

HeatStroke

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October 8 — 21, 1998

Malcolm Gets SERIOUS about HIV/AIDS

Caroline's "Richard" will participate in AIDS Walk AZ

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

He plays anti-social for laughs every week as Richard Karinsky, the brooding assistant to Caroline, a perennially perky cartoonist portrayed by Lea Thompson on the TV comedy *Caroline in the City*.

But in real life actor Malcolm Gets can brighten up and show off his friendlier side by lending his celebrity name and support to a good cause.

He'll be in Phoenix Oct. 18 to take part in the 11th annual AIDS Walk Arizona, along with Beth Broderick, who plays Zelda on the ABC comedy *Sabrina, The Teenage Witch*.

Gets grew up in Gainsboro, Fla. and later graduated from the Yale School of Drama. He was known primarily as a stage actor in New York before landing the role on the hit NBC series that has led to fame.

He's won two Obies (that's the off-Broadway equivalent of a Tony) for his acting—one for playing the lead in Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and another in 1995 for the Stephen Sondheim musical, *Merrily We Roll Along*. The musical role also brought the 33-yr-old blond actor a Drama Desk nomination.

This past summer, Gets returned to the New York stage during *Caroline's* taping hiatus to star as a neurotic gay songwriter in William Finn's new musical, *A New Brain*, at Lincoln Center.

Beth Broderick has played a variety of characters on stage and in film and television. She is also an accomplished screenwriter and director, and has been active in the battle against AIDS since 1984. She was a founding director of Momentum, one of the first organizations in New York established to assist people living with AIDS.

The two sitcom stars will join thousands of Arizonans in the 10-kilometer AIDS Walk Arizona, the major AIDS fundraising and public awareness event in the state.

As the Walk tradition begins its

second decade, the event will include more entertainment than ever before, including a performance by the pop ensemble Sister 7. The group is being presented by Walk co-sponsor KZZP radio.

"We're trying to build up the entertainment so that the Walk really becomes a celebration of life," said Louise Bowden of AIDS Project Arizona, the Phoenix agency hosting and producing the event.

"We know that for a lot of people, participating in the Walk is a kind of memorial. And yet we want to make it uplifting. We're trying to increase the activities so that it is truly an event for everyone," Bowden said.

New this year will be entertainers stationed along the route, so walkers will be able to stop and enjoy a musical or theatrical performance during the Walk.

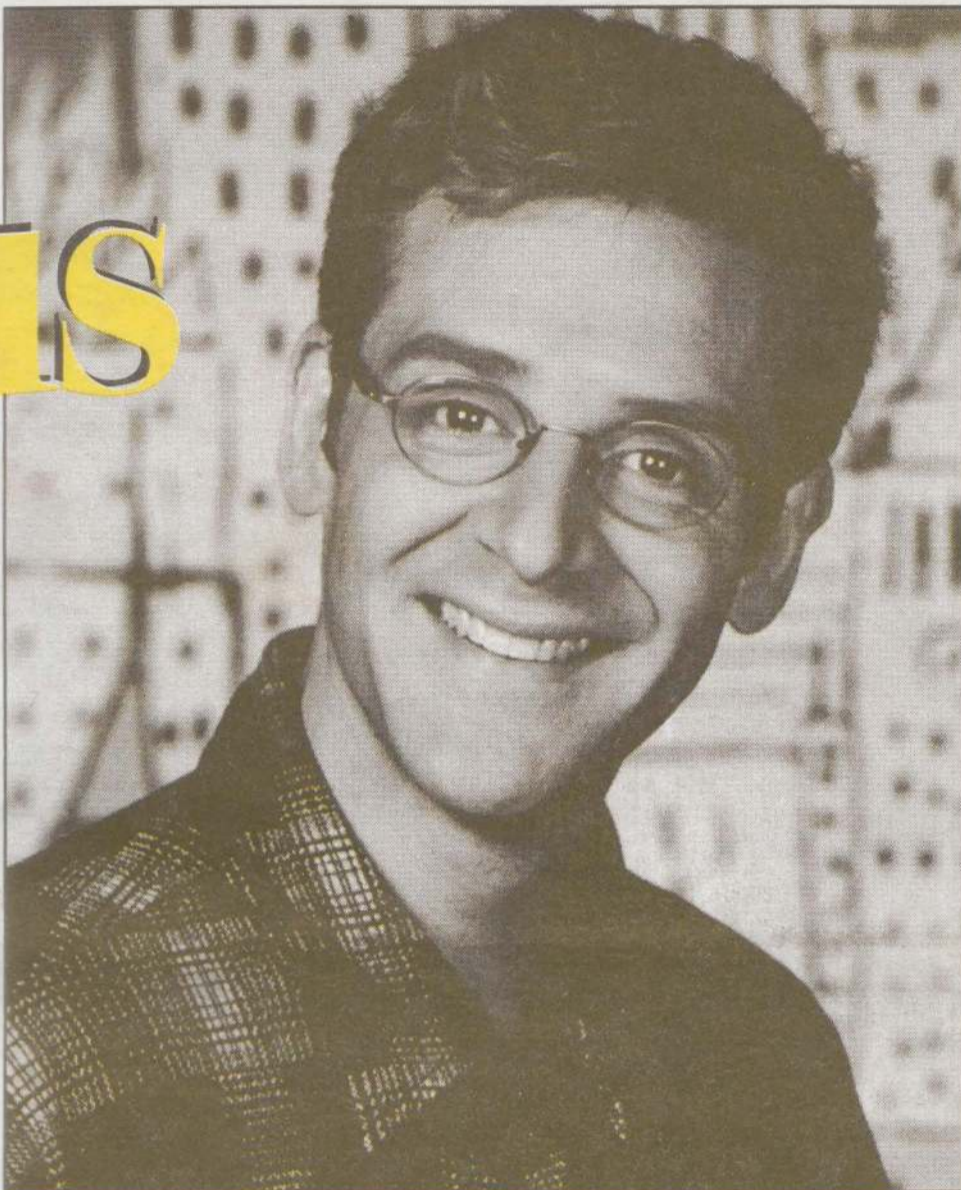
Bowden, as Director of Special Events for APAZ and head honcho of the Walk, has been overseeing a huge collection of staffers and volunteers in planning the event.

"Last year we took in \$900,000 and had more than 14,000 walkers, and we expect to top that for 1998," Bowden said. "We want to make this a million-dollar fund raising event for AIDS in Arizona, and we can do it."

One big incentive for walkers to raise funds that's new this year is the 1999 SL2 four-door Saturn sedan donated by Saturn of Arizona. Any walker who raises more than \$500 in sponsorship money will receive at least one chance to win the car, earning another chance per each additional \$500 raised.

A grand prize vacation to San Carlos, Mexico will be awarded to the person who collects the highest amount of money for the Walk. The seven night deluxe package for two is offered courtesy of ILX Resorts and AeroMexico.

There are other prizes available to walkers, including color TVs, CD players, watches and personal orga-



nizers. Anyone who raises more than \$125 will receive an AIDS Walk T-shirt.

"We are also trying to get a friendly competition going among the gay bars in town to increase participation," said Bowden.

A traveling trophy will be awarded once again to the bar that recruits the most walkers in its contingent, said Scott Botma, one of the Volunteer Coordinators working on the event.

"Last year, the trophy was won by The Park, and we understand The Park is leading the pack this year," Botma said. "They have nearly 100 walkers already signed up, which is great."

Support for the Walk among groups and individuals today extends far beyond the gay community.

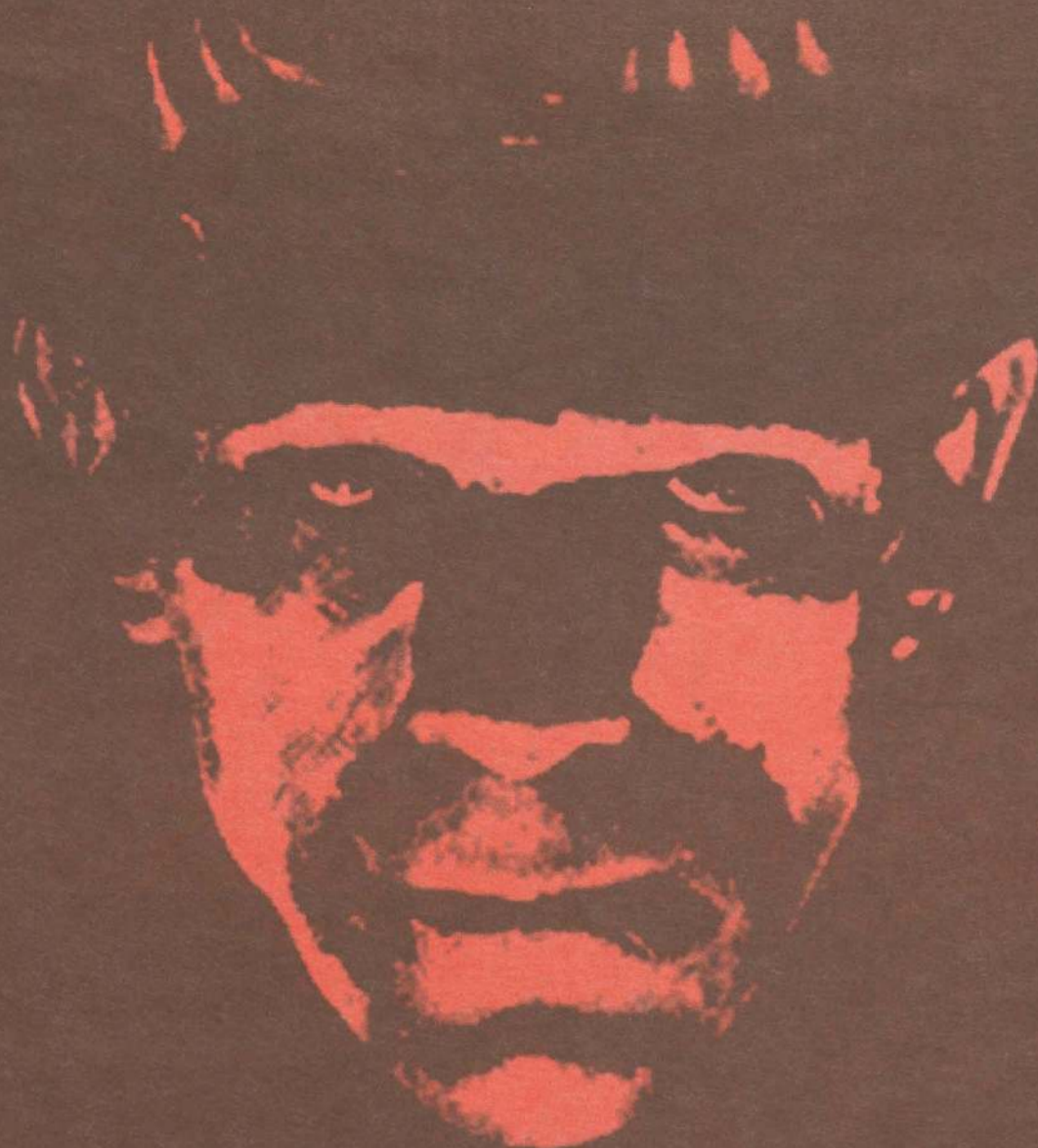
"We have many corporations getting involved, and we've tried to get a friendly competition going in that area, too," said Botma. A number of Phoenix area high schools are also participating. "Apollo and Corona are doing an awesome job" of recruiting, he added.

