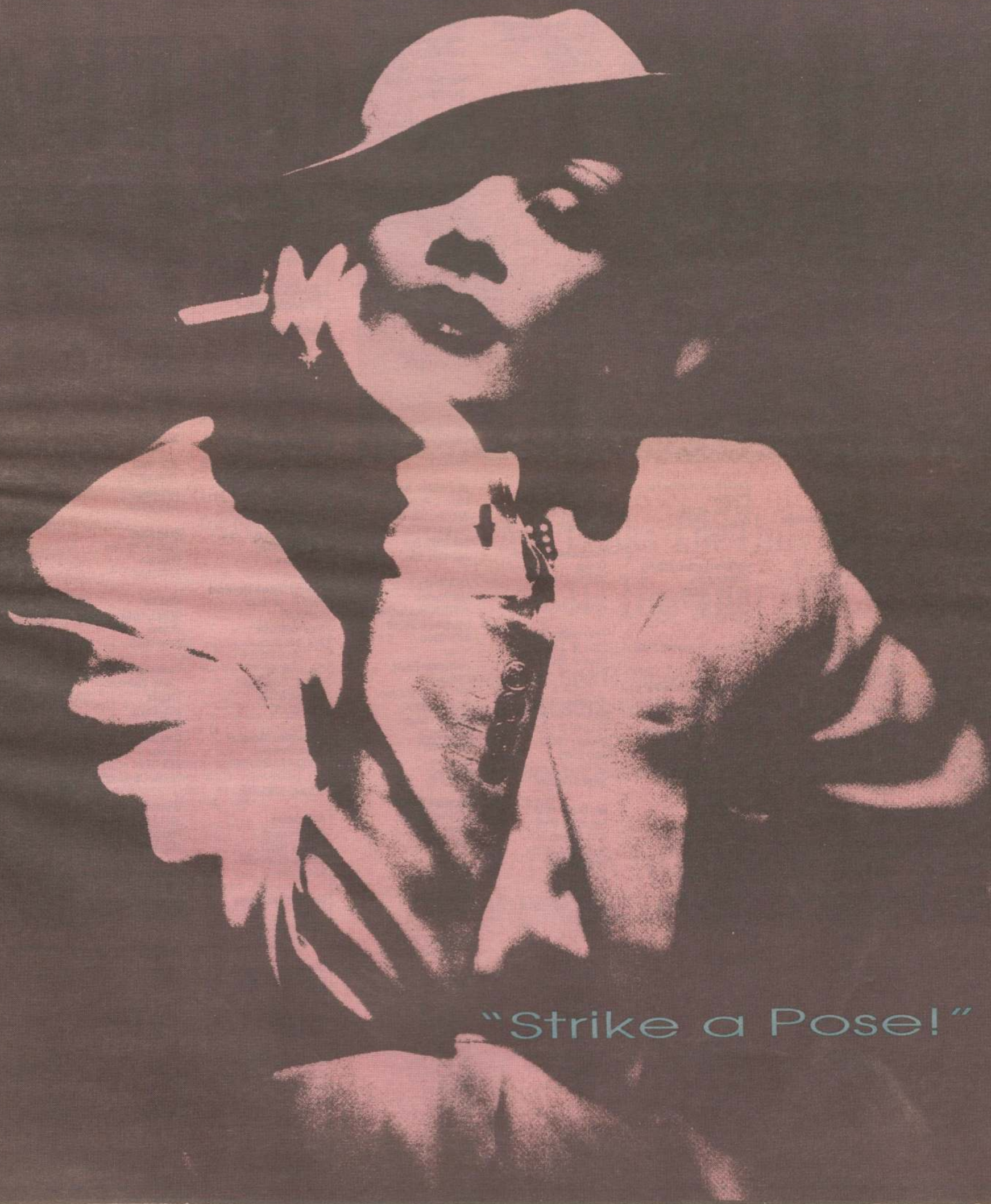




Volume 6 • Issue 13
June 22 — July 5, 1990

phoenix resource



"Strike a Pose!"

GUIDE

RESOURCE

AIDS REFERRAL

AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 15826
Phoenix 85060
244-0747

AIDS Info Line
234-2752

AIDS Referral,
Counseling & Education
508 W. 10th St.
Mesa 85201
461-2437
461-2205

Arizona AIDS Project
919 N. 1st St.
Phoenix 85004
420-9396

Community AIDS Council
PO Box 32903
Phoenix 85064
265-2437

Flagstaff AIDS Support
Group
PO Box 183
Flagstaff 86002
525-1199

The Names Project
Phoenix Chapter
PO Box 82111
Phoenix 85071-2111

Phoenix Shanti Group
1314 E. McDowell
Phoenix 85006
271-0008

Planned Parenthood
5651 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 85014
George: 277-PLAN

Sedona AIDS Group
525-1199

Valley of the Sun Coalition
for PWAs
PO Box 16847
Phoenix 85011
224-5486

Veterans Administration
HIV Coordinator &
Educator: Lee Hood
277-5551 Ext. 164

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adult Children of
Alcoholics
963-0984

Alanon
6829 N. 21st Ave.
Phoenix 249-1257

Alcoholics Anonymous
Central Office
Gay Group Listings
264-1341

American Gay Atheists
Phoenix
3003 N. Central Ave.
Ste 121 Box 211
Phoenix 85012

Eagle-US West
PO Box 36702
Phoenix 85067
244-1278

Feminist & Lesbian
Activist Coalition
967-2570
276-5840

Gay Alliance of Northern
Arizona
Info & Referral Line
PO Box 183
Flagstaff 86002
252-1199

Lesbian & Gay Community
Switchboard
234-2753

Parents & Friends of
Lesbians & Gays
PO Box 37525
Phoenix 85064
942-0417
AIDS related: 939-7807

Phoenix Pride Planning
Committee
PO Box 5948
Phoenix 85010
631-0350

Relationship Discussion
Group
870-9597

The Women's Center
PO Box 26031
Tempe 85282
496-9931

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Arizona Rangers
PO Box 13074
Phoenix 85002

Copperstate Leathermen
PO Box 44051
Phoenix 85064

Couples of Arizona
PO Box 7144
Phoenix 85011
831-5920

Desert Adventures
PO Box 2008
Phoenix 85001
957-3476

Desert Valley Squares
PO Box 34615
Phoenix 85067
968-7184

Lesbian & Gay Academic
Union
A.S.U.
Tempe 85287

Lesbian & Gay Community
Youth Group
241-4230

Los Amigos Del Sol
PO Box 27335
Phoenix 85061
843-1329

Our Gang Bowling League
PO Box 12131
Scottsdale 85267

People Exchanging Power
5821 N. 67th Ave. Ste
103-276
Glendale 85301
848-8737

Phoenix Gay & Married
Men's Assoc.
PO Box 47811
Phoenix 85068
435-0828

Phoenix Gay Youth Group
PO Box 1075
Mesa 85211

Phoenix Lesbian & Gay
Youth
Artie Michals
938-3932

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Arizona Gay Rodeo Assoc.
PO Box 16363
Phoenix 85011
Artie: 938-3932
Dan: 268-5827

Camelback Business &
Professional Assoc.
PO Box 2097
Phoenix 85001
Peter Hudson: 225-8509
Pam Holt: 249-1910

Desert Overture
PO Box 16454
Phoenix 85011
Steve: 899-0169

Independent Tavern
Owners of Arizona
Contact ITA Members

POLITICAL ACTION

Arizona Committee For
Progress
PO Box 40374
Phoenix 85067
253-3285

Coalition For Immediate
Action
PO Box 33233
Phoenix 85067
246-8277

Arizona Democratic Party
254-4179

Arizona Republican Party
957-7777

Human Rights Campaign
Fund
Martyn Harris
715 W. Portland
Phoenix 85007

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Powell & Perry
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Phoenix 85023
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Ste B
Phoenix 85014
248-7921

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15648 N. 35th Ave.
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Phoenix 85023
843-5993

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Service
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231-9837

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966-0203

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Phoenix 85008
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Design
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Scottsdale
945-5072

Rarebares Barber
Styling
1720 E. McDowell
Phoenix 85006
254-7339

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Scottsdale 85253
991-6999

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2307 S. Rural Rd
Tempe 85282

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Gay Roommate Service
Artie Michals
938-3932

Roomies of Arizona
841-0583

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266-6883

Westways Bed & Bath
PO Box 41624
Phoenix 85080
582-3868

MASSAGE:

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Mesa 85201
833-7207

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Phoenix 85020
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252-4191 Res.

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Scottsdale 85258
948-0900

Heinemann Realty
Century 21
8910 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 85020
Richard Larsen
943-7252
528-8962

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Phoenix 85016
266-5390

Firsttravel
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Phoenix 85014
265-0666

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Phoenix 85014
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Phoenix 85011
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Rabid Graphics
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997-9433

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Phoenix 85012

Homespace Ltd.
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Tempe 85281
966-0736

Parr of Arizona
(Custom Swimwear)
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Phoenix 85014
230-2133

Tuff Stuff
(Custom Leather Work)
1714 E. McDowell
Phoenix 85006
254-9651

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

CHURCHES:

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

First Unitarian
Universalist Church Of
Phoenix
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.
Paradise Valley 85253
840-8400

Gentle Shepherd
3425 E. Mountain View
Phoenix 85046
996-7644

Healing Waters Ministries
5555 E. Van Buren
Ste A-10
Phoenix 85008
244-1577

Oasis (MCC)
2405 E. Coronado
Phoenix 85008
244-0747

Restoration Church of
Jesus Christ
1-800-677-RCJCC

SOCIAL GROUPS:

Affirmation
(Gay Momons)
PO Box 26601
Tempe 85285-6601
921-4025

Brethren Mennonites
Council
PO Box 5613
Glendale, 85312

Dignity/Integrity
(Episcopal & Roman
Catholics)
PO Box 21091
Phoenix 85036
258-2556

Lutherans Concerned
PO Box 7519
Phoenix 85011
870-3611

Mishpachah Am
(Congregation of Lesbian
& Gay Jews)
PO Box 39127
Phoenix 85069
966-5001

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267-1203

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Phoenix 85012-1425

Moon Goddess Coven
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873-0756

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946-9303

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Phoenix
258-9477

B.S. West
7125 5th Ave.
Scottsdale
945-9028

Bum Steer
4620 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix
279-3033

Cash Inn
2120 E. McDowell Rd
Phoenix
244-9943

Cattlemen's Exchange
138 W. Camelback
Phoenix
266-0875

Charlie's
Phoenix
265-0224
727 W. Camelback

Cruisin' Central
1011 N. Central
Phoenix
253-3376

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7232 1st St.
Scottsdale
946-9303

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517 S. Blk Canyon Hwy
Phoenix
271-9011

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4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix
275-3509

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4523 N. 16th St
Phoenix
274-1288

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2424 E. Thomas
Phoenix
955-9805

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155 W. Camelback
Phoenix
264-4921

Le Tarts
1019 E. Indian School
Phoenix
277-1821

Little Jim's 307
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix
252-0001

Nasty Habits
3108 E. McDowell
Phoenix
267-8707

Nutowne
5002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix
267-9959

Preston's
4102 E. Thomas Road
Phoenix
224-5778

Rocky RacKoon's
4622 N. 7th St.
Phoenix
248-9609

Talk of the Town
4301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix
248-0065

