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Phoenix, Arizona

July 15—29, 1999

By Bobbi Dugan, HeatStroke Contributor t first glance, Artie food boxes for people liv-Michaelis appears to be a ing with AIDS. It is a small frail man. White haired. agency without the

One legged. He is so soft spoken, people often ask him to speak up. The 68year old gets around in a motorized scooter. A stranger might think him a harmless old coot who's ready for the retirement home.

But every day of his life the man works miracles. Every day he gives hope to another person in need.

Despite advancing years and ill health, Michaelis is the Phoenix gay community's version of the Energizer Bunny: He keeps going, and going, and going ...

"Yep, that's Artie," said his former employer, John King, who owns Charlie's, a popular Valley gay bar.

Michaelis planned to spend all of July working on his Fourth Annual Artie Michaelis 65th Birthday Bash. The celebration held for Michaelis' original birthday party, when he actually did turn 65, proved to be a successful fund-raiser. So he decided to repeat

resources many larger ones enjoy. Joshua Tree gets a token share of Ryan White federal funding to prepare food boxes, but primarily the money to run the program comes from Michaelis' fundrais-

"He has made Joshua Tree what it is today," said Bob Sorenson, vice president of Joshua Tree. "We had a budget of \$8,000 when he came here. Now it is \$60,000. Because of all his hard work we have been able to improve [the service to people in need]."

Before Michaelis started his fundraising, Sorenson said, there often wasn't enough food for every client. "It used to be first come, first served. Now everybody gets a choice Everyone has an opportunity to pick

up the same thing," Sorenson said of the food box program. "We have a dairy program now. Fresh dairy is delivered every Tuesday. We can buy canned goods. Personal care items. Now, we

Michaelis recites the figures with pride: "We do approximately 100 congregate meals a week and give out 80 food boxes. I sat down and figured it out. That is the equivalent of 20,000 meals a year. And that's not counting Mesa [the East Side branch of Joshua

During Michaelis' tenure as Joshua Tree president, the agency has come of age. It now has a solid core of volunteers-"Remember, none of us is

paid," Michaelis emphasized—and the funding to insure no person with AIDS goes hungry.

"Anyone can attend the meals," Michaelis said. "Family and friends are welcome. But to get a food box, you must be [AIDS status] validated."

Because of his recent illness, Michaelis has missed several of the weekly meals (served at noon every Tuesday at Asbury United Methodist Church, 1601 W. Indian School Road). Michaelis is worried clients will think his Joshua Tree days are over. "Some of them called because they heard I had died," he said, amused. "But I'm not leaving until they carry me out on a stretcher."

It could happen. Michaelis' health has been failing for some time. A few years ago he went to the hospital with what he thought was another heart attack—"I've had five heart attacks and four strokes,"-and came out minus a leg, which was amputated due to circulation problems.

Losing the leg also cost him his job as all-around guy Friday and bouncer

"He only stopped after he had his bypass and lost his leg," King said. "That was after about four or five years at the door. He's not a quitter."

It's hard to imagine the small,

quiet man working as a bouncer in one of Phoenix's largest and busiest gay bars, but King praised Michaelis' expertise.

"He had the ability to defuse problems before they became physical," King said. "People would look up to him. He had a quiet authority and compassion—and an amazing ability to remember people's names."

Michaelis is a self-described people lover. It has a lot to do with why he has spent his life in service to oth-

ichaelis came of age in the gay environs of New York. He was there during the Stonewall Riots. That experience tore down any closets that might have been left in Michaelis' life. He had a community to call his own after Stonewall, and he immediately went to work to help that community.

Michaelis and his life partner moved to Phoenix in 1980 and he quickly got involved with local gay causes. He volunteered with the Alternative Relations Center, which was the predecessor of The Community Center. He facilitated a gay youth group for the old Center.

See "Michaelis," page 14

the experience for each of his birthdays from then on.

Now it is \$60,000."

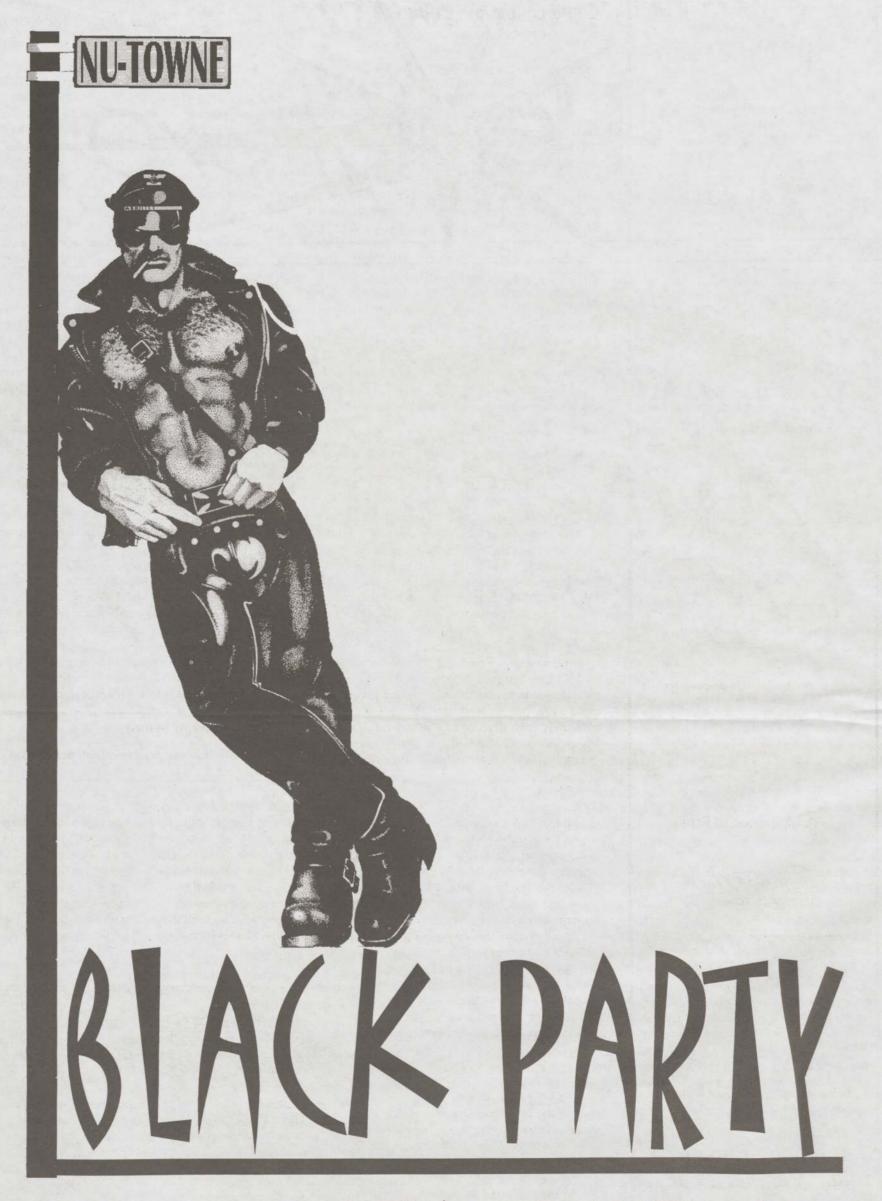
Instead, Michaelis spent part of his birthday month in the hospital, preparing to go on dialysis for the rest of his life.

"But that's not going to keep me from doing what I do," he said firmly.

One of the things Michaelis does is raise money to keep his favorite AIDS organization funded. Joshua Tree is a local, all-volunteer feeding program that provides congregate meals and

"He has made Joshua Tree what it is today. We had a budget of \$8,000 when he came here.

never run out."



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Horowitz:

y grandparents were married for over fiftysix years when my grandmother died after an extensive illness.

Mama and Papa, as we grandchildren called them, loved each other more completely than words can describe. While Mama lay paralyzed and mute for months in a hospital bed in our home, Papa cared for her daily-holding her, bathing her, turning her frail body and gazing lovingly into her eyes. Nearly eighty years old and still working, Papa often traveled more than 100 miles each way to see clients, yet he never spent even one night away from Mama's bedside.

When she died, he died too. His body lasted eight months longer, but his heart was in heaven with her. I was only seven years old, and I am still inspired by their love and their marriage. The plaque that marks their graves reads "Together Forever".

I always dreamed that I would find that kind of love. Coming out didn't stop my dreaming. When I argue in favor of same-gender marriages, I draw on my grand-parents' example. They were married in a religious ceremony, and the State of New York sanctioned their relationship. They raised two daughters and when they died had seven grandchildren.

Their commitment to each other had little to do with religious ceremony and even less to do with the State of New York. Real commitment doesn't come from a piece of paper; it comes from the heart.

But the piece of paper meant something. It meant that no one questioned Papa's right to care for Mama or visit her when she was hospitalized. It meant that he could make funeral arrangements without trouble or interrogation from authorities. It meant that he could settle her small estate without protracted court battles that he would not have survived. That piece of paper gave societal structure and acceptance to a relationship made in heaven.

Several weeks ago, the National Marriage Project and Rutgers University reported that the institution of marriage is in severe trouble. Fewer people get married. More people wait until they are older. Our extremely high divorce rate shows no sign of decline. More people cohabit without getting married, and single parent families are gaining widespread acceptance.

That little piece of paper

The Rutgers report provides evidence that the illconceived Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) signed by President Clinton in 1996 has not worked. DOMA was Congress' response to the potential sanctioning of gay marriages in Hawaii and allows states not to recognize same gender marriages sanctioned elsewhere.

The Vermont Supreme Court has also taken up the same gender marriage issue. Vermont already has a gay-rights bill, an all-inclusive hate crimes statute and laws allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children.

The religious right says the court will go too far if it sanctions gay marriages. Presidential candidates have already begun weighing in with their opinions.

If the issue makes it to the U.S. Supreme Court, a likely vote against gay marriage will come from ultraconservative Justice Clarence Thomas—whose own marriage would have been illegal back when my grandparents got married. California was the first state to permit interracial marriages, but that wasn't until 1949. The U.S. Supreme Court didn't decide that bans on interracial marriages were unconstitutional until 1967.

Those who believe that allowing gays and lesbians the right to marry will devalue heterosexual marriage are dead wrong. My aunt was nearly disowned when she informed Mama that she would marry a non-Jew. Mama hated the idea that her daughter wouldn't be married in a synagogue, and she worried about what people would think.

Mama didn't realize that my aunt was completely in love. Today, my aunt and uncle have been married for more than fifty years. They have raised four children and have eight grandchildren. They still love and care for each other beyond measure. Today, people would hold their marriage out as an example for others to follow. If smaller minds had prevailed, they would never have married at all.

To the extent that a piece of paper makes a difference, we must continue to fight for it. Some day, even the smallest minds will recognize that the best defense of marriage comes from allowing people who love each other deeply to marry.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and gay rights activist.

Editors:

I picked up a copy of HeatStroke when I was out with friends last Saturday and was able to read it Sunday. The Horowitz column (Kudos & Criticisms, issue # 69) was most interesting and it prompted me to write to you.

As a gay man and a Republican, I thought that the Horowitz article was refreshing in that he showed he was not so narrow-minded to understand that there are Republicans who are gay and that the Arizona Human Rights Fund needs Republican support.

I was invited to the dinner but declined, because I felt even though I am gay I probably would not be welcomed by people like [event emcee] Janet Bommersbach, who make no bones about not liking Republicans. I am perplexed at people who think that to be gay and Republican is akin to being a traitor to the cause.

Although there are extreme elements my party, I choose not to jump ship but to fight from the inside for change. Most of my friends are gay conservatives who identify with the Republican ideas of lower taxes, personal responsibility and limited government, and I think it shows no tolerance when we are attacked by members of our own community because we don't identify with the idea that only the Democratic Party represents gay people.

The point to this letter is to let the gay community know that there are thousands who are like me. You don't have to be a Democrat to represent gay issues. That is why organizations such as AHRF will never fully represent all of our community until we understand that diversity is not a one-party issue.

M. Robertson Gilbert



Something eating you?

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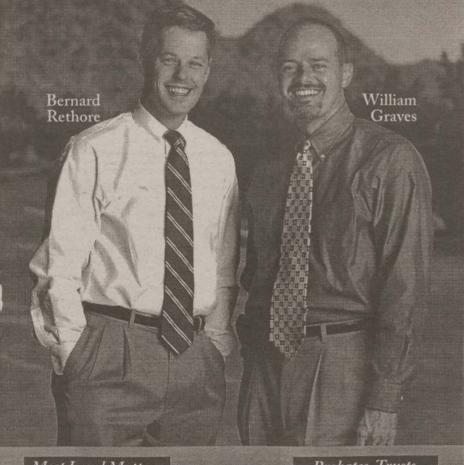
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Police question California hate groups

SACRAMENTO (AP)-

In a move to deter any new hate crimes in the area, Sacramento authorities have questioned dozens of people believed to be members or followers of white supremacy groups, a sheriff's lieutenant said

The weekend sweep by police and Sacramento County sheriff's deputies probing last month's three synagogue arsons was aimed chiefly at followers of a hate group that calls itself the World Church of the Creator.

The point is "to let them know we are aware of their presence and

"I'm not going to deny the fact that we hate because obviously we do. What we prefer to be called is a racial loyalist group."

discourage their engaging in violent behavior," Sacramento sheriff's Lt. John McGinness said. "Shame on us if we haven't done something to try and stem that."

Local members of the group denounced the visits as police harassment.

'They came to my work and pulled the tough-guy routine," one World Church member who identified himself as Chris Evans, 19, told The Sacramento Bee. "They tried to get me fired.

"They said, 'We know you know something. You better tell us or someone is going to go to jail.' They said there's a reward and they would make a deal with the first person who talked."

The Bee reported that fliers from the East Peoria, Ill.-based World Church were among a large amount of hate literature discovered after the arrests of brothers Benjamin Matthew Williams, 31, and James Tyler Williams, 29.

The Williams brothers, both of the Redding area, were arrested on theft charges after they bought ammunition-reloaders with a credit card stolen from a Redding area gay couple found shot to death in their beds.

Police also suspect the brothers in the arson attacks. Anti-Semitic literature bearing the World Church's name and logo was distributed at one of the burned temples two months earlier, authorities said. The brothers face no charges in these attacks, or in the murders of Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder.

"Stories linking us to the synagogue fires are grossly misin-

formed," said a member of the group who identified himself as "Reverend Nick". "They're trying to make a connection where there is no connection. It's pure speculation and it's outright slanderous," he said.

Evans said he refused to cooperate with the FBI-led investigation.

`They came to my door and said, 'Are you a member of the church?" Evans said. "And I said, 'Hell, yes, I'm a member.' They asked for fingerprints, too, but I saw no reason to cooperate with them."

Jews, African Americans, Asians and virtually anyone not just like them are the enemy, these young, self-professed haters explained.