Lisa Roark is another Volunteer Coordinator at APAZ working with the business community. She reported that Chase bank's credit card division has challenged other local credit centers to a registration drive and that support for the Walk within the

AIDS Walk AZ Entertainment Lineup

- Actors Theatre of Phoenix
- Alan Prewitt and Friends
- Anita Rutherford and Friends
- Arizona Theatre Company
- Ashlings
- ASU Cheerleaders
- ASU Civic Light Opera
- ASU repertory Troupe
- Ballet Arizona - School of Ballet
- Brenda Allen
- Childsplay
- D'mitri Larno
- Diamond Fire
- Grand Canyon Men's Chorale
- Honeychild
- Ilana Arzt
- Jacqueline Paisley
- James Douglas Band
- Jerry Wayne Harkey
- Joe Hluphenka Bayana and Harare
- Ladies With An Attitude
- Lila Sherman
- Lynn Lynton
- Nancy Nunez Productions
- Phoenix Theatre
- Phoenix Theatre Cookie Company
- Planned Parenthood Positive Force Players
- Rainstar College
- Rene Patrick
- Sister 7
- Sparky, the ASU Mascot
- Trevor G. Browne Marching Band & Students
- Wade Robinson
- Bruce Kelly and Lou Valentino of KZZP

See "AIDS Walk" page 7



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Horowitz:

Vow of Chastity

I stayed home sick from work this week and watched more television than I have in years.

Oprah Winfrey interviewed Chastity Bono and her mother, Cher. Chastity has a new book in print called *Family Outing*. The *Advocate* also featured Chastity in its most recent issue. I haven't read the book, but I'm going to as soon as I can. I'm a sucker for a good coming out story.

In a remarkable coincidence—if there is such a thing—VH-1 ran a flashback episode of Cher's television show from the 1960's. One day, Cher's guests were Elton John and Bette Midler, and on a subsequent episode she had Chastity on the show. While interviewing Chastity, Cher asked, "What would you do if you had your own television show? How would you come out?" Cher was referring to an entrance to the stage. She couldn't possibly have known the significance of the question.

Chastity initially didn't come out; she was outed by the tabloid press. When the outing took place, Chastity retreated into the closet for several years, not ready to face her life, the publicity or her parents—particularly her mother.

When Chastity did finally come out on her own, she came out to her conservative Republican father first. She was closer to Sonny at the time since Cher traveled a great deal. When Chastity finally had the conversation with Cher, Cher handled it badly. By her words, she freaked out and went ballistic.

Her dreams for her daughter were destroyed in just a few words. Cher worried what people would think—particularly ironic since she appeared to rarely worry about what people thought. Throughout her career,

I think Cher is terrific on her own, and I've always been a big fan, but you wouldn't see her on "Oprah" talking about gay rights if Chastity wasn't a dyke.

she's never been one to follow the crowd. Cher told Oprah that she thought her daughter would "grow up, get married, have children, get a divorce and live happily ever after."

But Cher, gay icon that she is, came around rather quickly. Like any mother, Cher loves her daughter unconditionally and stands by her daughter's side.

Cher expresses complete disdain for the intolerance and discrimination that Chastity and the rest of us face daily. Cher is willing to speak out for gay rights and equality.

I say it's because her daughter's gay. Don't get me wrong, I think Cher is terrific on her own, and I've always been a big fan, but you wouldn't see her on Oprah talking about gay rights if Chastity wasn't a dyke.

In the same issue of the *Advocate*, however, there's an

article that suggests little difference among people who know someone gay versus those who don't when it comes to supporting gay rights.

A recent Harris poll found that 53% of people who have gay or lesbian close friends or relatives support gay rights, while 51% of people who have no gay or lesbian close friends or relatives support gay rights. Within the poll's margin of error, it's a dead heat.

The poll brings us good news and bad news. The

The good news is that a majority of people believes in equal rights for gay and lesbian people. The bad news is that the poll suggests that coming out doesn't matter.

good news is that a majority of people believes in equal rights for gay and lesbian people. The bad news is that the poll suggests that coming out doesn't matter.

On the Oprah show, along with Cher and Chastity, several sets of parents of gay people spoke about their gay children, and a young lesbian came out to her sister and later read the audience a letter of support from that sister.

I don't suggest that all of our support comes from people who know us, but I firmly believe that knowing someone gay can inspire or otherwise solidify a person's inner beliefs in equality and fundamental fairness. When someone has touched a human heart, everything is possible.

We touch human hearts by coming out and telling our stories. People do the same thing when they describe surviving rape, incest, cancer or HIV. Ryan White changed the world by telling his story of life and death with AIDS.

I sincerely hope that no study or statistic will diminish our resolve to come out of our respective closets whatever they may be. I don't suspect that Oprah will interview me anytime soon, but I know that my brothers and sisters in the gay community have lots of Oprah-worthy stories to tell.

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

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Either way, you'll need to include your full name and address. We'll print only your city, and will withhold your name if you ask us to. Letters may be edited for length, grammar and clarity.

On page 1: Malcolm Gets, star of *Caroline in the City*.

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Phoenix schools earn failing grade from national gay group

The New York-based Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network evaluated the anti-discrimination policies of Phoenix's largest school district in early September and handed the district an "F", according to a Sept. 23 report in the *Arizona Republic*.

In a follow-up piece on Oct. 2, however, the Phoenix daily reported that the Phoenix Union high school district was working to add language specific to sexual orientation to its existing non-discrimination policies.

New language that will be up for

discussion at the district's Oct. 15 board meeting says the district is, "committed to a policy of multicultural/diversity education which manifests itself through the promotion of equity opportunity for students of both genders and of every race, ethnicity, national or language origin, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status and physical and mental ability," the paper said.

GLSEN based the district's low grade on "yes" or "no" responses to statements such as: "The district pro-

jects students from discrimination based on sexual orientation"; "The district protects staff and students from harassment based on sexual orientation"; and, "The district supports curricula that are inclusive of the lives of LGBT people."

A GLSEN spokesperson told the *Republic's* Betty Reid that the Phoenix Union district had failed the gay advocacy organization's survey because current policy does not specifically contain language addressing discrimination against gay or les-

bian students or employees.

Jim Cummings, speaking for the district shortly after the "F" grade was announced, told Reid that the district's non-discrimination policy did cover sexual orientation discrimination, but in the context of its broader language.

By the time Reid's follow-up piece appeared a week later, Cummings said the district was drafting a new policy when GLSEN issued its report and that the new language had been in the works for a year.

600 attend NLGJA conference: Gay Press feels included for first time

By Rex Wockner, HeatStroke Contributor
LAS VEGAS —

Six hundred gay and lesbian journalists descended on this surrealistic city Oct. 1-4 for the Seventh Annual Convention of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association.

Former Navy officer Tim McVeigh, who was at the center of the military/America Online privacy scandal earlier this year, took advantage of the meeting to say publicly for the first time that he is gay. This was the conference's big story according to the mainstream media, which followed McVeigh's case closely.

For the gay press, the big news was that people who work in the gay media felt truly welcomed and included in an NLGJA confab for the first time.

Chris Crain, editor and publisher of Atlanta's gay *Southern Voice*, said: "Almost all the panels have something to offer for the gay press. ...

Everyone's been very, very respectful."

The editor of *Bay Windows* in Boston, Jeff Epperly, said: "They've been much more inclusive this year and I think as a result the programming was a little bit more interesting, a little more diverse and, probably, a little bit more contentious at times because there wasn't such a focus on the mainstream viewpoint. The gay viewpoint is different."

"This convention recognizes the gay press in a way that past conventions have never done," agreed Steve Friess, the host committee chair and a reporter at the daily *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. "We typically have not paid that much attention to the gay media. I think we had a full track of activities for gay reporters."

"The gay media nowadays is breaking stories," Friess added. "They are leading the pack. Most of the mainstream media wouldn't be doing the kind of journalism they're doing

on gay issues if the *Advocate* hadn't taken the lead, if the other publications that are local hadn't done what they do."

Las Vegas Mayor and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jan Laverty Jones was a big hit at the opening-night plenary session.

"You hear it from the right-wing all the time that somehow you are against family values, that somehow there is something unnatural in your love and affection for one another, that somehow you aren't productive members of the community," Jones said. "This kind of perception, discrimination and hate—the more we perpetuate it at any level of our society and communities, the greater risk we are to building a great America."

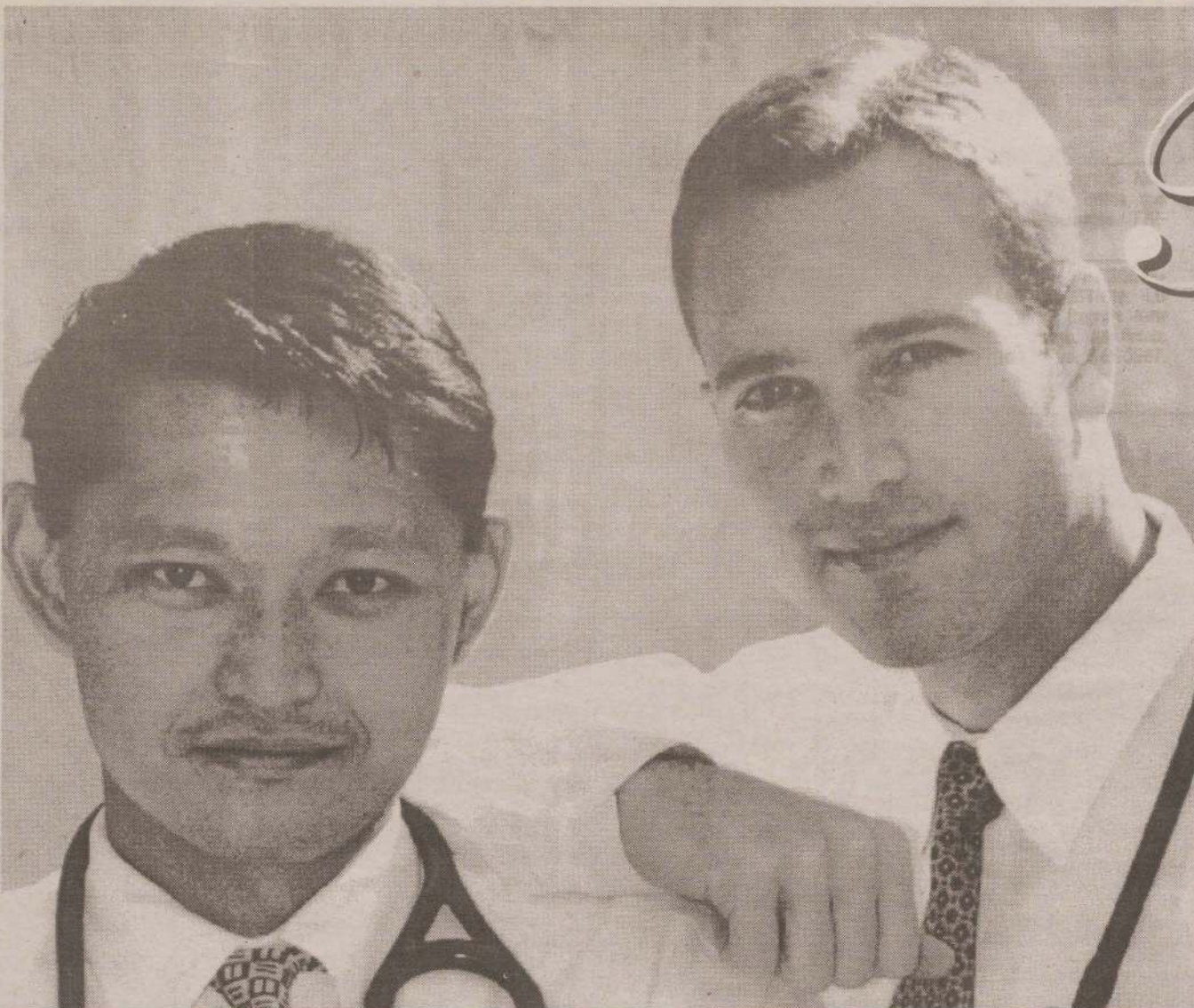
Jones added that she fully supports legalized gay marriage. She is the only U.S. mayor besides San Francisco's Willie Brown to have signed a resolution in support of gay marriage.