Trax
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix
254-0231

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

phoenix resource

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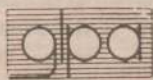
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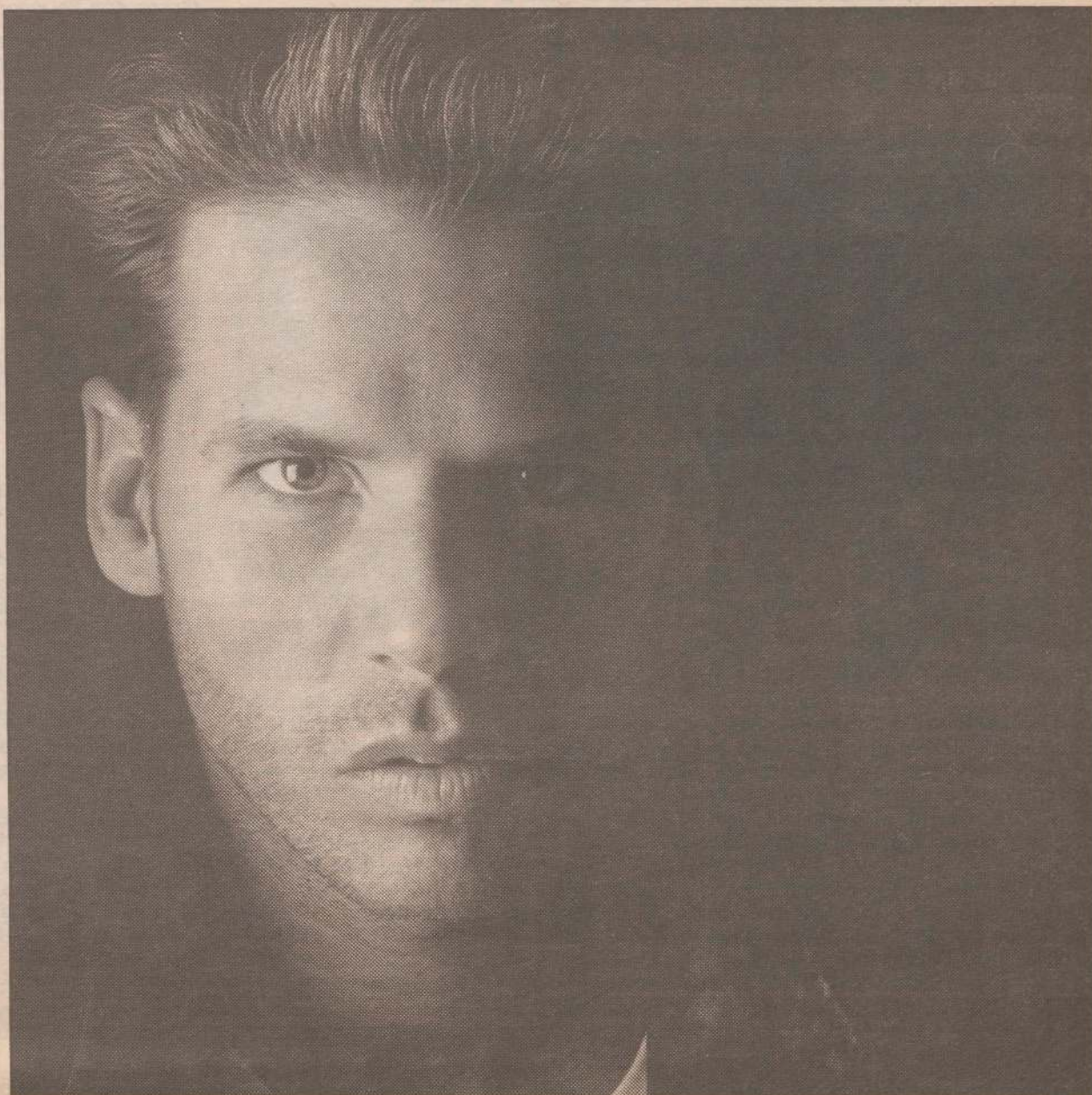
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Are Looks The Only Thing He Has That Kill?

Last year alone, over 70,000 men and women died from AIDS. Today there are an estimated 2,000,000 who could be infected without even knowing it.

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LEARN TO USE A CONDOM.
AIDS DOESN'T GIVE YOU A SECOND CHANCE.



For more information or a referral for anonymous testing,
please call Phoenix Shanti Group at 271-0008.

'Phoenix Pride' Event A Success

Festival Concludes Gay Pride Week

Ellen M. Young



The stage was an array of colors and allegiances. A large U.S. flag was overlapped by an Arizona state flag, a gay rainbow flag, a smattering of shiny five-point stars, and variously-shaped bunches of helium-filled balloons. Meanwhile, scantily-clad victims fell repeatedly into a dunk tank while gay atheists passed out literature about their organization. Such was the diversity of the 1990 Phoenix Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival.

Some seven hundred people filled the activity building and the surrounding area at El Lienzo Charro Rodeo Grounds on Sunday, June 10th. The festival, which began at 2:00 and ended early—at about 8:00 pm—included twenty-eight booths providing everything from literature to leather to a basketball-toss. Voter registrars and tax consultants were on hand, as were gay Christians, witches, and atheists. Various types of clothing were available for sale, including this year's "Gay Pride" t-shirt. The outdoor dunk tank, which raised nearly \$600 for the Phoenix Shanti Group, was another popular diversion.

Employees of the rodeo grounds sold food and beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. The crowd proved more ravenous than anticipated, however, when the food purveyors ran out of stock of four-hundred hamburgers by 6pm.

Speakers included Reverend Charlotte Strayhorn, Mr. Gay Arizona TJ Kennell, representatives from the leather community, and gay youth group members who performed excerpts from their recent play *Oiling the Hinges*. Perennial Pride Week speaker Kirk Baxter also discussed the national Human Rights Campaign Fund. Entertainment was provided by such diverse acts as Charlie's Country Cloggers, female illusionists from the 307 Golden Girls Revue, and several well-received vocal performances from Charlotte Strayhorn.

The main attraction was nationally known comedian Lynn Lavner, who, dressed in a fair amount of black leather, amused the crowd with her own compositions and commentary about life as a Jewish lesbian in New York. Following her performance, Lavner autographed copies of her albums and tapes, which were available for sale.

The festival concluded with the traditional candle-lighting ceremony, which was held indoors this year, as it was still light outside at 7:30 in the evening.

The June 10th event concluded a nine-day "week" of events for this year's Phoenix Gay Pride Week. Highlights included a concert by Cris Williamson and Tret Fure at Scottsdale Center for the Arts; a workshop on self-esteem sponsored by Phoenix Shanti Group; *Oiling the Hinges*, and a community dance sponsored by Couples of Arizona.

The Phoenix Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee encourages commentary on this year's Pride Week activities. Those wishing to make suggestions or join the committee may call the voice mail at 631-0350.

Switchboard Holds Annual Meeting

Gayle Ann Young

When the Lesbian & Gay Community Switchboard held its annual meeting on Wednesday, June 13 at Oasis MCC, the new members of the Board of Directors were voted in.

Dr. Nancy Ledins, Nancy Shaffer, and Mary Wooden were the new members elected to the board. Bryan Perry, current president of the board, was re-elected; Bj Bud and Paul Bayfield finished their terms of office and chose not to run for another term. The Board now consists of Ann Boppart, Paul Cain, R*y Hoffman, Robert Shegog, Gretchen Sberna, Steve Wood, Perry, Ledins, Shaffer and Wooden. One Board seat is currently vacant.

Executive Director Ron Barnes announced that in 1989, the Switchboard received 9,026 calls for information, referral or talk. The majority of the calls (62% or 5,550 calls) were requests for information and referral; 18% (1,620) were HIV/AIDS related.

Barnes stated that the Switchboard received 4,093 calls during the first five months of 1990, a 10% increase over last year. For 1989, the phones were staffed for an average of 9.25 hours "for each and every day of the year."

Sberna, the treasurer, stated that the Switchboard's income from January 1 through May 31, 1990 was \$11,161.97; total expenses were \$14,483.88, creating a deficit of \$3,321.91. The Switchboard, she

stated, has a 1990 budget of \$50,000. Only a state-appointed grant of about \$250 per month is currently being received.

Bud displayed the Community Calendar and *Direct Line*, the Switchboard's newsletter. She stated that although the Community Calendar, which lists "all the events happening in this town," is produced every month, the *Direct Line* was a "one-time shot." The newsletter can be found at local lesbian and gay nightclubs.

Sberna reported that the response rate on a recent Community Center Questionnaire was much higher than expected. "The response rate for a questionnaire is usually 5-10%," she stated. "We distributed about 2,500 questionnaires and about 1,200 have been returned, for a response rate of about 40-45%." Sberna reported that the results are being tabulated and will be published in a second issue of *Direct Line*.

The meeting also included the adoption of a by-laws change. The change was amended to eliminate the Vice President's position and to create co-chairs. According to Perry, the change was made "to provide a better opportunity for gender parity for the officers of the board."

The Switchboard is open seven days a week from 10am to 10pm and is staffed by volunteers. Volunteer trainings are offered twice a month at the Switchboard office.

Strong Support For AIDS Conference Telecast

CHICAGO, IL—Although some organizations have announced their boycott of the Sixth Annual International Conference on AIDS in San Francisco this month, many community healthcare leaders, educators, AIDS activists and public television stations will be downlinking the twenty-five-hour public service satellite telecast on the AIDS Satellite Television Network. According to Stephen Bennett, Chief Executive Officer of the AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA), "I can think of no better way to convey that we are boycotting the INS policy regarding immigration and visitation, and not the information presented at the conference. And we are committed to getting the information to the people who need it and want it." APLA is providing downlink facilities in Los Angeles so that physicians, other caregivers and persons with AIDS can view the program.

According to Gordon Nary, executive director of the Chicago-based Physicians Association for AIDS Care (PAAC) that is producing the telecast, "APLA's leadership in promoting access to the information on the telecast provides a model for more community leaders to follow." Other healthcare leaders accessing the telecast include American Red Cross, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, University of Michigan Hospitals, the City of Milwaukee and the Florida Department of Human Rehabilitation Services and the Indiana State Board of Health.

Due to unexpected support by cable networks and public television stations such as KCET-TV in Los Angeles and KTCA-TV in Minneapolis, which will be rebroadcasting the AIDS Satellite Television Network programming to a broader general audience,

Nary announced two major changes in the broadcast schedule. A thirty-minute presentation on AIDS in the black community has been scheduled for Friday, June 22. The special will feature a focus on some of the root causes of the increasing incidence of HIV infection among blacks and the role of black churches in AIDS education.

The feature on pastoral care scheduled for June 23rd has been extended to include a discussion of the importance of reconciliation of attitudes towards homosexuality and bisexuality with religious issues. The public television and cable telecasts are expected to increase the audience for the telecast to more than 1,000,000 viewers.

Contributors Sought For Latino Anthology

BOSTON, MA—Author Michael Nava, whose mystery *Goldenboy* won two Lambda Literary Awards last year, is seeking submissions for a new short story anthology to be published by Alyson Publications. Nava, who has edited a collection of gay mysteries for the publishing house, will be working to give a voice to a group that has been long overlooked in the gay community—Latino lesbians and gay men.

Inquiries and submissions, accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope, may be sent no later than September 1, 1990, to Michael Nava, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109365, West Hollywood, CA 90046.

