the Leukemia Society and asked them to find me my own honor patient who might be willing to have his or her story related in this column.

They put me in touch with Debbie, a leukemia patient who agreed to meet with me personally. We met at a packed restaurant for a Friday lunch. Amid the hustle and noise of the lunch rush, Debbie told me about her diagnosis.

Debbie is 35 years old and has always led an active, athletic lifestyle. She has two young children, and she is strikingly beautiful. She tells me about bald spots from her chemotherapy, but they are hidden by her great hairdo.

Debbie was lifting weights and doing aerobics when she felt awful shoulder pain. After doctor visits and x-rays, she was diagnosed with a rotator cuff injury and engaged in rigorous and painful physical

therapy. In constant agony, she never complained. When a year passed with no improvement, she contacted a doctor friend and had more x-rays and tests at the Mayo Clinic.

The tests showed a mass of tumors the size of softballs inside her torso. Apparently, it was the tumors pushing on her diaphragm causing the shoulder pain—not quite a rotator cuff injury. In order to get a final diagnosis doctors had to open up her chest, remove a rib, and collapse her lung to reach the tumors. Then they told her she had Hodgkin's Lymphoma. A review of her earlier x-rays showed the tumors that doctors and radiologists missed.

Because of the diagnostic delay, Debbie needed both chemotherapy and radiation treatments. After a full treatment battery, Debbie's leukemia is not in remission. She is still a candidate for further treatment, which could include a bone marrow transplant.

Debbie's story horrifies me from both a personal and a medical malpractice standpoint. Yet her spirit and determination amaze me. She is completely devoted to her daughters and committed to living for them. I wanted to cry as she remembered her seven-year-old asking, "Mommy, are you going to die?"

Debbie is effervescent and far from bitter. I can't detect the slightest trace of self-pity. I asked what the Leukemia Society did for her and how she got involved in the honor patient program. Debbie hadn't used any of the Society's services. Thankfully, Debbie has medical insurance and an incredibly supportive set of family and friends. She actually got involved by offering her support to less fortunate patients. She knew less about the honor patient program than I did. She wants to help make sure the Leukemia Society's services remain available.

So, I'll be running a marathon in December. The Team's slogan is, "If you think running a marathon is hard, try chemotherapy." I know I will think of Debbie throughout the race, particularly when I feel like quitting. Her spirit will inspire me. She is my honor patient, but the honor is mine.

If you would like to support David and Debbie's efforts, contact him through HeatStroke or at DashingDav@aol.com. David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and activist.

Dear Mr. Horowitz:

Thank you for your article in the September 9, 1999 HeatStroke asking for ideas about compromise being our only hope for progress and our biggest obstacle.

Compromise might not be the best word to consider when so much is at stake. Perhaps, dialogue and example might be the best words to drive us to action. Political discussions and test cases will still be an important part of the process that we are trying to achieve in regard to marriage, adoption and "equal" rights in employment and housing. However, part of the greatest movement forward has been the fact that when we can break down the bigger issues to a one-on-one basis, there does not seem to be so much hostility involved.

If people of the G/L/B/T communities would be open about who they are with friends and relatives and let them learn to love us as individuals instead of allowing people to group us in a faceless, nameless group that has traits that are predetermined by the dominant society, we might get a long ways further down the road with our issues.

When we don't know people, except for the preconceived ideas

given to us by other uninformed people around us, then we tend to group people together and make conclusions that are, for the most part, completely inaccurate. We have allowed this to happen to us as a people because our closets are so tightly glued shut that our closest friends and relatives can "bash" our community and we cannot even stand up to defend "us" because we are not "one of them."

I do not think that being grateful for "the crumbs that come from the 'master's table'" is what we are striving for, although many of us have celebrated that very act of deceptive generosity. I also realize that sometimes the crumbs can lead to bigger and better things if we are willing to take it in small steps.

Can we really even consider compromising basic human rights? We have not compromised in the

past, but merely done without as they are withheld. Standing firm about what those rights are will be the only way in which we can ever hope to attain full citizenship beside those who have determined the rights and wrongs in this society dominated by heterosexist rule.

We, as a community, must stop compromising what it is that we want and need. This can only happen as each of us individually stop compromising who we are and quit apologizing because we have believed that we are "less than."

As we continue to heal our fears, shame and oppression, we will be able to accept who we are and continue to press forward to believe that what we are demanding is not unreasonable or in need of compromise.

Rev. Patrick Stout
Phoenix, AZ

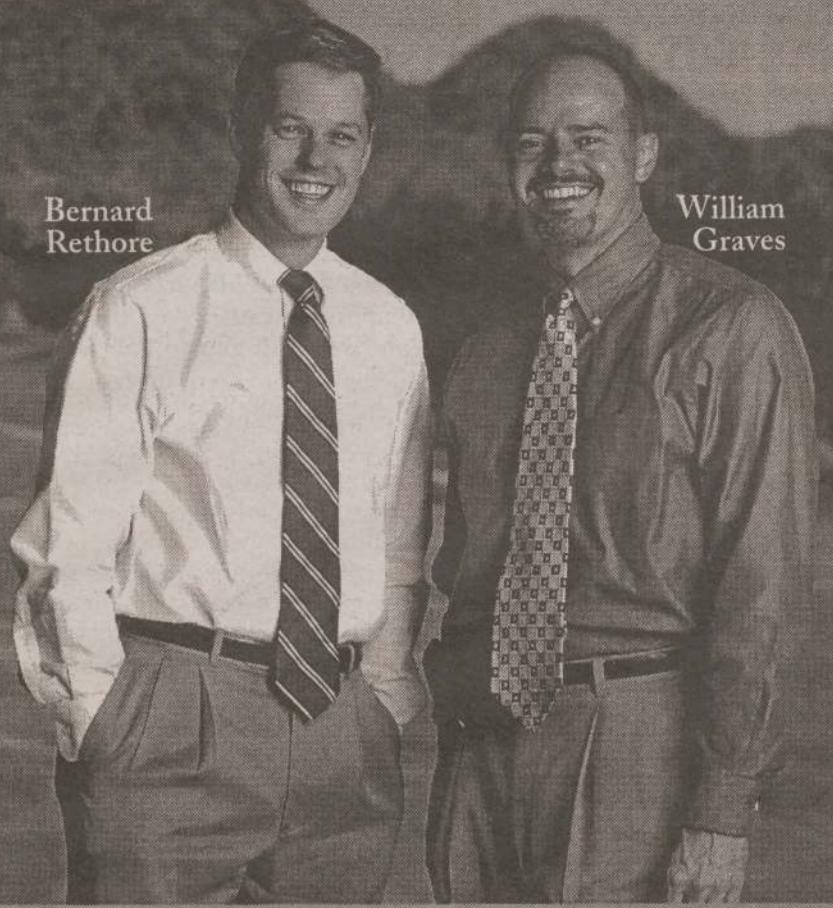
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Deb Price

A dogged tenacity will result in more gay members of Congress

Vermont State Auditor Ed Flanagan is a bulldog credited with transforming a once-toothless elected office into a fierce protector of his state's taxpayers and consumers.

Ripping into wasteful or bumbling state agencies, Flanagan has fought for better enforcement of patients' rights and for tougher day-care regulations. When necessary, he has championed new laws to safeguard Vermonters' health and wealth.

Now the tenacious Flanagan, a 48-year-old progressive Democrat, hopes to take a bite out of the Republican's majority in the U.S. Senate. Serving his fourth two-year term as auditor, Flanagan has been re-elected twice since disclosing in 1995 that he is gay.

Flanagan is the first and only openly gay American to be elected in a statewide contest. His current challenge to Republican Sen. Jim Jeffords also makes him the nation's first credible openly gay Senate candidate. By the end of June, the penny-wise Flanagan had raised an impressive \$221,486. That was more than enough to propel

him into the top ranks of Senate challengers and to ensure that friend and foe alike take his bid very seriously.

The Flanagan Senate race is the latest advance of a remarkable political wave—campaigns in which successful gay officials are seeking higher office. All those campaigns are benefiting—financially and emotionally—from this year's awesome demonstrations of the importance of having openly gay lawmakers.

In New Hampshire, for example, a gay man led a successful fight to repeal his state's ban on gay adoptions. Nevada's first openly gay lawmaker got his state to ban anti-gay job discrimination. Lesbian lawmakers in California pushed through bills to create a statewide registry for domestic partners and to protect gay students and teachers from harassment.

Flanagan, an All-Conference defensive end while on the University of Pennsylvania's football team, believes his election to the Senate would help dispel stereotypes. That, no doubt, would be especially true among those senators who think all gay men are more like French poodles than bulldogs.

"It is hugely important to have a living, breathing member of the gay and lesbian community there on the Senate floor. In debating health care and defense policy, they will remember that this Flanagan guy is gay. After I have gained respect, that's when the bigotry will be evaporated," Flanagan says.

Flanagan, whose sexual orientation has been treated as a non-issue by most voters in his enlightened state, stands a good chance of winning his primary. Then, he

would face an uphill but not impossible battle against Jeffords, a moderate Republican re-elected in 1994 with a bare 50 percent majority even though it was a very good year for his party. (If Vermont's lone House member, liberal Independent Bernie Sanders, surprises analysts by jumping into the Senate race, Flanagan says he would then run for the House seat.)

"Flanagan can be very strong. He really surprised people with the amount of money he raised," says Jennifer Duffy, Senate campaign analyst for the nonpartisan Cook Political

Report. "I have the sense that he's not well loved by the Democratic establishment, probably because he's investigated them a few times. But that probably makes him very appealing to voters."

A Flanagan-Jeffords contest would force gay Vermonters to choose between a longtime ally and a member of their own community. As head of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, Jeffords has helped boost AIDS funds and wants to outlaw anti-gay job bias. He was one of two Republicans among the 25 senators whose 1997-'98 records rated perfect scores from the gay Human Rights Campaign. Yet, the undeniable truth is that Jeffords' party affiliation means that a vote for him is a vote to keep anti-gay Majority Leader Trent Lott in power.

The rising political fortunes of dogged gay candidates are bringing higher and higher offices into sight. Never underestimate a pack of public-spirited bulldogs.

Deb Price of the *Detroit News*' Washington bureau writes this gay-issues column. Write to her in care of *HeatStroke*, or at GNS Features, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22229-0001.

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Bradley comes out in favor of gay rights

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lining up more closely with the homosexual community's agenda than Vice President Al Gore, Democratic presidential hopeful Bill Bradley called for expanding the 1964 Civil Rights Act to protect gays and lesbians.

Bradley also rejected the Clinton administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for the armed services and said, "We ought to get to a time when gays can serve openly in the military."

The former New Jersey senator, in a gay and lesbian newsmagazine interview due on newsstands Sept. 28, went on to criticize a California anti-gay-marriage ballot initiative.

"If I was a voter in California, I would not support the Knight initiative," Bradley told the *Advocate*. "I think it's divisive and ... I don't think a referendum is the place for this kind of an initiative."

Bradley said he still opposes same-sex marriage because of "the religious nature of marriage and respect for the diversity of views on that subject." Both he and Gore, who also opposes same-sex marriage, favor legal protections for "domestic partners."

Bradley and Gore, rivals for next year's Democratic presidential nomination, are dueling for the gay and lesbian vote.

On several issues dear to the gay community, Bradley, in his interview, came out ahead of positions that Gore laid out in a separate *Advocate* interview, published last month.

On the so-called Knight initiative on California's March 2000 ballot, a bellwether for the gay community because it would define marriage as between a man and woman only, Gore told the *Advocate*: "I'm going to have to educate myself on that measure."

On Sept. 16, after Bradley's interview was released, Gore campaign spokes-

woman Kikki Moore said the vice president had decided he would, if he was a California resident, also vote "no" on Knight. "Consider him educated," Moore said.

Going further than Gore's push for a pending anti-job-discrimination bill, Bradley said he would add sexual orientation to the historic 1964 act outlawing racial, religious and sex discrimination in employment, housing, lending and public accommodations.

"That would clearly indicate that discrimination against gays is in the same category as discrimination against other protected groups," Bradley said.

Such an expansion was first championed by New York liberal Rep. Bella Abzug in 1973. But in 1993, the gay community considered public-opinion polls, pared back its hopes and pursued the more widely politically palatable Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Moore said Gore is focusing on the act as "the most practical way to move forward on an agenda of non-discrimination" because "it can actually pass."

U.S. Civil Rights Commission chairwoman Mary Frances Berry, who was appointed by President Clinton, called Bradley's approach "naive."

"I hope it doesn't go anywhere. We have avoided opening up the Civil Rights Act for fear that (conservative) amendments would be added to gut it," Berry said.

Jesse Jackson, whose influential endorsement both Gore and Bradley are courting, also weighed in with some skepticism.

"I want to discuss it with (Bradley). If there's an amendment that could include all people, that's fair," Jackson said. "But we would not want to open up that bill because, with this right-wing Congress, they could restrict it rather than expand civil rights."

In the military, Bradley said, homosexuals should be allowed to serve openly, but he admitted that he has not determined "the timing and method" of such a change to military policy.

Bradley voted in 1993 for a Senate amendment to lift outright the military's ban on gays. But Congress passed—and Clinton signed into law—the "don't ask, don't tell" policy allowing gays to serve as long as their sexuality remained a secret.

Gore, in this campaign season, has said only that the current policy has led to too many unfair gay discharges and should be implemented with "more compassion."

Bradley's position "clearly represents a different, more positive thinking than the vice president's," said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights group.

On the full menu of gay issues,

Bradley and Gore have virtually identical records, but Gore has trumped Bradley in "energy and commitment," Smith said.

"Senator Bradley comes off as ambivalent at best. But these statements in this article certainly send the right message and I'm sure it will cause several potential voters to perhaps look more closely at his candidacy," Smith said.

In 1996 exit polls, self-identified gay voters accounted for 5 percent of the total voting public, and 7 percent of Clinton's support.