60 Minutes TV journalist Lesley Stahl also spoke on opening night, mostly addressing the Monicagate scandal and not once mentioning gays in her comments.

During follow-up questions, however, she said: "What [the gay-cure group] PFOX was claiming [in a *60 Minutes* story I did] they couldn't document, they can't document. They can't give us numbers, they can't prove their case. And too many people, we found, who've been through PFOX have come out admitting it failed. You know, it's a silly argument, curing this. It's ridiculous. ... When I saw my own piece myself, I thought it came through that [change therapy] is unhealthy and destructive."

"Could you believe what that PFOX mother said [in my *60 Minutes* piece] about her son?" Stahl asked. "It broke your heart. I can't even repeat what she said. It was just horrible what she said about her son. It just

Continued on next page



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Gay friendly Dems face challenger in District 25

Republic endorses Libertarian in House race

Arizona's Libertarian Party has trained its sights on largely Democratic District 25 in hopes of gaining at least one seat in the state legislature in the Nov. 3 election.

The party's ambition in the central Phoenix district was made more apparent on Oct. 1 when the state's largest daily newspaper endorsed Libertarian candidate John Buttrick over Democratic incumbent Christine Weason.

"Buttrick will be a welcome spice in the brew of intellectual mediocrity that too often bubbles to the top in the Legislature," gushed *The Arizona Republic's* editorial writers in favoring



Dist. 25 Rep. Christine Weason "is a proven gay-friendly legislator," says Rep. Ken Chevront, an openly gay man.

Buttrick, who ran for Governor on the Libertarian ticket four years ago.

"Gay voters need to know that Christine is a proven gay-friendly legislator, and it is very important to the community that both she and I get reelected," said Rep. Ken Chevront when asked about the paper's endorsement.

The *Republic* editorial also favored Chevront in the coming race.

Chevront first entered the House of Representatives in 1994 and was the first openly gay candidate elected to the legislature in state history.

Pundits on the local PBS political analysis program *Horizon* discussed Buttrick's candidacy and the *Republic* endorsement the following day.

Capitol insider and *Horizon* panelist Howard Fisher suggested during the taping that a Libertarian candidate might appeal to the district's prominent gay and lesbian population, in that part of the Libertarian platform addresses keeping the government out of citizen's private lives.

But both Fisher and *Arizona Capitol Times* reporter Sunny Hemphill seemed to agree that the newspaper's choice of a minority party candidate over a proven incumbent like Weason was out of character.

"I guess we'll see if those endorsements really mean anything," Hemphill said.

Chevront said that despite the paper's unusual pick, the fact remains that Dist. 25 is currently represented by three very good, gay-friendly incumbents and that all three are looking for the gay vote on Nov. 3 in order to retain their seats.

"[Sen.] Chris Cumiskey, Christine, and myself have all been hugely supportive of gay and lesbian issues and concerns," he said.

"If we get a good Democratic turnout in the general, we should have no problem," Chevront added. He speculated that some Democrats in his district may have opted not to participate in the Sept. 8 partisan primary because they had relatively few choices on that ballot.

Persons wishing to support Weason, Chevront, and/or Cumiskey—either financially or by volunteering—should contact Alma at Arizona Democratic Party headquarters at (602)257-9136 to be put in touch with their respective campaigns.

didn't expect there to be so many mainstream newspapers. More people should take advantage of the fact that they're here and talk about potential jobs. Whether it's just a face-show, who knows, but for me it makes a difference."

"I felt when we started programming this time," said convention Co-Chair Rose Marie Arce, a producer at CBS News, "that it was time for NLGJA to grow up, to really get into the big leagues of doing a journalistic convention where you can address the needs of all your members. So this year we had something for the photo people, we had a cartoonist speaking, we had a video project that incorporated gay TV for the first time, we have a student project, online radio is included—it's just a much broader brush that we've painted with.

"People join this organization because they want to come out and they want to be better journalists and they don't want coming out to be an obstacle to that, so we programmed for those two things — to help people come out and help them be better journalists," Arce said.

Continued from previous page
was horrible."

Other celebrity speakers included Virginia Apuzzo, a lesbian aide to President Bill Clinton, former Ford Motor Company executive Allan Gilmour, Dykes To Watch Out For cartoonist Alison Bechdel and gay comedian Bob Smith.

Media outlets with booths at the convention included the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, *USA Today*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, *NBC News*, *New York's Daily News*, *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *The Hearst Newspapers*, *Minneapolis' Star Tribune*, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *National Public Radio*, the *Knight Ridder papers*, the *Atlanta Journal* and the *Atlanta Constitution*, *CBS News*, *Gannett Company Inc.*, the *Arizona Republic*, *ABC*, *Newsday*, the *Baltimore Sun* and the *Hartford Courant*.

"I am very impressed with who did turn up," said Katherine Linton, host of the PBS gay newsmagazine *In The Life*. "I didn't expect ABC, CBS and NBC to be having tables and talking very openly about hiring people. I

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Gay couple hosts Napolitano



Attorney General hopeful Janet Napolitano attends a fundraising reception co-hosted by Bill MacDonald.

Longtime Arizona gay rights activists Bill MacDonald and Mike Reiser hosted a reception for Democratic Attorney General candidate Janet Napolitano Sept. 24. The event was held at the couple's home in the Biltmore area of central Phoenix.

The fund raiser was sponsored by a

number of Phoenix supporters of Napolitano's campaign who are active in the gay and lesbian community. It was not directly affiliated with the Washington-based Victory Fund, nor with the Arizona Human Rights Fund, a local political advocacy group presently chaired by MacDonald.

Scott Seomin named GLAAD Entertainment Media Director

NEW YORK, NY—

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has named veteran publicist and writer Scott Seomin its Entertainment Media Director, effective Sept. 21.

Seomin was selected from an extensive list of candidates produced in a nationwide search following the departure of former Entertainment Media Director Chastity Bono.

As a free-lance writer based in LA, Seomin has contributed entertainment stories to *HeatStroke* on occasion. His byline most recently appeared in the Phoenix newspaper's Sept. 10-23 issue under a cover story about the new gay movie, *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*.

"With his long and prominent history of work within the industry and his experience in the fields of public relations and journalism, Scott brings to GLAAD a unique voice and influence which will enable him to energetically lead our efforts in the entertainment media industry," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "We are extremely fortunate, and furthermore, extremely excited to have him on board."

Seomin comes to GLAAD from GTSP Records, a label owned and operated by musician and television personality John Tesh and distributed by Polygram, where he was director of media relations.

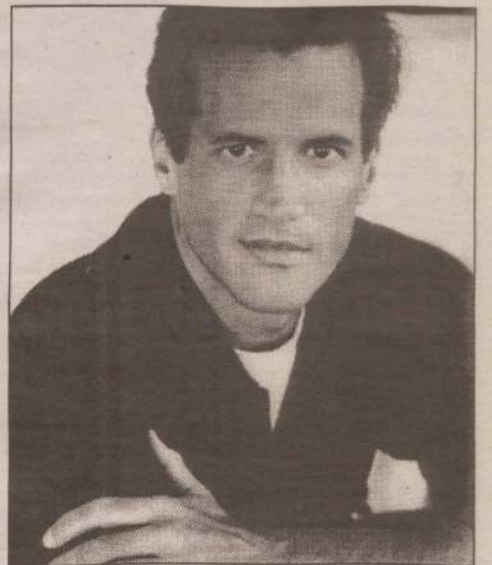
He then began his work in television, serving as the first public relations manager for cable's *E!* Entertainment Television and later as director of publicity at Warner Bros. Domestic Television Distribution.

He was also the longtime director of media relations for *Entertainment Tonight*, where he began his seven-year association with Tesh. A former reporter for *Extra*, Seomin has been a

contributing feature writer for quality lesbian and gay print publications nationwide.

"GLAAD's work resonates with me on many levels," said Seomin. "While my decision to leave GTSP Records was a difficult one, I am excited about the unique opportunities GLAAD's work and mission provide. Working at GLAAD will give me a chance to bring about real change in the media's portrayal of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community issues."

Seomin added, "As a gay youth, I saw almost no images of our community on television, in film or in the news. The few representations that did exist were negative, stereotypical and hurtful. So my decision to join the team at GLAAD is a personal as well as a professional one. My hope is to have the entertainment industry uti-



Scott Seomin, the new Entertainment Media Director for GLAAD.

lize GLAAD as a resource in a more formalized way and to give GLAAD and even stronger voice in newsrooms across the country."

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'98 AIDS Walk AZ

Continued from page 1

business community is at an all time high.

"Chase even scheduled an entire AIDS Awareness Month, which is awesome for



Sitcom star Beth Broderick and the band Sister 7 (r) will appear at the AIDS Walk.

a traditionally conservative industry like banking," Roark said. "Wells Fargo is another big supporter. They are offering four Fiesta Bowl tickets to go to the Wells Fargo employee who raises the most money."

Arizona Republic Charities is again giving the Walk a major boost by donating 50 cents for every dollar raised. It was this organization's involvement that led to the success of last year's event, when the Walk more than doubled in attendance and funds raised from the year before.

Bowden stressed that there is still time to sign up for the Walk, and wants all of HeatStroke's readers to know that APAZ will be taking walker registrations right up to the day of the big event. "We are getting calls and faxes all day long with more and more people walking," she said.

In addition to fundraising and entertainment, the event still serves as a memorial to loved ones lost to AIDS.

One way to memorialize friends is to participate in "Wheels of Remembrance", formerly known as Silent Footsteps. Pinwheels will be available to walkers prior to the Walk, on which they can write the name of a loved one who died. The pinwheels will then be handed out to walkers along the route at a point designated for a moment of walking in silence.