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Gay Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses To Convene This Summer

ELWOOD CITY, PA—The leaders of two national support networks for gay and lesbian ex-Jehovah's Witnesses have announced plans for two 1990 conferences.

Reach Out! of Portland, Oregon, will host a one-day conference on Saturday, August 25 in Portland. The members of A Common Bond, based near Pittsburgh, will meet on Saturday, September 15 in Houston, Texas.

The groups were organized in the late 1980s to foster a climate of mutual support and to promote dialogue among gay men and lesbians who have been ex-communicated from the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society—the governing organization of Jehovah's Witnesses—because of their sexuality.

Unlike some religions which condemn homosexuality but welcome the homosexual, Jehovah's Witnesses tolerate neither. Besides gay men and lesbians, this strict religious order consistently ex-communicates, or disfellowships, thousands of Witnesses each year for offenses ranging in severity from tobacco usage to open disagreement with the sect's doctrines. Witnesses who wish to remain in good

standing with the faith—including family members—are required to shun all those who are disfellowshipped.

"Coming out of the Jehovah's Witnesses was like a fantastic breath of fresh air," says Sharon Tyner, founder of Reach Out! "The blessings have been ten-fold. I read the books I want, go into any house of worship I want, and am free to express myself without fear of reprisal."

"We received many favorable comments about last year's ACB conference," reports Dan Restid, founder of A Common Bond. "Since Jehovah's Witnesses is relatively small in comparison to other religions, the disfellowshipped gays and lesbians are few and far between. Our two groups have instilled a sense of belonging to two-hundred disfellowshipped gays and lesbians. We are no longer alone."

Participants at the conferences will have the opportunity to share their common backgrounds.

For further information on conferences or to receive either group's newsletter contact: Reach Out! Box 1173 Clackamas, Oregon 97015 or A Common Bond, PO Box 405, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania 16117.

Democrats Nominate Helms Challenger Candidate Received Early Support from Gay Community

WASHINGTON DC—Harvey Gantt, the former mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, has won the Democratic Senate nomination in that state, defeating prosecutor Mike Easley 57 to 43 percent. Gantt received early financial support from the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a lesbian and gay political organization. Gantt will face Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) in the November general election.

The 14 percent margin of Gantt's victory in the Democratic run-off election surprises many observers. "Harvey Gantt's strong lead defies the conventional wisdom that North Carolina Democrats would not nominate a progressive African-American candidate for the Senate," said HRCF Executive Director Tim McFeeley.

"His victory is a clear sign that Gantt is in touch with the voters of North Carolina and that he has a compelling political message—Harvey Gantt can beat Jesse Helms," McFeeley stated. Although he trailed in early polls, a poll released in early June indicates that the race is now a dead heat between Helms and Gantt.

The Campaign Fund contributed \$5,000 to Gantt's campaign in April, long before he appeared to be a viable candidate. The amount is the maximum contribution allowed by federal law in a primary. At that time, McFeeley stated that Gantt, an African American, "represents the best of what North Carolina can offer the nation, independence and vision, rather than the ignorance, bigotry and hate that Jesse Helms embodies," McFeeley insists.

"Jesse Helms is a disgrace. The more the voters of North Carolina learn about him, the more questions they have about whether he represents their interests," McFeeley has said. "Helms spends time fighting needed AIDS resources, censoring art and opposing choice. His bigotry against lesbian and gay Americans has no place in the U.S. Senate."

Helms is the author of the notorious amendments which have weakened AIDS prevention materials aimed at gay and bisexual men. He strongly

opposed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act which overwhelmingly passed the Congress earlier this year and was signed into law by President Bush. Increasingly in recent years, the Senate has refused to side with Helms when his anti-gay amendments have reached the floor.

"Helms has suffered a string of defeats at the hands of his colleagues," McFeeley said. "Most Democrats and an increasing number of Republicans are unwilling to put up with his bigoted tactics. We are hopeful that the voters of North Carolina have also concluded that his time is up."

Gantt has regularly attacked Helms on issues of concern to the lesbian and gay community. He accused Helms of appealing to people's emotions, rather than addressing the nation's real problems.

During the campaign, Gantt charged that Helms is "going to decide what art is good and what art is bad," referring to Helms' involvement in the controversy surrounding the Mapplethorpe exhibit and National Endowment for the Arts funding. He continued by saying Helms "is going to decide about people whose sexual orientation is different and set them against people whose sexual orientation is 'normal.' He is going to get back on the issue of what is good and what is evil in society."

"Harvey Gantt is willing to fight for the basic civil rights of all Americans. We intend to do all we can to help him in the coming months," McFeeley concluded.



Kowalski and Thompson To Be Honored By N.O.W.

WASHINGTON DC—In their first national public appearance together, Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson will be honored at the National Organization for Women's 1990 annual conference to be held in San Francisco, California June 29 - July 1. NOW will present "Woman of Courage" awards to Kowalski and Thompson on Sunday, July 1 in honor of their heroic struggle for Kowalski's civil rights. Thompson fought to overcome the homophobia, ableism, and sexism of Kowalski's father and the Minnesota courts through extensive legal challenges and by organizing public pressure through nationwide speaking engagements and press coverage. NOW played an active role in publicizing and organizing in support of Kowalski and Thompson.

Lesbian rights activities at the Conference will also include workshops, an issue hearing, and a constituency caucus. The lesbian rights workshops will address such issues as legal strategies to protect the right to privacy, the connection between lesbian rights and repro-

ductive freedom, domestic partnership rights, and how the AIDS crisis has affected the lesbian agenda. Lesbian issues will also be addressed in workshops on discrimination against women in the military, finding positive ways to fight oppression and many others.

Major speakers at the conference will include Petra Kelly, one of the founders of the European Green Party; Melta Dube of the African National Congress; Charon Asetoyer, Native American rights activist, and several feminist political candidates. On Saturday, an abortion rights rally will be held at Union Square featuring the Women's Memorial "In Memory of the Courageous Women Who Died from Illegal Unsafe Abortions Because They Had No Choice."

Saturday night entertainment will feature a concert by Holly Near and the group Sweet Fury followed by a dance. Judy Fjell will also perform at the closing ceremony on Sunday.

For more information about attending the conference, NOW can be reached at 202-331-0066.

Gay Travel Magazine Debuts

DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Our World, a new publication billing itself as "the only monthly international travel magazine exclusively for gay men and lesbians," has published its first issue. The Washington Post has called the magazine a "credible new travel guide for gays..." Our World plans to expand its coverage to include more extraordinary vacation spots

worldwide.

Monthly issues will include articles and color photos covering gay and lesbian hotels, inns, resorts, tours, trips and events. Monthly departments provide a listing of the latest tours, a calendar of events, restaurant and book reviews, and interviews with personalities in the community.

Health Conference Scheduled For July

WASHINGTON DC—The largest annual conference concerning lesbian and gay health issues is expected to draw over two thousand attendees when the Twelfth Annual National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and Eighth National AIDS Forum convenes in Washington, DC, July 18-22, 1990.

This year's conference will feature more than 300 presentations dealing with such issues as substance abuse, lesbian health care, holistic alternative therapies, mental health and lesbian and gay youth issues. The AIDS forum will be divided into Medical, Educational and Psychosocial tracks.

Richard Isay, MD, of Cornell Medical School and author of *Being Homosexual: Gay Men and Their Development*, will co-facilitate a pre-conference institute entitled "Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy with Gay Men." Other pre-conference institutes will deal with HIV education and Health concerns of incarcerated populations, domestic violence, establishing gay and lesbian community centers, and spiritual counseling of gay and lesbian people.

Bill Scott, president of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation which sponsors the conference together with George Washington University Medical Center said, "this annual meeting brings together health care professionals and community leaders from across the world. Participants are often on the front lines of AIDS research, treatment and care. Our conference provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, information and technical support."

Channel 8 To Present "Andre's Mother"

PHOENIX—Local public television affiliate Channel 8 will present *American Playhouse: Andre's Mother* on Wednesday, June 27 at 8:30 pm. The play, "a sensitive AIDS drama" by Terrence McNally, centers on the mother and lover of a young man who died from AIDS and how they cope—separately and together—with the tragedy of losing the person they love the most.

The drama focuses on the effect of Andre's death on his surviving lover Cal (Richard Thomas), his mother Katherine (Sada Thompson), who could never accept her son's homosexuality, and his feisty grandmother, played by Sylvia Sidney.

McNally strongly believes that the story extends beyond the experience of AIDS itself, to the people who are left behind in its wake. "It's really the story of two people brought together by a terrible experience," he notes. "AIDS forces us—all of us—to be more honest with ourselves and in our relationships."

Channel 8 is a part of Arizona State University.



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PERSPECTIVE

Don Slutes

NO GUTS, OLD GLORY

If I hear one more otherwise intelligent homosexual person praise George Bush, I may lose it. Bush, the gutless slimeball who currently serves as our president, is enjoying popularity ratings that even his beloved predecessor would have killed for (and probably did, if you count Central America). Is this because Bush is such a great president? And if so, does the lesbian/gay community owe him our allegiance?

Bush didn't single-handedly dismantle the Soviet empire; he's simply basking in the warmth as the Cold War comes to its inevitable conclusion. Bush isn't the guiding hand of our still-growing economy (growing, that is, if you don't count the hundreds of S&L failures, et al.). Bush sits back and reacts, if he does anything at all.

Oh wait, the president has taken the bold initiative on one important issue: whether Americans should have the right to burn a U.S. flag. In fact, Bush has made it clear that he wants nothing less than a Constitutional amendment to prohibit flag burning. He's wanted it since this time last year, when the U.S. Supreme Court issued its original opinion regarding the validity of anti-flag-desecration laws. Now that the Court has reaffirmed its original opinion, Bush is once again foaming at the mouth.

Reportedly, at the urging of the president, who wants a vote on the issue by July 4, Congress has begun the process of amending the Constitution—or rather, the Bill of Rights, since a Constitutional flag-burning ban would have the effect of amending the First Amendment. Never in the 200 years since the adoption of the Bill of Rights has any of these original 10 amendments been amended. Our Bill of Rights is not only cherished in this country (albeit by fewer and fewer people, it seems), but has served both as inspiration and model for other democracies around the world.

*Bush is a knee-jerk demagogue—
unless he really believes that the Constitution
needs a flag-protection amendment,
in which case he's simply a moron.*

Deep down, even George Bush knows the difference between desecrating a piece of cloth and desecrating the Bill of Rights. Many in Congress, too, doubtless know. But it's an election year, and the Republicans see the opportunity to score big PR points by rallying 'round the flag, while bashing those unpatriotic Democrats who would dare oppose Constitution protection of Old Glory. Flags make great 30-second TV spots. Never mind the issues that actually affect people's lives; let's make 1990 a contest between the pro-flags and anti-flags. (Remember, if two-thirds of the U.S. House and Senate approve a flag amendment, it then goes to the state legislatures, whence the same PR battle can continue on a state level.)

This is why we're talking about degrading the 200-year-old First Amendment: because Republicans want a good sound bite. And George Bush, the man who opened his 1988 presidential campaign in a flag factory, is leading this parade of weasels.

Sure, judging Bush's presidency by this behavior is just as shallow as voting for or against congresspersons on the basis of the flag issue. But the flag issue, while completely inconsequential to most individuals, gives a tremendous insight into Bush's philosophy, and proves that his 1988 campaign strategists (Roger Ailes, Lee Atwater, et al.) weren't the only demagogues. Bush is a knee-jerk demagogue—unless he really believes that the Constitution needs a flag-protection amendment, in which case he's simply a moron.