Bradley campaign spokesman Eric Hauser said Bradley gave the interview because the magazine requested it and not to court gay voters.

"He spoke from his heart," Hauser said.

Telling the magazine that he has gay friends but no gay family, Bradley said homosexuality "happens to be an attribute about as meaningful as having blond hair."

Ford Foundation awards \$200K to NGLTF

September 20, 1999—The Policy

Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) announced today it has received a \$200,000 research grant from the Ford Foundation. The funding will support research on the policy needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender elderly, people of color and those who are poor or on limited incomes.

The NGLTF Policy Institute is a think-tank based in New York dedicated to research, policy analysis, strategy development and coalition building to advance the equality and understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people.

The grant by the Ford Foundation is among the largest that the Foundation has ever made to a GLBT group and is the largest foundation grant ever received by

the NGLTF Policy Institute.

"This grant signals that the philanthropic mainstream recognizes that the challenges faced by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are indeed human rights issues as well," said NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel. "It is significant both because of its historic nature and because of the research and analysis it will fund—research and analysis that do not currently exist."

The Ford grant will fund Phase One of the NGLTF Policy Institute's Racial and Economic Justice Initiative, a five-year, three-phase strategic project that will address the invisibility of, and ignorance about, the three target populations in the mainstream GLBT movement and in the broader civil rights community.

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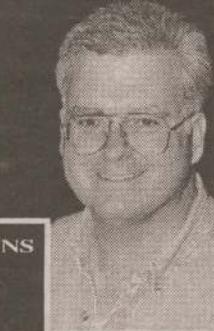
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Goings On

ANDES annual gathering is here

Arizona Nude Dudes (ANDES) announces its 5th Annual Southwest Gathering for the weekend of Sept. 24-26 in Phoenix. Events include a welcoming cocktail party on Friday night, a Saturday morning nude hike and a pool party including comedic entertainment, a catered meal and piano music, all to end around 10 pm. A farewell brunch is slated for Sunday morning.

All events are held at the Valley home of an ANDES member or at a rented resort. Newcomers are welcome to attend one or all three days events. The cost is \$70 for non-members or \$50 for ANDES members. Call the hotline at 602/817-6907.

GCMC & PFLAG concert Sept. 26

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

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

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

For more information about the event, contact PFLAG Phoenix at 602/843-1404 or e-mail info@pflag-phoenix.org.

PBP events planned for Oct.

On Oct. 7, Phoenix Body Positive will hold an Open House in conjunction with the McDowell Healthcare Clinic at the Phoenix Early Intervention Center, 4021 North 30th Street in Phoenix.

The Open House will last from 10 am to 7 pm and will feature free HIV and STD testing, depression screening, dental exams, informa-

Lyle Miller, executive director for The Community Center in Phoenix, was one of six panelists addressing workplace diversity issues with the U.S. Department Of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation at a meeting in Phoenix Sept. 16.

Thirty six senior FBI agents and managers from around the country attended the four-day national conference on diversity held at the Pointe Hilton at South Mountain.

Miller said, "I was honored to be included as a panelist. It was interesting to see how open the FBI would be to a candid discussion of diversity."

He continued, "I was surprised at how receptive they were to discussing a wide variety of current events. We talked about everything from gay and lesbian issues, ethnic minority issues and relationships with the FBI to cultural assimilation and minority history."

The five-hour panel discussion ended with each panelist receiving a certificate of appreciation from

tion, lectures and more.

On Oct. 14, PBP will host an Educational Town Hall at 6 pm at the Central United Methodist Church, at 1875 North Central in Phoenix. Featured speaker will be Dr. Cal Cohen, Research Director of the Community Research Initiative of New England. Dr. Jack Epperly and Dr. Thanes Vanig will also speak. A complimentary light buffet will be served.

To find out more about the Open House or to sign up for the Town Hall, call 602/955-4673.

Square Dancers to host fun Oct. 3

Desert Valley Squares will host a free Ice Cream Social and an evening of dancing for the non-dancer on Oct. 3. Desert Valley is Arizona's Premier Gay and Lesbian Social Square Dance Club. The club has about 40 active members, including 12 who recently finished their first series of lessons.

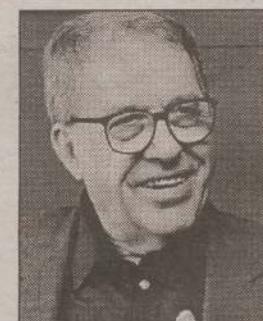
New classes will start soon, so check out this fun way to meet new people and learn square dancing, line dancing and partner dancing. No dance experience, partner or funny clothes are required. Singles and couples are welcome.

The opening social event will take place at 6:30 pm on Oct. 3 at Augustana Lutheran Church. For more information, visit the club's Web site at www.iagsdc.org/desertvalleysqs, or call Gordon at 480/990-2562 or Seth at 480/704-9604.

Asian scholar to lecture at ASU Sept. 27

Donald Richie, an openly gay American author, film critic, and long-time observer of Japan who has lived and worked there for most of his life, will be in the Valley Sept. 27 to deliver a talk on "The Sex Market in Japan" at 4:30 pm in the Alumni Lounge of ASU's Memorial Union, MU 202.

Named by *Time* magazine "the dean of Japan's arts critics" and acknowledged as the foremost authority on Japanese cinema, Donald Richie has also written widely—some 40 books in all—



News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

on other aspects of the country and its people.

His book *The Inland Sea* has been called a classic, and its film version has won prizes at international film festivals, as well as the National Geographic Earth Award. His *Public People, Private People* has been called "unforgettable" by Tom Wolfe, and of his two collections of essays, *A Lateral View* and *Partial Views*, Susan Sontag has said, "Donald Richie writes about Japan with unrivaled range, acuity, and wit."

At present he writes for *The International Herald-Tribune* and maintains a weekly column, "The Asian Bookshelf," in the *Japan Times*. In addition, he teaches at Temple University, Tokyo, and is on their Board of Governors.

Discounted copies of Richie's recent book *Public People, Private People* will be on sale at his talk. The event is free and open to all. For information, visit www.asu.edu/clas/asian/cas.html

Face 2 Face underway again

The popular and life altering support group Face 2 Face, offered by Arizona AIDS Project's Being Alive program for early intervention, will start on Sept. 27 for a new fall session.

The program runs every Monday for six weeks, with session at 2 pm and 6 pm. The group will be facilitated by Mary Lou Weyer, a new staff therapist at APAZ.

To register, call Mark Garvey at 602/253-2437.

Diamond Ladies lunches are all that

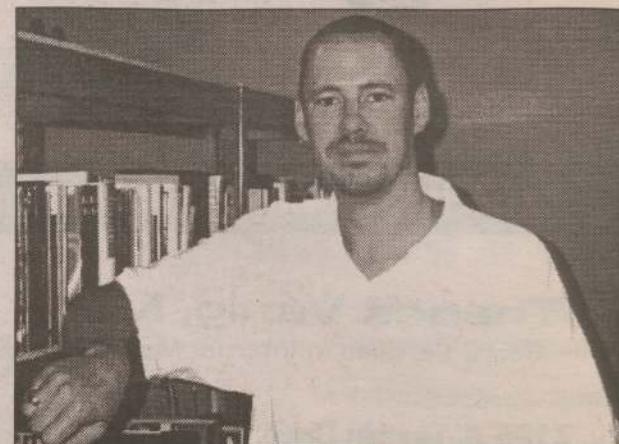
The Diamond Ladies, a new Valley social group for women who are retired or otherwise free to have a late, leisurely lunch, meets one Thursday every month for a midday get-together. It's always in a different part of the Valley and it's always a good time.

The next gathering will be on Oct. 21 at 1:30 pm at Tivoli Gardens restaurant, 14365 N. Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City. After that, they'll head clear across town to meet at Fast Freddy's, 7557 E. Camelback in Scottsdale on Nov. 16. The December event will be at a private home on Dec. 16 and will include a Christmas White Elephant gift exchange.

To RSVP these events, call Barb at 602/840-4993.

G & L Center director addresses FBI

Kathleen D. Koch, the Chief of the FBI's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Affairs.



Lyle Miller addressed FBI employees at the national convention held in Phoenix.

Bush reveals anti-gay views to homophobic publication

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Questioned by an anti-gay rights publication, Texas Gov. George W. Bush expressed opposition to same-sex marriages and said a court erred in striking a ban on homosexuals in the Boy Scouts.

Publishers of the newsletter said Bush's comments were "a good start" but added

"Governor Bush believes marriage is between a man and a woman and therefore does not believe in gay marriages... he believes children ought to be adopted in families with a man and woman who are married."

they had more questions about the GOP frontrunner's position on gay rights.

Bill Horn is a leading anti-gay rights activist who publishes a newsletter called *Straight from the Heart*. He's been questioning presidential campaigns about their views on gay issues.

The Bush campaign had initially said he did not sign pledges from interest groups. But when pushed to detail his stand on gays, the Bush campaign sent Horn a brief statement Sept. 14.

"Governor Bush believes marriage is between a man and a woman and therefore does not believe in gay marriages," the statement said. He also opposed adoption by gay couples because "he believes

children ought to be adopted in families with a man and woman who are married."

The Boy Scout issue comes after the New Jersey Supreme Court struck down a ban on gays in the scouting organization—a decision Bush said "was wrong."

"He believes the Boy Scouts is a private organization and they should be able to set their own standards," Bush's statement said.

"This is a good start," said Horn. "There are a couple of other things we want answers on."

Horn said he would press Bush to offer views on "the gay agenda in public education" and on domestic partner laws allowing benefits for partners in a gay relationship.

"My recommendation to him would be to provide those specific questions to us and we will provide answers to him," said Bush spokesman Eric Woolson.

Horn said the questions had been posed to all the Republican presidential candidates, and only Elizabeth Dole and Arizona Sen. John McCain had failed to respond.

The other rivals also opposed the gay rights initiatives, Horn noted.

Bush is considered the frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination and leads the pack in early polling and raising money.

Many of his rivals contend Bush is vague on the issues and ducks tough questions. Bush counters that he will flesh out a detailed agenda as the campaign unfolds but will do it at his own pace.

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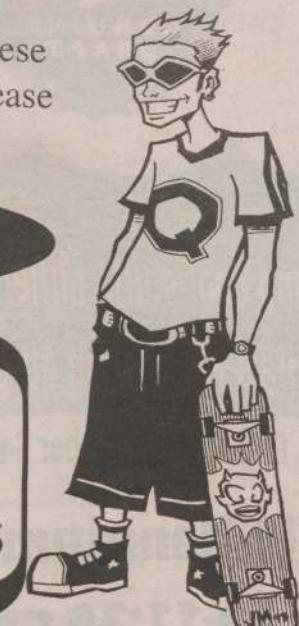
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Mexico City bans discrimination

Mexico City's Legislative Assembly banned discrimination against gays Sept. 2.

Beginning Oct. 1, Penal Code Article 281 will prohibit discrimination "based on age, sex, pregnancy, marital status, race, language, religion, ideology, sexual orientation, skin color, nationality, social origin or position, work or profession, economic status, physical features or health."

The penalty for violation of the law will be one to three years in prison and/or a fine equal to 50 to 200 days' salary and/or 25 to 100 days of community service.

The law prohibits provocation or incitement of hate or violence, and bans bias in employment and public accommodations and services.

"With this article the rights of vulnerable groups are recognized as they have been in the most democratically advanced nations," said city councillor David Sánchez Camacho.

Gay equality bill introduced in Colombian Senate

A gay equality bill was introduced in Colombia's Senate Sept. 9 by Sen. Margarita Londono.

The bill bans anti-gay hate crimes, creates a "valid social patrimony" partnership scheme for gay couples, extends health-care benefits and Social Security to legally recognized gay families, covers sex-change operations under the national health-care plan, grants homosexuals "liberty of association and congregation," and bans anti-gay bias in textbooks.

Brazilian PWAs face drug cutoff

Brazil's national health-care system will stop providing expensive drugs to treat HIV and certain other diseases in October because the Brazilian currency has lost value against the U.S. dollar.

The government would need an immediate infusion of \$110 million to continue the drug programs, officials said.

Some AIDS drugs that are produced in Brazil—including AZT, ddI and d4T—may continue to be available.

Brazilian AIDS deaths dropped 38.7 percent between 1996 and 1998 as patients began taking protease-inhibitor-based combination treatments.

Meanwhile, *AIDS Treatment News* reports that the Buenos Aires, Argentina, city government ceased providing anti-HIV drugs on Aug. 5 due to financial problems.

"We need a consensus that poor countries, or countries in a financial crisis, be allowed to obtain proprietary drugs at or near cost as an alternative to not having them at all," ATN said.

Brits would accept gay prime minister

Six in 10 Brits would have no problem accepting an openly gay prime minister, and seven in 10 would be OK with one who had been gay in his younger days, according to a MORI poll published Sept. 12 in the Sunday Mail.

The survey followed the public confession by Tory former Defence Minister Michael Portillo, 46, that he had gay relationships while in college at Cambridge University.

Portillo is running in a parliamentary by-election to fill the seat of London MP Alan Clark, who died Sept. 5. He also is considered a strong contender to unseat William Hague as leader of the Tory party.

Seventy-seven percent of the 1,002 adults questioned said Portillo's admission did not alter their opinion of him.

Meanwhile, the gay direct-action group OutRage! issued a press release Sept. 15 accusing Portillo of "hypocrisy

and homophobia."

"Despite his own gay relationships, he has consistently opposed gay human rights and has never shown any sympathy or support for the gay community," said the group's Peter Tatchell.

"He voted for Section 28, against an equal age of consent and, as Defence Secretary, he enforced the ban on lesbians and gays in the armed forces. ... On the night parliament voted against an equal age of consent in 1994 ... 5,000 lesbians and gays massed outside the House of Commons spontaneously broke into a chant of 'Portillo is a faggot,' furious that he voted against equalization at 16."