'I'm not going to deny the fact that we hate because obviously we do," Reverend Nick said. "What we prefer to be called is a racial loyalist

While members of the hate group say they disavow violence and prefer to spread their message through books and leaving thousands of racist fliers on people's doorsteps, they called the recent FBI scrutiny no

If I was in law enforcement I'd probably be scrutinizing us too," Reverend Nick said. "I have nothing against the agents. They're doing their jobs. They're just wasting their

Advocate signs on as major supporting sponsor of Millenium March on Washington

Washington, DC—

The Millennium March on Washington for Equality took another significant step forward this week as The Advocate magazine signed on as a Supporting Sponsor of the

"For more than 30 years, The Advocate has been a leading voice for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities and we are honored to welcome them as supporting sponsors of the Millennium March," said Robin Tyler, executive producer of the event. The Advocate reaches 200,000 readers per issue and is read by more gay men and lesbians than any other national magazine.

The \$425,000 unprecedented inkind sponsorship includes full-page, full-color ads in 20 issues of the The Advocate and the printing of 300,000 copies of the 48-page official march

commemorative program.

"We are so pleased that the leading national GLBT news and political magazine has chosen to demonstrate their support for the Millennium March in such a generous way," said Tyler. "This is the largest sponsorship deal in the history of The Advocate, and is a wonderful gift to all of our communities."

The Millennium March on Washington for Equality will take place in Washington, DC on April 30, 2000. Organizers expect hundreds of thousands of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered persons, and our friends, allies, and families, to participate in this fourth GLBT national march. Additional information on the Millennium March is available on the Internet at http://www.mmow.org or by e-mail at MMOW2000.aol.com.

Suspects in gay slayings, fires were devout former honor students

REDDING, Calif. (AP)—
Matt and Tyler Williams were
thought of as bright, personable,
mild-mannered brothers with a passion for horticulture and preaching
their Christian beliefs.

Never arrested before, they were in jail July 12, suspected of killing a gay couple and taking part in the burning of three Sacramento-area synagogues.

Investigators believe that in the fierce heat of the inland California summer, the Williams brothers' quiet lives exploded in violence.

"I'm very surprised unless they've changed a lot. The guy I knew in high school wasn't like this," said Erick Dahl, a former classmate of Tyler Williams, 29.

Charles Bond, who knew Matt Williams, 31, while he was going to college in Idaho, had a similar reaction.

"He was very pleasant, a very nice kid. I never would have guessed it in a million years," he said. "My impression is that he would have been very firm in his own political, religious convictions, but I could never see that leading to violence."

On July 1, Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder were found shot to death in their bed. It happened in Happy Valley, a rural enclave near Redding, an old Gold Rush town 215 miles northeast of San Francisco.

There was no sign of a break-in. On July 7, the Williams brothers were arrested as they picked up equipment to assemble ammunition, police said. The equipment was charged to Matson's credit card, which the brothers had along with his wallet, drivers license and Social Security card.

One of the brothers was wearing a bulletproof vest, and they were armed with two assault rifles, a shotgun, and 9 mm pistols, police said.

The brothers, who have not been

"Matt Williams was very pleasant, a very nice kid. I never would have guessed it in a million years."

charged with murder or with the Sacramento arsons, were being held July 12 on \$150,000 bail on a charge of receiving stolen merchandise, charges police say are connected to the killings. They have pleaded innocent.

Stoking investigators suspicions is what they found in an apartment rented by Matt Williams: a trove of white supremacist writings, guns and a notebook containing the names of people associated with the Sacramento synagogues, which were set on fire last month.

Among the pamphlets were handouts from the World Church of the Creator, an Illinois-based white supremacist group being scrutinized in the Sacramento synagogue fires. Over the Fourth of July weekend, a former group member targeted minorities in a shooting rampage in Indiana and Illinois, killing two and wounding nine before shooting himself to death. However, it was unclear how deeply the devout Williamses were involved in the World Church of the Creator.

Matt and Tyler Williams grew up in the farm town of Gridley, where they were home-schooled for a while, and moved 120 miles north to Redding a few years ago with their parents.

Friends from Gridley remembered the two as personable and wellbehaved, always ready to preach but not belligerent.

Dahl, who often played chess over lunch with Tyler Williams, remembers him as smart but reserved, a boy who won the right to wear a gold cord at graduation because of his sterling honor roll record but one who "didn't have a lot of really close friends."

"I remember he talked a lot about

"I remember he talked a lot about religion but never to the point of trying to impose it on you."

religion but never to the point of trying to impose it on you," Dahl said.

Religion was clearly a family trademark.

David Anderson, a teacher who bought the Williamses' Gridley home three years ago, said the father, Ben Williams, "used to walk up and down the street carrying a staff and preaching to no one."

The day the family moved out of

the house, Anderson said, Matt Williams painted on the garage door a symbol of a triangle with a star, a human eye at the point and a cross on top. Anderson said he's tried several times to paint over it, but it still shows through.

He also remembers the mother, Sally, as "just a real gentle soul," and says the boys were quiet and polite, particularly Matt, who spoke knowledgeably about the property's cherry trees.

The parents would not comment. It was horticulture that brought victims and suspects together.

Matson, 50, was co-founder of a natural science museum and arboretum and helped establish a farmers market. Mowder, 40, who had just earned a degree in anthropology from Chico State University, worked in the gardening department of a Redding

hardware store.

Matt Williams met
Matson at the farmers market, where Williams ran a
sales booth, according to
Ed Smith, who owns a
nursery where Matt
Williams worked for six
months before leaving to

raise and sell plants on his own and with his brother.

Smith said Matson and Williams were "friends as far as I could tell."

"There are thousands of tears, thousands of memories and a hundred thousand million questions," Oscar Matson, Gary's father, told the Redding Record-Searchlight. "Why? Why did this happen?"





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Hundreds prepare to launch gay men's health movement

Several hundred gay men are expected to converge on Boulder, Colorado from July 29-August 1 for the Gay Men's Health Summit to launch a multi-issue, multicultural gay men's health movement. The summit aims to broaden gay men's health efforts beyond its recent narrow focus on HIV prevention to include a wide array of health issues that gay men encounter.

"We are determined to transform health promotion for gay men from HIV prevention, to a broader focus on wellness, community building, and multi-issue health advocacy," said writer Eric Rofes of San Francisco. Rofes is a long-time community organizer and is the summit's coordinator.

"To bring down the level of HIV among gay men, we've got to develop new approaches to substance use, societal homophobia, and sexual health. HIV cannot continue as an allencompassing metaphor for gay men's health. We've got to build a gay men's health movement as powerful as the movement to fight AIDS in the 1980s," Rofes said.

The summit will address a range of challenges to gay men's health and safety, including anti-gay violence, substance abuse, smoking, childhood sexual abuse, and eating disorders, as well as cancer, heart disease, hepatitis

and HIV/AIDS.

While the Boulder County AIDS Project is hosting the summit and offering logistical support, organizers describe the summit as a grassroots effort beholden to no organizations, government officials, or major corporations. "The Boulder Summit is quickly evolving into a huge, independent grassroots effort to spur community-based organizing and activism around gay men's health," said Matt Brown of Boulder, one of the summit's

Two pre-conference meetings are planned. On Thursday, July 29, an allday session coordinated by Philadelphia's David Acosta of Gay and Lesbian Latino/a AIDS Education Initiative will focus on health challenges facing men of color. Presenters will include David Velez of Boston's Latino Health Institute, A. Billy S. Jones, longtime health activist from Washington, D.C., and Martin Ornelas-Quintero of LLEGO.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute will be hosting a special forum titled "Constructing a public policy agenda for gay men's health: What should our priorities be?" on Thursday, July 29 from 2-5 pm. Sean Cahill, Research and Policy Director for the NGLTF Policy Institute, will moderate the forum.

Organizers have announced a range of events, cutting-edge research, and presentations. A series of key sessions will focus on gay men in their teens and 20s and explore this generation's relationship to sexual health and HIV, interactions with older generations, and relationship to gay identity and community.

Sessions on "Empowering Young Fags," "Mobilizing Young Gay Men as Health Activists," and "Gay Youth as Health-Resilient Men," are in preparation, as will an experiential workshop confronting ageism, aging and genera-

A plenary session exploring the

relationship between masculinity and health in various gay male communities and cultures will break open discussion related to power, misogyny, sexual practices, and disease. An evening forum will tackle emerging subcultures of "barebackers," men who eroticize unprotected sex, and debate ways in which health promotion might be employed within the bareback subculture.

Other special programming will include a presentation of Rofes's recently-completed slide show, Gay Men's Sexual Civil Wars and The Protease Moment and a preview of a dramatic work-in-progress, Tony Valenzuela's one-man show, Adventures of the Bareback Poster Boy, chronicling his all-consuming struggle with HIV through his adventures as an activist, porn star, call boy and son.

A range of important research will be discussed at the summit, including initial findings on self-identified barebackers by San Francisco's Michael Scarce, author of Smearing the Queer: Medical Bias in the Health Care of Gay

Carrie Farrell will present a study of 111 Boston area black men which challenges the gay black/black gay dichotomy and proposes a multidimensional model of black gay/bisexual identity. Research and theories radically reframing homophobia will be presented by Bea Green a consultant who works with AIDS service organizations in Wisconsin.

Data also will be presented on gay men's health issues from the Urban Men's Health Study, the first household-based probability sample of men who have sex with men in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco.

Key sessions will be devoted to HIV prevention, treatment, service delivery, and communal response. Yet the summit is organized to encourage such efforts to occur within a broader context of gay men's mental, physical, spiritual, and sexual health and hence will tackle issues such as homophobia and racism, hepatitis, cancer and heart disease, eating disorders, depression and suicide, domestic violence, smoking, sex addiction, sexually-transmitted diseases, and a range of anorectal

Among other sessions planned are "Midlife Gay Male Sexual Replenishment: Viagara and Testosterone," "Promoting Health to Risk-Seeking Gay Men," "Health Challenges Facing Old (Gay) Men," "Is That A Nightstick in Your Pants or Are You Just Glad to See Me?-Health and Safety in Public Sex Spaces," "Not Only an Exit: Historical Attitudes Towards Anal Sex Between Men," "Health Issues Facing Homeless Gay Men," and "The Post-AIDS Generation: Health Promotion Strategies By and For Young Gay Men." One session entitled "What Can Gay Men Learn from the Lesbian Health Movement?" will explore lessons learned from a decade of lesbian health organizing. Tracks of workshops on substance use/abuse, mental health, non-HIV sexually transmitted diseases, activism and advocacy, HIV/AIDS, and rural gay men's health needs have been orga-

A special feature of the Boulder

Summit will be an intensive focus on the health implications of the controversial party circuit, coordinated by Alan Brown, President of the Electric Dreams Foundation, a non-profit organization which promotes safer partying. In addition to a plenary session tackling a range of controversies surrounding circuit culture—gay health organizations' sponsorship of parties, drug use and sexual behavior patterns on the circuit, and body image and hypermasculinity-workshops will focus on the use of the drug GHB/GBL, the value of dance and celebration in gay subcultures, and the relationship between consumerism, commodification and health promotion.

In a session entitled "Muscles, Masculinities, and the Gym Culture," leading mental health professionals will interview a small group of gay bodybuilders in an open focus group setting. Psychologist and researcher Dr. Andrew Mattison of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at the University of California, San Diego, will present initial findings from a study of drug use at circuit parties. Canadian filmmaker José Torrealba will discuss his new documentary on the gay party circuit (Got2BThere), which will screen at the summit.

An explosive trend in gay male sexual culture is the use of internet resources to find sex and community. Noted author and health researcher Dr. Michael Ross, a professor at University of Texas' School of Public Health, along with others will discuss research on cyberspace as a venue for counseling, research, and health promotion.

A range of very diverse programs will be featured at the summit in special sessions focused on developing multi-issue health projects for gay men, including Proyecto P.A.P.I. (Poder, Apoyo, Prevencion e Identidad - Power, Support, Prevention and Identity), a New York City-based program for Latino gay and bisexual men which promotes sex education, sexual health, HIV prevention, and education focused on substance use and sexually-transmitted diseases. This program of Gay Men's Health Crisis has radically redefined the meanings of counseling and volunteerism within gay communities of color, particularly within immigrant populations.

Likewise, the Montana Gay Men's
Task Force's work will also be spotlighted. David Herrera, the group's
director, and others will discuss their
successful, statewide initiative to
increase the health of gay and bisexual
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Beyer or Mortana Gay Men's

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Beyer or Mortana Gay Men's

House in Mortana Gay Men's

Http://ww

men and reduce the spread of HIV. Because of the extremely rural nature of Montana, the Task Force uses advocates throughout the state who implement health promotion activities at the local level. Unlike urban models, which often expect people to come to a metropolitan area for services, the Montana model implements programs in small towns throughout the state.

Seattle's Gay City Health Project whose blend of grassroots organizing, savvy marketing, and "community building as HIV prevention" has attracted an international following; will be featured, as will Michigan's Triangle Foundation, which has successfully worked to hold police responsible for illegal entrapment and other "sting" operations that are aimed to shut down both public and private sex venues; Triangle has also challenged the way media report on so-called "sex crimes."

A range of other prominent health experts have signed on to participate and present at the Boulder Summit. They include: Tom Aloisi of the Vermont Department of Health; Chris Bartlett, director of Philadelphia's SafeGuards Gay Men's Health Project; Mark Behar, PA-C, of the Lesbian, Bisexual & Gay Physician Assistant Caucus of the AAPA; Richard Elovich, Education Director, of New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis; Stephen Goldstone, M.D., author of The Ins and Outs of Gay Sex: A Medical Handbook for Men; Michael Gorman, PhD from University of Washington's Addiction Research Center; A. Billy S. Jones, health advocate and community activist of Washington, DC; Ken Mayer, MD, Medical Research Director of the Fenway Community Healt Center in Boston and Professor of Medicine and Community Health at Brown University; Jeffrey Montgomery, gay civil and sex rights activist from Michigan; Dr. David G. Ostrow of Chicago's Howard Brown Health Center; Dr. Anibal Sosa, Director, Community Health Unit of Boston's Latino Healt Institute; Tomas Soto, PhD, Director of the Behavioral Sciences Department at The CORE Center in Chicago; Steve Wakefield of Chicago who chairs the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition.

Those seeking to register or make housing reservations should download materials from the Boulder County AIDS Project web site at http://www.bcap.org or contact Mark Beyer or Matt Brown at 303-444-6121 or email: summit@bcap.org. The conference site is the Regal Harvest House in Boulder and is wheelchair accessible.

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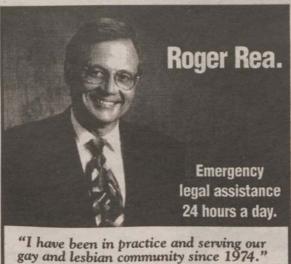
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Utah group protests Mormon church's work against gay marriages

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)-Utah's Gay and Lesbian Political Action Committee has urged the Mormon church to stop pushing for an initiative that would ban same-sex

marriages in California.

"The (Mormon church) should not export the politics of division and hatred to California," GALPAC board member Jared Wood said during a news conference July 9. "No church should pressure its members to devalue the relationships of consenting, committed individuals."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sent out letters several weeks ago to about 740,000 California Mormons. It urged them to contribute time and money to the

anti-gay-marriage measure on the March 2000 ballot.

In response, a San Francisco supervisor called Thursday for an investigation into the church's tax-exempt status.