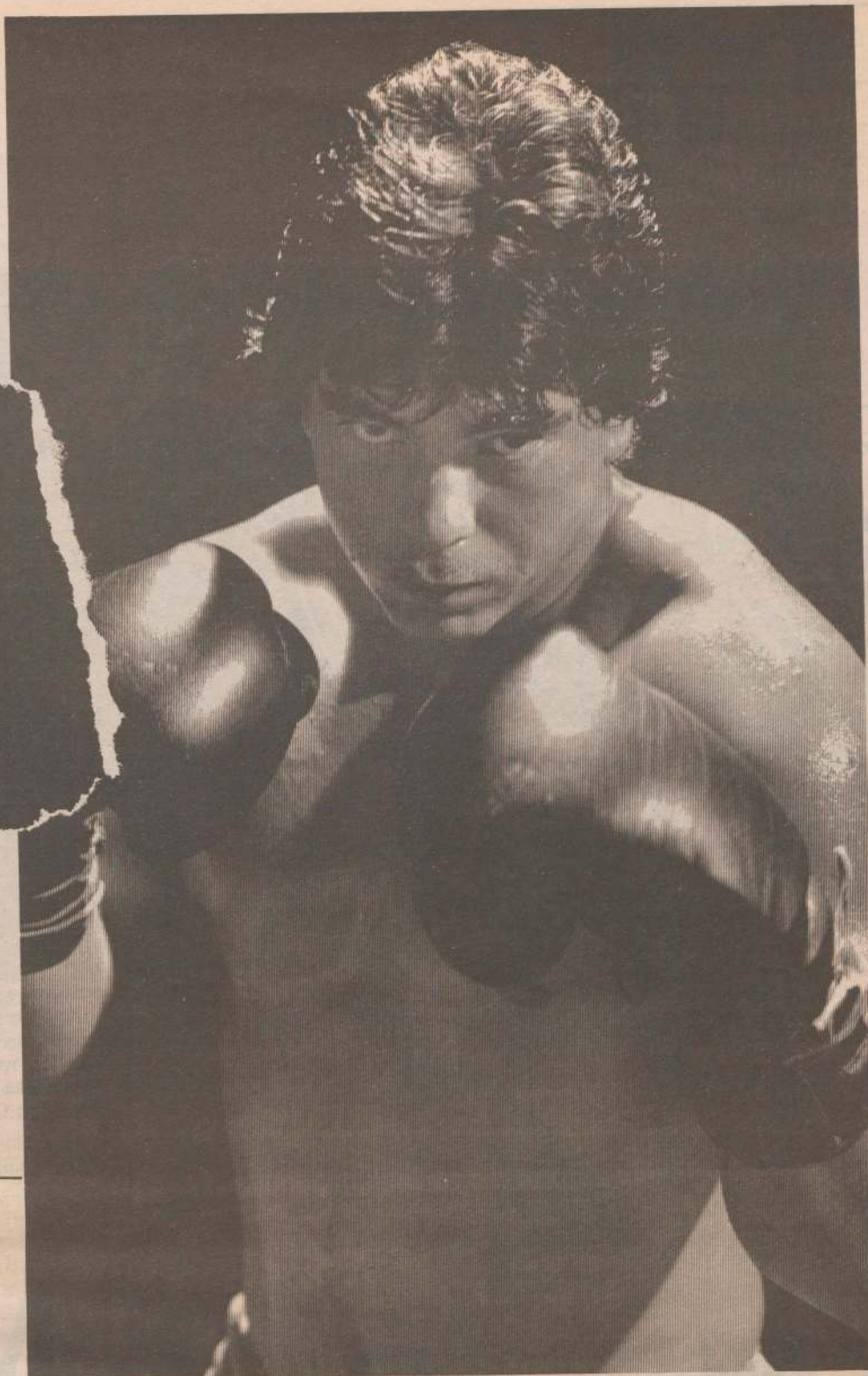
Bush fans, even in the lesbian/gay community, may still be willing to sweep all of this aside. "He's doing a good job running the country," they might say. "That's all that really matters." Well, it's debatable whether the country is actually running itself at this point. And Bush's only assertive foreign policy move has been to suck up to the murderous Chinese government. Bush has somehow perfected the Reagan technique of deflecting the bad breaks while soaking up credit for the good stuff. Nobody in recent history has ever been less deserving of a 70 percent approval rating. (At least the Reagan administration changed things in Washington, for better or worse; Bush is coasting.)

As a final note, add this to your Bush file: The annual international AIDS conference opened this past week in San Francisco. Bush was invited to speak at the opening ceremonies, but declined. (The chief executives of Canada and Sweden accepted similar invitations when the conference was held in their respective countries.) You can hardly blame Bush for wanting to stay away, though I doubt he actually has the sense to be ashamed of his and his predecessor's record on AIDS. Bush probably does not wish to subject himself to the protests surrounding this year's conference, not the least of which centers on the a U.S. policy that bans most HIV-infected foreigners from entering the country. (The policy persists, even though sharing a continent with an AIDS patient is an extremely low-risk activity.)

Bush's schedule keepers don't mention any of this, however; the president is simply "too busy." What exactly was Bush scheduled to do the night the AIDS conference opened? Why, attend a fund-raising event for fellow Republican Jesse Helms, of course. In other words, Bush would rather stump for Helms, the chief foe of the lesbian/gay community, the would-be destroyer of sane AIDS legislation. Bush's sympathies could be no clearer.

BATTLING BASHING

Reports Show Anti-Gay Violence Pervasive in U.S.



...we remain a
community
under siege,
battling an
epidemic of
bigotry and
violence.

Violence, harassment and attacks against gay men and lesbians are "widespread" and continue to "plague the nation" according to a national report on anti-gay crimes released this month by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

The fifth annual NGLTF "Anti-Gay Violence, Victimization and Defamation" survey reports 7,031 incidents — ranging from harassment to homicide— against gay men and lesbians in 1989. The incidents were documented by 119 organizations and individuals in forty states and the District of Columbia.

Of the incidents, 2,322 were acts of vandalism, intimidation and physical violence and 4,079 were verbal harassment.

"Last year the nation's lesbian and gay community celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Stonewall riots which sparked the modern gay rights movement," said Kevin Berrill, Director of NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project and author of the report. "Although we have made remarkable strides towards freedom since Stonewall, we remain a community under siege, battling an epidemic of bigotry and violence."

The report was presented at a press conference in a House of Representatives office building. Berrill, joined by other civil rights, law enforcement and Congressional leaders, including Senator Alan Cranston, called for a "major battle on the state level against bashers and bigots" to end homophobic, racist, anti-semitic and other hate crimes.

In addition to Berrill and Senator Cranston, speaking at the conference were John Buchanan, chairman of the People For the American Way, and Arlene Williams, director of communications and development for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

For the first time, the NGLTF report included a breakdown of state hate crime laws passed or pending. Although a 1987 U.S. Department of Justice report noted that "homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims" of hate violence in America, only a handful of states have hate crime laws that include crimes based on sexual orientation.

The report was released on the heels of the Federal Hates Crimes Statistics Act, signed into law by President Bush last April. NGLTF played a key lobbying role on the bill and engineered a broad coalition that helped secure its passage.

1989 Statistics

Of the 7,031 incidents reported last year, approximately two-thirds were acts of verbal harassment. Of the remaining 2,322 incidents, thirty-four percent were physical assaults, thirty-one percent were threats of violence, seventeen percent were acts of vandalism, fourteen percent were police abuse, three percent were homicides, and one percent acts of arson and other victimization.

Of the total incidents reported, nineteen percent occurred on college and university campuses, revealing, says Berrill, "dangerous intolerance and prejudice that threatens an academic environment of enlightenment."

About one percent of the incidents were directed against churches affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a Christian denomination with a special outreach to the lesbian and gay community. The remaining eighty percent occurred in other contexts.

Overall, 1989's total of 7,031 episodes is slightly lower than the 7,248 reported in 1988. "Given the many factors that affect annual totals and the relatively small differences between the figures, it is not possible to accurately gauge how the scope of the problem changed last year," explained Berrill.

"Nor does this report measure the full extent of anti-gay violence and victimization that occurred last year. Because of under-reporting by victims and a lack of systematic data collection throughout most of the U.S., we estimate that the vast majority of anti-gay episodes in 1989 were not documented."

Prevalence studies and polls conducted in 1989 also showed widespread victimization. According to a survey by

—cont. on page 12

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BOOK REVIEW

■ ■ ■
Meg Umans

Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing

May Sarton. W.W. Norton, 1965. 220 pages, \$4.95 paperbound.

Mrs. Stevens was taken out of print shortly after it was published in the sixties, but people continued to read it, to the extent that it became an underground classic, especially among young intellectual women. Norton reprinted it as a low-priced hardback in the seventies, and eventually as a mass-market paperback, along with many of Sarton's other writings. It may never be a best-seller, but that won't be because I haven't done all I can to promote it. This story, of all the Sarton I've read, pulled the most out of me.

Mrs. Stevens is in her seventies, a well-known retired poet. Two reporters from a national magazine have been assigned to interview her, and to get her to talk about the sources of her inspiration. Mrs. Stevens is bemused, and takes the opportunity to think out loud in the presence of these two young kids who are all ignorance and awe. The young man appears awkward and star struck, and in his innocence, asks questions that allow the uncorking of the genie. The young woman appears more informed and more intellectually avid, and harsh-sounding challenges encourage a blossoming of seemingly random associations. In the sixties, society may not have been ready to appreciate this, or to acknowledge writers whose love extends to their own gender.

Mrs. Stevens' responses to Peter's hesitant attempts to dismiss her into a category include occasional challenges to his own freedom of thought, and it's usually Jenny who fields the challenges and returns them. The two women throw sparks, and with Peter as foil and occasional participant, they dig into the sources of woman's creative impulse. All writers who read this find ourselves pulled right into the process, discovering along with Hillary Stevens and Jenny and Peter the sources of our own creative impulses.

It's our lives. In the course of their afternoon together, Hilary comes to terms with her own past through its crystallization in her poetry. Her life, like ours, includes love and pain that need to be expressed, and rarely find understanding in the situational source of the emotion. *Mrs. Stevens* is written as a novel, recounting on one level the story of an unusual and exciting life. Readers who aren't writers will find the adventure story gratifying—we can all identify with the emotions and thoughts that come with intense interactions. And all writers have to tell their own stories at least once, to understand them and get them out of our systems. If we're as honest and brave and bright and talented and loving as Sarton, we go on from there. Mrs. Stevens hears the mermaids singing, and she expresses their song as poetry, and Sarton expresses the process as fiction, and we learn that we can do it, too, if we choose and if we dare.

Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing is available from W.W. Norton and at Humanspace Books in Phoenix.

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TURNING GAY PAGES

Second Annual Lambda Literary Awards Held in Las Vegas

Jorjet Harper



Lesbian writer Jewelle Gomez delivers a speech by Audre Lorde in absentia at the 1990 Lambda Book Awards ceremony in Las Vegas. Lorde, winner of the Publishing Triangle's Bill Whitehead Award for literary excellence, was unable to accept in person because she was in Europe undergoing treatments for cancer.