(Section 28 is an 11-year-old law that prohibits cities from "intentionally promoting homosexuality" and bans teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" in schools.)

Tatchell added: "It is very unusual for someone who has had an eight-year gay affair, as Portillo had with Nigel Hart, to suddenly cease being homosexual. Even if they subsequently marry, these men tend to have occasional, discreet gay relations throughout the rest of their lives. I would be extremely surprised if Mr. Portillo has, as he claims, never had sex with a man in the last 25 years."

Gay Pride celebrated in Belarus

Gays and lesbians in Belarus staged their first pride celebrations in mid-September with a conference, seminars, photo exhibitions, concerts, contests and disco nights.

Some events were held at Belarus State University with support from the United Nations Development Program.

Organizers hope to "strengthen tolerance to and familiarize society with the gay and lesbian part of world culture," said Edward Tarletsky, president of the Belarusian Association of Sexual Minorities.

Gay sex arrests up in Austria

Thirty-five men were prosecuted in

1998 under an Austrian law that bans consensual gay sex with males aged 14 to 17. Heterosexual sex is legal at 14.

Between 1991 and 1996 there were only 14-20 such prosecutions per year. Then the number jumped to 27 in 1997 and 35 in 1998.

A 1996 attempt to equalize the age-of-consent ended with a tie vote in parliament, leaving the discriminatory law on the books.

Ontario Judges get benefits

The provincial courts of the Canadian province of Ontario extended spousal benefits to gay judges' partners last month, the *Ottawa Sun* reported Sept. 15.

The move was OK'd by Cabinet Management Board Chair Chris Hodgson who had opposed such benefits during his 1994 campaign.

"It is sweet irony for the gay and lesbian community that Hodgson would have to sign off on it," commented Dominic Agostino, the Liberal party's chief whip in the provincial parliament. "But it is the right decision. You have to give credit where credit is due."

Male emu couple raises chicks

Two Australian male emus at the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve south of Canberra have set up a nest together and are caring for seven adopted chicks, wildlife officers reported Sept. 17.

"It's unusual for a male to adopt chicks that aren't their own, but the two males have paired up and are getting along very well," said Geoff Underwood, the reserve's acting manager. "One male is very accommodating—normally he would chase any other emu away from the chicks. It's a bit of a mystery. It is normally a sole male role, but it appears they are moving away from single-parent families. It is an ultra-modern family, but I don't think they are homosexual. The other male is just confused."

An emu chick is normally raised by its father.

Don't Miss The Awards Party Oct. 12 at Charlie's

1999 Rainbows For Relief

Look for the Rainbows For Relief party at your favorite bar for prizes and cool stuff. Miller Brands of Phoenix & Miller Brewing Company will donate a portion of the beer sales to the Aunt Rita's Foundation during the month of September.



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Friday - September 24

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Thursday - September 30

307

10-12 mid

Tuesday - September 28

Nu Towne

9-11 pm

AWARDS PARTY

Tuesday - October 12
Charlie's
8-10 pm

AWARDS PARTY

Politically Speaking

By Kathie Gummere, Contributor

Earning Our Rights

I have been thinking quite a bit lately about rights and responsibilities, privileges and obligations.

My father used to say, "Nothing that isn't worth working for is worth having." It was his way of teaching us that everyone needs to work for what they get—to earn it. I was told that in order to have the allowance of an older child, I must earn it by doing more chores. If I wanted more freedom, I must earn that also, by being trustworthy and showing that I could make good decisions—at least most of the time.

These lessons have come back to me lately, as I read more and more about people who are asking to be given things they believe are theirs by right. More people feel they should have privileges without responsibilities.

What happened to the idea of personal responsibility? A teen is seeking the right to be on the football team, despite being caught not once, but twice with alcohol—in repeated violation of the rules. A woman is seeking to get her government job back, despite misuse of agency property and time. Someone on public assistance is suing to continue receiving it, despite refusing to work at a job for which he is qualified.

Just how much are we responsible for earning our rights? How much should we receive just because we are here? How much should we have to work for what we want? These questions have arisen in my mind connected with the equal rights that we are seeking from all the govern-



Arizona Human Rights Fund

mental agencies and our employers.

I am reminded of a couple of famous quotes of John F. Kennedy's: "Our privileges can be no greater than our obligations. The protection of our rights can endure no longer than the performance of our responsibilities," and "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

It seems to me that many of us in this country take freedoms and privileges for granted. They are things that are just there. We deserve them. We demand them—well, at least as long as it doesn't take any work.

Frankly, I am tired of hearing people whine about what they think they deserve when they are unwilling to anything to help change the situation.

There are, of course, a few that are willing to stand up, even at personal expense.

One such person is Steve May. For those of you who never pick up a paper or watch the news, he is one of our two openly gay state legislators. He is currently being investigated by the military for violation of the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy.

I won't even discuss the absurdity of that situation, but rather the way Steve has responded to it. From the beginning of his political career, Steve has said that he does not want to be the poster child for gay rights. And yet, here he is.

Given his political aspirations and his conservative Republican background, he could have quietly resigned and hoped that it would all blow over before the next election. Instead, with courage and dignity, he has said that he will live openly as

who he is and will not lie.

His openness has brought the issue back to the national consciousness via the front pages of the newspapers and on radio and TV news programs. He believes that it is his obligation to serve the country through military service, and is willing to fight for equality in doing that.

It seems to me that all of us have an obligation to do what we can to change the current policies of government and society, and there are as many ways to do that as there are people in our community.

We can work with government agencies in changing their laws and policies. We can write our representatives to the city council, state legislature, and congress. We can work with our employers to change their employment and benefit policies. We can stand up in our churches, and state that we are not the spawn of the devil, but people of faith who are deserving of a place in every religion, house of worship or spirituality.

We can come out to our employers,

friends, neighbors, family. Just by being who we are, we can work to change policy.

By being out, we are saying that we won't be invisible, we won't be ashamed, we will stand up and be counted. We can show society that we are just like them, because we come in every ethnicity, religion, size, shape, profession, style, personality, and every other category you can think of.

National Coming Out Day is October 11 and I challenge each and every one of you to come out to at least one person that day. Do something to earn your place in society. Do something to work for equal rights. Do something—anything—to further our cause.

Or stop whining.



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

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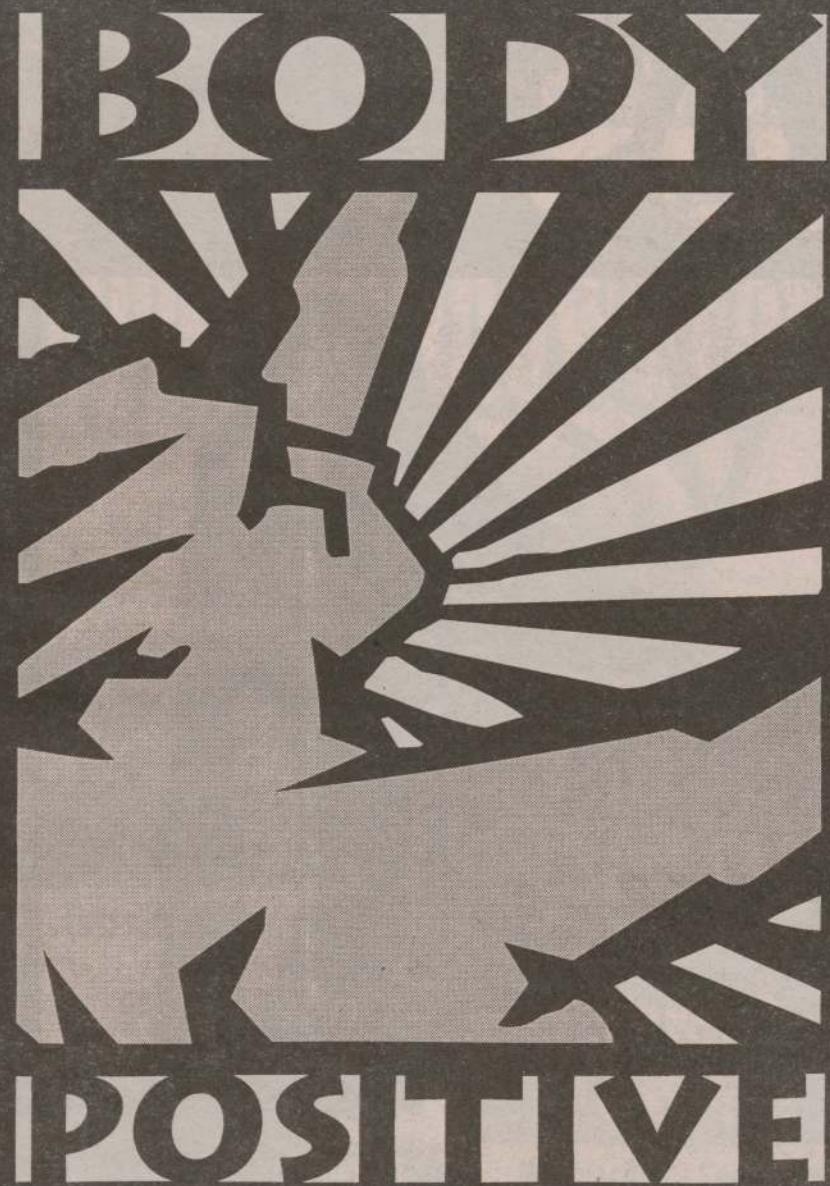
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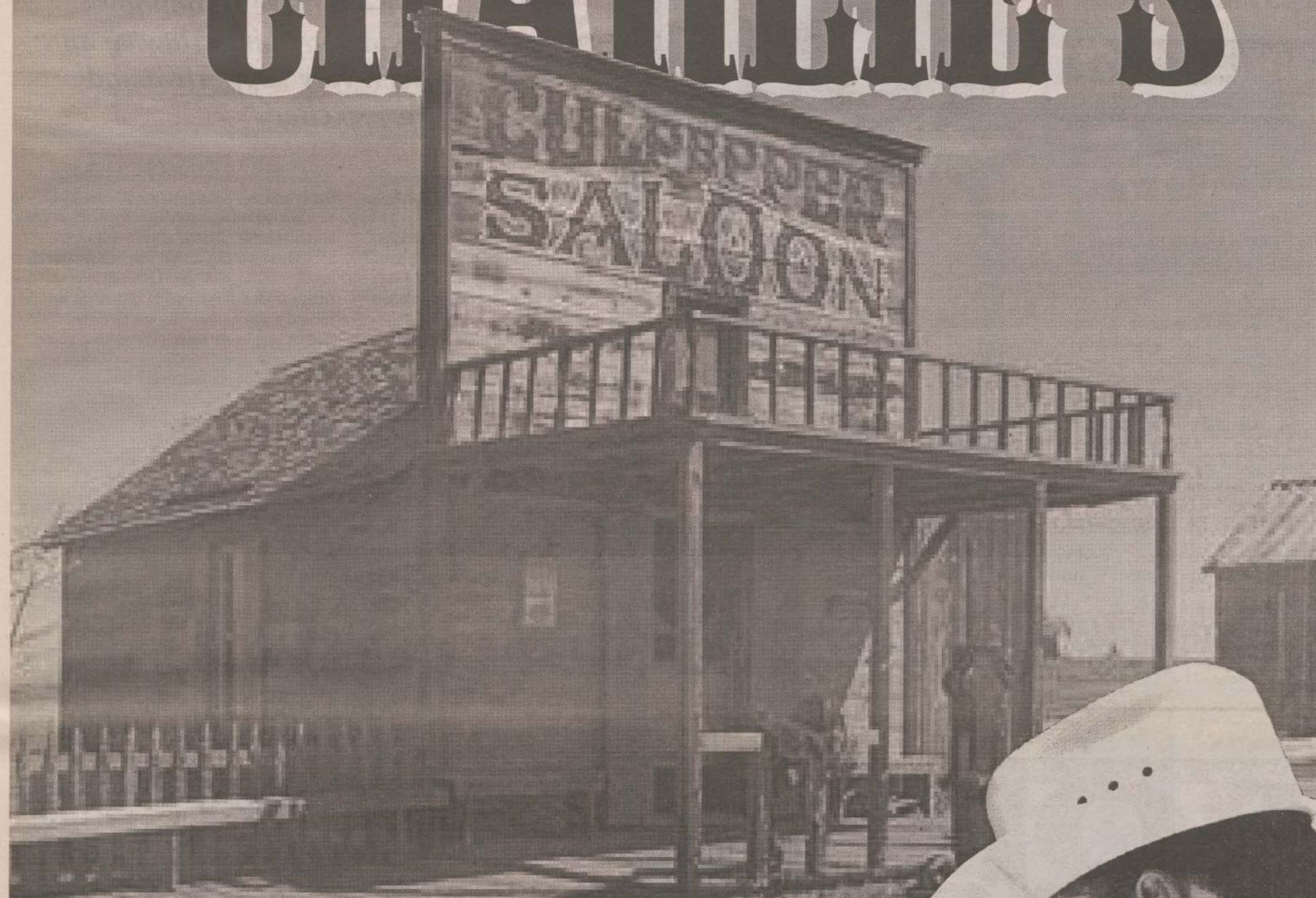
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Daddy Doug brings home Baby Becky—both are doing just fine

Continued from page 1

allowed there. It's legal in Indiana, where the contract between the pair was drafted by SMI. Becky's birth certificate was issued by the state of New York, where she was born and where surrogacy is also legal. Arizona is, in fact, one of just five states in which surrogacy is prohibited by law.

Before his introduction to Becky's birth mother, Henderson endured several months of trial and error with other potential surrogates—and their doctors—from around the country. "There's a lot of stuff that you go through. This [doctor] will do this, and that one won't do this. I had a big problem. I originally was going to do the IVF—In Vitro Fertilization. There are a lot of advantages to that but the problem is the doctors don't want to do it for, they say single men, but it feels to me like they don't want to do it for gay men."