The start location has changed from last year. The 1998 Walk will begin in downtown Phoenix at the Phoenix Civic



Plaza's Symphony Terrace at 2nd Street and Monroe.

Sign-in begins at 9 am and the Walk will step off at 10:30. To get involved, call 265-WALK.



The Walk Schedule

Sunday, October 18
Phoenix Civic Plaza
2nd and Monroe Streets

- 8:00 am** **A Choice To Live—
Prayer, Music & Memorial Service**
Symphony Terrace
- 9:00 am** **Sign-In Begins**
Sign in at the Walker Sign-In Tables on the terrace with your pledge money and pledge forms. Then relax, visit with your friends and enjoy the entertainment. There will be a variety of food and beverages available through vendors, including Starbucks and the Outback Steakhouse. Starbucks is donating 100% of its profits at the event to the Walk.
- 10:00 am** **Opening Ceremonies**
An aerobics team will lead a group warm-up and the ceremonies will begin with 12 News personalities Mitch Truswell and Lisa Carriell.
- 10:30 am** **The Walk Begins**
Malcolm Gets of *Caroline in the City* and Beth Broderick of *Sabrina, The Teenage Witch* will start the 10k Walk. It will take 2-1/2 to 3 hours to complete, and there will be rest stops with entertainment, refreshments and restrooms along the way.
- 1:00 pm** **Grand Celebration Featuring Sister 7**
KZZP hosts Sister 7 for the closing party. Food will be available and the prize winners will be announced, along with the drawing for the '99 Saturn.

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Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



Response and Responsibility

One sunny Saturday in mid-1987, 150 brave souls assembled upon the football field at Phoenix College. After a few speeches, many hugs and plenty of encouragement, they took to the sidewalks, walking together through residential neighborhoods, crossing streets with the lights and looking constantly left and right in expectation of the trouble that was sure to come.

Arizona's first "AIDS WALK" was born.

Those were troubled, desperate times for Phoenix AIDS activists, HIV-positive persons, and their friends.

In 1986, Kirk Baxter, then Executive Director of Arizona Stop AIDS Project, had learned of the success of this nation's first AIDS Walk held in Los Angeles in late 1985 and wanted to produce a similar effort here in Phoenix.

At that time there were neither AIDS fund-raisers nor federal grants to support those suffering and dying

from the complications of AIDS.

"We just had to do something, anything!", remembers Gerrie Mayer-Gibbons, a longtime activist. Less than \$10,000 was raised that day for shelter, medications, funeral expenses, and transportation for the sick and dying.

Caesar Perez, too, was present that day—just another voice crying in the wilderness as friend after friend died. Perez clearly remembers the fear walkers felt as they gathered at this "secret" location announced only days before, so that AIDS-bashers, homophobes and other demonstrators would not have time to mount a negative response to this march for dignity and human rights.

Times certainly have changed.

As we approach the 12th AIDS Walk Arizona, there will be more money raised, more walkers, more music, more safety, more women, more families and children, more publicity, more awareness, and more celebration.

Organizers overemphasize the incidence of HIV infection among women, children, and families in order to sensationalize the Walk. They don't tell us that in Maricopa County

gay men account for 74% of new infections (straight and gay men together account for 92%). Have we all but forgotten the thousands of gay men and women who have perished? Have we made much headway in curbing the epidemic?

Harsh realities haunt us: to date, more than 12,000 of us have become infected within Maricopa County, 650,000 in the United States, and now over 33 million persons worldwide have felt the deadly sting of this virus.

Half of those people have died, and more will continue to die as the Walk's organizers fix on obtaining their goal of \$1 million and counting every pledge while still not providing

Organizers should welcome new ideas and questions and respond by voluntarily publishing Walk-related financial information and fund distribution without having to be asked.

concrete answers as to how this money will best benefit those in need.

Questions linger concerning specific expenses of the Walk and the distribution and use of the remaining money. A battle has ensued over who's right and who's wrong. Criticism has been squelched; activists have been patronized and offended.

This was best demonstrated in an article in the Phoenix weekly, *New Times*, last June wherein Walk orga-

nizers responded to criticism with statements such as, "I have never given something to someone and had this kind of reaction" and, "If I went after someone because I didn't get a grant, I'd be written off!" Staunch defenders of the Walk have never been more self-righteous.

There is neither right nor wrong here. It is our responsibility to criticize. From criticism comes self-examination; from self-examination comes improvement.

Organizers should welcome new ideas and questions and respond by voluntarily publishing Walk-related financial information and fund distribution, without having to be asked time and again for facts and figures.

Persons living with HIV and activists must make their collective voices heard. Moreover, we have the responsibility to do this by walking in the event, volunteering, joining com-

mittees, writing letters demanding accountability, and advocating for improvement.

It's truly "our" Walk and "our" lives that are at stake.



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

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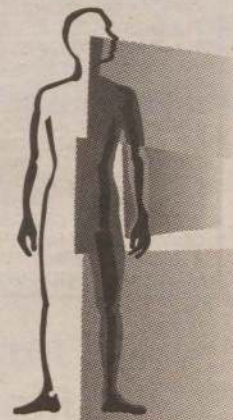
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In patients receiving androgenic anabolic steroid therapy, 1) peliosis hepatis, a condition in which the liver and sometimes splenic tissue is replaced with blood-filled cysts, has been reported; 2) liver cell tumors are also reported; 3) blood lipid changes that are known to be associated with increased risk of atherosclerosis are seen. See Warnings and Precautions sections of complete prescribing information.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: 1) known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast; 2) carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption); 3) pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose; 4) nephrosis of nephrotic phase of nephritis; 5) hypercalcemia

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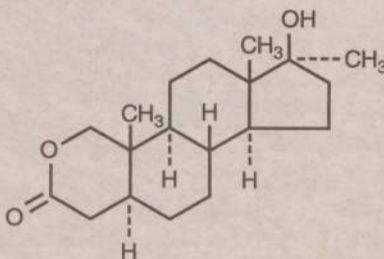
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(oxandrolone tablets, USP)

Revised: Aug. 30, 1996

DESCRIPTION

Oxandrin® oral tablets contain 2.5 mg of the anabolic steroid oxandrolone. Oxandrolone is 17 β -hydroxy-17 α -methyl-2-oxa-5 α -androstane-3-one with the following structural formula:



Inactive ingredients include cornstarch, lactose, magnesium stearate, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Anabolic steroids are synthetic derivatives of testosterone. Certain clinical effects and adverse reactions demonstrate the androgenic properties of this class of drugs. Complete dissociation of anabolic and androgenic effects has not been achieved. The actions of anabolic steroids are therefore similar to those of male sex hormones with the possibility of causing serious disturbances of growth and sexual development if given to young children. Anabolic steroids suppress the gonadotropic functions of the pituitary and may exert a direct effect upon the testes.

During exogenous administration of anabolic androgens, endogenous testosterone release is inhibited through inhibition of pituitary luteinizing hormone (LH). At large doses, spermatogenesis may be suppressed through feedback inhibition of pituitary follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH).

Anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins and decrease high-density lipoproteins. These levels revert to normal on discontinuation of treatment.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Oxandrin is indicated as adjunctive therapy to promote weight gain after weight loss following extensive surgery, chronic infections, or severe trauma, and in some patients who without definite pathophysiologic reasons fail to gain or to maintain normal weight, to offset the protein catabolism associated with prolonged administration of corticosteroids, and for the relief of the bone pain frequently accompanying osteoporosis (See **DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Oxandrolone is classified as a controlled substance under the Anabolic Steroids Control Act of 1990 and has been assigned to Schedule III (non-narcotic).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast.
2. Carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption).
3. Pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose.
4. Nephrosis, the nephrotic phase of nephritis.
5. Hypercalcemia.

WARNINGS

PELIOSIS HEPATIS, A CONDITION IN WHICH LIVER AND SOMETIMES SPLENIC TISSUE IS REPLACED WITH BLOOD-FILLED CYSTS, HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PATIENTS RECEIVING ANDROGENIC ANABOLIC STEROID THERAPY. THESE CYSTS ARE SOMETIMES PRESENT WITH MINIMAL HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION, BUT AT OTHER TIMES THEY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH LIVER FAILURE. THEY ARE OFTEN NOT RECOGNIZED UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING LIVER FAILURE OR INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG USUALLY RESULTS IN COMPLETE DISAPPEARANCE OF LESIONS.

LIVER CELL TUMORS ARE ALSO REPORTED. MOST OFTEN THESE TUMORS ARE BENIGN AND ANDROGEN-DEPENDENT, BUT FATAL MALIGNANT TUMORS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG OFTEN RESULTS IN REGRESSION OR CESSATION OF PROGRESSION OF THE TUMOR. HOWEVER, HEPATIC TUMORS ASSOCIATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS ARE MUCH MORE VASCULAR THAN OTHER HEPATIC TUMORS AND MAY BE SILENT UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. BLOOD LIPID CHANGES THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS ARE SEEN IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE DECREASED HIGH-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS AND SOMETIMES INCREASED LOW-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS. THE CHANGES MAY BE VERY MARKED AND COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS AND CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE.

Cholestatic hepatitis and jaundice may occur with 17-alpha-alkylated androgens at a relatively low dose. If cholestatic hepatitis with jaundice appears or if liver function tests become abnormal, oxandrolone should be discontinued and the etiology should be determined. Drug-induced jaundice is reversible when the medication is discontinued.

In patients with breast cancer, anabolic steroid therapy may cause hypercalcemia by stimulating osteolysis. Oxandrolone therapy should be discontinued if hypercalcemia occurs.

Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with pre-existing cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. Concomitant administration of adrenal cortical steroid or ACTH may increase the edema.

In children, androgen therapy may accelerate bone maturation without producing compensatory gain in linear growth. This adverse effect results in compromised adult height. The younger the child, the greater the risk of compromising final mature height. The effect on bone maturation should be monitored by assessing bone age of the left wrist and hand every 6 months (See **PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests**).

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

ANABOLIC STEROIDS HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN TO ENHANCE ATHLETIC ABILITY.

PRECAUTIONS

General:

Women should be observed for signs of virilization (deepening of the voice, hirsutism, acne, clitoromegaly). Discontinuation of drug therapy at the time of evidence of mild virilism is necessary to prevent irreversible virilization. Some virilizing changes in women are irreversible even after prompt discontinuation of therapy and are not prevented by concomitant use of estrogens. Menstrual irregularities may also occur.

Anabolic steroids may cause suppression of clotting factors II, V, VII, and X, and an increase in prothrombin time.

Information for patients:

The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following side effects of androgens:

Males: Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis, appearance or aggravation of acne.

Females: Hoarseness, acne, changes in menstrual periods, or more facial hair.

All patients: Nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.

Laboratory tests:

Women with disseminated breast carcinoma should have frequent determination of urine and serum calcium levels during the course of therapy (See **WARNINGS**).

Because of the hepatotoxicity associated with the use of 17-alpha-alkylated androgens, liver function tests should be obtained periodically.

Periodic (every 6 months) x-ray examinations of bone age should be made during treatment of children to determine the rate of bone maturation and the effects of androgen therapy on the epiphyseal centers.