This is an out-of-state religious organization weighing in on a political issue here, and it should be investigated," Supervisor Mark Leno said.

But the church argued that gay marriage is "a moral issue, not a political issue," church spokesman Dan Rascon said. "It really all comes back to the family and the relationship between a man and woman . . . that is the whole focus of the church, the family unit."

The church urged members to "do

all you can by donating your means and time to assure a successful vote" on a ballot initiative that would deem only heterosexual marriages valid.

The initiative, GALPAC said, "is an unnecessary, divisive and meanspirited attack on gay and lesbian families that will threaten hospital visitation rights and other rights and responsibilities . . . that all people in committed relationships should take for granted."

The group also said that the church's actions "show a disturbing trend in an aggressive political agenda."

Last year, the Mormon church gave \$1.1 million to efforts to ban same-sex marriages in Alaska and

At the July 9 conference, Blair Lewis-who described himself as Mormon, and gay-said he has spent nine years in a committed relationship, trying to live traditional family values of love, freedom and acceptance.

The church has in this and other states helped pass laws to limit my agency, demean my love, and compromise my acceptance in society," Lewis said.

But GALPAC representatives acknowledged they were unlikely to sway the church's position.

We may not change the church, but maybe we can change the minds of some members," Lewis said.

Vatican disciplines priest & nun for refusing to condemn homosexuality

VATICAN CITY (AP)-The Vatican has ordered a

Maryland-based priest and nun to end their 22-year ministry to gays and lesbians because they refused to condemn homosexuality as intrinsically evil.

The Rev. Robert Nugent and Sister Jeannine Gramick are barred for life from ministering to gays and lesbians, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said July 12.

It said Nugent and Gramick "have caused confusion among the Catholic people and have harmed the community of the church."

It called their teachings both "erroneous and dangerous" and ordered them to refrain permanently from "any pastoral work involving homosexual persons."

Pope John Paul II endorsed the congregation's decision in May, it said.

Nugent and Gramick have been under investigation by the church for years. They repeatedly have defied Vatican demands to retract their teachings and to publicly condemn "the intrinsic evil of homosexual acts," the congregation said.

Cardinal James A. Hickey, archbishop of Washington, D.C., said July 12 that the Vatican's decision was not made lightly.

"The Holy See was very careful and very patient in undertaking such a serious action," Hickey said in a statement. "Both were given numerous opportunities over the past 20 years to clarify their beliefs and to assent to the Church's full teaching

on homosexuality."

Hickey said he first met with Gramick and Nugent to share his concerns in 1981, four years after they founded the New Ways Ministry, a program that supports reconciliation for homosexuals with the Catholic

Hickey ordered them in 1984 to break with their ministry, based in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. They were also told that any pastoral work with homosexuals must include "the church's teaching regarding the intrinsic evil of homosexual acts."

Nugent and Gramick persisted with their message, publishing Building Bridges: Gay and Lesbian Reality and the Catholic Church in 1992 and Voices of Hope: A Collection of

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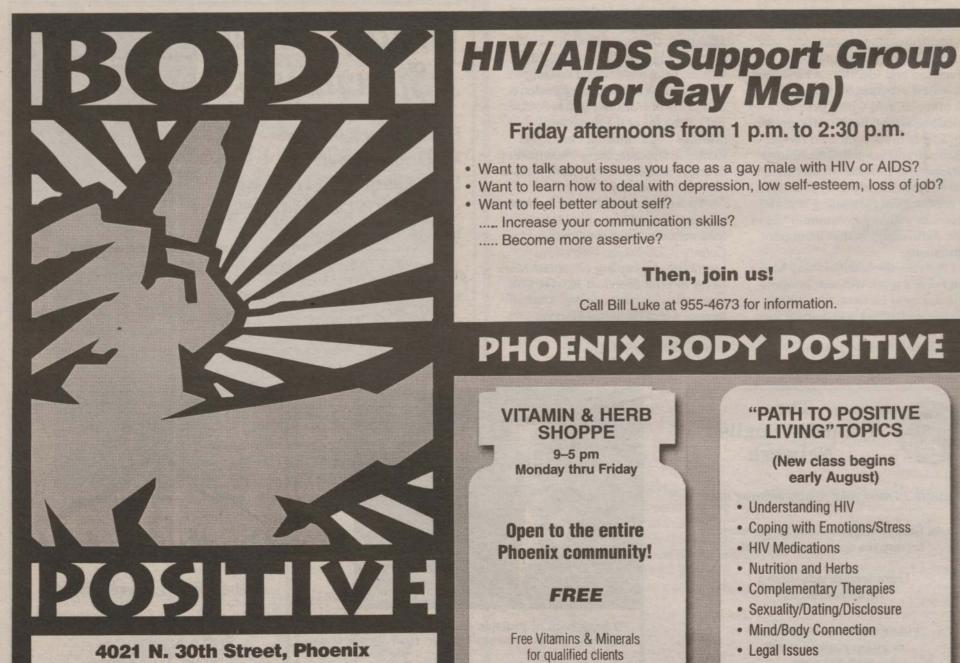
Positive Catholic Writings on Gay and Lesbian Issues" in 1995.

A Vatican commission, convened in 1988 under the direction of Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, studied the writings.

Their case was turned over to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1995.

In its statement, the congregation said a number of U.S. bishops had complained about Nugent and Gramick.

While the church teaches that homosexual acts are evil, it also says that homosexuals should be treated with "respect, compassion and sensitivity."



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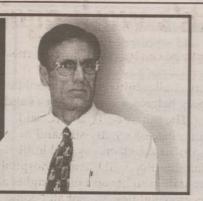
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Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



PLAYING GOD

Almost three times as many people die of preventable, curable diseases as die of AIDS—most of them in tropical countries of the Third World.

Malaria, tuberculosis and lower respiratory infections claimed 6.1 million lives in 1998. People died because the drugs to treat those illnesses are nonexistent or have lost their effectiveness due to resistance developed over many years by the germs that they attack. These people died because it doesn't pay to keep them alive.

Only one percent of all new prescription drugs brought to market by the large international pharmaceutical companies between 1975 and 1997 were designed specifically to treat tropical diseases that plague the Third World.

That translates to 13 out of 1,223 medications. Only four of those thirteen came about from research by the industry that had been built to treat tropical ailments. The other drugs, according to a study by the group Doctors Without Borders, were either newer versions of existing drugs, products of military research, or accidental or serendipitous finds made

during research on animals.

Certainly, the majority of the other 1,210 new medications help relieve suffering and prevent early death, but some of the most popular preparations, the ones that—as the *New York Times* put it—drug companies "...just can't seem to roll out fast enough," have nothing to do with matters of life and death.

The drug industry's policy in distributing its medications is coldblooded, but there's no disputing that one old, fat, bald, rich man who can't get an erection counts for more than the half billion people who are vulnerable to malaria and AIDS but too poor to buy the remedies they so desperately need.

They are what have come to be called "lifestyle" drugs—things that might one day free the world from the scourge of toenail fungus, obesity, baldness, face wrinkles, and impotence. These are things that many

among us in the gay and lesbian community worry about day in and day out. The market for such drugs is worth billions of dollars and is one of the fastest growing businesses in the world.

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Because AIDS also plagues the wealthiest countries, it is the one disease ravaging Third World countries that is the object of substantial drug company research. In many African countries, AIDS has wiped out a half-century of gains made in child sur-

vival rates.

In Botswana —a country that is not presently at war and is fairly stable life expectancy rates fell by twenty years per person over the past five years due to deaths from AIDS. In South Africa, the Health Ministry issued a report stating that

1,500 of its people are infected with HIV every day and predicting that the annual death rate might be as high as 500,000 with the next ten years.

Yet available treatments and

research offer little hope for poor people. A year's supply of the multidrug-cocktail that keeps HIV-infected persons alive costs nearly \$15,000 a year. That's a lot of money anywhere in the world, but out of the question in a country like Uganda, where the per capita annual income is \$330.

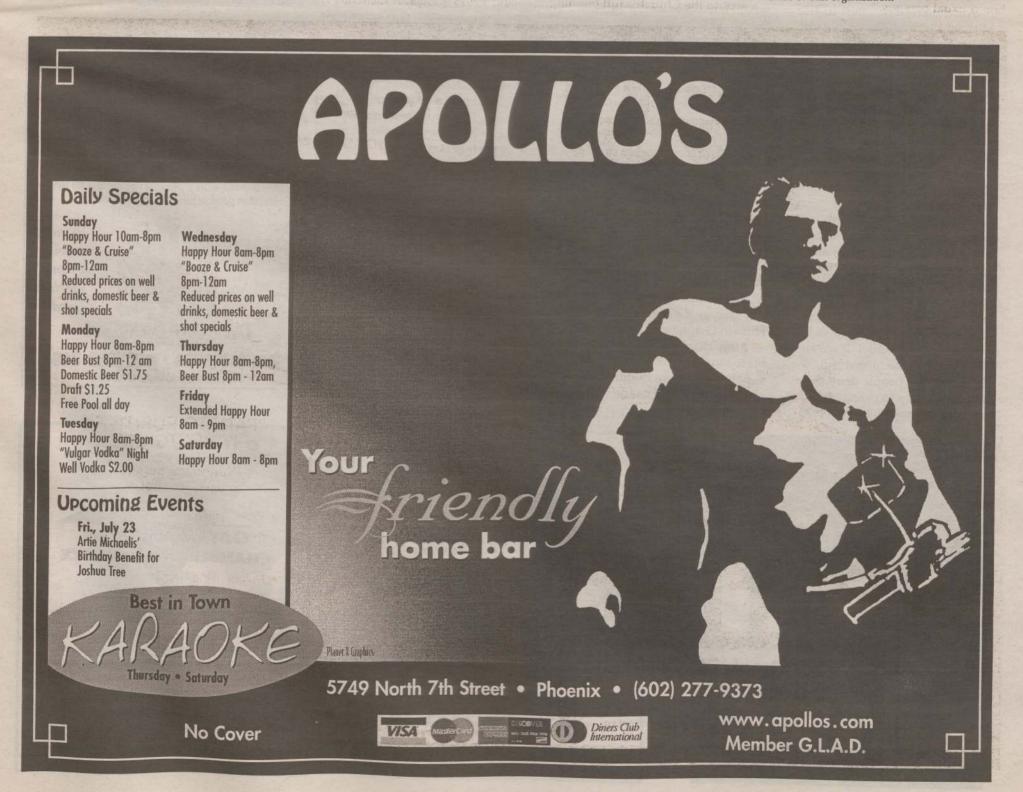
Moreover, different strains of the HIV virus appear in different parts of the world. About 85 percent of people living with HIV live in the Third World, but pharmaceutical research to develop an AIDS vaccine focuses only on a variant of the strain found in developed, wealthy nations. " Without research dedicated to the specific viral strains that are prevalent in developing countries, vaccines for those countries will be slow in coming," says Dr. Amir Attaran, an international expert who directs the Washington, D.C.-based Malaria Project.

But all the blame cannot be laid upon pharmaceutical giants. Many Third World governments spend large amounts of their budgets on military development and little on healthcare. They've also slashed their own foreign aid and domestic research programs.

Nonetheless, drugs can save lives. We've seen it right here in Phoenix. The "big boys" of the pharmaceutical industry and our own government soon must start thinking about saving lives rather than making profits.

There is untold danger in playing God.

Mark Hoffman is HIV positive and works as Health Educator and Treatment Advocate for Phoenix Body Positive. The opinions expressed in this column are his own and do not represent those of that organization.





Admiral Duncan reopens

London's Admiral Duncan gay pub reopened July 2, nine weeks to the minute after it was nailbombed.

Three people died and 86 were injured in the blast, which police blamed on a 23-year-old engineer named David Copeland.

At a brief ceremony, gay singer Boy George said: "Tonight is about so many things. It is about sadness and remembrance, but it is also about moving on. The opening of the Admiral Duncan in just nine weeks sends out a powerful message to the small but very dangerous minority that wishes to terrorize and destroy London's gay and ethnic communities."

The reconstructed pub features a sculpted light with three flickering candles and 86 twinkling bulbs. A plaque reads: "The Admiral Duncan will always remember our friends who were killed or seriously injured on April 30, 1999, at 6:37 pm."

Justice Kirby Speaks

The world's only openly gay justice of a court of final appeal broke his silence July 2 at a London conference on recognition of same-sex partnerships.

Australian High Court Justice Michael Kirby came out in April by listing his male partner of 30 years in the 1999 edition of Who's Who In Australia, but had refused further comment.

Now, in a 30-page speech to Law Lords, senior international judges and other legal scholars, Kirby said, among much else: "The advent of the human genome project and the likelihood that, in many cases at least, sexual orientation is genetically determined, make it totally unacceptable to impose upon those affected unreasonable legal discrimination or demands that they change. It was always unacceptable; but now no informed person has an excuse for blind prejudice and unreasonable conduct. If we are talking about the 'unnatural,' demands that people deny their sexuality or try to change it if it is part of their nature are a good

illustration of what is unnatural."

He also said: "People are not fools. Once they recognize the overwhelming commonalities of shared human experience, the alienation and demand for adherence to shame

crumbles. Once they reflect upon the utter unreasonableness of insisting that homosexuals change their sexual orientation, or suppress and hide their emotionssomething they could not demand of themselves— the irrational insistence and demand for legal sanctions tends to fade away. Once they know friends or family members are gay, the hatred tends to melt. In the wake of the changing social attitudes inevitably come changing laws: statutes made by parliaments as well as the common law made by judges."

Pride held across Europe

Twenty-five thousand people turned out for Switzerland's French-language gay pride July 3 in the city of Fribourg, including Minister of the Economy Pascal Couchepin.

Head of state Ruth Dreifuss sent a message urging activists to push for homosexual integration via thought, debate and fun.

Swiss French pride moves to a different cantonal capital in the French area of the country each year. Another pride celebration is held in predominantly Germanspeaking Zurich.

"Three or four years ago, it would have been unthinkable that the city of Fribourg would host such an event," said correspondent David Haerry. "Fribourg is well-known for having one of the most prestigious Catholic universities in Europe and the influence of the church on local politics is considerable. The organizers asked participants not to dress as nuns or clerics, a request that was respected."

In London, 65,000 people marched, according to the BBC. They set off from Hyde Park, passed Trafalgar Square and Parliament, and ended at Finsbury Park in north London where a music festival featured Boy George, George Michael, Human League and Bjorn Again.

More than 600,000 people celebrated in Cologne, Germany, July 4, police said. Two hundred thousand marched and nearly half-amillion watched.

Health Minister Andrea
Fischer told reporters: "The fact
that I'm in the procession means
that the German government considers it necessary and high time
to improve the rights of homosexuals and lesbians."

Three thousand people marched in Marseille, France, July 3, demanding, "Yes to a partnership law, no to homophobia." A large party followed at the Docks in the port area.

British Judge orders condoms into prisons

British High Court Justice David Latham July 5 ordered the Home Office to distribute condoms in prisons in cases where gay inmates are having sex without protection.

Plaintiff and former prisoner Glen Fielding failed in his attempt to have the court order unrestricted access to rubbers but Latham wrote, "Whenever a prison medical officer is satisfied that a request for condoms is from a genuine homosexual who is intent on indulging in what would otherwise be unsafe sex, he should prescribe condoms."