In an IVF surrogate pregnancy, the surrogate carries the offspring of a donor mother, a fetus generated by introducing the client's sperm and donor's egg in a lab dish. The resulting embryo is then implanted into the carrier's womb.

IVF has a higher rate of failure and costs much more than insemination but Henderson wanted to try it first. That's because, despite the legal contract and SMI's assurances that it never occurs at their agency, he was worried that an inseminated woman carrying her biological child might become too attached during the pregnancy to give the baby up at birth, and end up suing him for partial custody. In an IVF pregnancy, he reasoned, the surrogate would present a less compelling case in court, should that ever happen.

"A number of my clients view that similarly," Litz acknowledged. The attorney said he could see the point of

Henderson's argument in favor of IVF, but that potential problems in imagined scenarios shouldn't be a client's deciding factor. "I would never suggest that somebody do [IVF] just because it gives them a leg up, because [embryo transfer] is much less likely to succeed at all. And my goal is to try to help them have a child."

When the doctors proved unwilling to implant an IVF fetus into a surrogate mother for a single, gay man, Henderson gave up the IVF idea and looked more earnestly through SMI's lists for a woman who had the qualities he wanted and would agree to be inseminated by him, knowing he was gay and would be rais-

ing the resulting baby alone. Again, there were none. So he was put on a waiting list for several months.

"The surrogates, almost by definition, tend to be pretty liberal. Typically, the women who don't want to do it for a gay man or a gay couple are married, and the objection is their husband's." Most single surrogates, he said,

have no problem working with a gay man.

Such was the case when Henderson at last found his surrogate. Unmarried and well educated, she has two young boys of her own. In her written SMI application,

get a pretty thick report about what he learns from them. Then, if they pass the psychological exam, they have to have all the medical tests done."

The testing took place in mid-November of last year.

"It probably takes about six weeks. I was kind of overly excited and really wanted to get things going, and they take it one step at a time. And I guess the reason they do it—from my perspective—is that each part is a costly, and if they don't pass the psychological, then you haven't spent all your money on the medical.

Basically, I told them I would risk it. I had talked to her and I felt really confident, and I said, 'let's just get it all done, so we can get going, here.'

He said that he and SMI then went into "kind of high gear. And she was willing to do that too, because she had just called them in October for the first time. It looked like, accord-

Henderson's surrogate lives. He flew there in December and was shown to a dark room off the clinic's waiting area,

"All I've heard [from friends] is positive things, I don't know if there's any negative—if there is, nobody's saying anything. They've all been very supportive and very excited."

where he produced his portion of the baby-making equation in a plastic vial. The surrogate was in a nearby exam room and was inseminated within minutes.

"There's a big difference in the conception percentages if you use fresh versus frozen," Henderson said. "I read an article recently where something like only one in five or one in six men—something about their sperm—works. The great thing was that she got pregnant right on the very first try." There were no fertility drugs involved. "Sometimes there is, but in our case there was no time."

Henderson learned prior to January 1 that he would become a father in the fall of 1999. Several of his friends new what he was doing and were already waiting to hear whether the insemination had taken. Telling his family was riskier.

"It's kind of interesting because I didn't know up front how they would feel about it. My youngest sister, I knew, would be very supportive, and I told her right in the very beginning about the whole thing so it's been a long wait for her. But the rest of them—I just didn't know, so I decided to wait 'till if and when there was actually a baby growing."

Henderson was so excited after finding a compatible surrogate that his secret slipped

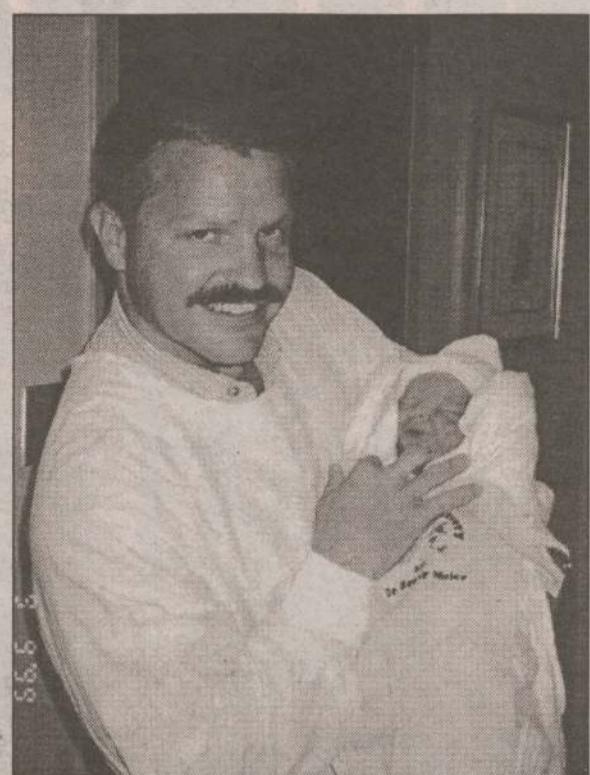
out. "About a month before [the conception], my mom found out. But the great thing is my whole family is very, very supportive, it's really great. Matter of fact, I think it has made me a lot closer to them." He has two sisters and one brother. His brother has a wife and two children of his own.

Nearly all Henderson's friends in the Phoenix area are gay men, and they have been there for him throughout the process. "All I've heard [from friends] is positive things, I don't know if there's any negative—if there is, nobody's saying anything. They've all been very supportive and very excited."

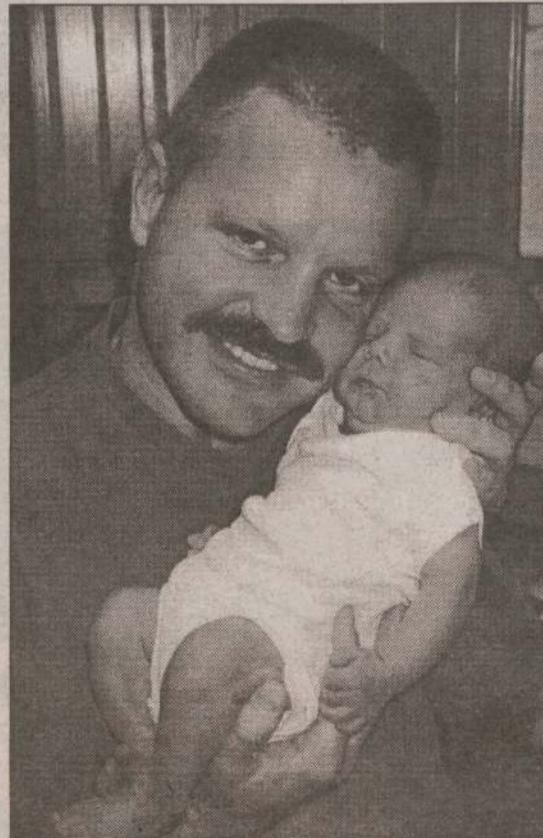
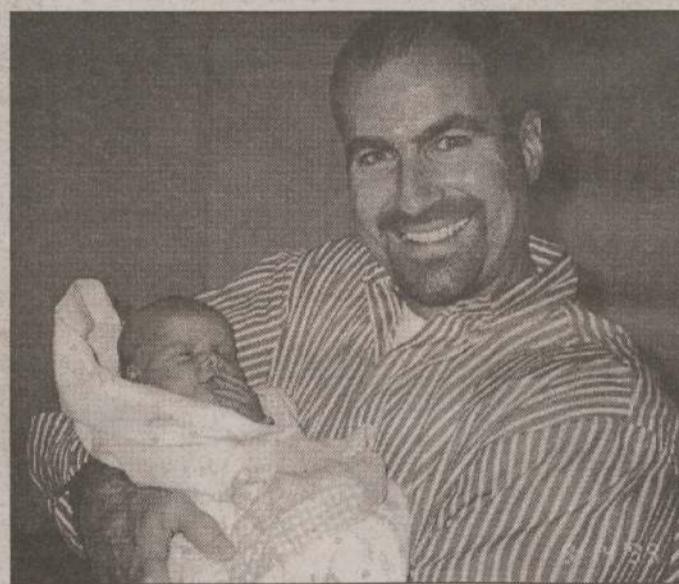
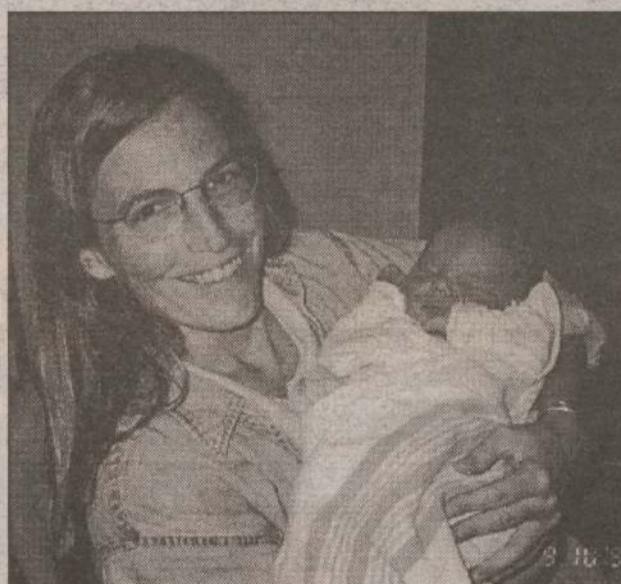
In August, 21 gay men attended a baby shower/pool party at his home. "It was quite an event," he said. There were no women present—Henderson admits he doesn't really know any women in Phoenix. Asked where his daughter can expect to gain some feminine influence as she grows up, he laughed and said, "From all 21 guys. No, I don't know, things take care of themselves. It's not something I worry about."

One woman he contacted immediately was his best friend from Denver, Karen Henry, who stayed in constant touch throughout the pregnancy and even flew to New York with him when Becky was born. Another woman he called after learning the baby was on the way was his ex-wife.

"I was married when I was much younger—I was 23 when I got married and 24 when I got divorced. My ex-wife is a lesbian and at the time we were both kind of struggling, not knowing, not understanding, being very confused."



Above: Doug Henderson meets Rebecca Jean shortly after her birth in a New York hospital. Below: one of Doug's oldest friends, Karen Henry, was present at the birth; Doug's buddy, Murray Sullivan, poses with Becky.



ing to the plan and according to her schedule, that it would be some time in January before we would actually do the first insemination. But we went into high gear and we actually got it all done by mid December. And everything went okay."

It happens that one of two East Coast fertility doctors SMI recommends from past-clients' experiences is based in New York, just 20 minutes from where

Henderson lived in Colorado then, and both he and his wife were deeply involved in an anti-gay, conservative Christian religion that he described as a cult. "We both believed that whole thing, that God can change you or whatever, and we were trying to do that. We were both very serious about it but it doesn't work. Well—it didn't work."

His wife now lives in Arkansas with her lesbian partner. "She went her way and I went my way. And years later, after some time, we became friends. Of course when I finally felt like I really believed [the baby] was going to happen, I called her and told her. She was very happy and said, 'Well, this is great because you have wanted to do this your whole life.' This is nothing new to people I've known for a long time."

His pending single fatherhood was, however, new and exciting to the people he works with. "Work is really great. I've already been out to everybody—that's no big issue. Everybody is really supportive and excited. I work partly in Tempe and partly in San Francisco, and both places threw little showers for me. It's a big event. I think that it's very interesting to everyone."



Henderson has taken six weeks of family leave, and his mother flew to Phoenix to help around the house during Becky's first weeks. When he returns to work, his daughter will go to a nearby day care.

He has stayed in contact with the baby's birth mother and plans to tell Becky all about her unusual origins as soon as she's old enough to understand. He fully expects that the two will meet, although the SMI contract leaves that up to the client. "I want to be honest, because if you aren't honest, then the kids grow up thinking you did something wrong or bad. And this isn't bad. I want her to know that this woman did this wonderful thing, she gave her life."

In the nine months he waited for Becky's birth, Henderson earned a bit of a reputation around town as word of the pregnancy spread. He expects to encounter some prejudiced people as Becky grows up, and has already had one negative experience.

"It was kinda—not nice," he recalled, "a gay guy came up to me in a bar. He was sort of drunk and he just got in my face and said, 'Gay men should not have children. Children need to have a mother and a father and this is just wrong, what

you're doing.' And his boyfriend sort of shushed him away and apologized. Since then I've talked to him and I still don't know what that was all about."

Henderson doesn't believe successful parenting has anything to do with sexual orientation. "I just think it's a matter of if you love children, and if you have it in you and want to have a child and if you're prepared and ready to give up everything you have, or give everything you have to someone else. To a growing child. I don't think it matters whether you're gay or not."

Sarah Henderson, his sister, is younger by 19 years to the day. She's currently a student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. She said she's looked up to her brother all of her life and admires the choice he's made to be a gay father.

"Doug's always been kind of a father figure—he's the one who gave me a lot of good advice," she said. "He's done a lot of good things for me and I know he'll do a lot of great things for Becky. He's going to be an awesome dad."

In addition to having his mom around and numerous gay friends offering to run to the store and bring hot meals over, he's gotten calls of support from members of Rainbow Families, a program of The Community Center that brings together gay men and women who have kids of all ages.

"I contacted them and the leader, Heather, has been very supportive and good about calling and finding out how we're doing and helping me learn how all this stuff works," he said. "It seems to be a really good organization and I'm looking forward to joining it."

Henderson doesn't know what the future will bring but he has plenty of self confidence and surprisingly few worries. He also has a hard time articulating his thoughts as to why he felt compelled to spend so much time and money in



order to have a child. Part of it had to do with turning 40. Part of it is a drive he simply can't explain.

"It's about giving my life—" he stops. "I don't know if I can nail down just why. It's just always been there. But it's the most important thing in my life. There's nothing more important."