Serum lipids and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol determinations should be done periodically as androgenic anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins. Serum cholesterol levels may increase during therapy. Therefore, caution is required when administering these agents to patients with a history of myocardial infarction or coronary artery disease. Serial determinations of serum cholesterol should be made and therapy adjusted accordingly.

Hemoglobin and hematocrit should be checked periodically for polycythemia in patients who are receiving high doses of anabolic steroids.

Drug interactions

Anticoagulants:

Anabolic steroids may increase sensitivity to oral anticoagulants. Dosage of the anticoagulant may have to be decreased in order to maintain desired prothrombin time. Patients receiving oral anticoagulant therapy require close monitoring, especially when anabolic steroids are started or stopped.

Oral hypoglycemic agents:

Oxandrolone may inhibit the metabolism of oral hypoglycemic agents.

Adrenal steroids or ACTH:

In patients with edema, concomitant administration with adrenal cortical steroids or ACTH may increase the edema.

Drug/Laboratory test interactions:

Anabolic steroids may decrease levels of thyroxine-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T₄ serum levels and increased resin uptake of T₃ and T₄. Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged. In addition, a decrease in PBI and radioactive iodine uptake may occur.

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility

Animal data:

Oxandrolone has not been tested in laboratory animals for carcinogenic or mutagenic effects. In 2-year chronic oral rat studies, a dose-related reduction of spermatogenesis and decreased organ weights (testes, prostate, seminal vesicles, ovaries, uterus, adrenals, and pituitary) were shown.

Human data:

Liver cell tumors have been reported in patients receiving long-term therapy with androgenic anabolic steroids in high doses (See **WARNINGS**). Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases.

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

Pregnancy:

Teratogenic effects—Pregnancy Category X (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

Nursing mothers:

It is not known whether anabolic steroids are excreted in human milk. Because of the potential of serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from oxandrolone, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric use:

Anabolic agents may accelerate epiphyseal maturation more rapidly than linear growth in children and the effect may continue for 6 months after the drug has been stopped. Therefore, therapy should be monitored by x-ray studies at 6-month intervals in order to avoid the risk of compromising adult height. Androgenic anabolic steroid therapy should be used very cautiously in children and only by specialists who are aware of the effects on bone maturation (See **WARNINGS**).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions have been associated with use of anabolic steroids:

Hepatic: Cholestatic jaundice with, rarely, hepatic necrosis and death. Hepatocellular neoplasms and peliosis hepatitis with long-term therapy (See **WARNINGS**). Reversible changes in liver function tests also occur including increased bromsulphthalein (BSP) retention, and increases in serum bilirubin, aspartate aminotransferase (AST, SGOT) and alkaline phosphatase.

In males:

Prepubertal: Phallic enlargement and increased frequency or persistence of erections.

Postpubertal: Inhibition of testicular function, testicular atrophy and oligospermia, impotence, chronic priapism, epididymitis, and bladder irritability.

In females:

Clitoral enlargement, menstrual irregularities.

CNS: Habituation, excitement, insomnia, depression, and changes in libido.

Hematologic: Bleeding in patients on concomitant anticoagulant therapy.

Breast: Gynecomastia.

Larynx: Deepening of the voice in females.

Hair: Hirsutism and male pattern baldness in females.

Skin: Acne (especially in females and prepubertal males).

Skeletal: Premature closure of epiphyses in children (See **PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric use**).

Fluid and electrolytes: Edema, retention of serum electrolytes (sodium chloride, potassium, phosphate, calcium).

Metabolic/Endocrine: Decreased glucose tolerance (See **PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests**), increased creatinine excretion, increased serum levels of creatinine phosphokinase (CPK). Masculinization of the fetus. Inhibition of gonadotropin secretion.

OVERDOSAGE

No symptoms or signs associated with overdosage have been reported. It is possible that sodium and water retention may occur.

The oral LD₅₀ of oxandrolone in mice and dogs is greater than 5,000 mg/kg. No specific antidote is known, but gastric lavage may be used.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Therapy with anabolic steroids is adjunctive to and not a replacement for conventional therapy. The duration of therapy with Oxandrin (oxandrolone) will depend on the response of the patient and the possible appearance of adverse reactions. Therapy should be intermittent.

Adults: The usual adult dosage of Oxandrin is one 2.5-mg tablet 2 to 4 times daily. However, the response of individuals to anabolic steroids varies, and a daily dosage of as little as 2.5 mg or as much as 20 mg may be required to achieve the desired response. A course of therapy of 2 to 4 weeks is usually adequate. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

Children: For children the total daily dosage of Oxandrin is ≤ 0.1 mg per kilogram body weight or ≤ 0.045 mg per pound of body weight. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

HOW SUPPLIED

Oxandrin 2.5-mg tablets are oval, white, and scored with BTG on one side and "11" on each side of the scoreline on the other side; bottles of 100 (NDC 54396-111-11).

Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

Revised: Aug. 30, 1996


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People must prove exposure to HIV before suing, Illinois Supreme Court says

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)

Groundless fear that someone exposed you to the virus that causes AIDS is not enough to merit monetary damages in court, the Illinois Supreme Court says.

The court ruled against a suburban Chicago woman cut by the scalpel of an AIDS-infected doctor and six people who were treated by a Northwestern University dental student who was HIV-positive.

None of the plaintiffs were infected with HIV, but they contended their fear was sufficient to justify monetary damages.

The court, however, said the plaintiffs needed to prove more than just an unsubstantiated fear. They must show they actually were exposed to the virus.

Proving exposure—that bodily flu-

ids came in contact with an infected person's bodily fluids—provides an objective standard by which to measure someone's fear, they said.

"Without proof of actual exposure to HIV, a claim for fear of contracting AIDS is too speculative," Justice Benjamin Miller said in delivering the court's opinion.

Also, a person who has to prove he was exposed is discouraged from filing a frivolous lawsuit based on ignorance about the way it is transmitted.

"It's important that the justices draw this line. There's a lot of hysteria about AIDS," Chicago lawyer David Holmes, who represented one of the defendants, said Thursday.

"There's a remote possibility someone will contract AIDS even if they're exposed."

Eileen Majca sued Dr. Steven Beekil and the estate of Beekil's late partner, Dr. Peter Lacher, a Homewood podiatrist who died of AIDS complications in November 1991. In March 1991, Majca, an office worker, cut her hand on a scalpel that Lacher apparently had used and that had been put in a waste basket Majca emptied. Majca said the knife had dried blood and a clear substance on it.

Disappointed by the decision, Majca's attorney, John Moran of Chicago, said Majca's experience caused "the same kind of suffering" as if she could have proven exposure.

"There were a lot of relevant facts left out of the opinion as to how reasonable the fear was, given Dr. Lacher's physical condition, and that the whole office was gossiping and

speculating that he had AIDS," Moran said.

In the other case, six unnamed people were treated in 1991 by a Northwestern University dental student who had HIV.

Defense attorneys argued that, in order to win damages, even people exposed to HIV must prove a likelihood they will develop AIDS. Once a person tests negative after six months, there is little chance of getting the disease, they said.

But the court said that, once exposed, nothing can erase the six months of fear a person must endure before getting a dependable test result. Lawsuits based on that uncertainty may be successful, the court ruled.

CA study: lesbians found to have higher rate of breast cancer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

A limited study of patients at a women's health clinic found lesbians had a higher risk of breast cancer than heterosexual patients, according to a report in the *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association*.

An analysis of 1,019 women seeking services at Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services in San Francisco between 1995 and 1997 showed that lesbians had a higher body mass index and fewer pregnancies, both previously identified as risk factors for breast cancer.

Eugenia Calle, director of epidemi-

ology for the American Cancer Society, said the study was only a preliminary look at risk factors and was not wide enough in scope to draw general conclusions about lesbians.

"The real question is, 'Is the population large enough and is it similar enough to the entire population of lesbian women and the entire population of heterosexual women?'" Ms. Calle asked.

"All women should be concerned about breast cancer and getting age-appropriate breast cancer screening," she added.

Still, researchers said the study

shows a need for more research that compares lesbian women to heterosexuals of various ages, economic and geographic groups.

The study was conducted by the clinic's medical director, Stephanie Roberts, and Suzanne Dibble, an associate professor at the University of California at San Francisco.

"It's still too early for us to develop specific mammography guidelines for lesbians, but our study shows the importance of encouraging lesbians to seek medical care on a regular basis," Roberts said.

Roberts and Dibble found no sig-

nificant differences between the two groups on risk factors such as family history of breast cancer or alcohol use.

Nearly all of the women surveyed for the study were low-income and lacked health insurance. Of the 1,019 women studied, 57.6 percent identified themselves as heterosexual and 42.4 percent as homosexual.

"For far too long lesbians have had more questions about than answers about their health," said Kathy Oriel, president of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, whose group funded the study.

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**International
Gay & Lesbian
News Briefs**
Compiled by Rex Wockner

Film critic Somsak Wongrathpanya added, "We have a censorship law that was written in 1930 and this law has not been changed to make it suitable for the situation now."

Anwar pleads not guilty

Deposed Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim pleaded not guilty Sept. 29 to engaging in homosexual sodomy and committing a host of other crimes he is charged with.

Anwar, removed from office Sept. 2, allegedly sodomized his speechwriter and his adopted brother, both of whom have been sentenced to six months in prison for committing an "act of gross indecency."

Anwar has denied all the charges and said he was framed by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad who felt threatened by Anwar's popularity.

Anwar's arrest and detention led to several days of street riots in Kuala Lumpur and calls for Mahathir's resignation.

During his court appearance, Anwar displayed severe injuries he said resulted from police beatings.

HIV-negative gay man sues Aussie Red Cross

A 21-year-old gay man in Melbourne, Australia, has hauled the Red Cross before a state human-rights tribunal for refusing to let him donate his HIV-negative blood.

"Scott" says the rejection was based solely on his statement that he has had gay sex.

"They [Red Cross] are ... portraying to the public that they don't need to be worried about HIV because it is a gay problem," Scott said. "Just because you are gay doesn't mean you are going to have unsafe anal sex with Tom, Dick or Harry, and just because you are heterosexual doesn't mean you're going to have safe sex with one partner."

A Red Cross lawyer argued that the agency is bound to reject "high-risk" donors by the Therapeutic Goods Act, the Code of Manufacturing Practice, and National Blood Transfusion Committee guidelines.

The tribunal's ruling is pending.

Too many Sydney gays bareback

Twenty-three percent of 621 gay men surveyed at three gay bars and one sexual-health clinic in Sydney, Australia, admitted to having unprotected anal sex with casual partners in the first six months of 1998.

The figures were the same for HIV-negative and HIV-positive men.

The research was conducted by Dr. Paul van de Ven, deputy director of Macquarie University's National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR).

A second NCHSR study found that some lesbians also put themselves at risk for HIV by having unsafe sex with gay and bisexual men.

Questioning of 774 mostly lesbian women at the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair found that 2 percent of lesbians, 25 percent of bisexual women and 8 percent of heterosexual women had sex with a gay or bisexual man in the preceding six-month period—and 20 did not use a condom.