South Africans demonstrate against Gore

About 300 demonstrators picketed the U.S. Consulate in Johannesburg, South Africa, July 5, in protest against Vice President Al Gore's alleged efforts to limit the nation's access to cheap AIDS drugs.

They carried signs reading, "Gore Greed Kills" and "Stop U.S. Bullying of Poor Countries."

Citing international law, South Africa passed a law in 1997—which Gore and some 40 drug manufacturers have opposed—that lets the nation produce AIDS medicines generically (compulsory licensing) and buy them from countries where they are sold cheaply (parallel importing).

"The American government is simply acting as a mouthpiece for the large pharmaceutical corporations," said Morna Cornell, one of the protesters. "They're scared [that] Americans who pay so much for their medicines will turn around and say, 'Hey, it's cheaper over there.""

Gore has said he does not oppose South Africa's efforts to make or import cheap AIDS drugs but that the country must not violate patent rights or international trade agreements in the process.







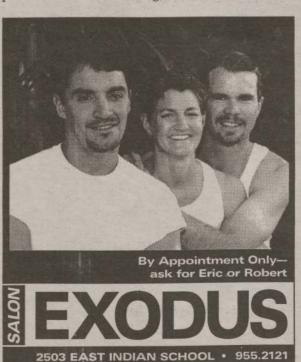
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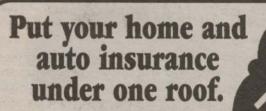
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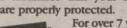
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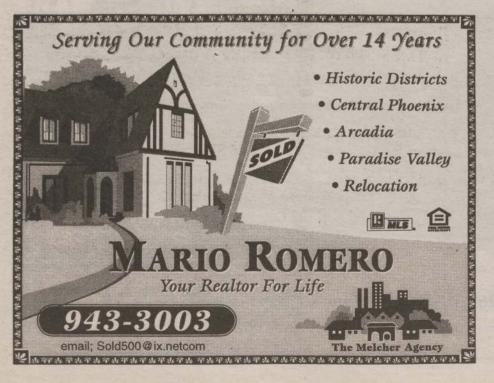
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Goings On

Obelisk sale to benefit Center

Obelisk: The Bookstore's annual "Sale for the Center" gets underway July 16-18 at the retail shop's 24 W. Camelback location in central Phoenix. From 5 pm on Friday through 5 pm Sunday, 20 percent of all sales will go to The Community Center, which is housed next door to Obelisk in the same plaza.

The store stocks a broad selection of gay and lesbian titles, plus magazines, calendars and music. Obelisk also carries gift ware and other items of interest to the queer shopper. This annual event raises money to support the Center's various programs serving the Valley's GLBT community. Call 602/266-BOOK for more information.

New Valley club for women forms

Business women, entrepreneurs, Retired ladies—no matter what age and their mates are invited to meet with the Diamond Ladies, a new social group whose first meeting is set for July 22 at Pookie's Cafe. The meeting will start at 2 pm.

Diamond Ladies will meet every third Tuesday for lunch, talk and fun in different parts of the Valley. The next meeting will be Aug. 19 at Serrano's, 1955 W. Guadalupe (SE corner of Dobson and Guadalupe) in the East Valley, at 1:30 pm.

For information on the Diamond Ladies, call Barb at 480/451-3254.

Phoenix group has prime time fun

Prime Timers of Phoenix is a chapter organization for mature males and their young admirers. Monthly membership meetings/social events are held at the Community Church of Hope, 4400 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix on the second Tuesday of each month

Activities include potluck dinners, dining, opera, theater and movies. Younger members 18 and over are encouraged to participate. For more information call 602/993-8337, or go online at www.primetimers.org/ phoenix.

DA's Christmas in July Party set

Desert Adventures, a Valley social group for gays and lesbians that presents a series of (mostly outdoor) activities year 'round, will host a Christmas in July party on Sunday, July 18 from 1 - 6:30 pm.

The rules are easy. Come up to the pile of gaily wrapped presents when your number is called. Then choose from either the mountain of presents or from someone else's stash. Each gift can be traded only two times. The gift-less member or guest is then free to choose another gift from the pile or from someone else.

The afternoon also offers swimming under a waterfall, abundant socializing and a potluck dinner. Bring an appetizer, snack, salad or dessert, a wrapped gift that will astound the multitude and something to swim in. Desert Adventures will provide the entrée for dinner, along with soda and

The party will be held at a private home in Scottsdale and costs are \$5 for members and \$8 for guests. For directions or information on this party or to learn more about DA meetings and activities, call 602/266-CAMP.

Rainbow Families event July 24

Rainbow Families, a program of The Community Center for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered parents and their children, is putting together a list of social activities for the hot summer months.

On Saturday, July 24, the group will tour the Arizona Museum for Youth in Mesa. The 3 pm outing will be followed by a picnic supper at a nearby park.

Rainbow Families is always looking for new members and new ideas for group social activities for both parents and kids. For information contact Heather at 602/439-922, or call the center at 602/234-2752.

Regional Leather Contest set for Aug. 14

The 1999 Southwest Regional Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy Contest will be held August 14 in Phoenix. This event will select the regional representatives who will compete in the 1999 International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contest to be held Sept. 25 in San Francisco.

The Southwest Regional Mr. Drummer competition will pit the winners from local contests to be held throughout the summer in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

Since 1979, the Mr. Drummer title winners-whether local, regional or national—have served as diplomats representing the leather community, and are called upon to serve in many ways. Mr. Drummer displays the finest values of the leather tradition: discipline, honor, tolerance and the celebration of individuality.

Bob Le Jardine, owner of Tuff Stuff Leatherware and the sponsor of the Southwest Regional event, encourages all leather enthusiasts to pick up a contestant packet at Tuff Stuff, 1714 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix. Call 602/254-9651 for further information.

Comedy Night tickets on sale now

The Community Center will present its Fifth Annual Fall Concert, A Night of Comedy, on Saturday, Aug. 28 at 7 pm at the historic Orpheum Theatre in downtown Phoenix. The benefit show will feature four queer comedians this year, including San Franciscan Scott Silverman.

Silverman grew up in Los Angeles and has performed all over the U.S. and internationally for the last eight years. His comedic talents have landed him in such venues as Evening at the Improv, Out For Laughs, Girls' Night Out, OUT There II and San Francisco's Comedy Connection.

Scott was first spotted by Barbara Bridges, organizer of the OUTrageous Comedy Festival at the Mardi Gras in Sydney. From there, his comedy career took off. He has performed with other

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

out comedians such as Sabrina Matthews, Karen Ripley and Elvira

Comedy fans can check out the appeal of this 30 year-old who's considered one of the sexiest and funniest gay comics around by ordering tickets now. They sell for \$22 in advance or \$40 for reserved seating and a postshow "Meet the Entertainers" reception. Tickets are available through Phoenix Civic Plaza and Dillard's outlets. HeatStroke and Camelwest Tax Service are sponsors of this event, with proceeds to benefit The Community Center. Call 602/265-7283 for information.

Center sponsoring women's dance in Sept.

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

The dance will be the first in a planned series of new events for

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

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

Team AZ planning Sept. golf tourney

Team Arizona has scheduled a Pride golf tournament for Sept. 18 at the San Marcos Resort. The Phoenix based gay and lesbian community's established athletic group is seeking early commitments from interested golfers for the event, which will offer special prizes and will raise funds to help send local athletes to the Gay Games in Sydney. The tournament cost is \$75

Other activities for Team AZ include the possible establishment of a volleyball league and the formation of a Front Runners group in the fall. Call 602/408-4311 to get an entry form for the golf tourney or to learn more about the group's events.

New Chamber of Commerce picks new leaders

The Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce elected new officers last month. The GPGLCC, formerly the Camelback Business and Professional Association, was formed earlier this year after CBPA members voted to change the nearly 20 year-old organization's name and focus.

Bill Gemmill was named the group's new president at the Annual Town Hall and Meeting on June 17. Member Jimmy Gross was elected vice president, Cheak Yea was chosen secretary and Doug Griffore will serve as

For information on joining the GPGLCC, call 225-8444.

Pride Committee seeks more input for annual parade/festival

Arizona Central Pride will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members on Sunday, Aug. 22 in the ballroom of the Quality Hotel and Resort, at 2nd Ave. and Osborn in Phoenix. The meeting will begin at

General reports from all committee directors and officers concerning operations of their specific areas during the past year will be given. Elections for the new board members will follow, with eight positions on the board open to consideration.

Prospective board members and those interested in seeking a board position must meet certain requirements. For information on these requirements or voting procedures, contact ACP Vice President Garry Mangum at 602/279-1771.

Mangum said "ACP has decided this year to work at changing its public image and involve more members from our community in our operations and programs." He added that ACP will be "sharing the spirit of Pride" with the community. "We want and need new blood and fresh ideas and we know that within our community there are individuals who could be vital assets for our continuing growth and success."

The annual meeting, according to Mangum, also "provides the community with a forum to ask questions of the board or make suggestions and become a part of the new year—the new millennium."

People are also needed to volunteer for and help plan the 2000 event. "We saw amazing growth and great holdover of our volunteer base this past year," Mangum added. "But we can still find jobs for anyone interested in all areas of our committee there is something for everyone. And they can choose how involved they want to be."

A longtime committee member and officer, Mangum said he hears all year from people with ideas about how the Pride event should be handled or what should be changed. "But these arm chair quarterbacks never seem to materialize at our annual meetings when they can really speak up and let us know what they want to see at Pride."

He said the best way to make changes is from within the organization, not "sitting on the sidelines shouting ideas. If it is going to change, then people need to be a part of that change. We need the new ideas and fresh approaches to old problems. We want people to be a part of the changing process and work with us to help



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Molly, spinning every Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

Friday:

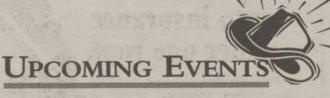
Country Western Music with DJ Molly

Saturday:

Country Western Music with DJ Molly

Sunday:

Our Steak Fry is retired for July & August, but don't miss Country Western Dancing with our DJ Molly spinning from 7-11pm!



Attention Phoenix Mercury Fans:

Mercury tip-off time at Cash Inn means munchies and happy hour prices throughout the game!



Starting Sunday, June 25:

Cash Inn kicks off a weekly in-house Dart Tournament (See your bartender for details)



2140 E. McDowell Rd . Phoenix, AZ 244-9943

Cash Inn is proud to be the home bar for Los Amigos del Sol (A social and service club for gay men & women). Ask your bartender for membership details.

Artie Michaelis celebrates another year of giving to the community

Continued from page 1

He also belonged to most of the gay social groups.

In the mid-'80s, Michaelis was a co-founder of Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA), an organization he has served as both president and business manager.

Later in the decade, at the height of the pandemic, he co-founded Volunteers in Direct Aid (VIDA), another all-volunteer AIDS agency.

While with VIDA, Michaelis start-

ed the One Step Beyond program, which provided a store where people with AIDS could shop at no charge for donated shoes, clothing, household goods, and other necessities.

Michaelis was past president of the Community AIDS Council. He is the founder and current president of the Coalition of Meal Providers. He also has been active with Los Amigos del Sol, Arizona Nude Dudes, Desert Adventures, and any other gay orgaMichaelis, King and the other employees and customers at Charlie's were ready to help. Now, weekly fund-raisers for AIDS agencies and other community organizations are a way of life at Charlie's and most of the other bars. Although Michaelis never would claim credit for all the fundraising done by the bars, he certainly was instrumental in establishing the tradition.

"The entertainment community has been tremendous," in helping with Michaelis' fundraisers, he said. He has a list of people "who never say no," when their talent is needed to raise money. He has a list of bar owners who will open up their establishments to him for his various projects. For that, he is grateful.

Michaelis doesn't look at his years of giving as only hard work and sacrifice, he says. The best thing about his volunteerism is he has "had a lot of fun and made a lot of friends."

His present health crisis has slowed him down, Michaelis admits, but he refuses to let it stop him. "I will not leave Joshua Tree," he said. "But I may not do as much."

Michaelis has a ready answer when asked why he continued to volunteer at Joshua Tree even after his leg was amputated.

Too many of our friends have died," Michaelis said. "They would be happy to have one leg and be around to use it." After so many years of serious health problems, Michaelis relates to people with AIDS. "It is a different disease, but the same result. I don't sympathize with [people with AIDS] I empathize with them.

Sorenson says Michaelis' empathy is what makes him so valuable to

"He's very dedicated to the clientele," Sorenson said. "He'll do anything for them. He'll drive them all over. He becomes, if you will, a caseworker. He has even been known to take them in if they have no place to go. Artie's a different breed. And Bob [Gephart, Michaelis' partner of 50 years] is there to support him. Bob answers the [Joshua Tree] voice mail and does a lot of things to help out."

Michaelis also is famous for his sense of humor. After the amputation, Michaelis stockpiled every corny onelegged-man joke known. He would pull them out, one after another, to ease any discomfort two-legged friends and acquaintances might feel in his presence.

He has the same upbeat attitude when it comes to his most recent health crisis. "My doctor said I had to go to P.V. for R and R. I thought he meant Puerto Vallarta, but he meant Paradise Valley," Michaelis quipped.

Michaelis was told to choose between regular trips to the hospital for dialysis, or doing it himself at home. Michaelis chose home—that way, he can stay on the telephone managing his fund-raisers while a machine cleanses his blood.

Before the month is out, Michaelis will have talked to half the bar performers in Phoenix to convince them to dedicate one night's take to Joshua Tree. He will do the same with local

social groups. The man will call everyone he knows-and according to Sorenson, "He seems to know everyone in town"-to help make the July fund-raiser a success.

"We are a small organization and we can't put on big banquets," Michaelis said. So there will be dozens of small events, each adding a few more dollars to the Joshua Tree

"Too many of our friends have died. They would be happy to have one leg and be around to use it. It is a different disease, but the same result. I don't sympathize with [people with AIDS] I empathize with them."

> Along with the bar events, Michaelis has organized a food drive. People are asked to take non-perishable food items to collection points at Community Church of Hope, 4400 N. Central Ave.; and Asbury United Methodist Church. Also, those who want to help can call Joshua Tree at 602/264-0223 for pickup of donated

Michaelis' most recent physical setback has friends concerned. "He's really in a tough time now," said King, who has great admiration for his former employee. He said

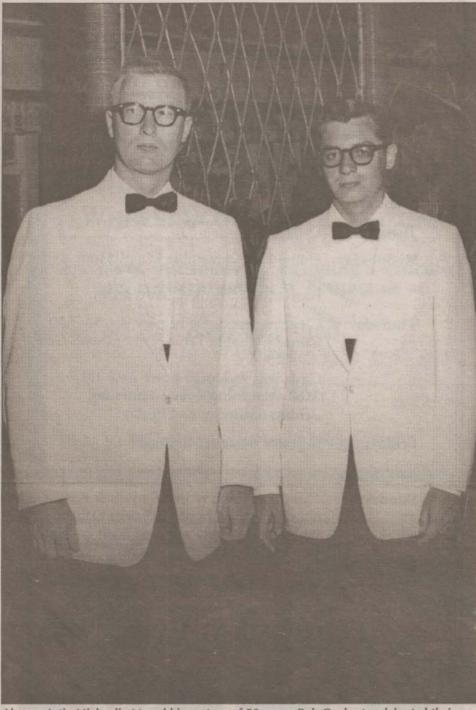


Michaelis "consistently has proven his value" to the organizations for which he has volunteered.