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Thursday: Clogging lessons for beginners, 6:15-7:30. Country Western Dance Lessons with Geri 7:30-9:30pm. Our DJ, Molly, spins every Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

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Sunday: Country Western Dancing with our DJ Molly, spinning from 7-11pm!



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Wednesday

September 29: Cash Inn's Karaoke Night with De & Dee, from 7-9pm.

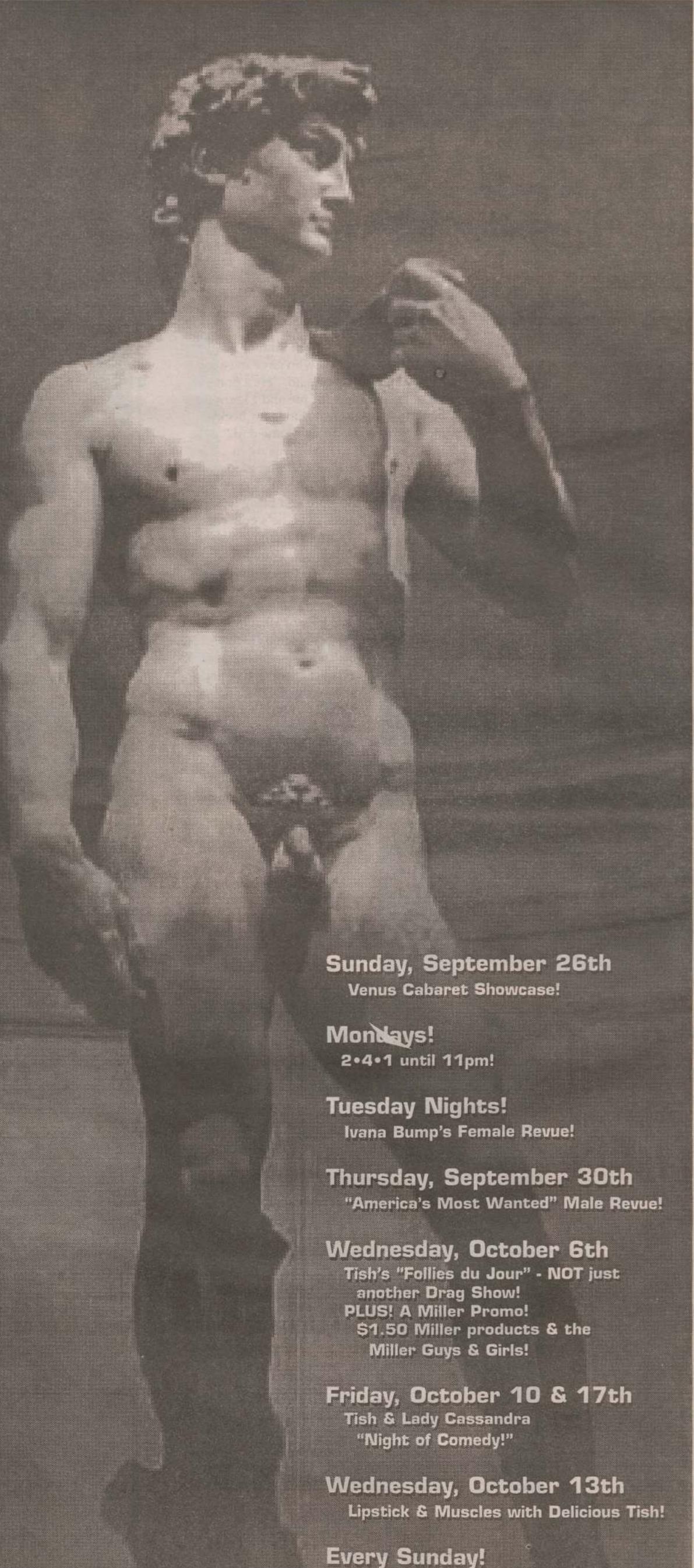
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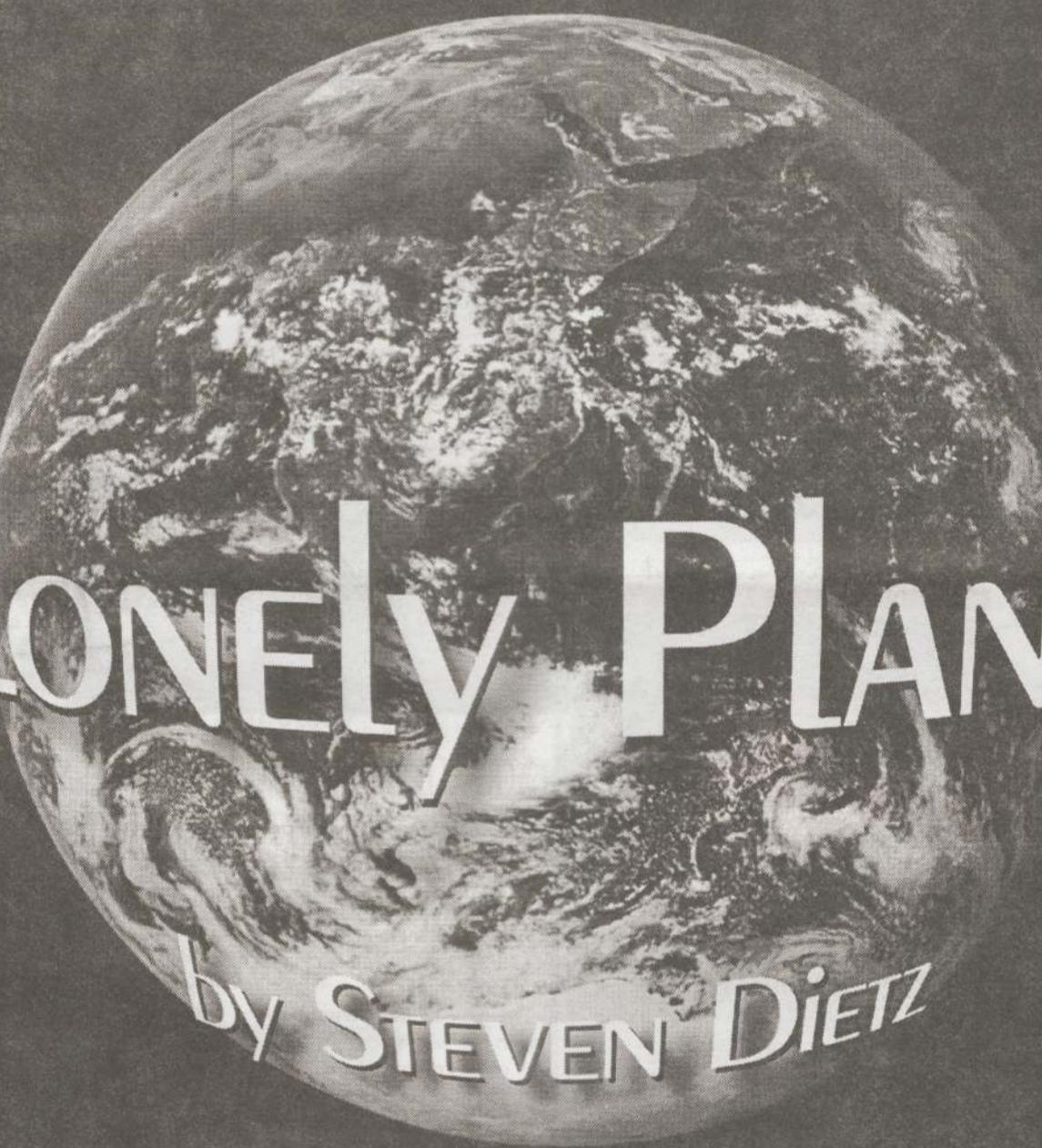
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Women's music legends in Tucson Oct. 1

Pioneering lesbian singer/songwriters Cris Williamson and Tret Fure will team up for a sure-to-be-memorable show at Tucson's Berger Performing Arts Center on Oct. 1 at 8 pm.

The pair are musical and personal partners with numerous successful indepen-

dent albums and a longtime loyal following to their credit. The show will be held at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind on Speedway Blvd., a half-mile west of I-10. Tickets are \$15 - \$17 and are available at Antigone Books in Tucson or by calling 520/327-4809.



Good Golly!— Sundome to host rock pioneer

Before Boy George plaited his first silky lock, before Prince perfected his pout, there was Little Richard.

And there's still Little Richard. The original gender-bending wild man of rock 'n' roll has sold more than 32 million records in a career that spans five decades. He'll headline at Sun City's Sundome Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, Oct. 9 for a 7:30 pm show. Tickets are \$10 - \$29 and are available by calling 623/975-1900.

BLACKBALL TROUPE TACKLES NEW PLAY BY ASU GRAD STUDENT

Blackball Ensemble will present the premiere production of Alan M Berks' *Mourning Rituals* in Phoenix at the newly renovated Planet Earth Theatre, opening Oct 2 and running through Oct. 15.

The play looks at what happens in life when very little turns out as planned and is centered on three people in a hot Phoenix motel room as they investigate the accidents that have changed their lives. Berks is an MFA student in the playwriting program at ASU. His plays have been produced in Chicago and Albuquerque.

Tickets to *Mourning Rituals* are \$14. Call 602/209-6690 for reservations. The inventive company, made up of mostly current and former ASU theatre students, will offer pay-



what-you-can nights each Thursday throughout the run.

LONELY PLANET THROUGH OCT. 3

D. Scott Withers, one of the founders of In Mixed Company, is directing the Valley premiere of Steven Dietz' *Lonely Planet*, running now through Oct. 3 at the Phoenix Center for the Performing Arts.

Victor Arellano, who is producing the play and has a lead role, called the play "kind of an emotional roller coaster where you're laughing one minute and crying the next." It's both a comedy and drama, Arellano explained. "There are two gay leading men,

and it has an AIDS subplot." The actor said empty chairs are used on stage to symbolize people who have died from the disease.

The production is a presentation of TalentBoy Entertainment, a new company on the local scene. Tickets to *Lonely Planet* are available through Dillard's. Wednesday through Saturday, showtime is 8 pm, with performances at 2 pm and 7 pm on Sundays. The theater is located at 1202 North 3rd Street in downtown Phoenix.





Innovative dance group at Orpheum Sept. 30

The Los Angeles-based Lula Washington Dance Theatre, one of the country's premiere African American dance institutions, will kick off a seven-city tour of Arizona with a one day residency on Sept. 29 followed by an 8 pm

Performance Sept. 30 at the historic Orpheum Theatre in downtown Phoenix.

Tickets for the performance are \$20 and can be reserved by calling 602/262-7272 or via Dillard's outlets.

IMCO OPENS NEW SEASON WITH A BITE

In Mixed Company will open its sixth season Oct. 7 with *The Vampires* by Harry Kondoleon. A wildly funny black comedy, the play explores the dark underside of America's well being and comes just in time for Halloween, also known as the gay national holiday.

The show is directed by db Bailey and will

be performed through Oct. 30 at PlayWright's Theatre, 1121 N. 1st. St. in downtown Phoenix. Tickets are \$17.50 and are available through the Herberger box office at 602/252-8497.

In other news, IMCO announces the addition of Mike Prindiville to its production staff. Prindiville, formerly with the Ensemble Theatre, is IMCO's new Managing Director.

Swing with the Royal Crown Revue in Scottsdale

Check out the place where swing and jive meet when the Royal Crown Revue lands in Scottsdale for a show at the Cajun House on Oct. 2 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 - \$16, call 480/945-5150 for information.



PT opens 1999-2000 season with Broadway classic

Phoenix Theatre will kick off its new season by presenting the 1961 Broadway musical fable *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, opening Sept. 24 and running through Oct. 24.

The updated version of the comic



spoof marks the directorial return of Michael Barnard to the PT stage. Barnard, a longtime Valley actor/director/choreographer, took over this summer as the venerable company's Artistic Director. The show stars Valley favorite Ben

Brittain as the young window washer who finagles his way to the top of the corporate ladder in mid-century Manhattan. Michelle Gardner, Jim Linde, Jeanine Pacheco, Robert L. Harper and David Hemphill also star. Jerry Wayne Harkey, the most sought-after musical director on the Phoenix scene, will handle the baton.

Tickets are \$23 - \$25 and are available through Dillard's or by calling the PT Box Office, 602/254-2151. The mainstage is located next to the Phoenix Art Museum, at 100 E. McDowell in central Phoenix.

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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"We've learned that Internet contacts are an important sexual network."

—Jeffrey Klausner, director of the sexually transmitted disease unit at the San Francisco Department of Health, after officials discovered Aug. 23 that the last seven gay men diagnosed with syphilis met their most recent sexual partners in the AOL chat room SFM4M.

"I ... like the books of Armistead Maupin—no matter what you think of his writing he has the ability to create characters that you really care about, so that when each book ended you were kind of sad and you miss them and wonder what's going to happen to them next."

—trick director Jim Fall to Boston's Bay Windows, Aug. 5.

"I don't care how much people deny it, there is still this goofy perception that playing a gay character so early in one's career will forever condemn them to playing just gay roles and stunt the growth of their career. That's silly. I'm a good example of how untrue that is. I mean, playing Gabriel in 'trick' has done more for my career than anything I've ever done. And, the scripts I'm getting now, because of it, don't require me to play gay characters. So, that perception is completely unfounded. I would have taken the role even if it was true, because it was so well-written. I didn't think twice about playing a gay man, honestly."

—trick star Christian Campbell to the Houston Voice, Aug. 20.

"I didn't like the word 'lesbian.' We have guidelines and do not want words of a sexual nature."

—Dexter La Pierre, national advertising director for San Diego's daily newspaper, the *Union-Tribune*, explaining why the paper rejected a display ad for the movie *Better Than Chocolate*, as reported by the Entertainment Wire, Aug. 24. Following adverse national news coverage, the paper reversed its decision on Aug. 27.