Photo: Jorjet Harper

A short way down the hall at Caesar's Palace, avenues of slot machines and acres of gaming tables were attracting a decidedly "unbookish" crowd, but in the posh Coliseum Room, 335 people gathered for a gala formal banquet and awards ceremony to celebrate the burgeoning gay and lesbian book industry and to honor talented gay and lesbian writers at the Second Annual Lambda Literary Awards.

The desert playland of Las Vegas, everyone conceded, is an unusual place to conduct a literary awards ceremony. But the "Lammies" banquet and awards ceremony is held each year at the kickoff of the American Booksellers' Association (ABA) Convention, and this year the giant ABA gathering took place in the sprawling, cavernous Las Vegas Convention Center, with over 23,000 registered conventioners.

The Washington DC-based *Lambda Book Report* organizes and sponsors the annual literary awards. This year the Lammies were expanded to seventeen categories, reflecting the continued growth and sophistication of the gay and lesbian literary marketplace. "Our community is hungry for knowledge, thirsty for entertainment," said Deacon Maccubbin, owner of Lambda Rising Bookstore and publisher of the *Lambda Book Report*, who opened the awards ceremony. "In this era of challenges from increased censorship threats, rising illiteracy, and the impact of television on leisure time activity, books—and most especially lesbian and gay books—are more important than ever in tearing down the walls that separate us from society, and in some cases even from ourselves and one another."

Lesbian comic Kate Clinton served as emcee, peppering the evening's presentations with lively quips. She said she had discovered the *Lesbian Reader* on a bookstore shelf when she was first coming out. "I looked at that book and I turned away, afraid someone had seen me see it. My ears got red, my heart started pounding, and I had to go to the Self Help section to calm down." Clinton suggested bookstores sell a "lesbian start up kit" with works of Mary Daly, Rita Mae Brown, and Adrienne Rich "wrapped up together with a little tube of KY jelly." Clinton said she herself is writing a book on co-dependency, called *Hey I Was Just Trying to be Nice*, and a new book on non-monogamy called *Significant Others*. Ronald Reagan, she said, is also writing a book, "with really big crayons."

Lesbians in general scored big at this year's awards. All the publishing and editing special awards not specified by gender went to women.

The Editor's Choice Award went to Rebecca Mark, a professor at Tulane University, who edited Gertrude Stein's erotic lesbian classic *Lifting Belly*, and to Barbara Grier and Donna McBride of Naiad Press for publishing it. Naiad, long

a rescuer of lost lesbian classics, has brought out four lesbian classic works in the past year alone.

Lesbian writer Jewelle Gomez stood in for poet Audre Lorde, winner of the Publishing Triangle's Bill Whitehead Award. Gomez delivered the lecture Lorde had written for the occasion, as Lorde was in West Germany receiving treatments for cancer—a struggle she has eloquently described in her book *The Cancer Journals*.

Attendance at this year's awards was ten percent higher than last year. Over half the winners, however, were not present to receive their awards, and many of them had not designated someone to accept for them. This created several awkward moments in the proceedings. On the other hand, there was mystery writer Mark Richard Zubro, who, though unable to attend, sent his entire family—mother, father, brothers and sisters—to represent him. They all let out a whoop when Zubro's name was announced as winner of the gay mystery category for his novel *A Simple Suburban Murder*. In a moving moment, Zubro's parents came to the podium to accept the award, saying how proud they were of their son.

Next year, with the awards held in the publishing mecca of New York City, the problem of no-show winners is not expected to recur.

Other winners included David B. Feinberg in Gay Men's Fiction for *Eighty-Sixed*; Nisa Donnelly in Lesbian Fiction for *The Bar Stories*; Neil Miller in Gay Men's Nonfiction for *In Search of Gay America*; Judy Grahn in Lesbian Nonfiction for *Really Reading Gertrude Stein*; Robert Triptow in the Gay and Lesbian Humor category for *Gay Comics*; John Weir in Gay Men's Debut for *The Irreversible Decline of Eddie Socket*; Patricia Schwartz in Lesbian Debut for *Names of the Moons of Mars*; Mary Kate Jordan for *Losing Uncle Tim*, and Katherine V. Forrest for *The Beverly Malibu*. Larry Kramer won in the special AIDS category for his book of essays, *Reports from the Holocaust*.

"There may be a tendency tonight to divide people into winners and losers, but that would be a great mistake," Maccubbin said. "There are no losers. All the books and authors nominated for Lammies tonight, and many others besides, have already won the hearts of their readers and the respect of the industry. And our community has won, too, by having the benefit of a vibrant and exciting gay and lesbian book selling and publishing industry."

■■■
"All the books
and writers
nominated for
Lammies have won
the hearts of their
readers and the
respect of
the industry..."

—Deacon Maccubbin

Better Than Bowling: POST-MAY ENTERTAINMENT IN THE VALLEY OF THE SUN

THEATER...

Theater Works will present the second production of its Neil Simon Festival, *They're Playing Our Song*, July 6-22. America's premier funny man and Marvin Hamlisch, the Tony Award winning composer of *A Chorus Line*, have collaborated on this hit musical, a funny, romantic show about a composer and his relationship with an aspiring young female lyricist, not unlike Carol Bayer Sager...Professionally, their relationship works beautifully...but this ultimately leads to conflict on the home front.

Performances are Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings at 8pm and Sunday at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$7.50 and \$8.50. Theater Works is located at 6615 W. Thunderbird. Box office: 486-8636

Cats is coming to town, via Arizona State University's Public Events division. No dates have been announced yet, so call Jim O'Connell, executive director of ASU's public events, at 965-5062.

Scottsdale Conservatory Theatre will present the comedy *Lu Ann Hampton Oberlander* in the Herberger Theater's Center Stage, June 22-30. A component of Preston Jones' *A Texas Trilogy*, *Lu Ann* is a warm and funny look at twenty years in the life of a woman struggling to keep her wits and sense of humor while being stifled in a small Texas town.

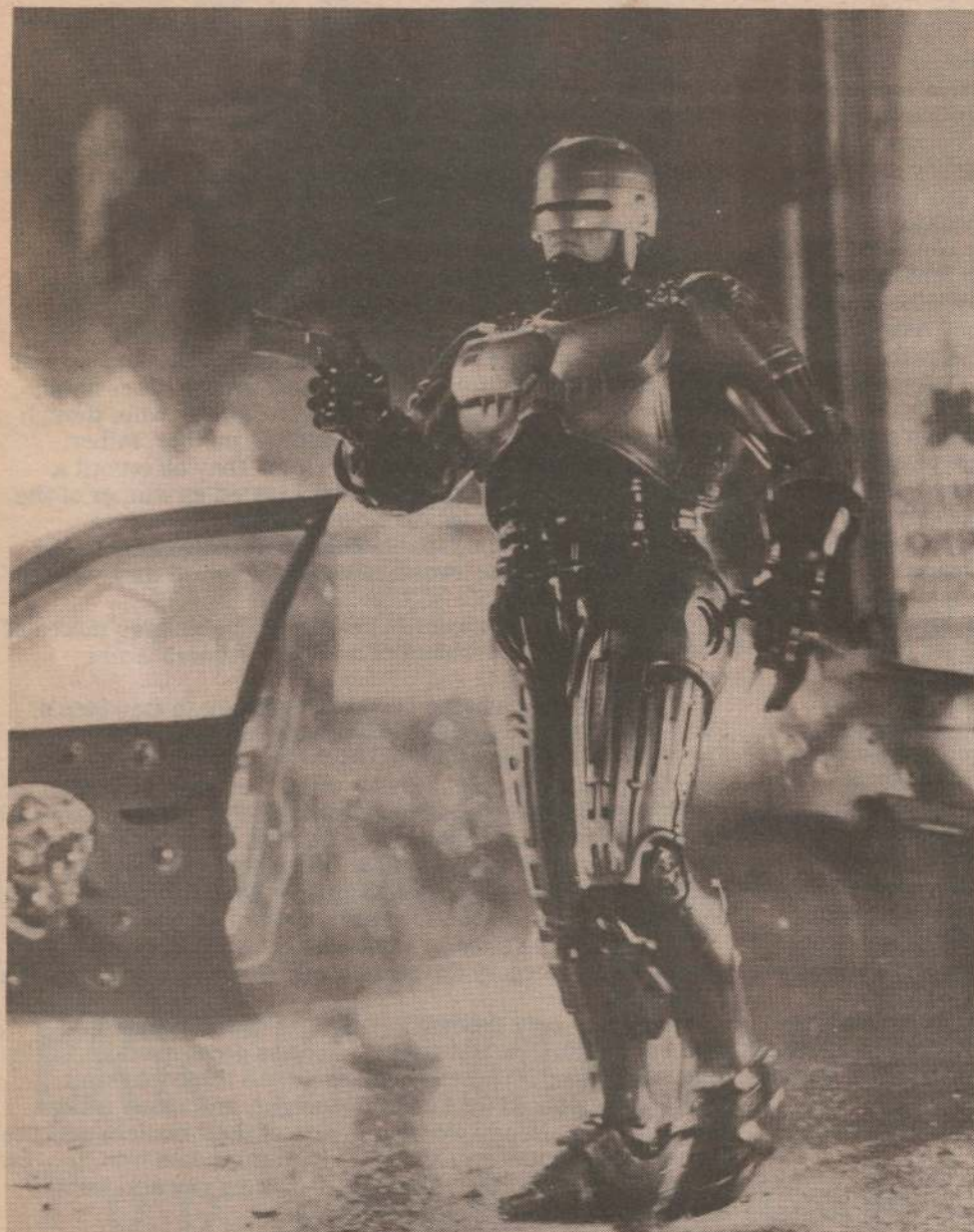
The cast of *Lu Ann* includes Tracy Lynne Hill in the title role, which takes her from a seventeen-year-old high school cheerleader to a widowed single mother of thirty-seven.

Tickets are \$10 and are available through the Herberger Theater Center box office, located within the Center at 222 E. Monroe in downtown Phoenix. Performances are Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 6pm and 9pm, and Sunday at 2pm.