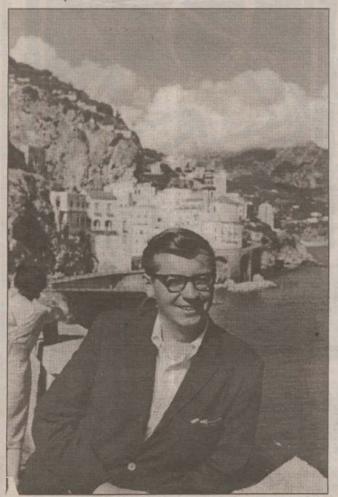
"Artie has been amazingly scandal free," King said, talking about the many agencies for which Michaelis has been an officer or served on the board. King credits this to Michaelis' gift of diplomacy. "He's so understanding. He has his own viewpoints, but he always hears everyone else's. He will just listen and listen."

Sorenson agrees that Michaelis is an invaluable asset for Joshua Tree. Sorenson isn't sure what will happen to the agency if anything happens to Michaelis. However, Sorenson knows that for as long as he can, Michaelis will show up at Joshua Tree every Tuesday to pass out food, good humor and hope to "my boys" as Michaelis calls the clients.

"He just keeps going," Sorenson said. "I don't know how he does it."



Above: Artie Michaelis (r) and his partner of 50 years, Bob Gephart, celebrated their 10-year anniversary on a 1960 cruise. Below: Michaelis hangs out at the Italian Riviera in a 1965 photo.



nization that needs dedicated volunteers.

"I've worked with all of them," Michaelis said. From the huge AIDS Walk Arizona where Michaelis volunteers every year, down to the smallest new and struggling social group, Michaelis always seems to have time to lend a hand.

"I first started getting involved [in AIDS activism] when I worked at the bar." Michaelis said. "I was hearing about people I knew in New York who were dying of AIDS. And I looked around at all those healthy young men having a good time at Charlie's and I thought, 'it could happen here.""

By the time the AIDS epidemic did reach Phoenix,

GLAADAlert

Pride Roundup

As the gay civil rights movement has grown by leaps and bounds so has the media's coverage of it.

Even compared to last year's coverage, which failed to fully capture the texture of our community, this year's harvest of articles included anecdotes on lesbian families, political initiatives, and thoughtful descriptions of the ongoing importance of these events across the country.

Perhaps the most exciting trend was the first-ever gay parades in smaller communities, such as Tulsa, Oklahoma and the broadening of Pride events to include booths for the filing of domestic-partnerships and for voter registration.

While the Pride events were not entirely bereft of controversy (witness the burning of the rainbow flag in Columbus, Ohio and the disrespectful treatment of the Stonewall Veterans by policemen from Manhattan South) this year's Pride gained mainstream visibility by Presidential proclamation of June as "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month."

With few exceptions, this year's pride coverage by mainstream media used the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion as a context with which to present Pride events around the country and locally.

This touchstone enabled journalists, many for the first time, to present a detailed history of the gay civil rights movement, and to elaborate on issues that affect us the other 364 days of the year such as hate crimes,

Gay and Lesbian Alliance **Against Defamation**

health care, marriage, employment and housing discrimination.

What follows is a cross-section of articles that are provocative and/or

The Nation devoted its annual queer issue to "Gay Politics: Moving In New Directions." Within its pages was a piece by E.J. Graff on "Same Sex Spouses in Canada," two thoughtful pieces by Doug Ireland on the dangerous implications of the Religious Liberty Protection Act and the future of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movement.

Donna Minkowitz's piece "Love and Hate in Laramie" is not without its problems. While Minkowitz convincingly links misogyny with homophobia, she accords an excessive degree of victim status to Matthew Shepard's alleged killers, Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, rather than see Shepard as the obvious and true victim. In addition, Minkowitz comes dangerously close to asserting a "homosexual panic" defense for this crime, by framing gay-bashing as an erotic crime. Still, the piece is a compelling exploration of how class is an underestimated variable in the equation that leads to anti-gay violence.

Controversial too is Richard Kim's piece, "The Truth About Hate Crimes Laws." Kim writes that while these laws would lengthen prison sentences, they would not create a safer environment.

At www.TheNation.com readers can participate in a discussion on this topic.

Please commend The Nation for their continued commitment to equality and full citizenship for all.

Contact Katrina vanden Heuvel, Editor, The Nation, 33 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003, email: letters@TheNation.com

The Village Voice's ongoing coverage of the lesbian and gay community has been prodigious. In fact, it has had an annual pride issue for the last twenty-one years.

The theme of this year's edition (June 23-29) was "Planet Queer: Gay Life Around the World." Seven articles, framed by Richard Goldstein's opening piece, "Gay is Global," succeed in conveying the historical importance and world-wide perspective of the gay liberation movement.

The articles detailed the quality of life (or lack thereof) in the continent of Africa (South Africa's new constitution recognizes the full citizenship of lesbians and gay men, while the President of Zambia continues to criminalize lesbian and gay citizens); the repression still in place in Jamaica; the peculiar mainstream celebrity of both Israel's "trannie pop star" Dana International and Thai transgender kickboxer Parinya Kiabusaba.

Standout pieces include E.J. Graff's survey of same-sex marriage rights around the world and Alisa Solomon's study of the perils facing lesbian and gay immigrants in New York City.

Please thank The Village Voice for their peerless reporting.

Contact Doug Simmons Managing Editor, The Village Voice, 36 Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003, fax: 212.475.3300, email: voice@echonyc.com

The New York Times, which until GLAAD intervened in the early '80s, referred to lesbians and gays as "avowed homosexuals," had two pieces which focused on this year's Pride Parade in NYC.

It's concise op-ed on June 29 reflected on the difficult and long journey that has led to a mature lesbian and gay movement, culminating on the recent inclusion of the Stonewall Inn in the National Register of Historic Places.

Amy Waldman's article in the June 28 Times ("30 Years After Stonewall, Diversity is Shown in Gay Pride Parade") managed to successfully convey the complexity of our community. In this piece she cites among the marchers Tom Ryan, the first activeduty firefighter to march, and the faces behind the New England Lavender Arab Society. Also noted in attendance were the Gay Officers Action League and Mayor Guiliani, who presence angered as many it as pleased.

Waldman's greatest contribution in this piece was her implicit point that Pride enables the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community to come out, not only to themselves, but to their families, their friends, and at their workplace.

Contact Bill Keller, Managing Editor, New York Times, 229 West 43 rd Street, New York, NY 10036-3959, fax: 212.556.3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com

The GLAADAlert is the bi-weekly activa-tion tool of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation in the media as a means of challenging homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.



Professionalism & Laughter do mix

Miss Gay Phoenix's past Pageant Queens give audiences both

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

If you're genuinely disturbed by the sight of men in dresses or squarely at odds with your feminine side (whether you are male or female), stay home and catch a Diamondbacks game on Sunday, July 25. And try to get over yourself.

But if you're up for an evening of good-natured humor featuring stellar female impersonation and fabulous outfits, head over to Phoenix's Quality Hotel on 2nd Avenue and Osborn at 7 pm on that date to take in the 1999-2000 Miss Gay Phoenix-America Pageant.

For ten bucks admission you won't be disappointed, promises pageant promoter Damon Dering. "We try to put on a really good show and we don't take ourselves too seriously," Dering says, "Because laughter is the easiest emotion to evoke."

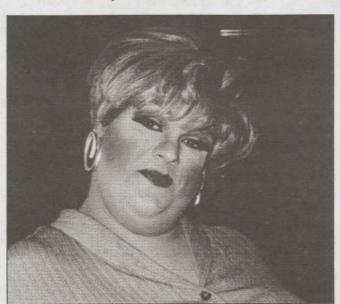
By day, Dering is a stocky young actor racing around Phoenix in the July heat with a truckful of fliers to post and a growing list of tasks to wrap up as the big night draws clos-

Out on the drag circuit, however, "she" is better known as Virginia Sacrifice, a plus-sized impersonator with a ready quip for every act she introduces and yards of sequins to grace any occasion.

A 1997-98 Miss Gay Phoenix winner himself, Dering is quite familiar with the contest but new to the production/promotion side of the event. He purchased the rights to produce the Phoenix show from the state franchisee and is donating a portion of his proceeds to AIDS Project Arizona.

"This is a preliminary to Miss Gay Arizona, who then goes on to compete at Miss Gay America," he explains. "Miss Gay America does take itself very seriously, with all kinds of rules and regulations."

This year's national contest will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Before that, the Miss Gay Phoenix winner



Virginia Sacrifice, aka Damon Dering, is the force behind this year's Miss Gay Phoenix Pageant—a benefit for APAZ.

will compete with Miss Gay Tucson for the state title. That contest will take place in the city to the south of us on August 28.

Other past winners of the Miss Gay Phoenix crown include Celia Putty and Barbra Seville, local favorites that Dering calls good friends as well as major influences on his entrée to the drag world. He met

both entertainers while a theater major at Phoenix College in 1995 and first tested the cross-dressing waters at their urging.

"To make people feel good about themselves through humor is definitely part of my act—and part of Celia's act, undoubtedly," he relates. "Barbra, though her act is a little more serious, is definitely a fun type

of person and is not caught up in that meme-me kind of thing at all."

The aforementioned gals will have featured spots during the July 25 festivities, as will Pussy LeHoot, another past winner who recently moved out of town but is returning to perform at the pageant. The reigning Miss Gay Phoenix, Miss Markus, will of course be on hand to turn over the crown to one of three contestants presently in the line-

Would-be divas will be tested in five categories (no swimwear competition, thank you very much) that include talent, evening wear, and a segment titled "Creative Fashion." It's not supposed to be anything that can be worn anywhere, Dering says of the last category. "The sky's the limit." Judges will want to see over-the-top creativity.

Dering knows that within the gay community there are mixed feelings about men who perform in drag. "It gets a lot of bad rap. A lot of people don't like it, a lot of people do like it. But it does seem a kind of unifying thing. You put a bunch of drag queens at an event and people show up for it. So it helps to unify us, in a way."

Dering says drag performance relates to the fact that as gay men "we have feminine feelings and motivations, to varying levels." As for gay women who may feel that impersonators are making fun of their sex, Dering says his intention is not to mock another gender but rather "to make fun of myself."

He stresses that the title holders in this state are doing a lot of work for the community, raising what amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars for charitable causes, most notably for

"They all give back something of what they get. That's where we really make our biggest mark."

Dering says that winning the Miss Gay Phoenix title in '97 was a big honor. "To be recognized for what I do in this way was really great." Indeed, his pride shows on his vehicle—the pickup's front license plate has "Miss Phoenix" lettered across it.

"But definitely what we like to do is have fun, and that's what this contest is going to be. A lot of fun."



For advance tickets to this year's Miss Gay Phoenix-America pageant, call 602/266-6927. Admission is \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit APAZ. The Quality Hotel and Resort is located at 2nd Avenue and Osborn in central Phoenix.



Tucson troupe extends sexy Latino comedy

Tucson's Borderlands Theater has extended the run of ASU Playwriting prof Guillermo Reves' one-man play Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown at Pima Community College's Black Box Theater, 2202 W. Anklam Rd., through July 25.

The edgy comedy tackles a number of social issues facing queer Latinos in American society. In 1997, it was an off-Broadway hit starring Hollywood hunk Felix A. Pire and directed by Joseph Meigle.

The Tucson production, directed by the author, features an eye-catching set and stars a talented Oregonian named Andres Alcala who plays eight distinctive gay

Latinos ranging from a tinseltown call boy to an aging Cuban restaura-

With his rubbery face and excellent timing, Alcala deftly molds himself into each part and elicits big laughs in all the right places. The actor's flair for dialects even inspired Reyes to add a new character and a monologue written just for Alcalathe touching "First Love" speech that opens act two.

The provocative comedy continues its run as part of Pima Community College's Summer residency Program. Call 520/882-7406 for reservations and information.

Orton farce playing Peoria

Comedies by the late gay British playwright Joe Orton are still capable of raising eyebrows, and the 30yr-old sex farce What the Butler Saw, written just before Orton was murdered by his lover in 1969, is no exception.

The West Valley's most risk-taking community troupe, Theater Works, will present the Orton play at 9850 West Peoria Ave., opening July 15 and running through August 8. Call 602/815-1791 for tickets and information.

PT to showcase new plays through July-August

You can learn something about the writing and production process of new plays by getting in on Phoenix Theatre's 1999 New Works Festival. The Festival will run four weekends starting Friday, July 23 and ending on Saturday, Aug. 14.

Staged readings of four uniquely different plays will be presented on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm in the Phoenix Theatre Little Theatre, at 100 E. McDowell Rd. Audience discussions with the playwrights, directors and actors will follow the readings. A donation of \$5 per person is requested.

Elaine Romero's Barrio Hollywood will kick things off July 23 & 24. The play is set in Tucson and explores an injured Chicano boxer's family relationships. Next on the schedule is How I Came to be Buffalo Bill by local writer Richard Warren, who's also the Festival's director. His play looks at the life of famed showman Buffalo Bill Cody and runs July 30 &31.

In August, Julie Janson's drama Black Mary will be read on the 6th & 7th. The tale is set in the Australian outback in the 1800s. Closing the Festival will be The Lemon Cookie, a romantic comedy by Jack Heifner.

For information on the New Works Festival or on Phoenix Theatre's upcoming season, call 602/258-1974.





A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT AIDS PROJECT AZ

AIDS PROJECT ARIZONA



FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS AND CONTESTANT INFORMATION

Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"Gay men don't want to use condoms. I haven't used them in years. At the risk of 'promoting' unprotected anal sex, I have to say that doing away with condoms has immeasurably improved my sex life. Without condoms, anal sex is more intimate, spontaneous, and meaningful. It's also less messy (it doesn't require nearly as much lube), and it feels about a hundred thousand times better."

—Columnist Dan Savage acknowledging in the July OUT that he and his boyfriend bareback together.

"A lot of people are having anal sex without condoms when they think their partner's serostatus is the same. It's not something being done by some lunatic fringe, and it's important that we not divide people into barebackers and not-barebackers. It's more complicated than that."

 Daniel Wolfe, former communications director for Gay Men's Health Crisis, to OUT magazine, July issue.

"I'm not up to being a [gay] role model. If it's inspirational to people, that's fantastic. But I'm just an actor and that's what I want to go on being."

Music Video Bas

-Rupert Everett to the Ottawa [Ontario] Citizen, June 19.

"Madonna put things in perspective for me [when I didn't get an Oscar nomination for My Best Friend's Wedding]. I was feeling very sorry for myself, and she immediately said: 'How do you think I

feel [regarding Evita]?' Then she told me I didn't want an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor because no one who gets that ever gets to be named Best Actor. I thought that's true. So Madonna snapped me out of it—she's very good at that."