"I am bored shitless by the gay community, I regret the loss of our gay sensibility and I loathe the insipidity of the contemporary homosexual. ... We're letting it happen to ourselves for the simple reason we want happy lives. I don't blame people for that because, like everybody else, I want my cake and I want to

eat it too. And I'm going to. I've never set myself apart from the things I write about. In fact, I am the worst compulsive gym bunny in the world."

—Daniel Harris, author of *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*, to Montreal's *Hour* magazine, Aug. 26.

"I would like to have more straight friends and people who raise children just for the sake of diversity. But I have a problem maintaining close friendships with straight males because, like so many gay men, I end up flirting with them."

—Daniel Harris, author of *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*, to Montreal's *Hour* magazine, Aug. 26.

"Doing a love scene, whether it's with a man or a woman, in front of a room full of people, for three or four days is probably the most unnatural thing you could do. Forget about the gender of the person you're with. But I definitely was the one who said, you know, I shouldn't be drunk. What's the point? I mean, if you're gonna choose to go to bed with a woman, and it's Catherine Deneuve, you don't need to be drunk."

—Actress Susan Sarandon on her film *The Hunger*, to Los Angeles' *Lesbian News*, August issue.

"If wearing an ACT UP button on a talk show, way back in the beginning of the AIDS crisis, as someone was sitting there ill at home, made them feel less lonely ... I'm so happy about that."

—Actress Susan Sarandon on her early AIDS activism, to Los Angeles' *Lesbian News*, August issue.

"Years ago when Brad Pitt gave me an award I expressed my desire for him to be the father of my kids. So I guess the media just ran with it, even though I was just making a joke. I will say right now on the record: Brad Pitt is not the father of my children."

—Lesbian rocker Melissa Etheridge to Sydney, Australia's *Capital Q*, Aug. 20.

"I really feel like Julie and I have become, in the public's eye, this sort of nice, contented, perfect little couple of 11 years and I have to tell you, it's far from that. We have to work on ourselves and allow room for compromise just as much as any other couple, and when you throw kids in the mix—wow, that just spins your head around even further. Relationships are a lot of work and I want to be truthful about that. We come up against things, and each other, just as much as anybody else in a relationship."

—Rocker Melissa Etheridge to Sydney, Australia's *Capital Q*, Aug. 20.

"I used to believe that celebrity would solve all my problems and it definitely hasn't. It's funny how shit travels, regardless."

—Rocker Melissa Etheridge to Sydney, Australia's *Capital Q*, Aug. 20.

"At one time, gay liberation was about celebrating our sexuality. We broke free from the bonds of a heterosexist and anti-sex society. Now it appears that we are at risk of adopting mainstream anti-sex notions in exchange for same-sex recognition and spousal benefits."

—Philip Hannan, editor of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada's *Capital Xtra*, in an Aug. 20 editorial.

"Discussing being gay without mentioning sex would be like talking about being a fisherman while never using the word fish. It can't be done. So, we will continue to discuss, depict, celebrate and debate kissing, cocksucking, butt fucking, cunnilingus, fingering, fisting, SM, barebacking, monogamy, polygamy, celibacy and every and anything sexual we can imagine. Why? Because we can, and because that is what the mission statement of Pink Triangle Press says we will do. Specifically, our mission statement says, 'The outcome we seek is this—gay and lesbian people daring together to set love free.'"

—Andrew Griffin, acting publisher of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada's *Capital Xtra*, in an Aug. 20 editorial.

"I'm in favor of legal protections for domestic partnership, but I'm not in favor of changing the institution of marriage as it is presently understood—between a man and a woman. ... I certainly respect the strength and depth of feeling on this issue. And I can only answer your question by saying that with the history and tradition and the way our society understands marriage, there is a difference [between same- and opposite-sex relationships]. I think that difference should be respected. Again, I support protection for domestic partnership. But I do think there should be a respect for the difference in these partnerships and how the institution of marriage has always been understood."

—U.S. Vice President and Democratic Presidential candidate Al Gore to the Advocate, Sept. 14.

"One reason why I recommend the abandonment of religious beliefs is because I think those beliefs are wrong. There is no evidence that our world was created by divine intention, that a god intercedes in human affairs, or that there is life after death. Religion is a hangover from humankind's timorous infancy; it's time for us to walk upright and unafraid, and to take charge of our own lives."

—Syndicated gay-press columnist Simon LeVay, in Sacramento, California's *Outward Newsmagazine*, Aug. 26.

"I think the only difference between doing a lesbian sex scene and doing a heterosexual sex scene is the level of fear of other people. People would come up and say, 'Are you okay, are you okay?' And I'd be like, 'Yeah, I'm fine.'"

—Better Than Chocolate star Karyn Dwyer to Miami's *Weekly News*, Aug. 25.

"I lived ... under a communist system in Czechoslovakia. And I left that country so I would be free. I thought this was the land of the free. I didn't think it meant land of the free as long as you're heterosexual. Now the Czech Republic—they're having domestic partnerships. They're having relationships that are recognized homosexual relationships that are recognized as much as heterosexual ones. And I feel like, what do I need to do now? Go back? I don't want to. I am surprised at the [anti-gay] rhetoric and the misinformation that still exists to this day among very well-educated people."

—Tennis star Martina Navratilova on CNN's *Larry King Live*, Aug. 30.

"Look, I'm not your average man in his 50s. I don't have the gray hair slicked back, I don't have glasses on, I'm not in a coat and tie. My persona was always what a man was never supposed to be: outrageous, gregarious, crazy, silly, funny. But my mother told me ... 'Never change, be who you are, do the good things that you do and ... let them think whatever they think.' ... You have to understand I was not ever close to men. I had my father, who was like my grandfather because he was older. I had no relatives. I had a very serious strict brother. And [my] Uncle Milton seemed like a really gruff guy, but he let me sit on his lap while he'd tell me a story. He hugged me. And no one that I'd ever met from my father's family ... none of them hugged me, none of them kissed me—only Uncle Milton. So having a relationship that there was a male in the house that gave me some kind of affection was very important to me."

—Flamboyant exercise/diet guru Richard Simmons when asked at an Aug. 30 press conference if he is gay, according to *Salon* magazine, Sept. 1.

"It's not true. It's a lie. ... It wasn't that I cared if they [Esquire magazine in 1997] inferred I was gay, because I believe people in this country are more advanced than certain members of the media who try to use their medium as a weapon. But I felt betrayed."

—Actor Kevin Spacey to *Playboy* magazine, October issue.

"For them, it's a challenge: They want to be the one to turn me around. I let them."

—Actor Kevin Spacey on how rumors that he's gay help him score with babes, to *Playboy* magazine, October issue.

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Scottsdale: Wednesday, Sept. 15th at Chompie's on Shea
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Deep Inside Hollywood

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Waters Gets Witty

Racy redhead Alicia Witt, who played Cybill Shepherd's smart-mouthed daughter Zoe on TV, has joined the cast of John Waters' latest opus, *Cecil B. Demented*.

The black comedy started shooting this month in and around the queer director's home turf of Baltimore. The plot tells the tale of a guerrilla filmmaker who kidnaps an A-list star (played by Mrs. Antonio Banderas, a.k.a. Melanie Griffith) and forces her to act in a Super-8 flick.

The project has attracted some very interesting talent: cutie Stephen Dorff (he was a darling Candy Darling in *I Shot Andy Warhol*) has already committed to play Cecil, the film's "demented" filmmaker. Witt will play a porn actress named Cherish, who stars in the film's movie-within-a movie.

Keep your eyes peeled for newcomer Maggie Gyllenhaal (sibling of *October Sky's* Jake Gyllenhaal) to play a Satan-worshipping goth make-up artist.

Newton-John Plays Trailer Trash

The divine Olivia Newton-John is returning to the big screen. For the first time since she sported leg warmers and roller skates in 1980's *Xanadu*, Newton-



Cybill's daughter, Alicia Witt, will appear in John Waters' next film, *Cecil B. Demented*.

John will sing onscreen in the upcoming indie film *Sordid Lives*.

She won't be playing her sweet Sandy of a self, though. Look for Newton-John as white-trash goddess Bitsy Mae Harlin, a bar singer who's done hard time. Newton-John wrote the film's title song and will perform five other tunes in the flick.

Sordid Lives also features Bonnie Bedelia as a Southern belle unable to cope with her gay son, and Beau Bridges and Designing Heifer Delta Burke as a dysfunctional married couple.

Playwright Del Shores is directing the film, which is aiming for a release in the spring.

South Park Duo Cause Terror

In their never-ending quest to plunge bathroom humor to new depths, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the wacky duo behind *South Park*, will be making a cameo appearance in the upcoming low-budget horror film, *Terror Firma*. The pair will sport false breasts to portray hermaphrodites in a fake public service announcement at the end of the film.

While Parker and Stone have seen ratings dip on their Comedy Central cartoon, they aren't hurting for work. Their movie, *South Park: Bigger, Longer, and Uncut*, was a hit, and they have been hired to write the screenplay for *Dumb and Dumber: The Early Years*, which is a prequel to the über-successful Jim Carrey/Jeff Daniels buddy comedy.

The new film will show what dim bulbs Harry and Lloyd were like at age 16.

Dragapalooza

The luscious Liv Tyler, superwaif Kate Moss, and other beautiful people are flocking to New York's famed CBGB nightclub to check out Velvet Mafia, a

new band fronted by 6-foot-tall drag queen Dean Johnson.

Johnson, who gained fame after appearing in the '88 film *Mondo New York*, disappeared from the scene for a while due to a drug dependency.

Now he's rehabbed and re-emerged as the front (wo)man of Velvet Mafia, which has been playing Friday night gigs at what CBGB bills as "Homocorps, a night of queer rock and roll."

Velvet Mafia's new song, *Dharmageddon* has scintillating lyrics like: "I wanna be on MTV/I'll do *Celebrity Jeopardy*/I wanna be in *Vanity Fair*/I wanna be the Secret Square." Can the VH-1 *Behind the Music* special be far behind?

Drag on The Strip

Eva Destruction, the drag queen alter ego of indie actor Alexis Arquette (as seen in *Wigstock: The Movie*), will be joining the new UPN series *The Strip* in a recurring role.

The action-packed drama is about two former Vegas cops (played by *Powder* star Sean Patrick Flanery and Guy Torry) who leave the force to work security for an ultra-successful hotel and gaming mogul (*Mickey Blue Eyes* star Joe Viterelli).

Alexis, the second-youngest and queerest member of the Arquette acting clan, will play Cleo, the proprietress/madam of a Sin City martini bar where the beautiful waitresses double as "escorts." A source close to the show says, "Cleo's girls are the best in town."

Look for *The Strip* to debut October 12.

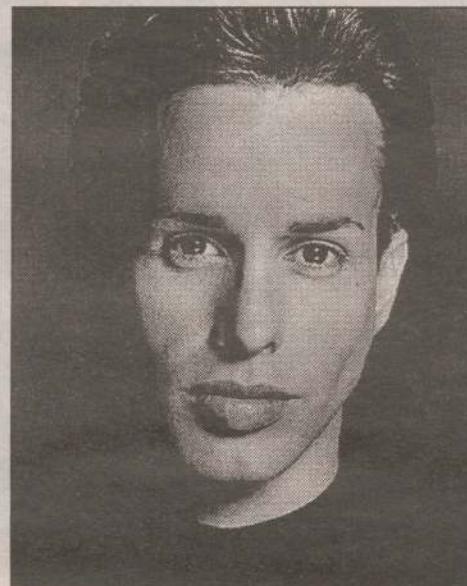
Buscemi Gets Queer

Character actor Steve Buscemi, who made his directing debut a few years ago with the ill-received indie *Trees Lounge*, is going behind the camera once again.

Perhaps best known for his turn as the "kinda funny-looking" guy in *Fargo*, Buscemi plans to direct a film next year about a heroin junkie's never-ending quest for the needle. The script will be based on beat author William S. Burroughs' semi-autobiographical novels *Junkie* and *Queer*.

This is hardly Buscemi's first venture into "queer" material; he made his first big splash on the screen in 1986 as Nick, a gay man dying of AIDS, in *Parting Glances*.

The late William S. Burroughs, by the way, is a hot topic in Tinseltown; actor Kiefer Sutherland barely let the ink dry on his divorce filing before jetting off to Mexico to portray the scribe in the upcoming indie film *Beat*.



Alexis Arquette has been signed to play a regular character—a drag queen—on UPN's *The Strip* scheduled to air next month.

TNT Takes the Baitz

Gay playwright Jon Robin Baitz is dabbling in television with a new series in development for cable network TNT. *New Year* will focus on a family in turmoil as seen through the eyes of the gay middle son.

This isn't the only Tinseltown project on Baitz's plate. He's got *Nathan Lane* attached to the feature film version of his play *Mizlansky/Zilinsky* about two down-and-out producers who bet everything on one last deal (hmm... didn't Mel Brooks already make that movie?).

Lane, in turn, is wooing Baitz to write the screenplay for the biopic of *Jackie Gleason* for him to star in after he wraps his next Broadway run in *Steven Sondheim's* new musical *Wise Guys*.

Jeter Goes the Extra Mile

Michael Jeter, who is one of the few openly gay actors and perhaps the only openly HIV-positive film star in Hollywood,

has a role in what is bound to be one of biggest Academy Award-nominated flicks of the year.

The Green Mile, set in a Southern prison in the 1930s, is based on material by Stephen King; Frank Darabont, who did wonders with King's *Shawshank Redemption* wrote the screenplay and directed the film.

Jeter plays one of the convicts, a Cajun named Delacroix "whose pet mouse entertains both the guards and the inmates," according to the press material (hmm...). The \$60 million drama stars Tom Hanks, as a prison guard on death row, and Patricia Clarkson, who caught the critics' attention as Greta the German dyke in *High Art*.

Green Mile is currently slated to open December 17th.

Just Chaste on W&G

Just because *Will & Grace* is a hit, don't think that means its stars can get laid... on TV.