"People tend to have sex with people in their friendship group," said NCHSR researcher Dr. Juliet Richter.

And women don't necessarily have sex only within the confines of their stated sexual identity, she said.

15,000 at Jo'burg Pride

A record 15,000 people turned out for Johannesburg, South Africa's ninth gay-pride parade Sept. 26, reports Gavin Hayward, editor of *Exit*, a local gay newspaper.

The eight-kilometer procession wound through the central Hillbrow, Yeoville and Berea areas, starting and ending at the same park. More lesbians and more people of color participated than ever before (South Africa is about 85 percent non-white). Several floats were sponsored by corporations, including GinZing, Benson & Hedges and BMW.

The parade theme was "Recognise Our Relationships."

"The last thing that we want is to have first-class marriages for straight people and second-class marriages for gay people," said rally keynote speaker Kevan Botha, a well-known gay lawyer and activist. "We again stand together and commit ourselves to work for a society where our relationships are respected and admired and where we have the choice not only to live in freedom but also to decide the nature, content and character of those relationships."

The rally featured a beer garden and information booths, including one staffed by the South African Police Service's Police Gay and Lesbian Network.

The Pride Parade After Party, held in the huge space below the grandstand of Johannesburg Stadium, offered four dance floors and continued until sunrise.

British NHS will buy Viagra for gay men

Britain's National Health Service will provide Viagra to gay men when it becomes available from the government medical system later this year.

"Family values" campaigners had argued gay men do not deserve the impotency treatment and will abuse it, but the Department of Health said it could not discriminate based on sexual orientation.

"I don't see why people should be paying for people to have homosexual activity," said Dr. Adrian Rogers of the Conservative Family Institute. "It really should be available only for married couples."

Valerie Riches of Family and Youth Concern said the drug needs to be "controlled to appropriate relationships" or "everyone will just be using it for larks."

It is estimated Brits will consume up to \$1.6 billion worth of Viagra yearly.

Thailand bans tranny film

Thai police banned a Singaporean film about transvestites from Bangkok's first international film festival Sept. 18.

Officials said *Bugis Street*, which looks at the drag queens who populate Singapore's red-light district in 1960, is pornographic.

"It's ridiculous that Thailand has one of the freest presses in Asia but Thai cinema is the most strictly censored in the world," director/screenwriter Ing Kanjanavanit commented to the *Bangkok Post*.

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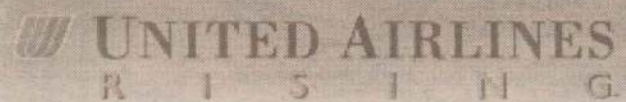
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Anatomically Correct

Our roving reporter sheds some light on a Phoenix tradition

By Ty Robins, HeatStroke Contributor

When I was approached by HeatStroke to cover (so to speak) the annual Southwest Gathering of Arizona Nude Dudes (ANDES) in late September, I was more than a little apprehensive.

Sure, I have attended my share of sleazy pool parties and witnessed plenty of nudity there—but I've never before been butt-naked in front of a group of complete strangers.

Troubling thoughts kept circling in my mind: Would I measure up? Would people stare at my less-than-impressive (when resting) equipment? Would worrying cause even further shrinkage? And what about that old Murphy's law of nudism—the one that says the ones who should hide their assets most are usually the least likely to?

Was I about to be thrown to the trolls?

Despite my reservations, I meticulously prepared myself on the day of the event. I shaved away unwanted facial stubble. I brushed, flossed and gargled to avoid halitosis. I thoroughly inspected my nether regions to ensure there were no boils on my booty. I masturbated to prevent untimely erections.

At last I was ready. I walked through the back gate of the central Phoenix bed and breakfast where the gathering was being held. About 50 nude men were already frolicking around the pool and patio areas.

I nervously peeled away my clothes in the un-dressing area. I kept telling myself that I shouldn't let all of those hours (okay, so maybe sometimes they're half hours) in the gym go to waste. "I look good," I kept repeating in my head like a mantra.

I jauntily threw my towel over one shoulder and strolled in.

My eyes searched for a chair or corner where I could safely park and watch the proceedings. Perhaps sensing my unease, men soon began introducing themselves to me in a friendly, non-threatening manner and I started to relax.

Then, on my first trip to the bar for a little refreshment, one of my biggest

fears was realized. The bartender recognized me! Embarrassingly enough, I could not remember his name. Like it or not, he now knows me better than most.

After helping myself to a few cups of wine from a box, I realized that these were some of the nicest men I've met.

One of them was David, who is 45 and works in sales. He's been a member of ANDES since the group formed about ten years ago. "I've met a lot of really fun, interesting people through ANDES," he says, "and it's a great way to get to know people without pretenses."

David says his first experiences with nudism were in college, where he frequented a nude beach and also swam at a men's gym which did not require bathing suits. "For me it was something really new," he says, "because I grew up in a home where you'd wear a bathing suit to the bathtub. I wasn't out then, but it was a great place to watch the men."

While he has enjoyed the social contacts he's made in the group, David admits his ANDES activities can be a point of contention in a relationship. He had to curtail his involvement for a period of time due to the objections of a lover. "I've since discovered that if I am ever to get involved again it has to be with a man who understands that you can go to a nude function and it doesn't have to be sexual."

The afternoon progressed and I had the opportunity to speak with Terry, one of three visitors from England attending the Phoenix gathering. At 62, he says he has enjoyed nudism for quite some time, "once I became comfortable with my body."

Terry says it was his experience in the UK Navy that helped him reach a new level of self-acceptance. "You've got to be comfortable with your own body because at certain times you have to be in the nude with lots of other guys. So you realize that although you might be built differently than anybody else, you're just supposed to get on with it."

Once he made that realization, Terry says, "I could just take my

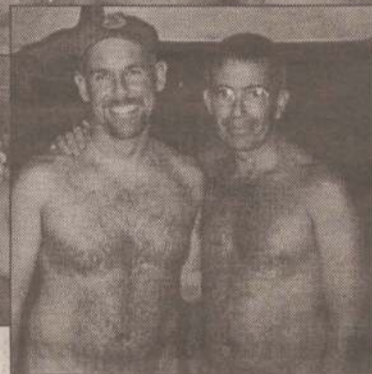
clothes off. But before that I was very shy and I found it very difficult."

Terry enjoys nudity with his lover of eleven years, David, who also attended the gathering along with their friend Derek. Although they do not belong to a nudist club, they frequent a nude beach near Derek's home in Wales with an informal organization of friends.

Next on the agenda was a dip in the surprisingly chilly water of the pool, a brisk experience that one of the attendees dubbed "The Equalizer." My testicles might have completely retreated inside my body, but I felt somehow emboldened.

My next interview was with ANDES members Paul Cain and Kurt Jacobowitz-Cain, who've been a couple for nine years. It was time for the sixty-four-thousand-dollar question: Isn't this just a big sex thing?

Not so, says Kurt, a 46-yr-old medical systems analyst. "One of the values of the club is that we're a social organization and we don't want sexual activity going on during



any function. What happens after the function, between private individuals, that's between them."

Kurt admits that gay and bi-sexual nudist organizations that are primarily focused on sex exist, but claims such clubs are in the minority.

Paul, who is 37 and works as a legal secretary, adds his perspective. "If somebody wants a sex club, they need to go to Chute [bath house]," he says. By the same token, ANDES tries to promote a sex-positive message. "We're not a bunch of prudes, and we're not anti-sex. So there's always a fine line that you're walking there."

Both men explain that ANDES events have specific starting and ending times, and what goes on once the function ends is up to the host and therefore becomes a private party. They cite a recent incident where a member continued to behave inap-

propriately at an ANDES event after several warnings and finally had to be ejected. The member ended up resigning.

The couple has been involved with the group for about two years and say that for the most part they are monogamous. "We've been together for nine years," Paul says. "I'm certainly not looking for any other relationship. But it doesn't mean that I've gone blind or that my body parts don't work anymore. But Kurt and I are very much committed to one another as a couple."

Other shared interests include devotion to their respective churches, accepting speaking engagements on behalf of the Gay and Lesbian Public Awareness Project, traveling and the gay tennis circuit. In addition, Paul is currently writing a book on Gay history and Kurt serves as an America Online chat host in the Gay and Lesbian community forum. The men

say that one of the reasons they find ANDES so enjoyable is the wide variety of activities it offers.

Progressive dinner parties, movie nights and nude desert hikes are just a few examples.

As the sun began to set, it was time for entertainment. At a lot of parties, "entertainment" would be provided by a stripper. Avoiding the redundancy of that concept, the men of ANDES called upon the comedic talents of

local entertainer Nick Tarr, who regaled us with his Church Lady routine and an audience participation number that resembled the Spice Girls on a bad acid trip.

Then came a catered Mexican dinner—just the thing to counter the boozy effects of the wine I had been drinking all afternoon.

In the end I realized that although I hadn't seen any porn star material or muscle Gods, I had a great time with a lot of really nice guys. I regretted having missed the welcoming cocktail party the night before, as well as that morning's desert hike (ouch?!). I also wouldn't be able to make the next day's brunch.

But before I left my hosts extended a warm invitation to the next ANDES event: a Barbie Party.

Hmmm. I guess Ken and I will be there.



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Goings On

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

"Adventurous" writer to appear in the 602

Gay columnist, intrepid Hollywood reporter and Arizona native Dennis Hensley is leaving the relative safety of Los Angeles and returning to the Valley this month to sign and read from his hot new book, *Misadventures in the (213)*.

Hensley's debut novel has been called, "*Tales of the City* meets *Entertainment Tonight* on ecstasy." It hilariously chronicles the multifarious happenings in the lives of a group of Hollywood hangers-on with an insider's inimitable eye and a gay man's indelible wit.

Hensley graduated from ASU in 1985 with a degree in Broadcast Journalism. The Holbrook native's own road from Tempe to the 213 provided fodder for a *HeatStroke* feature this past summer (issue #45, July 30-August 12), shortly after his book was published.

On Friday, Oct. 9 at 7 pm, Hensley will read and sign from the comic novel at Borders in the Biltmore Fashion Park, followed by an appearance at Obelisk: The Bookstore on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 6 pm. Obelisk is located at 24 West Camelback Road in central Phoenix—call (602)266-BOOK for info.

6th Annual OUToberfest Oct. 11

The Community Center will once again celebrate National Coming Out Day with a picnic at the South Mountain Park Activity Complex. The party will last from noon until 4 pm and will feature live music and all-you-can-eat food and drink.

There will be a mimosa party at Amsterdam in downtown Phoenix before the event, and tickets will be available there. Amsterdam will also host revelers after the event, with specially priced drinks Sunday evening.

Tickets are \$15, or \$12 for Community Card holders. Youth 18 and under can get in for \$5. Tickets are available at The Community Center and at Obelisk: The Bookstore in Phoenix. Call (602)265-7283 for more information.

IGRA Finals: make plans now

You won't want to miss this gay twist on old-fashioned western fun when the International Gay Rodeo Association's Finals Rodeo comes back to Phoenix over the weekend of Oct. 22 - 25.