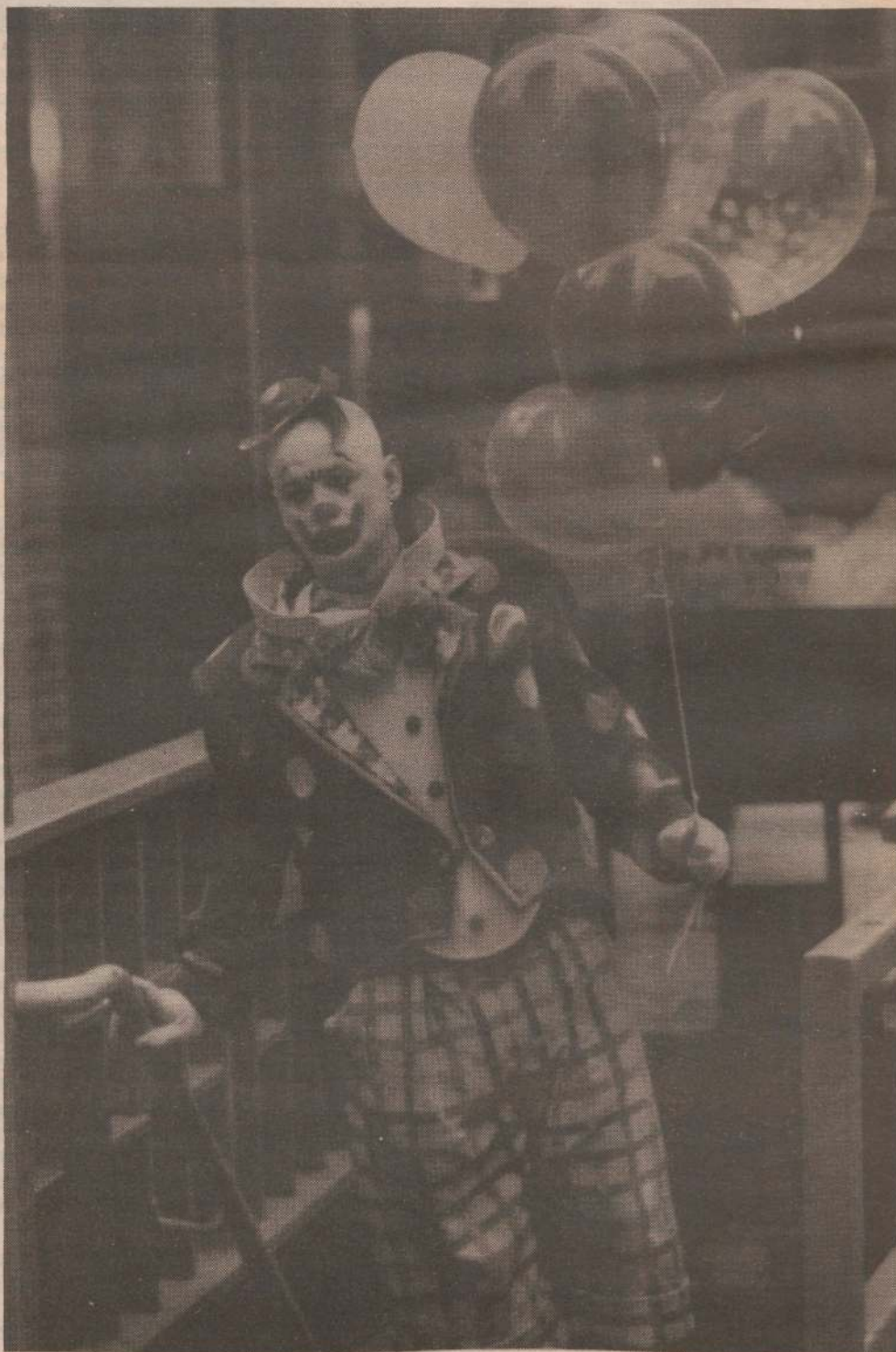


Dick Tracy: This latest in a series of neo-Disney comic strips grossed \$35 million in its first weekend run. Let's consider this proof positive, then, that Americans will attend any cinematic event with its own breakfast cereal tie-in. *Thelma Todd* is not anywhere to be found in this little masterpiece, as she died more than fifty years ago. Ditto Miriam Hopkins, Connie Gilchrist, and Vera-Ellen.

MOVIES...



RoboCop 2: Apparently, one installment of this drek wasn't enough. A man in a robot suit kills people (bad guys, presumably) and instigates automobile accidents. According to the press book, "Only RoboCop has the steel-sheathed guts to enter the 'restricted zones' where the panacea is processed and drugged-out wretches roam the streets." Oh.



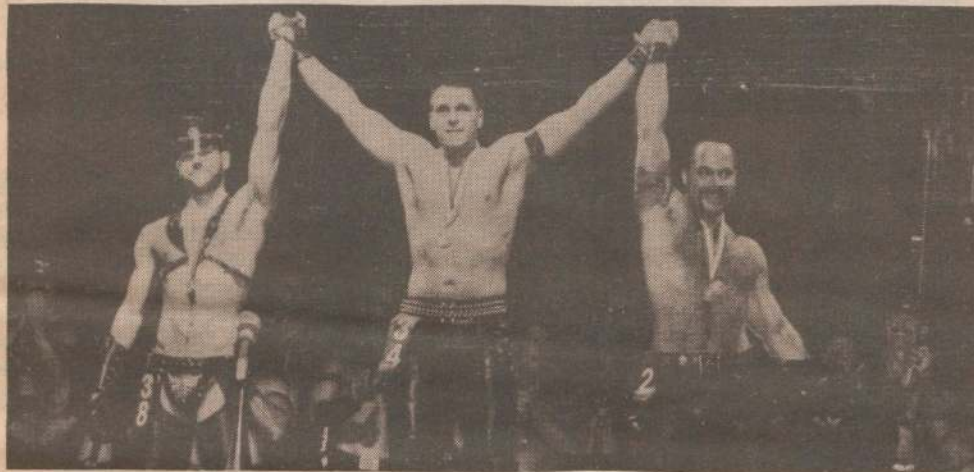
Quick Change: Geena Davis is surprisingly effective in this ordinary little comedy starring ordinary little Bill Murray as a would-be bank robber. A perfect film to see on video cassette.



Total Recall: All movies starring Arnold Schwarzenegger are terrible movies. It's a fact, like how it always rains after you wash your car. This one is particularly lousy, although it is based on a wonderful bit of fiction called "We Can Remember It For You Wholesale" by Phillip K. Dick. The special effects are truly outstanding, and the robotoid creations are great visual fun. Pretty sad, though, when a hunk of plastic out-acts the actors.

National Diversion

Mr. International Leather Chosen



CHICAGO IL—Mark Ryan, a leatherman sponsored by Riders M.C. of Boston, Massachusetts, has been named the Twelfth International Mr. Leather from a record field of forty-eight candidates. Representatives from leather communities in locations as far away as Rome, Berlin, Seattle, Phoenix and New Orleans competed in the recent competition.

The well-spoken, serious young man is the first IML winner from New England. Along with the title, Ryan won a prize package valued at over \$8,000, including air travel and accommodations for numerous leather lifestyle events during the coming year.

This year's competition, according to judge Marcus Hernandez, was "among the most difficult ever. Six or seven of the contestants could easily have taken the title, as more and more have developed stage presence and public speaking abilities."

The contest itself, held for the third year at the Vic Theatre on Sheffield, played to a crowd of over 1500. Smoke, mirrors, and forty-eight jockstrap-clad men set the stage in an opening spectacle showcasing the talents of disco queen Linda Clifford. Other entertainment included country-western singer Jeff Miller, the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, and emcees the Wise Guys.

Over \$6200 was raised for the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic and its programs to assist people living with AIDS during the contest and the Black and Blue Ball.

GAMMAGE SEASON PUTS ASU ON THE MAP

Everyone who is anyone, it seems, will be at Arizona State University's Gammage Auditorium during the 1990-91 season.

From Pat Boone and the Boston Symphony Orchestra to the Royal New Zealand Ballet and the Broadway blockbuster "Starlight Express," a host of the world's best entertainers and attractions will occupy the Gammage stage.

Cindy Millikin, director of programming and development for ASU Public Events, who books the season, said the season itself has already won rave reviews.

Millikin said the 1990-91 season is "dynamic, miraculous and extraordinary, especially in regard to musical theater.

"For us to have a Great Orchestras of the World series of this caliber and the musical theater that we have and still encompass other events is extraordinary."

The eye- and ear-popping season ranges from performances by the USSR State

Symphony and Academy of St. Martin in the Fields to the Imperial Bells of China and comedian Bob Newhart.

Gammage's Valley Broadway Series, presented by ASU Public Events and PACE Theatrical Group, includes *Starlight Express*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Jerome Robbins' *Broadway*, and *Les Miserables*, as well as return visits by *Cats* and *The Magic of David Copperfield*.

The season will also include a Great Orchestras series, featuring the USSR State Symphony, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Tchaikovsky Chamber Orchestra, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The season continues with "Great Encounters," a celebrity series with Bob Newhart, Diahann Carroll and Vic Damone, Pat Boone and Florence Henderson, Ann Blythe and Bill Hayes, and Peter Nero.

The season's "Footlights" section includes performances of the Tony Award winning *Cats*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *The Hobbit*, and *Sarafina*, a tribute to Nelson Mandela.

In addition to the events that are part of the Public Events-sponsored season, Gammage Auditorium will host several concerts by the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra and Musical Theatre of Arizona's season, which includes *Damn Yankees*, *Oliver!* and *South Pacific*.

Season tickets for the Valley Broadway Series already are on sale, and single tickets will be available for most other events four to six weeks before each show.

For more information about the season call 965-5062 or 965-3434.

art,

Robert Mapplethorpe

Sunday, June 24 10 pm

His photography has been called shocking, brutal, stark, dark and cold — and delicate, sensitive, intimate and loving.

He rocked the art world and influenced Madison Avenue with fierce flowers, piercing portraits — and revealing insights into New York City's gay community during the 70s and early 80s.

How did Robert Mapplethorpe view his subjects? Interviews with the late artist are interwoven with his photographs and the recollections of his subjects and friends.

drama

Andre's Mother

Wednesday, June 27 8:30 pm

Terrence McNally's play centers on the mother and lover of a young man who died from AIDS and how they cope — separately and together — with the tragedy of losing the person they love most.

Sada Thompson, Richard Thomas, Sylvia Sidney and Haviland Morris star. An American Playhouse production.

& film

My Beautiful Laundrette

Friday, June 29 10:30 pm

A British comedy-drama about two childhood friends — an Anglo-Pakistani and a white punk — whose reunion results in a decision to open a unique laundromat. This critically-acclaimed film stars Saeed Jaffrey, Roshan Seth, and Daniel Day-Lewis. (1985) (1 hr. and 40 mins.)



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GAY VIOLENCE

cont. from page 7

Teichner Associates for the *San Francisco Examiner*, seven percent of the 400 lesbians and gay men surveyed nationwide reported having been physically assaulted during the past year.

AIDS-Related and Hate Group Attacks

Fifteen percent of the incidents were classified by local groups as "AIDS related," indicating that AIDS and its stigmatization continue to be a focus and justification for anti-gay prejudice and violence.

Acts of terrorism against lesbians and gay men by organized hate groups were persistent last year. Harassment and violence by such groups—most of which involved neo-Nazi skinheads—were reported in nineteen US communities.

Examples of Anti-Gay Hate Crimes

A wide variety of anti-gay incidents were reported to NGLTF in 1989 from urban and rural areas, including:

- On August 27 in Lincoln, Nebraska, five youths making anti-gay remarks shot and killed a man they perceived to be gay;
- In February in Atlanta, a gang of skinheads harassed two lesbians outside their home and smashed the windows of their car;
- On November 15 in Springfield, Missouri, amid a controversy over the showing of a play about AIDS, the home of a local gay activist was destroyed by arson;
- On April 18 in Portland, Oregon, several skinheads dismembered a dog and placed its head on a gay man's front porch;
- In Greensboro, North Carolina, a high school student was beaten by his parents, who broke his arm and threw him out after discovering gay literature and informational flyers in his bedroom;
- On June 26 in Staten Island, N.Y., a band of youths shouting, "Are you a fag?" assaulted a man they perceived to be gay on the seaside boardwalk. The victim received 25 stitches to his head after being beaten with a baseball bat;
- On May 5 at the University of Akron in Ohio, several male students smashed eggs in the face of a lesbian activist.

Defamation

Expression of anti-gay bigotry by public figures were also "disturbingly commonplace" last year, said Berrill, although the report's statistics do not include acts of defamation. The statements, however, are highlighted because "they devalue and dehumanize gay people and create a powder keg atmosphere of intolerance and rejection that could explode into violence."

"It should not be a surprise that anti-gay attacks are widespread when public figures such as William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, pledged in a speech to get so tough that he would make 'Attila the Hun look like a faggot,'" Berrill says, "or when rock group Guns 'n' Roses sings, 'Immigrants and faggots/They make no sense to me.'"