According to E! Online, when a high-ranking network exec was asked if Sean P. Hayes' character Jack McFarland (the most flamboyant homosexual on network television) would get a love interest this season, the flustered exec changed the subject quicker than Anne Heche unloaded her U-Haul at Ellen's.

Romeo San Vicente would love to date the newly single Kiefer Sutherland. You can reach Romeo in care of HeatStroke or via email RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Exploring Oregon's Willamette River Valley

Although Portland claims the lion's share of Oregon's national attention, the adjoining Willamette (pronounced Wuh-lamm-ett) River Valley makes for an engaging three- or four-day sidetrip from Portland or for a weeklong vacation by itself.

The sophisticated wine-making centers and university towns that dot this region, plus the state capital of Salem, offer acclaimed restaurants that celebrate the inventive cooking of the Pacific Northwest, plus a smattering of gay bars and accommodating inns.

You can make this drive in about 90 minutes along Interstate 5, but it's far more rewarding to spend a few days meandering south along Highway 99W, passing through Yamhill County's famed pinot noir-producing region, where standout vineyards like Rex Hill (in Newberg) and Knudsen Erath (in Dundee) offer tastings and insightful tours.

A good place to encamp for a night or two is the gay-owned Middle Creek Run B&B, a Victoriana-filled house on 97 acres in pastoral Sheridan: it's in the middle of the wine country and also close to the state capital.

A city of about 100,000, Salem draws relatively few tourists, but you will find enough attractions here to keep you busy for a day, including several historic districts with examples of 19th-century industrial and residential architecture.

Salem doesn't have a whole lot to offer in the way of queer entertainment, but there is a wildly fun neighborhood dance bar, 300 Club, which draws a true mix of characters, from alterna-teens to older couples out to shake their bootie. Not as many dykes or straights come here, but all are welcome. There's also a trendy restaurant that serves regional American food.

From Salem, you can head back to Highway 99W and follow it for perhaps 35 miles to Corvallis, which is laced with scenic drives and offers wineries, covered bridges, recreational areas, and several museums.

Downtown Corvallis, home to Oregon State University, is filled with inexpensive cafes and offbeat shops, including a homo-popular bookstore, Grass Roots. Attached to the bookstore is a cafe and espresso bar that draws boho types, artsy students, and cute young things.

Sixteen miles west of Corvallis stands Mary's Peak, the highest of the Coast Range Mountains; it's ideal for hiking in warm weather and cross-country skiing in winter.

Continue another 45 miles south from Corvallis to find the beautiful city of Eugene, a vibrant center for education, the arts, and outdoor activities—there's plenty here to keep you busy for a few days. And the queer community here has the resources and networking of a place five times Eugene's size, with a number of successful fundraising and community service groups. The lesbian, gay, and bisexual alliance at the University of Oregon is one of the oldest continuously running such groups in the country.

The Willamette River curves in a southeasterly direction through Eugene and is fringed with bike trails and walkways and traversed by a couple of pedestrian bridges. A highlight is the Owen Rose Garden, where more than 4,500 varieties grow.

East of here you can climb to Skinner Butte for amazing views of town; there are trailhead signs along Skinner Butte Loop, at the base of the hill. Immense Victorian homes dot the streets below the hill.

A former chicken-processing plant houses the gay-popular Fifth Street Public Market, a complex with fascinating shops and enticing ethnic and conventional restaurants. Be sure to sample the fresh and delicious food (and sweet green tea) at the Metropol Bakery.

For a city its size, Eugene has an extensive arts scene. Much of the cultural activity revolves around the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, one of the most impressive facilities of its type in the Pacific Northwest. The building houses a theater and concert hall, where the city's fine ballet, opera, and symphony perform regularly.

Before catching a show at the Hult, consider enjoying dinner at one of the finest restaurants in the region, La Chanterelle. Here fresh flowers and fine china set the tone for a romantic evening in this slightly formal restaurant where classic French cuisine is subtly seasoned and skillfully presented.

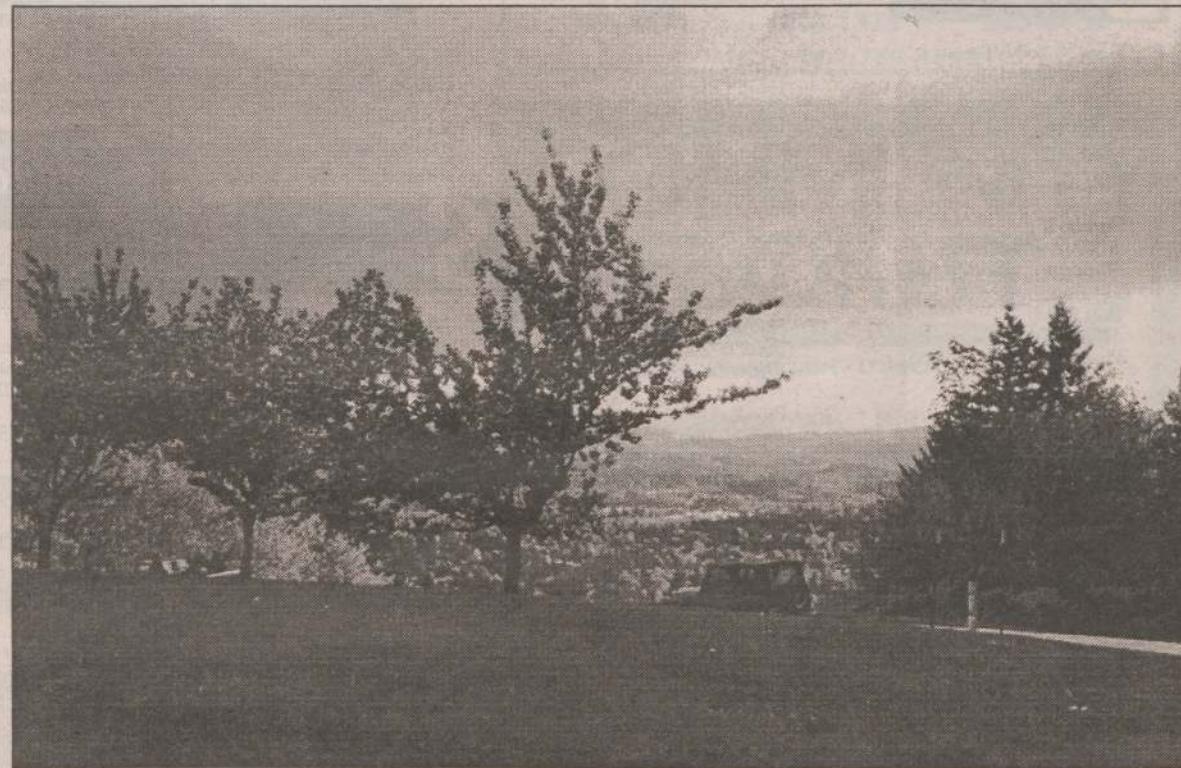
You might top off your evening by dancing and socializing at Club Arena, the local gay entertainment complex downtown.

Several blocks east of downtown is the verdant, eminently strollable campus of

the University of Oregon, most easily accessed from 13th Avenue. The University of Oregon Museum of Art, near the corner of 13th and Kincaid Street, has a permanent collection strong on works from China, Japan, Korea, Cambodia, Russia, and Africa. Also worth visiting is the university's Museum of Natural History.

can hike among 300-year-old Douglas firs in 47-acre Hendricks Park, which runs along southeastern Eugene's wooded ridge. The gardens here hold flora from around the world, including 10 acres of rhododendrons and azaleas that are spectacular when in bloom.

Indeed, wherever you wander in Eugene and the Willamette River Valley



The university town of Eugene is justly famous for its scenic parks.

The main commercial drag here, 13th Avenue, is loaded with cheap restaurants and engaging shops. A favorite spot for a meal is the Glenwood Cafe, a major student haunt where queer youth groups often hang before or after meetings. Breakfast is a specialty, but at all meals you'll find better-than-average diner favorites, such as pastas, sandwiches, and several egg scrambles.

There's a wonderful small, gay-friendly hotel right on the edge of campus, the Excelsior Inn. The finely appointed rooms, named for classical composers, range from cozy doubles with hardwood floors and arched windows to full suites with marble baths, VCRs, and vaulted ceilings. The on-site restaurant presents stellar Northern Italian fare (both light and formal menus), and inn guests receive a memorable complimentary full breakfast every morning.

North of campus, the Autzen Foot Bridge leads across the Willamette River into Alton Baker Park, which is ideal for biking and hiking. You can return by way of the Knickerbocker Bike Bridge, at the park's east end.

Also near campus, you

you'll be rewarded with unrivaled views and unspoiled scenery—no small claim in a nation that is rapidly giving way to the vagaries of suburban sprawl.

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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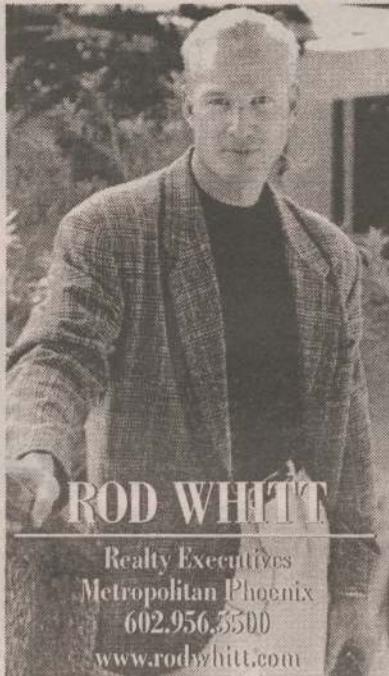
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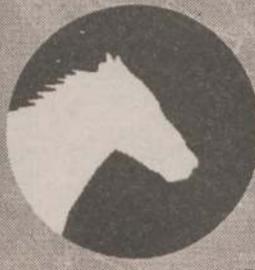


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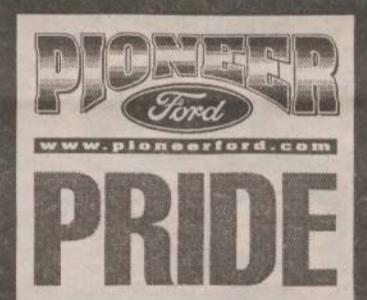


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Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ, or e-mail to alkiphx@aol.com — we'll pass them along to the wise one for you.

Dear Cowboy,

My problem is my girlfriend's attitude toward other people. I have always been an outgoing person and I try to get along with people of all different stripes. I just think it is important to be open minded and accepting of all kinds, particularly in the women's community, which you may or may not know is pretty diverse.

The woman I love, on the other hand, is less accepting. She has a few close friends that she has known for years. But when it comes to parties, outings and generally meeting new friends, she is very quick to dismiss people. This group is too butch, those girls drink too much, or are too obsessed with sports.

We both work hard at our "straight"

jobs during the week, so I like to be around a lot of people on the weekends. She would rather stay home or have her old friends over. We have only lived together for six months but it's becoming clear she is not going to change and it's ruining my weekends. How can I get her to be more outgoing?

Signed, Friendly in Phoenix

Dear Friendly,

You can't, so quit trying. It's time to let go of that resentment and leave her be. Just because you gals are in love and are living together, that doesn't mean you have to be hitched at the hip when it comes to your social lives.

If she likes to stay at home or visit quietly with her old-time riding partners,

fine. If you'd rather take in a Sunday softball game and head to the saloon or a barbecue afterward, then do it. Give her a peck on the lips, tell her when you'll be back, and stick to it. With planning and commitment (and some room for compromise), you can fill your weekends with time for each other and the separate activities you both enjoy.

If you both are confident in your relationship and your feelings toward each other, then running in different social circles will not hurt your pairing. The ongoing co-dependency you're experiencing now and your attempts to change one another—that's where the harm is.

Dear Cowboy,

I am writing to complain about the advice you gave the guy who said he was too sexually active. You basically said there was nothing wrong with having lots of casual sex, and that the only thing wrong was that he felt bad about it. Then you advised him to get counseling in order to deal with his guilt!

What about dealing with his sexual

obsession? I can't believe an advice columnist in a gay paper would suggest that casual sex with multiple partners is okay in this day and age. Have you ever heard of AIDS?

I often agree with you, but I think you only had one foot in the stirrup on that one.

Signed, Regular Reader

Dear Regular,

Thanks for reading. My advice for the cowpoke to get counseling stands, and so does my opinion that there is nothing

wrong with casual sex between two (or more) consenting adults. Enjoying sex and being obsessed with it are very different things, so don't expect every cowboy to live by the same rules you do when it

comes to physical and emotional intimacy.

Sounds to me like you could use some counseling yourself, not to mention some AIDS/HIV education. There are a number of agencies in these parts that can get you some help and information for free. Open your mind. Good luck.

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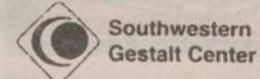
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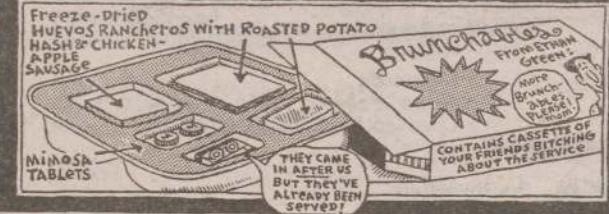
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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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Phoenix 85004 602/253-2437

A Place Called Home
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Phoenix 85023 602/942-1572

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

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

AZ AIDS Services for the Deaf
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Phoenix 85012 602/265-9953

Aunt Rita's Foundation
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QSCOPES

By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES:

It could be hard for you to get all your work done while you are so distracted by relationship issues. Relax and let those you trust carry you to the place you want to be. A little tenderness goes a long way with a Virgo.

TAURUS:

Don't push your luck right now on the job front. Play the humble worker-bee role and bide your time. Your unconscious is leading you in the right direction, but be advised that direction is scary. In the meantime, share your body with another Taurus.