The 1998 championship rodeo event will be held once again at the Corona Ranch & Rodeo Grounds near 29th Avenue and Baseline in Phoenix, with hundreds of contestants from the international circuit flocking to the Valley intent on winning buckles and titles.

For information, contact the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association-Phoenix Chapter at (602) 265-0618. Or surf their website at www.agra-phx.com

Alternative Healing Workshops

Join the Hand of Love Ministry for their Alternative Healing Workshops & Networking Meetings, where Reiki, Chiropractic and other alternative healing practitioners get together under the stars to work and learn together.

The workshops are held at the Hand of Love Ministry, 6605 North 14th Street, Phoenix (between Maryland and Glendale) on the third Thursday of every month. The next meeting is Oct. 20, from 7-10 pm.

Adepts of all disciplines of healing therapy are welcome. For more info, call (602) 264-1470.

Crowbar fashion show Oct. 23

Crowbar will team with *OUT* magazine and Tom of Finland clothing Company for a special fashion event on Oct. 23.

The show is called "A Study in Masculinity" and will introduce the new clothing line based on the homoerotic artwork of the popular gay illustrator.

There will be a \$10 cover—doors open at 7:30 and the show starts at 9:30 pm. Crowbar is located at 702 North Central in downtown Phoenix.

Relationship seminar slated

A Seminar that will include presentations and discussions regarding: how to make a relationship grow and flourish, giving financial and medical decision-making rights to partners, protecting property, protecting parenting rights, and much more will be held Oct. 24 from 9 am to 12 noon at The Community Center.

Speakers at the event will be Shannon Arriola, M.C., Mediator and Counselor, Denise Daup, M.A., C.P.C., Counselor, and Kathie J. Gummere, RN, J.D., Attorney.

The cost is \$10 and all proceeds will go to VOIT, the Center's youth program. Call the Center at (602)265-7283 for information.

LifeGuard hosting Halloween Party

The King & Queen's Masquerade Extravaganza will be presented at The Park on Friday, Oct. 30 at 8 pm.

The costume party is the next event in a series of house parties held every few months by Project LifeGuard of Phoenix, a program of AIDS Project Arizona.

LifeGuard is asking for a donation of \$3 per couple or \$2 per person to attend the event, which will offer prizes for Best Costumes. Proceeds will benefit the agency and its TRIBE program for African Americans, and Project Q, a gay & bi young men's outreach and education program.

The Park is located at 3002 North 24th Street in central Phoenix. Call Project LifeGuard at 266-7233 for information.



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- Fri:** Country Western Music with DJ "De"
- Sat:** Country Western Music with DJ "De"
- Sun:** Steak & Chicken Fry \$3, 6-8pm
Karaoke with Jamie 7-11pm



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday Oct. 16:** Wrap-up Party for Aunt Rita's Rainbows for Relief—from 7-9.
- Sunday Oct. 18:** Cash Inn's Jukebox raffle to benefit AIDS Walk AZ
buy a \$10 raffle ticket & get a chance to win the juke box, get a free T-shirt, and a free steak or chicken dinner redeemable on Oct. 18! While at the AIDS Walk, don't miss Diamond Fire and Ladies with an Attitude..
- Friday Oct. 23:** Ladies with an Attitude perform at the Cash!
- Friday & Saturday Oct. 30-31:** Cash Inn's Halloween Howling Hags Weekend
Friday, Oct. 30: Diamond Fire performs & hosts the Howling Contest! Cash Prize. Cover.
Saturday, Oct. 31: Come as your favorite wailing dead guy/gal entertainer. Costume Contest & Cash Prize! No Cover. Howling Drink Specials!



HeatStroke Short Takes

Permanent Midnight

That Ben Stiller knows how to deliver a laugh line is no surprise to anyone who knows his or her way around the cineplex snack counter. With his bravura dramatic performance in this darkly comic exploration of drugs and Hollywood, the hot young actor should further impress an already fairly impressed moviegoing public. Stiller stars as writer Jerry Stahl in the film version of his acclaimed memoir. The story back-flashes on Stahl's life on the white horse, from post-rehab to the years he penned top-rated TV series like *Alf* and *Thirtysomething* while stuffing every available vein with heroin.



The movie is as witty and smart as it is provocative and haunting—definitely one of the best things in theaters this fall. Model Elizabeth Hurley exhibits cool restraint as Stahl's long suffering wife, Peter Greene frightens the dead as one of his druggie buddies, and Janeane Garofalo slickly skewers another LA stereotype as his hungry agent. Lainie Kazan, Cheryl Ladd and Maria Bello also star. Directed and adapted for the screen by David Veloz.

The Impostors

Writer/Director/co-Producer and star Stanley Tucci follows up his 1996 critical hit *Big Night* with this 1930s farce. The story centers on a pair of

starving New York actors (Tucci and Oliver Platt) who unwittingly stow away on a cruise ship. The boys stumble into a boatful of wacky characters, spout a lot of wacky one-liners and spend a great deal of time running up and down the corridors when wacky hijinx quickly ensue.

It's a funny premise and sports a great cast, working in a style reminiscent of Woody Allen's better stuff. But the story never clicks and Tucci's editing is all over the place—too many nearly brilliant comic moments are left hanging. Billy Connolly turns in a performance that'll make GLAAD-watchers proud as a hyper-manly homosexual tennis star and Campbell Scott excels as a rigid German steward. Also starring Lili Taylor, Steve Buscemi, Tony Shaloub and Isabella Rossellini. Again, the cast is fabulous. Tucci pays further homage to Allen by having him make an unbilled appearance.

ANTZ

You needn't love Woody Allen to adore the computer-generated bug that borrows both his voice and personality in this wonderful animated film out of DreamWorks. The story



finds Allen starring as Z, the iconoclastic middle child in a family of a billion.

Sharon Stone speaks for the insect of Z's affection, Princess Bala. The bored and pampered royal ant is initially resistant but later swept off all six of her feet by Z's individualism and his working-class ambition.

ANTZ is nonstop fun—astonishing in its animated detail with a story

that's as tight as they come. The scene where the lovebugs first arrive at the legendary "Insectopia" (actually a garbage dump!) is absolutely priceless. Anne Bancroft portrays the Ant Queen and Gene Hackman is General Mandible, an evil soldier ant intent on controlling the colony. The inspired casting also includes Sylvester Stallone, Jennifer Lopez and Christopher Walken.

What Dreams May Come

A string of interesting effects and some ballsy photographic techniques aren't enough to save this overblown melodrama from wallowing in its own Technicolor mire. Robin Williams is horribly miscast as Chris Nielson, a sweet-natured doctor who dies in the first ten minutes of the flick and then spends what feels like eternity attempting to reunite with his misty-eyed wife, played by

Out on film

Annabella Sciorra.

Cuba Gooding Jr. is particularly annoying as Albert, Chris's guide to the afterlife. Heaven, it seems, is a freewheeling place in our imaginations where the only rules are those convenient to advancing the plot of this film. Said plot is essentially the gradual unfolding of one of the schmaltziest and least interesting love stories on record. The self-indulgent, existentialist dialogue in Ron Bass' script is unintentionally hilarious throughout. Thanks, guys—But no thanks. We'll keep dreaming. Max Von Sydow also stars. Directed by Vincent Ward.

Bert & Ernie: Now they're lesbians?

Saturday Night Pie serves up laughs at Willow House

On the third Saturday of each month this fall, the Willow House coffee house in downtown Phoenix will host a live comedy performance called *Saturday Night Pie*.

The collection of comic scenes is being produced by local writer Molly McCloy and performance artist Joyce Levin, and features an original sketch called "Ernestine and Bernadette" that puts a lesbian twist on a pair of well-known puppet partners from children's TV.

Saturday Night Pie is not for the close-minded or the sexually repressed. The "Ernestine and Bernadette" bit, for example, pro-

vides a wacky, uncensored look at life in gay America with explicit themes and raunchy, high-spirited humor.

Local writers are invited to submit short sketches (under ten minutes each) to be considered for the program. Local musicians are also invited to perform ten minute sets, provided they agree to play the *Sesame Street* theme song to introduce the main act.

Saturday Night Pie debuted to a packed house on Sept. 19. The next performance is set for Saturday, Oct. 17 at 9:30 pm in the Little Theatre directly behind the coffee house. A \$2 donation is suggested.

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Domestic Beer \$1.75
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Tuesday
Happy Hour 8am-8pm
"Vulgar Vodka" Night
Well Vodka \$2.00

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

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Don't Ask, Don't Tell solo show to benefit AHRF

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Scottsdale artist Mel Roman describes his work as "very nontraditional, not at all conventional."

He'd rather label his sculptures and paintings "conceptual"—if he has to label them at all—and says his work has always had a political and philosophical message.

Political issues generated by the government's failed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy toward gays in the military will be the focus of Roman's new one-man show, which borrows the phrase for its title and opens at Scottsdale's Bentley Gallery Oct. 22.

Roman hopes the month-long exhibition will raise both funds and awareness for the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), a non-profit political organization that backs gay-friendly candidates and advocates public policies supporting the rights of gays and lesbians and other minorities.

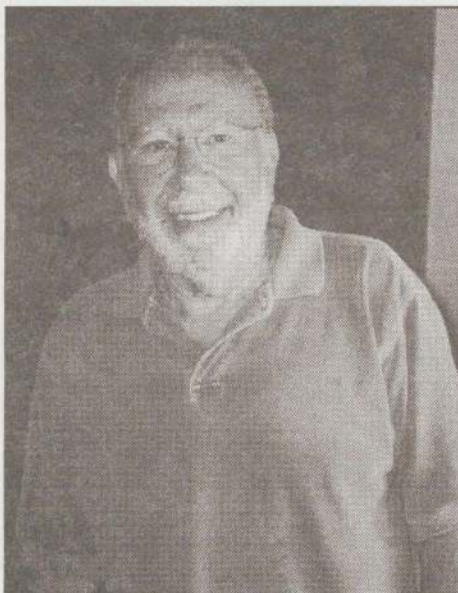
"It is my hope that this show goes beyond the basic theme of *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* to address the more profound issue, which is really the universal right of all people to be different," says the artist, whose work is collected and exhibited nationally.

These new pieces represent Roman's attempt to reinforce the complexity or absurdity of the government policy in terms of everyday life. "We are all part of this issue, and are affected by the way it is being addressed. It goes beyond the issue of homosexuality in social policy and is really much more internal, and affects everyone."

Roman was raised in New York

and worked as a psychologist before turning to sculpture and painting full time.

More recently, he studied and worked at Cosanti, the futuristic city



Local artist Mel Roman will donate a portion of the proceeds of his upcoming show to AHRF.

designed by Palo Solieri that has been under construction for decades in the desert northwest of Phoenix. He now lives in Scottsdale.

The bulk of his new work uses mirrors and text to make a statement so that the viewer becomes a part of the work—and also part of the statement—through his or her reflection in the piece. This conceptual style and use of mirrors ensures that the work is continually changing.

"I want to reduce the distance between the art and the viewer," explains the artist. "I'm trying to

work in that invisible space between [the viewer's] life and the art, so that when you are at the gallery you are made to reflect on your own position, not just in relation to the art but your position regarding the issue."