Hate Crime Laws on the State and Local Level

The NGLTF report indicated that only nine states, the District of Columbia and seven cities have hate crime laws that include sexual orientation. Hate crime laws in thirteen states *exclude* anti-gay crimes. As of May 1990, legislation that addresses anti-gay violence is under consideration in Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington.

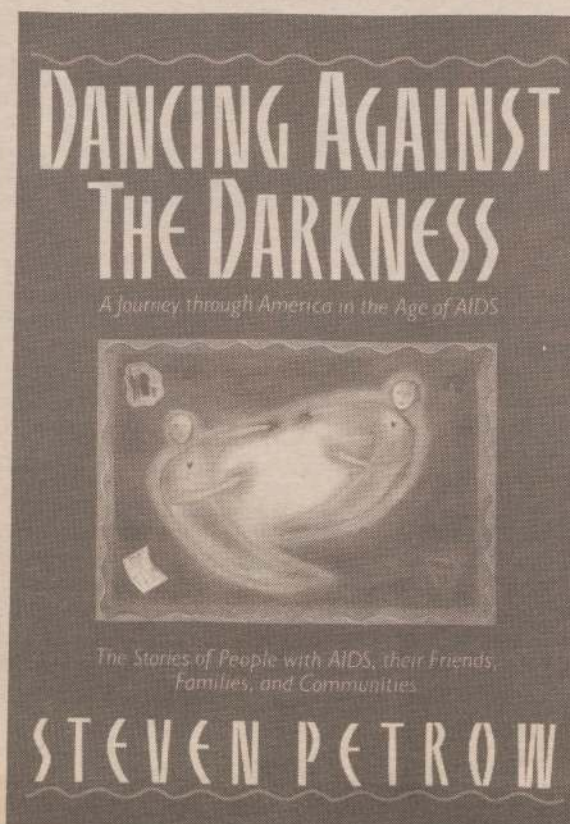
"Shamefully, homophobic bigotry blocked hate crime legislation in Georgia, Illinois, New York and New Jersey," Berrill says. "In recent years, sexual orientation provisions also were deleted from bills in Michigan, Texas and Washington. This reinforces the already widespread perception that the victimization of lesbians and gay men is acceptable."

Fighting Back Against Hate Crimes

Berrill said the report indicates that anti-gay violence remains a "pervasive but largely hidden problem. It also means that government, law enforcement and all people of conscience must do more to expose and eradicate hate-motivated crime." He also called for several immediate actions to help stem the tide of "gay bashings:"

- All state and local officials, including governors, attorney generals, legislators, mayors and law enforcement officials must take a stand against hate crimes and enact laws to address the problem;
- State and local laws must include crimes based on sexual orientation;
- Victims of hate crimes are urged to report them to community-based organizations, local law enforcement authorities and to the Department of Justice's national toll-free hate crime hotline, 1-800-347-HATE.

"Anti-gay and lesbian attacks are occurring in a context of widespread bias violence," Berrill said. "An African-American man in Bensonhurst was murdered. The *San Diego Jewish Times* was fire-bombed. An Asian-American man in Raleigh, North Carolina, was beaten to death. Fourteen women were killed in a shooting frenzy in Montreal, Canada. A federal judge and an African-American civil rights lawyer were blown up by racist bombings in Birmingham and Savannah. The time has come for gays and lesbians and all others victimized by hate to fight back for a safer, saner, freer society."