—Gay actor Rupert Everett to the Ottawa [Ontario] Citizen, June 19.

"This is the hardest thing I have ever had to do but I owe it to our fans, as well as to myself, to be completely honest. I know this may come as a bombshell to our followers.

Many of them may be upset. I only hope they understand how important it is for me to reveal I am gay."

—Irish heartthrob singer Stephen Gately, 23, of the boy band Boyzone June 16. Gately feared he was about to be outed.

"We're all very proud of him. This is good news. I'm glad Steve has decided to do this. This is about his happiness and being able to live his life with honesty and pride. It changes nothing between us."

-Boyzone's Mikey Graham.

"In this day and age, it is no big deal to be gay. There is no problem here. In fact, we are really happy Steve has decided to make this step." "Some Canadians remain uncomfortable with the acceptance of gays and lesbians into mainstream society. We respect the right of our customers to reject this idea. But we see ourselves as leaders."

—Edmee Metivier, vice-president for small and medium enterprises for Canada's Royal Bank, which donated \$10,000 to Toronto's gay pride celebration, to the Globe & Mail, June 21.

"As an Amazon with the brain of a pre-Stonewall gay man, I can scarcely be surprised at always being odd man out of every group."

—Author Camille Paglia in her June 16 Salon magazine column.

"[In addition to Abraham Lincoln,] there's evidence that George Washington was gay. There's evidence that Gen. [George] Custer was gay. There's evidence that, I forget which one, [Meriwether] Lewis or [William] Clark, was gay. This is all going to come out."

—Author and activist Larry Kramer to the Los Angeles Times, June 22.

"I don't want to marry. I don't want the option of marrying. I don't want the state to try and reinforce a morally bankrupt institution like marriage, which is under siege by divorcing straights, by widening the number of people it can suck into its vortex. I don't want the privilege that comes with marriage; instead I want the state to take away all privileges and buttresses and sanctions and status that comes with marriage. I don't want the choice."

—Gareth Kirkby, editor of Vancouver's Xtra! West, in his June 24 editorial.

"Every gay person I know boasts about working 15-hour days. Their answering machines say, 'Try me at the office.' They are always running on frazzle, too busy to cook you dinner some evening at their house, traveling to three time zones in a week, rarely able to come over and help you with anything that is not work-related."

—NGLTF's Urvashi Vaid writing in the pride issue of the Seattle weekly The Stranger.

"Capitalism has convinced us that producing and consuming are more important than doing neither, and the worst is doing nothing. What, after all, is the work and activity that most of us engage in? Producing junk that is sold for money that we use to buy more junk that someone else has produced. Consuming products, replacing products one has already consumed, obsessing about what one would consume if one only had more money. Hours spent producing beauty, muscles, sequined gowns, producing the right state of mind to experience the next high or recover from the last one; to bed the next fuck, to see the next dance bar; to seek the next thrill. Manic activity without meaning and without end. What happened to sloth?"

—NGLTF's Urvashi Vaid writing in the pride issue of *The Stranger*.

"I just returned from the International Mr. Leather Weekend, where I interviewed last year's IML champion for POZ magazine. I should preface my remarks by averring that I'm a leather bar kind of homo myself. I like older, hairier, calmer types. I don't do drugs; and I don't drink cocktails. I'm a Jager shot

and Diet Coke kind of barfly. And the erotic charge of leather is by no means lost on me. But the sight of hundreds—thousands—of men in every conceivable variation of leather and rubber fetish- wear parading in a hotel lobby under chandeliers IN THE MORNING would be enough to make Tom of Finland put on a pair of chinos. Does anyone in the gay world know the meaning of the words 'Enough Already'?"

—Author Andrew Sullivan writing in the pride issue of *The Stranger*.

"The gym [is] an aspect of gay male culture that is perfectly healthy, even admirable. In general, gay men in their 30s upward are in much better shape than straight men, and that's all to our credit. Gyms are also great social outlets, flirt parlors, and gossip-shops. So what do we do with them? We turn them into manic muscle factories. The bodies get bigger and bigger; the obsession gets deeper and deeper. Not content with a healthily buff physique, the gym boys go roidal, until an arms race has become a pecs race and an everything race, and the parading gym bodies of summer assume a cartoonish, buffoonish similarity. And for the final coup de grace, they shave every inch of themselves. Blech."

—Author Andrew Sullivan writing in the pride issue of *The Stranger*.

"They're dancing for hours [on Fire Island today] just like I did [in the '70s]. I'm not going to say it's not wonderful music for them. But I think it's dumber."

—Writer Andrew Holleran to Toronto's Xtra!, June 17.

"Too often, journalists worry that revealing sexual orientation is talking about a person's sexual life, which everyone agrees should remain private. But not revealing a public figure's homosexual orientation is to leave the presumption that the person is straight. Presuming someone is straight says as much about that person's private sexual conduct as knowing the person is gay. The difference, when reporting on a public figure who is gay, is that leaving an impression of heterosexuality is inaccurate and reporting the figure's homosexuality is the truth. Journalists should be in the business of telling the truth, not facilitating lies. It's a matter of journalism, not activism, that we begin to tell the basic facts about the private lives of gay public figures."

—Staff editorial in Atlanta's Southern Voice, June 10.

"When I'm writing a gay character, I try to be politically correct, because if I write a raving queen, it pisses a lot of people off. Yet there are many raving queens around, as we all know, and some of them are the nicest and funniest characters one could possibly hope to meet. So in the end I try not to let political correctness influence me _too_ much. My characters are who they are—funny, real, sad, intelligent, dumb. Just like everyone we know in everyday life."

—Author Jackie Collins writing in the July 6 Advocate.

"[I oppose] a change in the institution of marriage as we now know it between men and women."

—U.S. Vice President and presidential candidate Al Gore during a June 24 fund-raising visit to San Francisco.



·Rainbow Trout

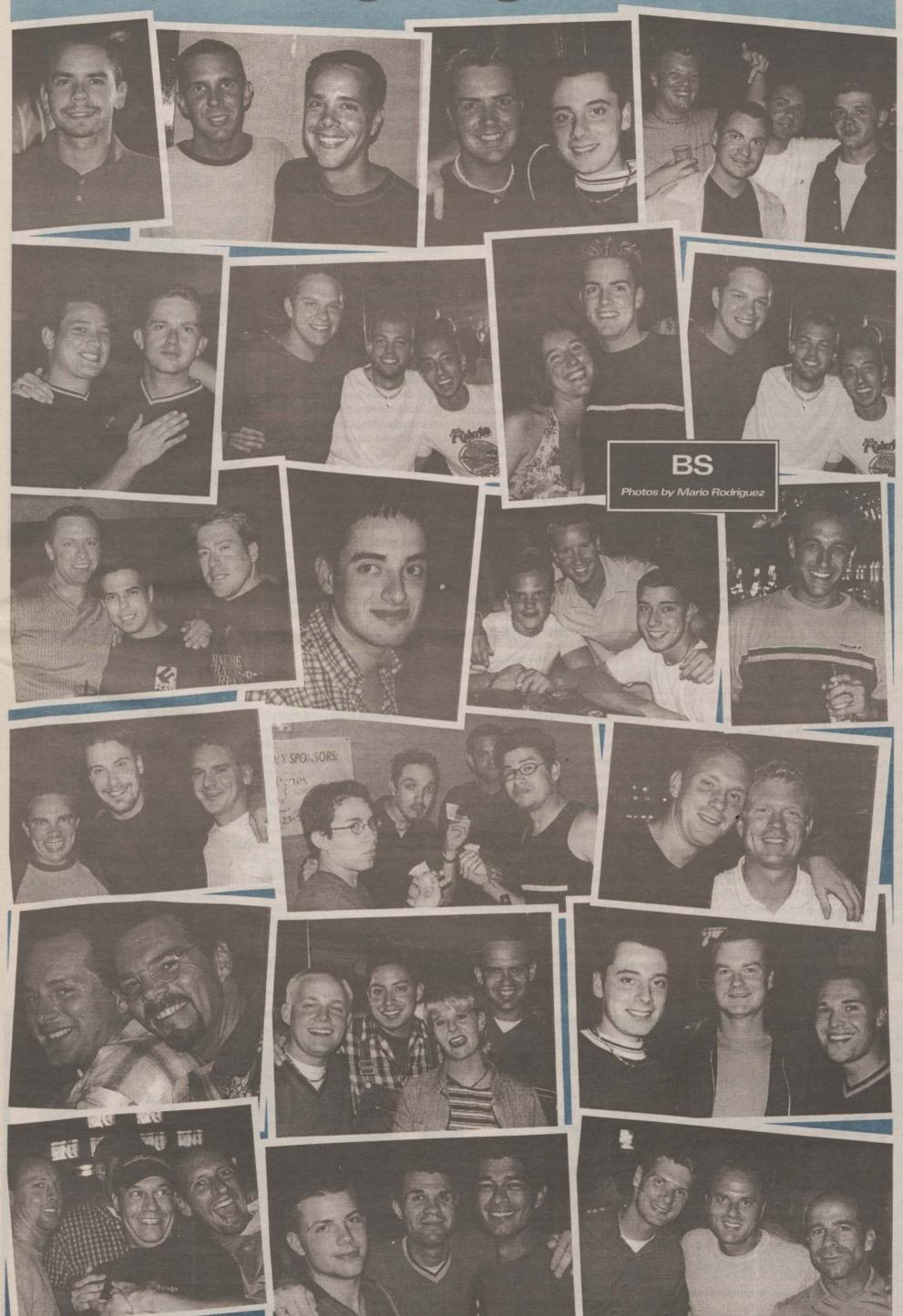
· Tettucini Alfredo

·Bow-Tie Primavera

•Classic Shrimp Scampi

Creamy Tomato Pasta

Seeing/Being Scene



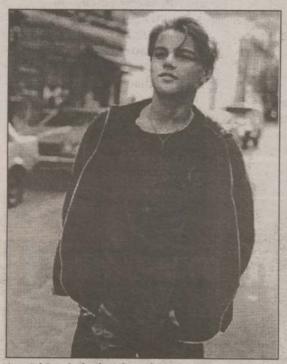
By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Leo Goes Bi in Billionaire Bio

Leonardo DiCaprio has no problem charming the pants off supermodels, but can the *Titanic* star seduce Cary Grant?

We'll see when he sheds his heartthrob image to take on the role of bisexual billionaire **Howard Hughes** in a biopic by *Last of the Mohicans* director **Michael Mann**.

The script is based on Charles



Leo DiCaprio is slated to play a young—and bisexual—Howard Hughes in an upcoming film based on the reclusive tycoon's life.

Higham's best-selling biography, Howard Hughes: The Untold Story, which delved into such hot topics as Hughes' arrest for sexually molesting a young man and the subsequent payoff that got the whole thing expunged from the official record.

Higham recently told the New York Post that he had "very extensively documented the fact that Hughes had an affair with Cary Grant" and that the reclusive germophobe's gay bent will figure prominently in the film.

DiCaprio and Mann have been searching for a project to work on together since they were in talks to do a film based on the life of James Dean (another bi guy!), but that project never happened. Screenwriter John Logan is hard at work on the script about Hughes, and no production start date has been set as of yet.

Giving Heche the (Bow)Finger?

Former wild and crazy guy Steve Martin's masculinity took a beating when girlfriend Anne Heche left him for another comedian—one who happened to have a vagina and a sitcom with her name on it.

But Martin may be getting the last laugh. His new film, *Bowfinger*, which opens this summer, appears to be a cleverly crafted bit of revenge.

It's a Hollywood satire about a down-on-his-luck producer (played by Martin) and an aspiring actress named Daisy, who strategically dates her way up the Hollywood chain. Daisy forms a liaison with the producer, only to dump him and move on to Tinseltown's leading lesbian.

Shagadelic **Heather Graham** plays the actress, who, according to the Hollywood buzz, is based on Heche (like her, Daisy hails from Ohio).

Through his press reps, Martin has denied that Daisy is based on his former flame, saying it would be very insulting to insinuate that Heche slept her way to the top.

Remember Wenner

Übercute actor Eion Bailey, who spars with Brad Pitt in the soon-to-be-released film Fight

Club, will portray bisexual Rolling Stone publisher Jann Wenner in a still-untitled project by writer/director Cameron Crowe.

The script is based on Crowe's experience as a journalist covering an up-and-coming rock band.

For those of you who don't know, Wenner was considered a family man until a few years ago, when he went through a highly publicized midlife crisis and left his wife for a model of the male persuasion. Billy Crudup and Chasing Amy actor Jason Lee costar in the project.

A Glossy Rosie?

Talk-show hostess Rosie
O'Donnell is reportedly looking into a new venture: publishing.

O'Donnell, who has had mucho success with her warm-and-fuzzy daytime chat-fest, is said to be considering starting a magazine in much the same vein.

It would be packed full of celebrity-friendly interviews and helpful advice columns (including, I would hope, diet tips)—in other words, a Hollywood publicist's wet dream.

Rosie's rosy rag would be published by Time Warner, which distributes her show.

Off-Broadway Bash-er

Actor Paul Rudd, the cutie who was the gay Object of Jennifer Aniston's affection, is trying his hand as a gay-basher. Off Broadway, that is.

Rudd is co-starring with überwaif Calista Flockhart and ER alum Ron Eldard in Bash, a series of three one-act plays by Neil LaBute.

Better known as a filmmaker, LaBute has proved his mastery of really dark comedy on screen in In The Company of Men and Your Friends And Neighbors.

Rudd takes on the role of a seemingly nice college kid who 'fesses up to a queer-bashing in Central Park— he proposes to Flockhart using the victim's pinkie ring as an engagement ring.

During preview week, more than a dozen audience members walked out during the play; its grisly irony and gruesome humor must have been just too much for them. But early reviews have critics praising the talented cast's handling of the difficult subject matter

Bash is playing through the end of this month at the Douglas Fairbanks Theater.

Hogan's Hero Again

Gay leading man (and everyone's Ideal Husband) Rupert Everett is in the final stages of negotiation for a starring role (and a million-dollar paycheck) in Unconditional Love opposite Kathy Bates.

Love is the story of a recently dumped Chicago woman (Bates) who travels to England for the funeral of her pop star idol, who was murdered. In London she meets the late musician's lover, played by Everett. Together the two return to the States to hunt down the killer.

The Agatha Christie-esque whodunit is bound to have madcap and campy episodes, since My Best Friend's Wedding director P.J. Hogan is reteaming with Everett on the project. Hogan co-wrote the film's script with his wife, How to Make an American Quilt director Jocelyn Moorhouse.

Anthony Hopkins Gets Into Siegfried & Roy's Box

Those campy German illusionists, Siegfried and Roy have yet again done the impossible.

They have convinced Academy Award-winner Sir Anthony Hopkins



Hunky Paul Rudd is appearing as a gay basher in Neil LaBute's Off-Broadway play, Bash.

to do voiceover for their upcoming big-screen flick Siegfried & Roy: The Magic Box. The film chronicles the Teutonic duo's journey from childhood through the present.

Hopkins was so touched by the film and its message about following one's dreams, he's agreed to lend his well-trained vocal cords to narrate it.