GEMINI:

The Sun is currently transiting the most creative sector of your chart, so please do something artistic. Don't be afraid to make a big wonderful fool of yourself, the kind of fool people admire—and desire. A Pisces is so glad you are letting go of your inhibitions... finally.

CANCER:

Life is full of strange omens in early October. Try to get a handle on the metaphorical meaning of things. Work at undoing some of those destructive old patterns. A new Aries you meet could change your life (and infiltrate your fantasy life).

LEO:

The Sun and Mercury are transiting the communication sector of your chart, so think about putting some of your ideas into writing, darling. Don't be afraid to take a chance and try something new. In your career, flexibility means everything. A certain Scorpio can be very flexible.

VIRGO:

People who challenge you can tell you a lot about your own bizarre issues. Be receptive to all emotional lessons. You definitely need more

physical and spiritual space in order to get back in touch with your childhood dreams. A Capricorn helps you make those dreams come true.

LIBRA:

This is the right time for you to put all your eggs in one basket, sweetie. Stop "weighing your options" and make a decision. You really do have the power to change your life. Your old-fashioned charm is alluring, especially to an unconventional Aquarius.

SCORPIO:

Go forward into the deep dark night and find out who you are. You have about three weeks. It's time to pull out all the stops to be true to your highest (and most primal) nature. Dig your own contradictions. A Cancer certainly does.

SAGITTARIUS:

Mars in your sign gives you staying power, especially in the lovemaking area. Show off your stamina to another Sag. On the work front, be crafty and slip some of your creative ideas into a dry old project.

CAPRICORN:

You don't know how respected you are, sweetie. Talk to colleagues who used to intimidate you and get the skinny on how much your personal stock has risen in recent months. Don't just go for the easy buck. A Scorpio isn't easy, but worth the effort.

AQUARIUS:

Jupiter and Saturn want you to fix up your home life, darling. If you've been avoiding old problems with lovers, roommates or family members, now's the time to work them out. Listen to the advice a Gemini gives you. Just be wary of anyone who is overly dogmatic (like the old you, perhaps?).

PISCES:

Other people can help you with your money problems. Not by lending you dough, but by going into business with you. Collaboration is gold to you now. In your personal life, a serious relationship (with a Libra?) needs your attention. Seriously.

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

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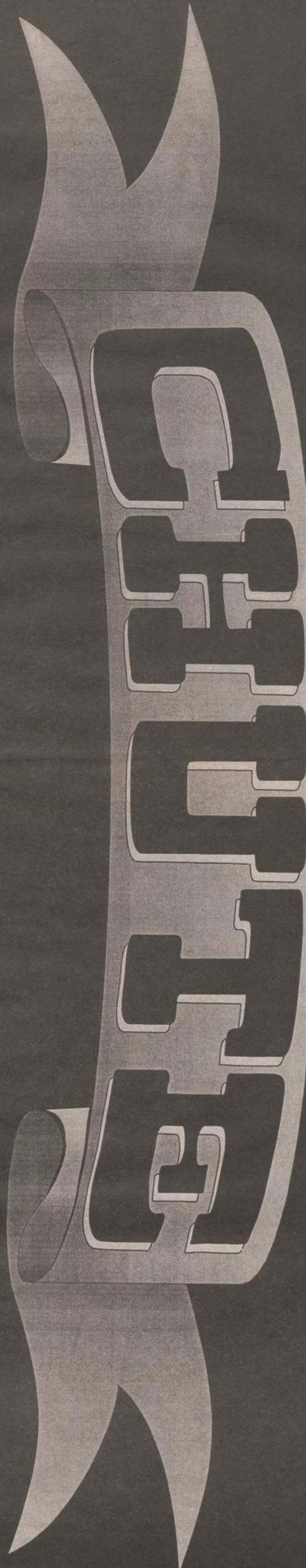
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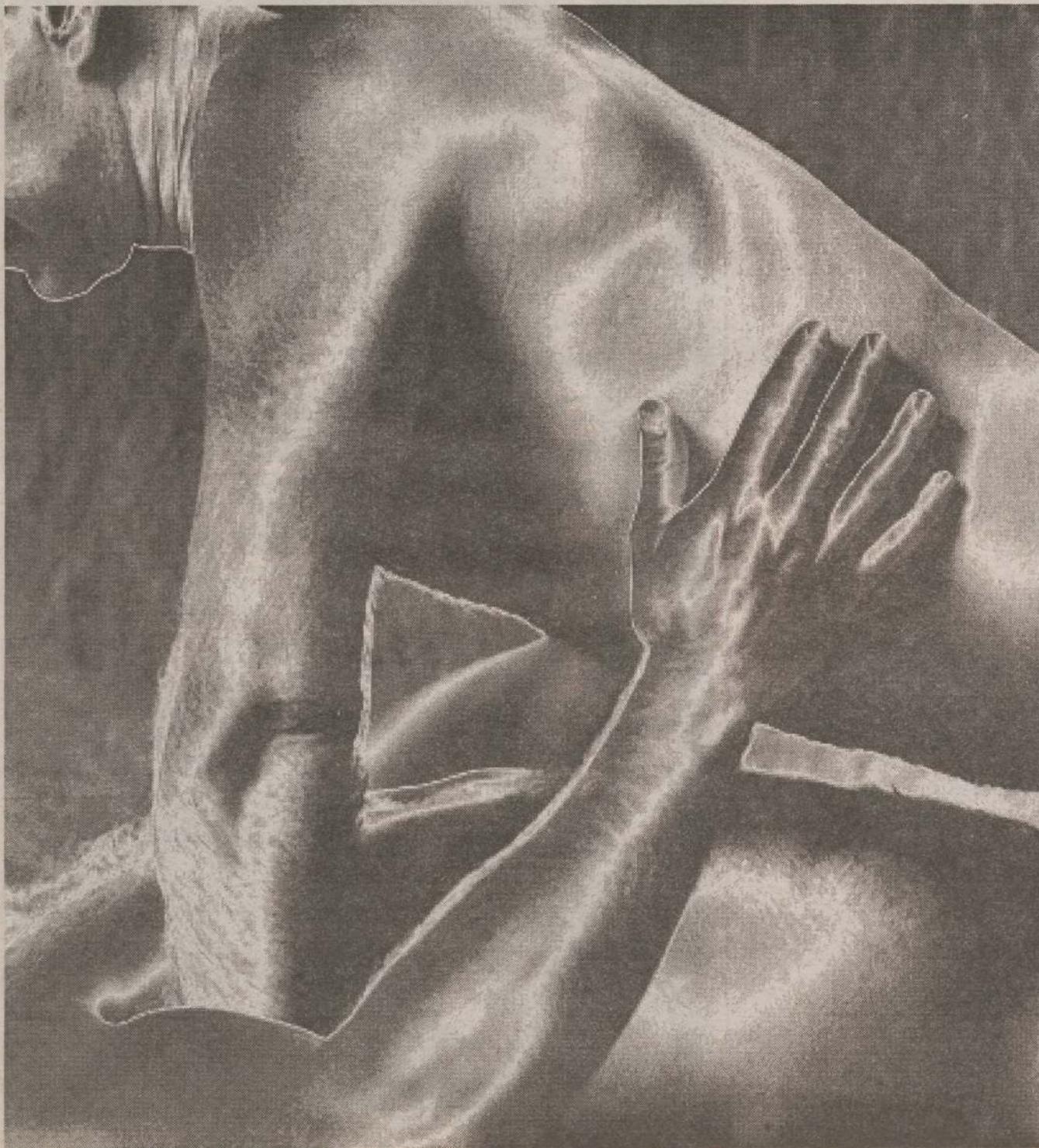
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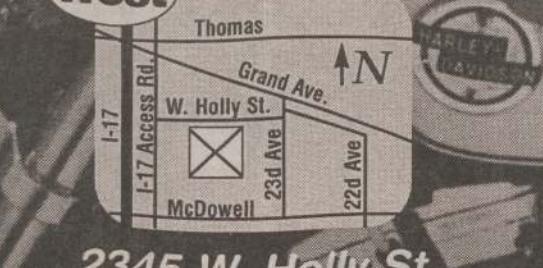
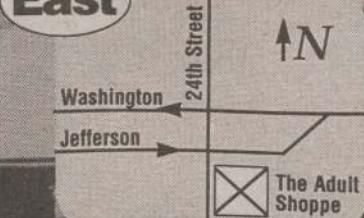
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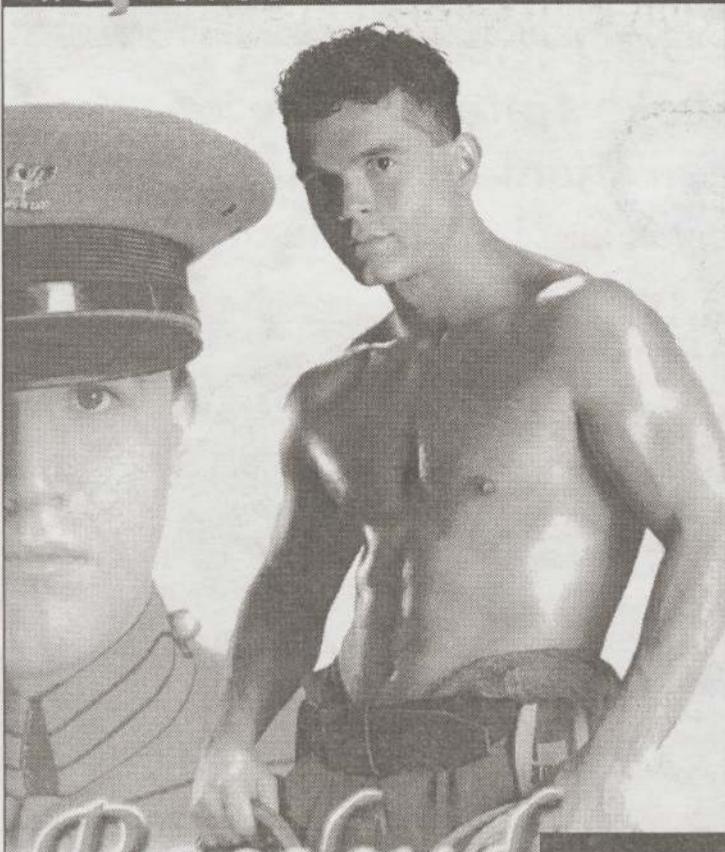
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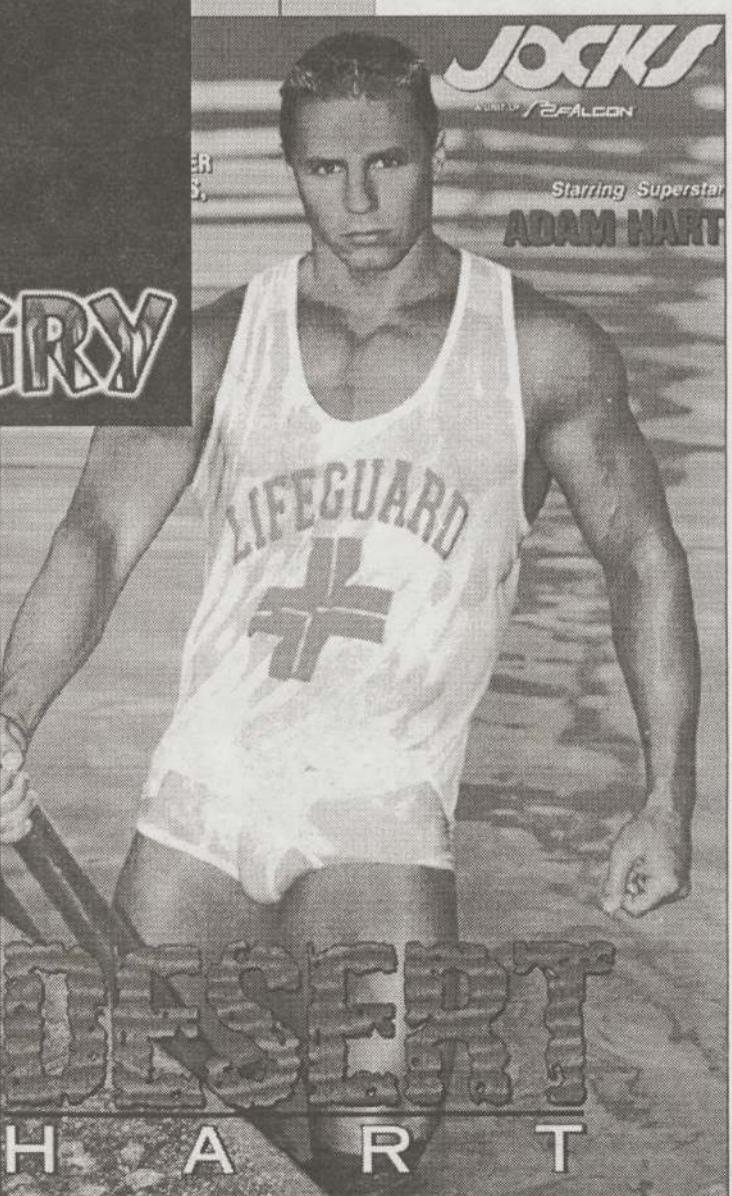
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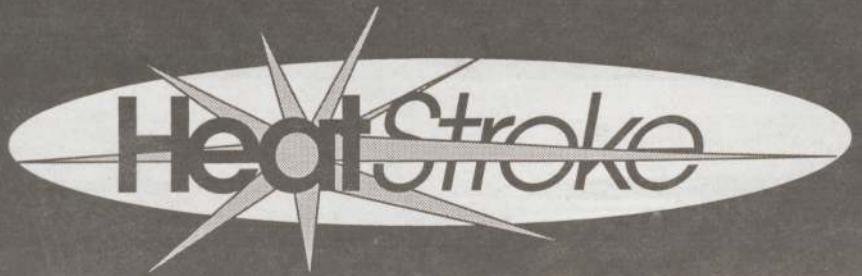
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