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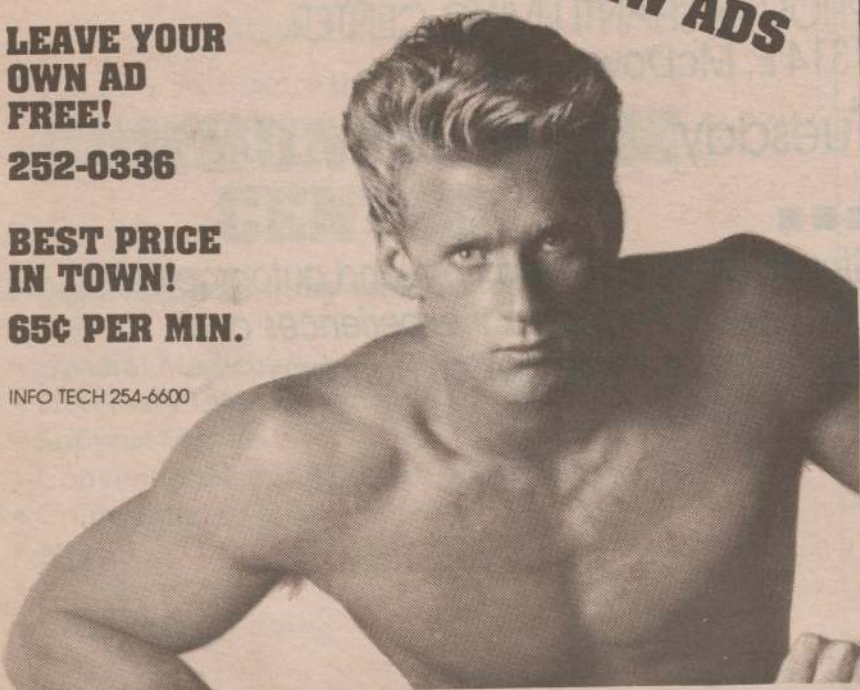
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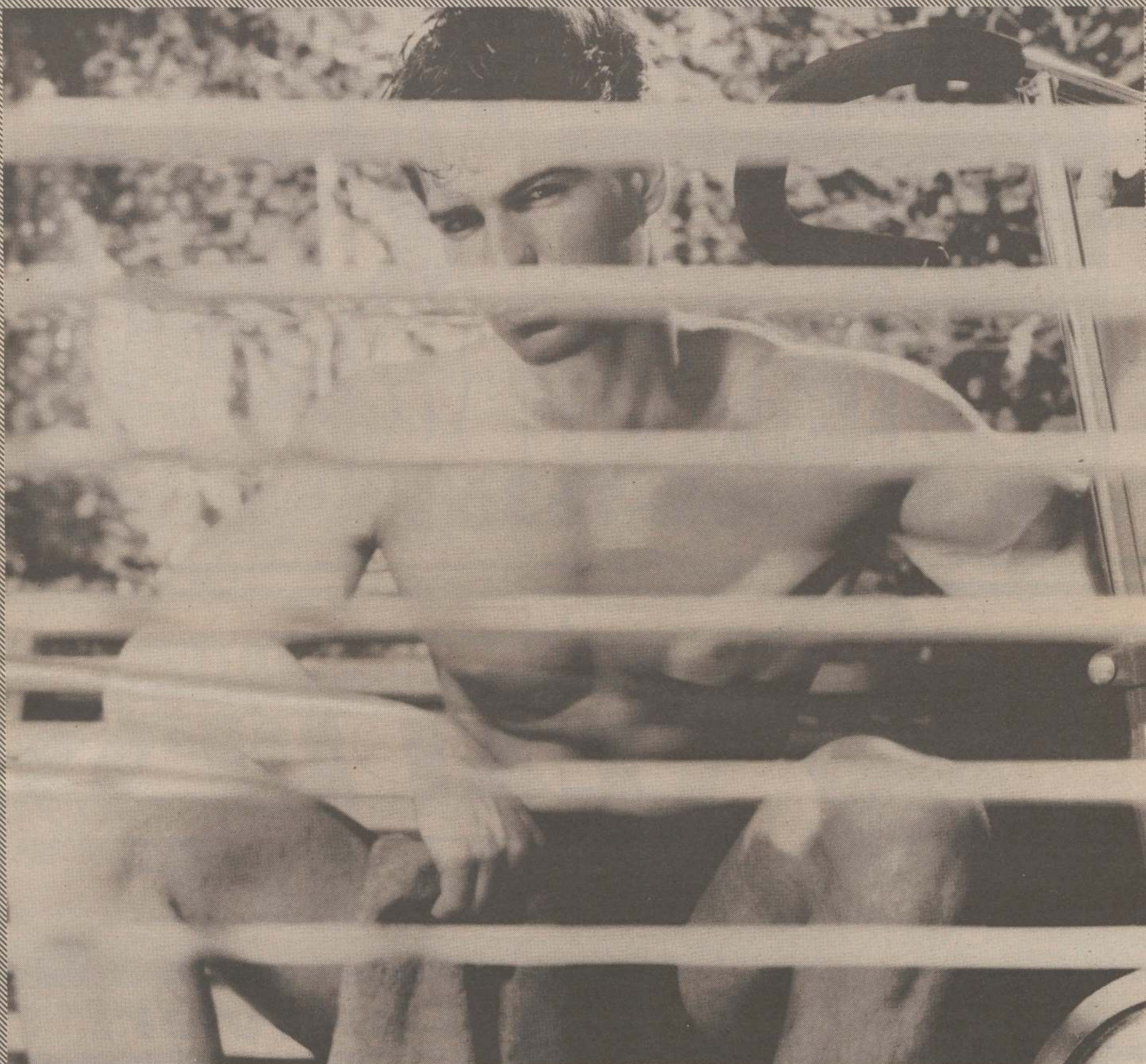
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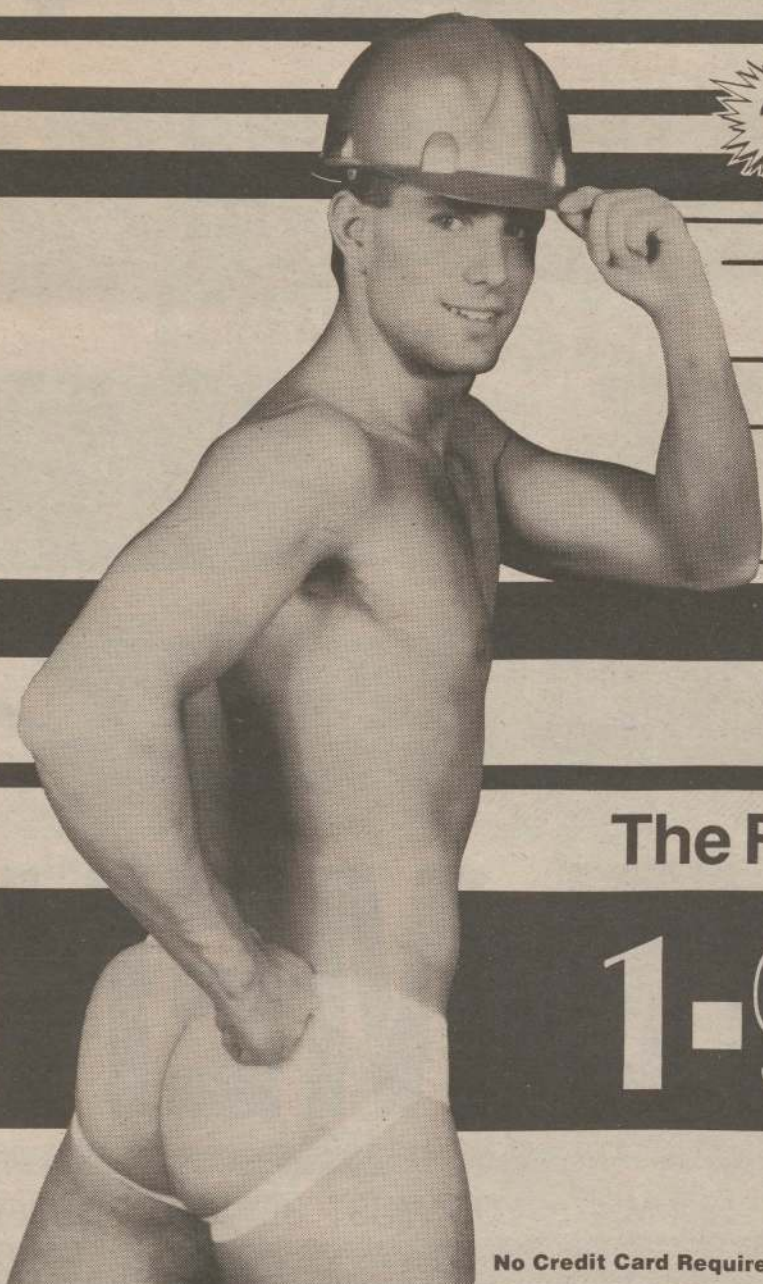
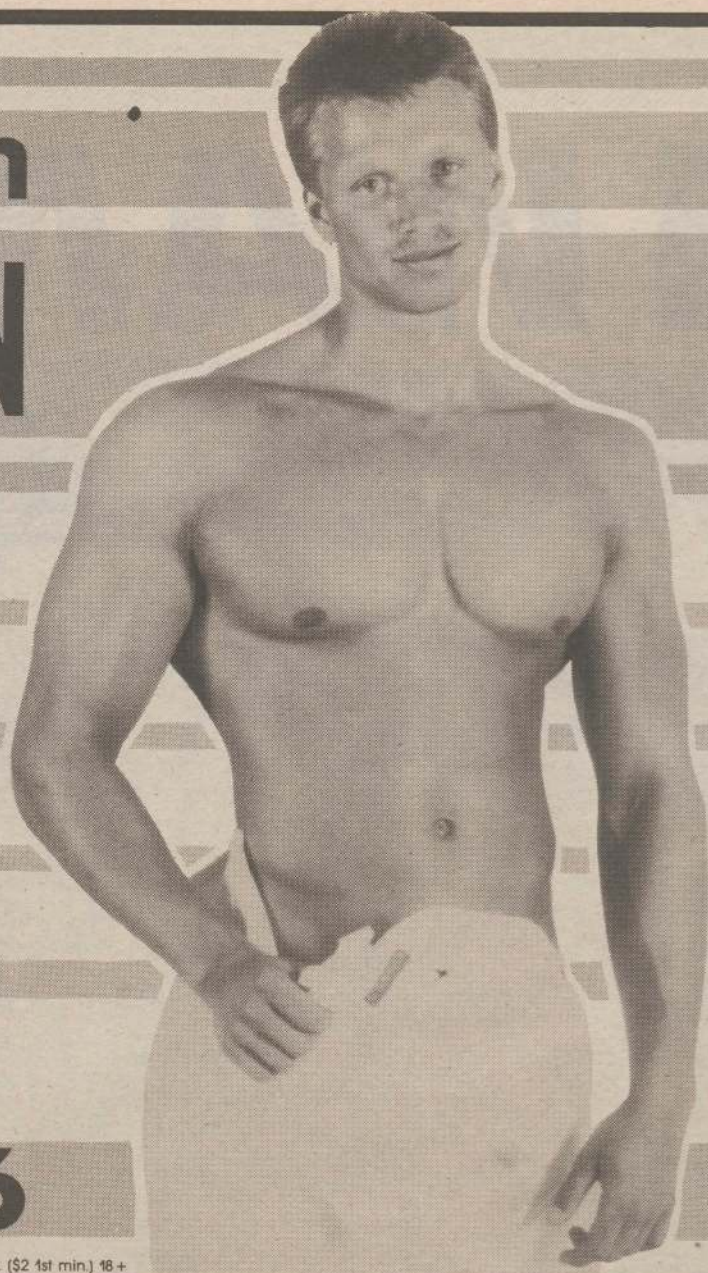
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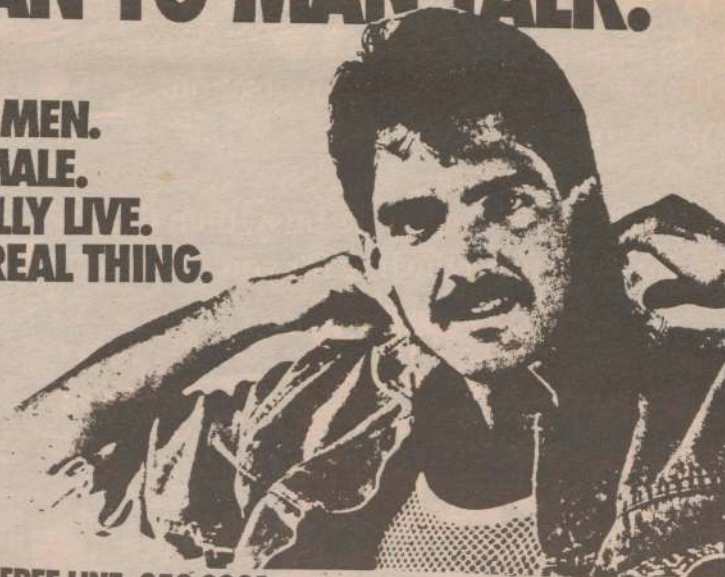
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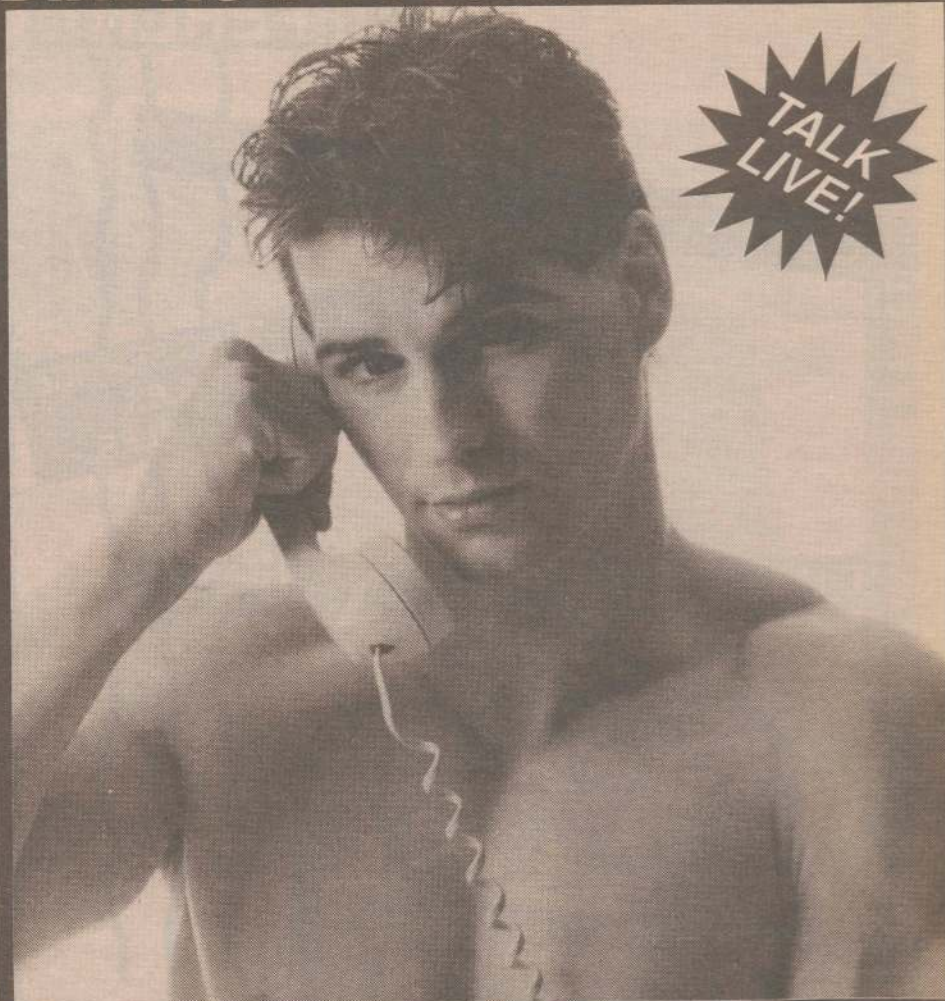
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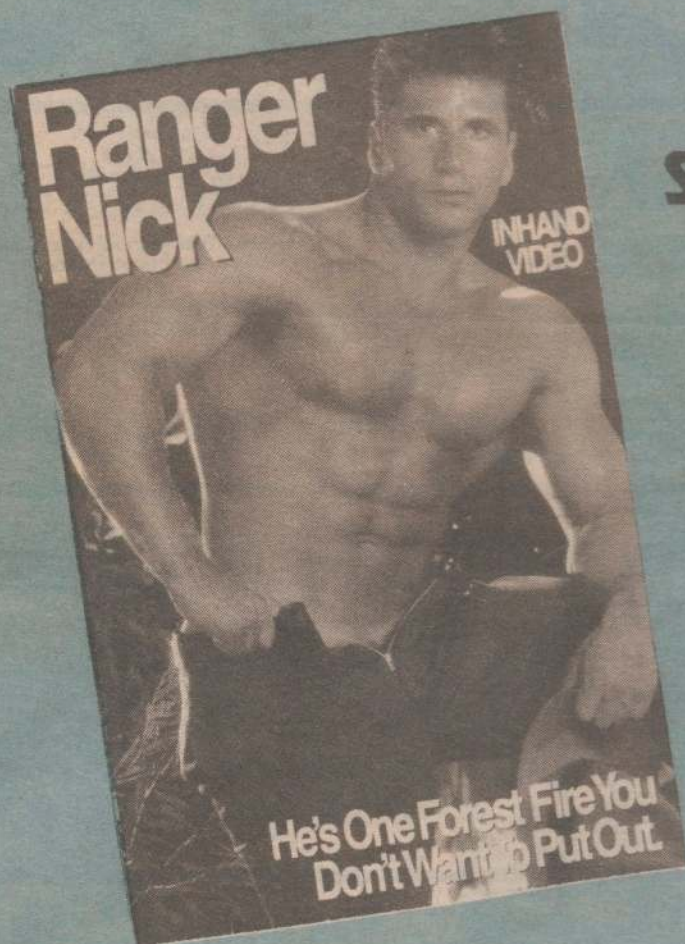
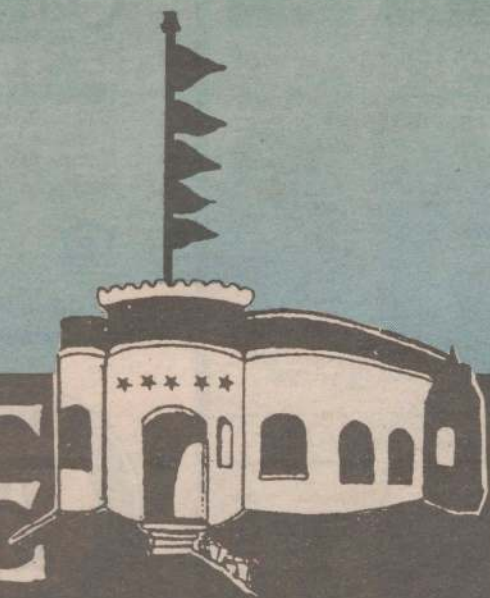


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