The Vegas lion-tamers have pulled off another coup, too. They have been picked—along with acclaimed actors Kevin Spacey and Jodie Foster (it's about time)—to be among the new millennium's first recipients of stars on Hollywood Boulevard's Walk of Fame.

Romeo San Vicente will someday have his own star on the Hollywood Walk of fame. You can reach Romeo in care of HeatStroke or via email RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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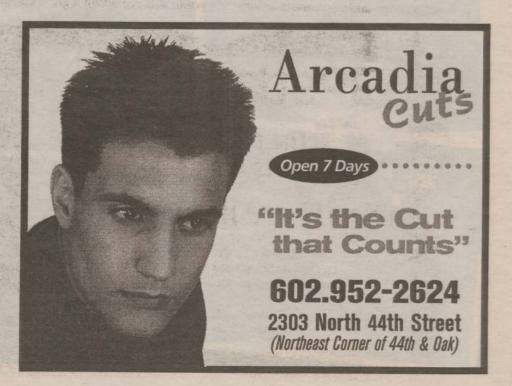
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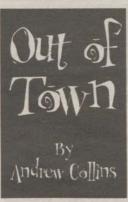
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Ten great gay destinations if you're on a budget

It's amazing how often people tell me they haven't gone on a vacation anywhere in six months or a year sometimes even two years—because they can't afford to travel.

This is especially true of single folks, who believe their costs will be especially higher without a partner to share expenses.

True enough, there are a number of cities out there with prohibitively high hotel rates. But there are also quite a few lively and enchanting gay-popular destinations that can be enjoyed quite economically, especially if you visit during an off season.

Below are 10 terrific destinations for the budget-minded gay traveler the first five are ideally suited for couples; the other five are great choices if you're unattached.

Traveling with your lover? 1. Provincetown, Massachusetts

Provincetown—with—your lover? To a lot of people the idea of bringing a partner to this land of partying seems superfluous. Indeed, It can be a good place to meet singles, at least in July and August.

But much of the year,
Provincetown is a quiet and lowkeyed retreat that seems to be at the
very tip of the earth—away from
urban ills and suburban banality. It
can be awfully romantic here in fall,
or even winter, cozied up in a quiet
inn.

Even in season, rates here aren't bad at the majority of the guest houses—and in the peaceful off-season, even the most luxurious places often drop to well-below \$100 nightly.

2. Russian River, California

Lesbians and gay men from San Francisco and the Bay Area have long favored this snug, woodsy riverresort area in western Sonoma County, midway between the Wine Country and the Pacific.

Accommodations tend to have a rustic feel that suits the region's verdant setting, and restaurants favor

simpler and less expensive fare than what you'd pay in queer vacation spots, such as Key West and Rehoboth Beach.

If you and your honey love hiking and canoeing together, Russian River is ideal.

3. Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

Salt Spring Island is a stunning, hilly little gem off the eastern coast of Vancouver Island, within an afternoon's combined ferry-car trip from the cities of Vancouver, Victoria, and Seattle.

There has long been a strong lesbian and—to a somewhat lesser degree—gay male presence on this island of artists' studios, fine beaches, and fine hiking. Several B&Bs here are either gay-owned or quite queerffiendly, and it's very easy to find a room here for under \$60 Canadian (\$40 U.S.).

4. Northern New Mexico

Northern New Mexico makes for the perfect week-long romantic adventure, as you can divide your time among a tiny scenic village (Taos), a mid-size city with some fun places to dance and eat out (Albuquerque), and a hybrid of the two (Santa Fe).

All three places have a fair number of very nice inns for under \$80 nightly, plus a slew of motels for far less, and they are within an easy drive of one another.

There are also scenic campgrounds set around the area and, wherever you awaken, it'll be to views of the region's spectacular Sangre de Cristo and Sandia Mountains.

Although plenty of fancy upscale restaurants have opened in these parts in recent years, it's still easy to eat cheaply at local—and often excellent—burrito joints and steak houses.

5. Eureka Spring, Arkansas

A curious hilltop village in the heart of the Ozark Mountains, Eureka Springs is favorite getaway among both conservative Christians and gay people. How these two seemingly atodds factions vacation together so peacefully is anybody's guess, but they do.

It helps that most of the queer folk tend to stay in the historic, renovated, and downright bargain-priced Victorian inns closer to the center of town, while religious groups favor the properties on the main roads leading in and out of the village.

The downtown has blossomed in recent years with a growing number of antiques shops and galleries, and the restaurant scene is sophisticated while still providing a great value. Despite the many gay-owned businesses here, this isn't a nightlife place—Eureka Springs is definitely BYOB (bring your own bedmate).

Single and looking?

1. New Orleans, Louisiana

In the Big Easy, bars are open 24 hours, drinks are cheap, and every-body on vacation here seems hell-bent on having the wildest time possible.

Dozens of places serve gourmet Cajun and Creole fare at McDonald's prices, and even very fine eateries typically have ample seating at the bar (perfect if you're alone).

Hotel rates have a risen a lot over the years, but there are still a vast number of under-\$75 inns and B&Bs in the very gay French Quarter.

If you're looking to get away, have fun, party, and play the field, this city is your ticket.

2. Austin, Texas

Queer Austin folks like to say that they live in the Un-Texas, Texas, a land of green rolling hills, beautiful lakes and rivers for swimming (and a

couple of popular gay-popular sunning spots), a progressive populace, and an urbane alternative arts and music scene.

The town is also highly underrated when it comes to dining out—it's one of America's hidden culinary secrets, and

with remarkably affordable food. The bar scene is compact and friendly, and the presence of the University of Texas adds a youthful edge.

Budget travelers love to road trip here from all over the country. A final plus is there's a great gay swimming and sunning hole, Hippie Hollow, just west of the city—a cheap and cheerful pick-up spot if ever there was one.

3. Portland, Oregon

Funky Portland is the scaled-back user-friendly gem of the Pacific Northwest, a mid-sized metropolis on the pretty Willamette River that is less famous, less expensive, and far less overrun with tourists than Seattle.

Foodies recognize it as one of America's great gourmet bargains, and fans of historic guesthouses will appreciate the reasonable rates offered at several excellent properties within walking distance of the gay bars along Stark Street.

The feminist scene here is among America's most cohesive and pronounced, making this a good vacation if you're a single lesbian hoping to find an approachable women's community.

4. Montreal, Quebec

If you're visiting from the States, virtually all of Canada is a comparative bargain.

But even if coming from elsewhere in Canada, Montreal makes for one of the best deals for gay travelers anywhere, with a plethora of inexpensive queer-popular hotels, and a gay singles scene that's about as frisky, sexy, and fun as any you'll find.

Bathhouses play a major role in the nightlife scene, and guys of all ages and tastes frequent them. It's easy to find tasty dinners for under \$10 Canadian per person (\$6.50 U.S.).

5. Sacramento, California

For some reason, Sacramento is completely underrated, yet it's an



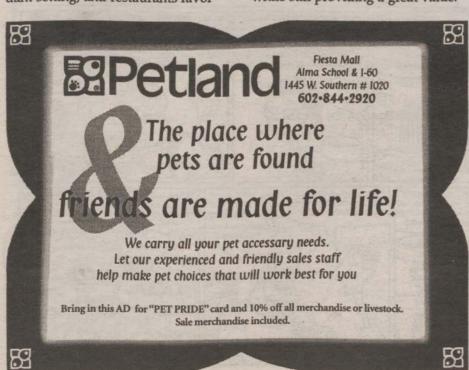
The mountains north of Taos are among the world's most breathtaking—and challenging—spots for hiking and downhill skiing.

affordable microcosm of everything northern California has to offer, including a vibrant if not highly conspicuous gay community that is remarkably friendly, accessible, and diverse in age—it's a pretty easy place to meet the locals.

The dining scene here is excellent, and accommodations range from places like the gay-owned Hartley House, which is a luxury inn charging moderate prices, to a slew of cheap and comfortable chain motels right in the center of the city, within walking distance of the several fun bars, coffeehouses, and restaurants.

Best of all, Sacramento is within a two-hour drive of San Francisco, the Gold Country, the Wine Country, Lake Tahoe, and the Russian River.

Andrew Collins can be reached care of HeatStroke or at gayfodors@aol.com.





Heat Stroke's Funny Page

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

By Eric Orner



Last Week We Left a frost Bitten Etienne after Hé Had been kid-Napped by Drug Kingpin Gaston, Ab-andoned on the Canadian arctic, onl Ultimately, rescued by a Lovely Nine-teen year old Invit boy With Good bones, beautiful skin and Enormous fur Boots.



ME AND BÜAVIK FUCKED A LOT WHEN THE FEST OF THE IGLOO'S INHABITANTS WERE OUT ON SEAL HUNT...

Buavik (Thats The boy's NAME) brought Etienne BACK TO HIS VILLAGE, WHERE The Chef's GAULIC good Looks reminded The boy's mom of a Quebecois FUR TRADER SHE KNEW LONG AGO.



Bu had Never done this before, AND Took to it with A 19 YEAR OLD'S VERVE & relish (FUCKING THAT IS, NOT SEAL HUNTING, Which he LEARNED YEARS EARLier AND DIDN'T CAFE FOR).



Weeks Went by As Etienne Slowly Recovered, HE MASTERED A BETTING GAME THE MEN OF THE SETTLEMENT PLAYED WITH DOMINOES MADE FROM POLAR BEAR TEETH..



Meanwhile, Stateside. JASON CHANG, Who has JUST LEFT HIS THREE MAN MARRIAGE TO TIM & CARLOS. brokenheartedly Flings a Baccapat Crystal Framed PHOTO OF THE 3 OF THEM INTO THE FIREPLACE ..



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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



ASLEEP WHILE SYDNEY'S STILL UP DOING GOD KNOWS WHAT ON @1999 BYALISON BECHDEL 317















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THIS SUMMER JOB THING ...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR
WEEKS, AND THERE'S, LIKE,

NOTHING OUT THERE,



I WAS REALLY HOPING TO GET JOB ASSISTING

PROFESSOR D

BUT HE'S

THIS SUMMER



THIS GALLERY

FLEMSTEIN-UNREQUITED

GO. IT'S SO PATHETIC





AW. GEEZ, I MIGHTA KNOWN.

A FAIRY OR A DYKE?

IS EVER BODY YOU KNOW EITHER







LATE ONE AFTERNOON, SKY AND HIS FRIEND ANNIE WALK HOME



I'M ANDRE DEBUFFET. I COULDN'T









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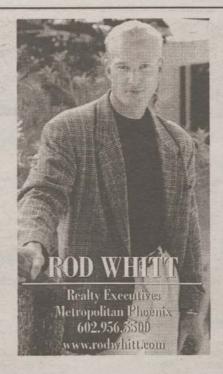
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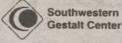
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Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ, or e-mail to alkalphx@aol.com — we'll pass them along to the wise one for you.

Dear Cowboy,

What are the rules regarding nudity at all-male, all-gay pool parties?

I was at a soiree the other evening. I don't know the hosts very well, but I really like both of them. Without warning, most of the guests' bathing suits came off well after sundown. Being a modest person and not in the best of shape (although I'm no fatty) I opted to keep my trunks on.

There were a couple other guys, including one of the hosts, who remained covered and splashed in the diving pool. There were another six of us who sat and chatted in a bubbling hot tub. I was the only one in the tub wearing a suit.

When I later told a friend about the party, he said I was rude to keep my suit on when everyone else was naked, and if I am unable to get into the naturalist spirit at such a party, then I should leave instead of staying to ogle the others. But apart from some gentle teasing, no one seemed to mind. Did I really commit a pool party faux pas?

Signed, Mister Baggie Shorts

Dear Baggies,

Like a lot of tricky things when it comes to proper manners in the shindig we call life, the rules are that there are no rules.

No two social gatherings are alike,

and I believe each summertime sunning situation that a cowpoke comes across ought to be judged on an individual basis. If anyone was made uncomfortable by your modesty, he should have spoken up, or the host should have discreetly asked you either to bare your business or say your good-byes.

Since that didn't happen and since you didn't mention anything about the group getting frisky (as far as sex play), it sounds to me like you were perfectly within reason to keep your duds on even though your tub mates had shucked theirs.

But if the party had turned orgiastic (this old Cowboy has heard of this happening a time or two, even in Phoenix), your covered-up presence might have been more of an issue. In that case, it generally would be more polite to head on down the trail rather than sit and enjoy the view.

What's unfortunate is that you had no warning as to the direction the after-dark atmosphere was going to take, and that was your hosts' fault.

Too many gay boys assume we're all reading off the same page, and that just because we're gay men we 're always ready to go right along with what everyone else is doing.

The proprietors of the ranch should have clued you in back when you were invited, by saying something like, "Bring a suit, but you probably won't need it later-it's up to you." Or, "We're all naturalists over here, so bring just a towel and some sunscreen for all over,"or even, "Things tend to get pretty sexual after dark, so bring your favorite condoms and lube."

You get the idea. It also never hurts to ask ahead of time what to

It's the hosts' job to set and control the way their fiesta turns out, and it's up to them to encourage or discourage whatever goes on. Trust your instincts, and tell your friend he's wrong. If you felt like you were still welcome with your shorts on, then you were.

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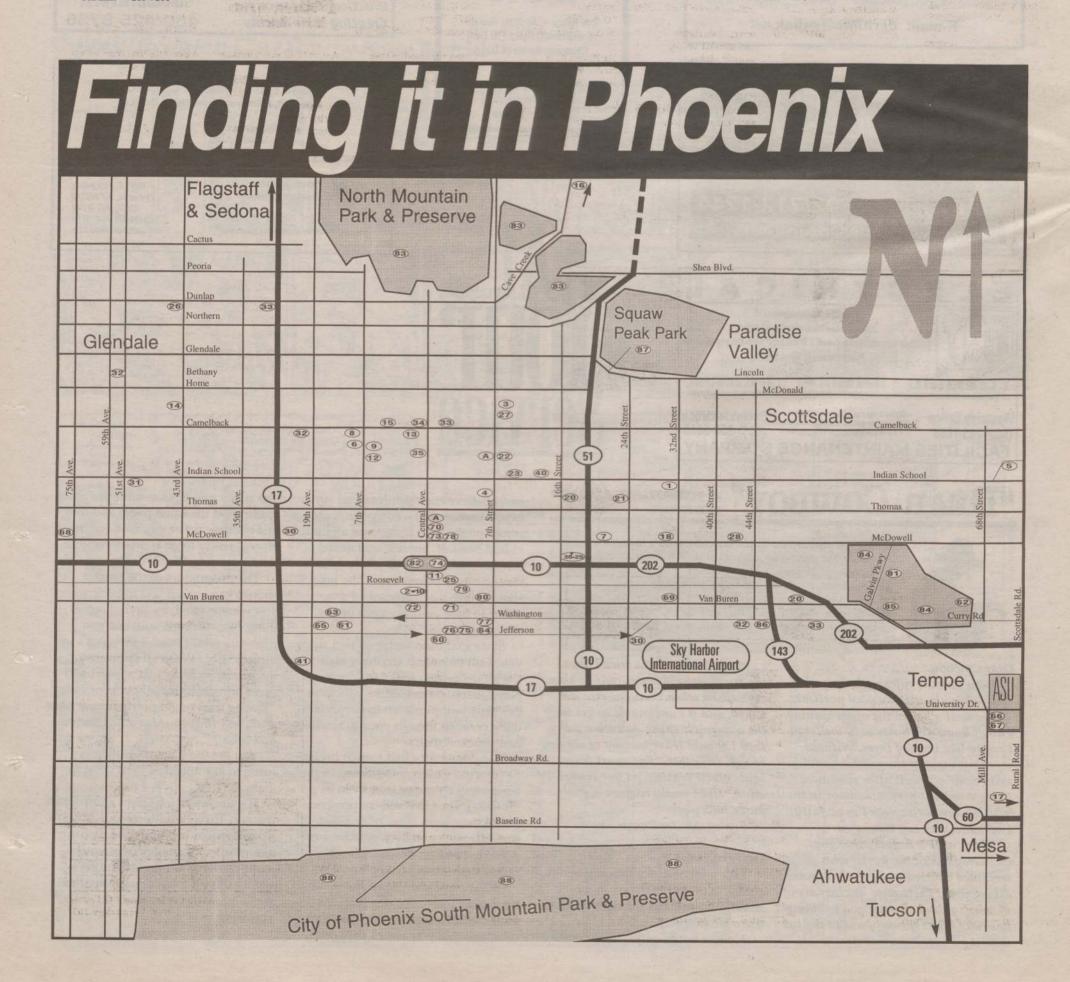
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Southwest Miracles Center 3644 E. McDowell Phoenix 85008 602/244-9001

Unitarian Universalist Congreg. 4027 E. Lincoln Dr. Paradise Valley 85283 602/840-8400

Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch. 1700 W. Warner Rd. Chandler 85224 480/899-4249

Lusic, Sports & Hobbies

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association P.O. Box 16363 Phoenix 85011 602/265-0618

AZ Women in Tune PO Box 37855 Phoenix 85069 623/878-5430

Cactus Cities Softball League PO Box 45101 Phoenix 85064 602/287-9573

Charlie's Renegades P.O. Box 17602 Phoenix 85011 602/277-9142

Desert Adventures PO Box 2008 Phoenix 85001 602/266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares P.O. Box 34615 Phoenix, AZ 85067 480/990-2562

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

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Social Tennis Club 602/279-0709

Grand Canyon Men's Chorale P.O. Box 16462 Phoenix 85011 602/340-7640

Lambda Car Club P.O. Box 36211 Phoenix 85067 602/409-3160

Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling Alliance (PUGBA)

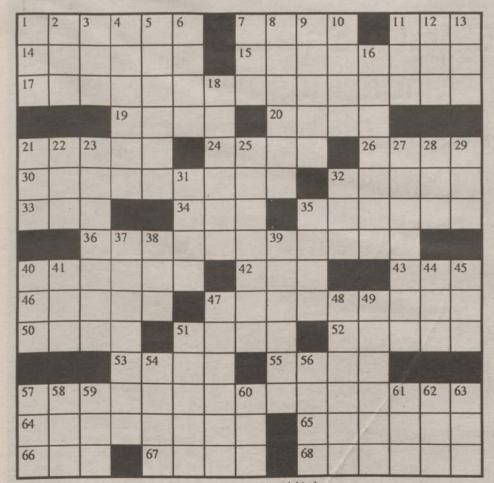
PO Box 44422 Phoenix 85064 602/246-9643 Spartan Wrestling Club-

602/340-8070 mattbims@aol.com Team Arizona

P.O. Box 36431 Phoenix 85067 602/408-4311

Valley of the Sun Comm'ty Band Jayne: 480/947-0907; Terry: 602/954-9244

"Cruisin"



- <u>ACROSS</u> Robin's partner
- Moby Dick captain
- 11 School org. 14 Make really sore
- 15 Resident of a large Indonesian island
- 17 Good place for cruising
- uncertain terms
- 20 Like Freshmen models
- 21 Bite gently on, as an ear 24 On __ with (equal to)

- 26 Dick's dog
- 30 Good place for cruising
- 32 '80s video-game system
- 33 One who chews the scenery
- 34 President pro ___
- 35 Fetish
- 36 Good place for cruising
- 40 Adjusts the alarm, e.g.
- 42 SASE, e.g.
- 43 Queer __ three-dollar bill
- bookstore (good place for cruising)
- 47 Good place for cruising

- 50 Arizona Indian
- 51 Good place to spill your seed
- 52 Tylenol alternative
- Money, slangily
- "__ On Down the Road"
- Good place for cruising Did an impersonation of
- 65 Decorated men, e.g.
- 66 Good place for cruising
- 67 Hair holders 68 Ford flops

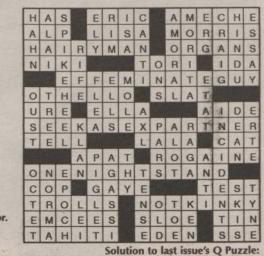
DOWN

- What a master may make his slave do
- Santa ___ winds
- Take a crack at
- Sex __ 4
- Tommy Lee Jones's Men in Black role Dresden denial
- Cigar dropping Wheel cover
- Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie ___"
- 10 Gymnast Conner 11 One who's paid to play
- 12 Benjamin Hoff's The ___ of Pooh
- 13 Gay ___ Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
- 16 1978 Joan Collins flick
- 18 Facial feature of some bears
- 21 To the ___ degree
- 22 "Looking For a Boy" lyricist Gershwin
- 23 Enlarges one's endowment temporarily 25 City destroyed by a blow job
- 27 Pub order
- 28 Earth that's worth something
- 29 Part of TT, in personal ads 31 Wearing condoms may prevent them: Abbr.
- "Today I ___ man" (Bar Mitzvah declara-
- 35 Rainbow shape

- 37 Ignite again
- 38 The Addams Family cousin
- 39 The Wedding Banquet director 40 Cheerleader's shout
- 41 Sydney Symphony director ___ de Waart
- 44 Light off-road truck, for short 45 Vigoda of Fish
- 47 "I have ___ begun to fight"
- 48 Placed in one's mouth 49 Makes as profit
- 51 List of candidates
- 54 McGregor of The Pillow Book 56 Tennis legend who's named on the AIDS
- quilt ___ Video (big name in gay porn)
- 58 Baby-sitter's nightmare 59 Lesbian-themed 1998 biographical film
- 60 Ave. crossers
- 61 ___ v. Wade 62 It has electric organs

about a supermodel

63 It may have red cheeks



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By Jill Dearman, Contributor

ARIES: You may feel a bit isolated from the rest of the world, but that's only temporary. Soon, a casual affair could turn more serious before your very eyes. A Leo is looking for the real thing with you. Keep your eyes on the long-term prize, sweetie.

TAURUS: Get used to your own power, darling. Everybody else can see how strong and wise you are - why can't you? The Moon in your sign on the 21st should bring you an extra bit of emotional clarity (along with a subtle sex appeal that's irresistible to a Cancer).

GEMINI: Do a little ritual to finally bid adieu to a lost love, the one who got away and the one who won't go away. You are about to enter a more promising cycle in your love life; do what you can to please the person who really cares for you (possibly an Aquarius).

CANCER: You can make a lot happen in the coming days, but you simply must drop that passive persona. Success in a career venture is practically a sure thing, and you'll suddenly have many more romantic partners to choose from. With a little effort, the world (and a Pisces) can be yours.

IEO: Your time in the Sun begins on July 23 - but before then, get your house in order and do all the difficult tasks you must do in order to feel a sense of peace and relief. Your home life is a gage for how the rest of your life is stacking up. A Scorpio wants to be part of it.

VIRGO: While Mercury is retrograde and Venus is transiting your sign, you could find yourself at the center of a lot of mixed signals, my friend. So make sure your entire network of friends is on call during this confusing time. Try looking inward for answers—and rely on a Libra for balance.

LIBRA: Be careful who you do business with (personally and professionally)—there are so many planets

making hard aspects to each other during this time. But Mars in your financial sector could give you just the touch of greediness you need to go after the big bucks (and get 'em!). It might pay to go after a Taurus, too.

scorpio: Give yourself one big treat before you buckle down to get some serious work done. A chance to show the world what you can do could land on your doorstep on July 23, when the Sun moves to the top of your chart. A Gemini wants to show you something.

SAGITTARIUS: You may feel like you're the only person within a 500-mile radius who still has a sense of humor. But while everyone around you is cracking up, do you best to stay sane and healthy. Do something nice for your body. Quit smoking, join a health club, make love to an Aquarius.

CAPRICORN: Romance (or lust) could peak during the third week of July as the planets conspire to make you think less and feel more. A little bit of inappropriate behavior actually pays off—at least in the short run—with a Cancer.

AQUARIUS: Make the most of Jupiter and Saturn in your homeand-family sector. Get cozy with your honey and shut out the rest of the world. Hard aspects abound this during mid-to-late July, so give people some slack. Be especially kind to a Libra.

PISCES: Stop spending so much time in the storybook world of your dreams and start getting to know the real people in your life. The Sun is passing through the hammiest section of your chart (through July 22), so expect to do something wild and crazy—maybe with a Capricorn.

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





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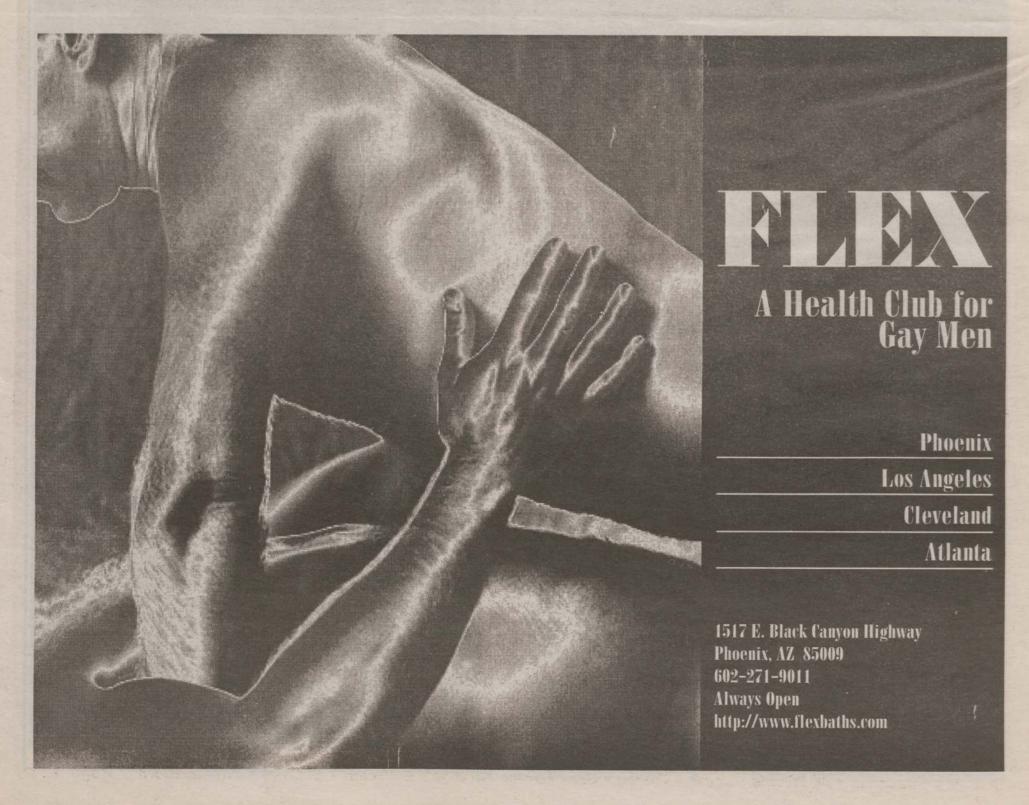
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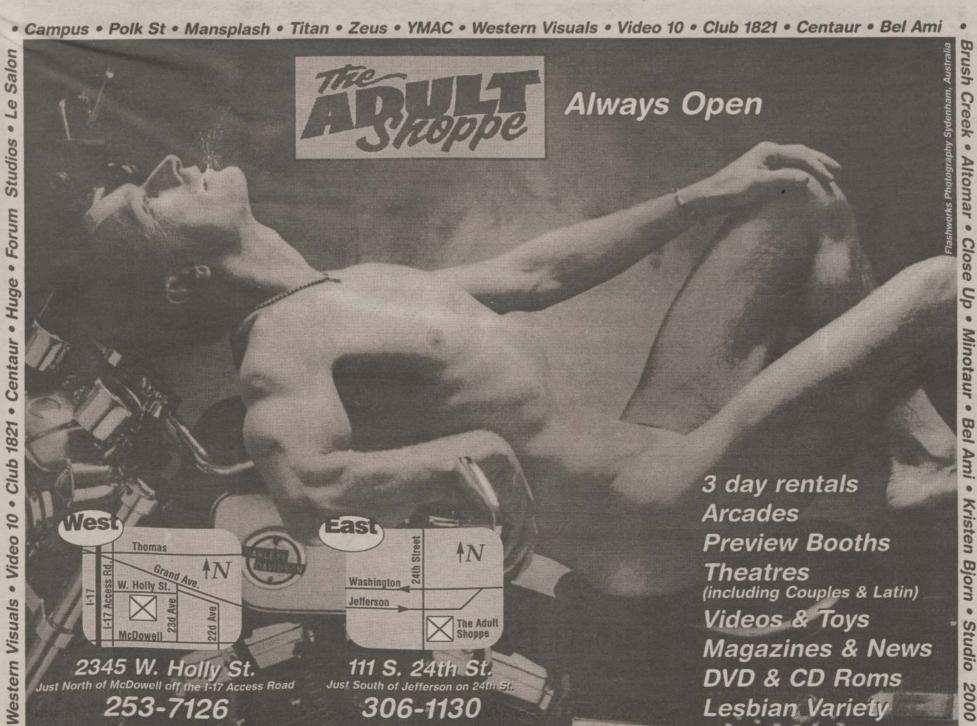
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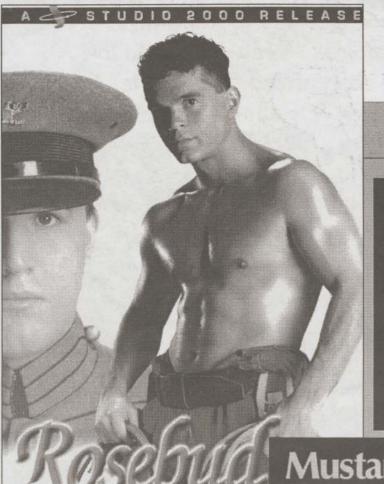
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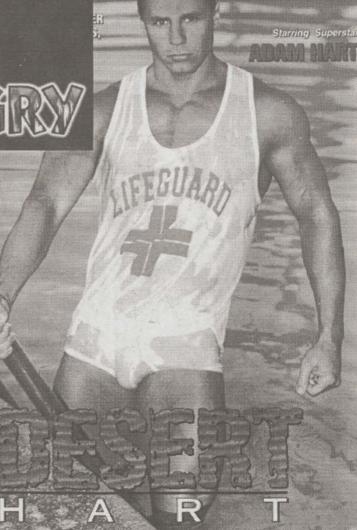
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