The show will include smaller pieces that combine collected photographs and text, and a piece designed for the entrance entitled "Nature/Nurture", which is a construction based on a human genetic map and incorporating neon signage.

The *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* show "deals with homosexuality, but more importantly much of how we evolve into human beings," he says.

The exhibition will benefit AHRF in two ways. First, there will be a preview reception at the gallery on the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 21. Tickets for this event are \$25 per person and the proceeds will go to AHRF. In addition, a percentage from sales of Roman's work during the exhibition will be donated to AHRF.

Ritchie Leitner is a member of the AHRF board and is helping to organize and promote the show on behalf of the organization.

"It is significant, and I personally think it's really great, that the Bentley Gallery is hosting this show as a benefit for a gay and lesbian organization

during the height of the Scottsdale art season," says Leitner.

Roman says his solo art show won't bring AHRF the kind of money that a big fund raising dinner does, but it might help to raise awareness of the organization among people who would otherwise not be reached.

"Because the show is located in a good, contemporary gallery, people are going to learn more about AHRF and what they are doing on behalf of rights in Arizona," he explains.

Roman thinks viewers are going to have strong reactions to some of the pieces and says the show's message may be difficult, "particularly for more straight people than gay people."

Strong reactions are part of the process for a man who describes himself as a "former shrink" and who always includes a touch of black humor in the presentation of his work.

"I'm exploring the use of the arts to provoke and stimulate communication—to start a dialogue about the importance of art and social issues," he adds.

For information on the Oct. 21 reception, call AHRF at (602)530-1660. The Bentley Gallery is located at 4161 North Marshall Way in Scottsdale.

Pyramid power hits the Sonoran Desert

They promised that with the museum's new expansion they'd bring blockbuster exhibitions to Arizona, and now the directors of the Phoenix Art Museum have gone all out to present *Splendors of Ancient Egypt*, the largest exhibition of Egyptian treasures ever to tour America.

The exhibit opened Oct. 4 and remains at PAM through March 28, 1999.

The collection features more than 200 important pieces including a tomb statue weighing more than a ton, an 18' papyrus scroll from the Book of the Dead and an alabaster head of a Pharaoh. And yep, there's a real mummy. The show takes up the museum's entire south wing, filling nearly 18,000 square feet.

Admission is \$13 and includes

an audio tour we highly recommend. The museum is located at 1625 North Central Avenue. Call (602) 257-1880 for information.



Short plays premiering at PlayWright's Theatre

PlayWright's Theatre in downtown Phoenix will present *Ten Minutes of Fame*, an Edge Project collaboration, featuring short plays by PWT's resident playwrights.

Contributors include Marilyn Allen, Joni Browne-Walders, Brenda Edwards, Jackie Marx, Gregory Mitchell, Ron Peer, Shauna Rabinowitz, John Rundle and Mark

S.P. Turvin.

This evening of short plays runs the gamut from the dramatic to the absurd as each writer portrays how fame or notoriety can impact the lives of contemporary individuals.

Ten Minutes of Fame is directed by Robyn Allen and A. Nanette Taylor. The cast features Janet Arnold, Ron Hunting, Loring Olk, Thomas Rees, Jane Sidden and Christine Tindall.

The show opens Friday, Oct. 9 for a three-weekend run through Oct. 25. Performances are at 8 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays and at 2 pm on Sundays. Tickets are \$15 with a discount for students and seniors.

PlayWright's Theatre is located in the Edge Theatre District at 1121 North 1st Street in Phoenix. Call (602)253-5151 for information.



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Saturday, November 7 • 8 p.m.
Gammage Auditorium

Renowned African American dancer/choreographer David Rousseve and his dance troupe Reality explore the timeless notions of love in "Love Songs."

Tickets: \$9, \$19, \$25, \$29
Half-price for students with I.D.

Free Brown Bag Open Rehearsal
Friday, November 6
Noon • Gammage Stage

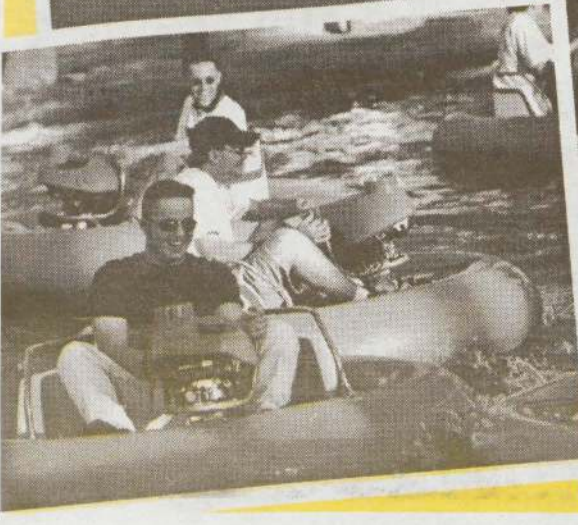
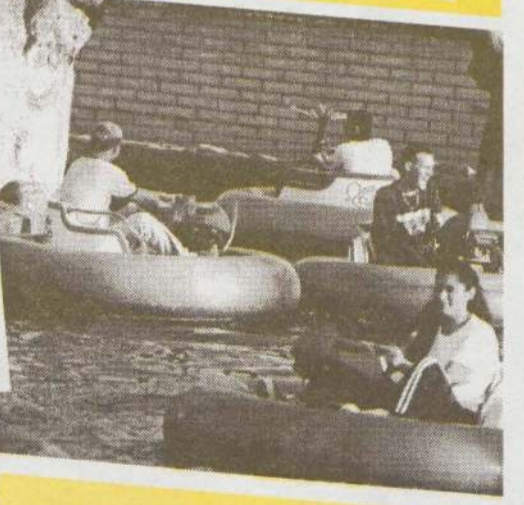
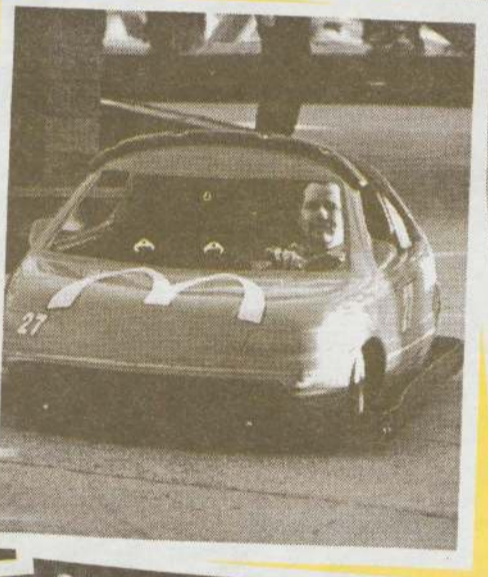
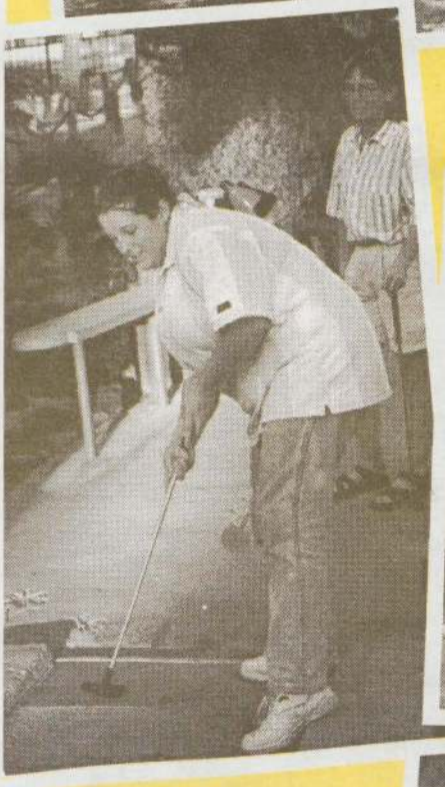
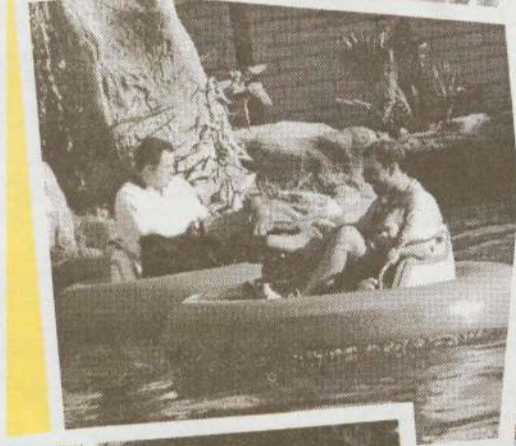
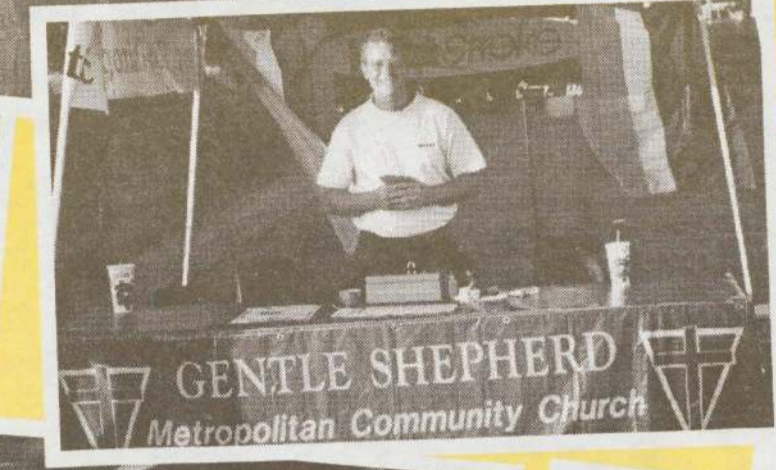
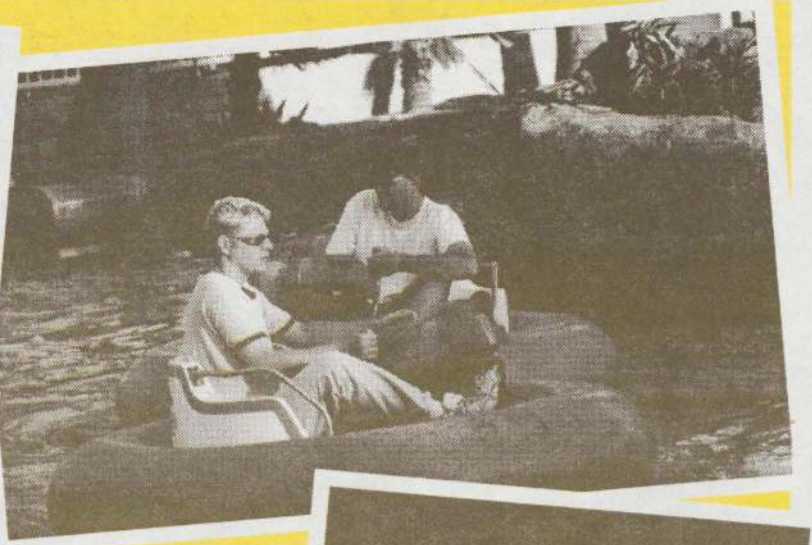
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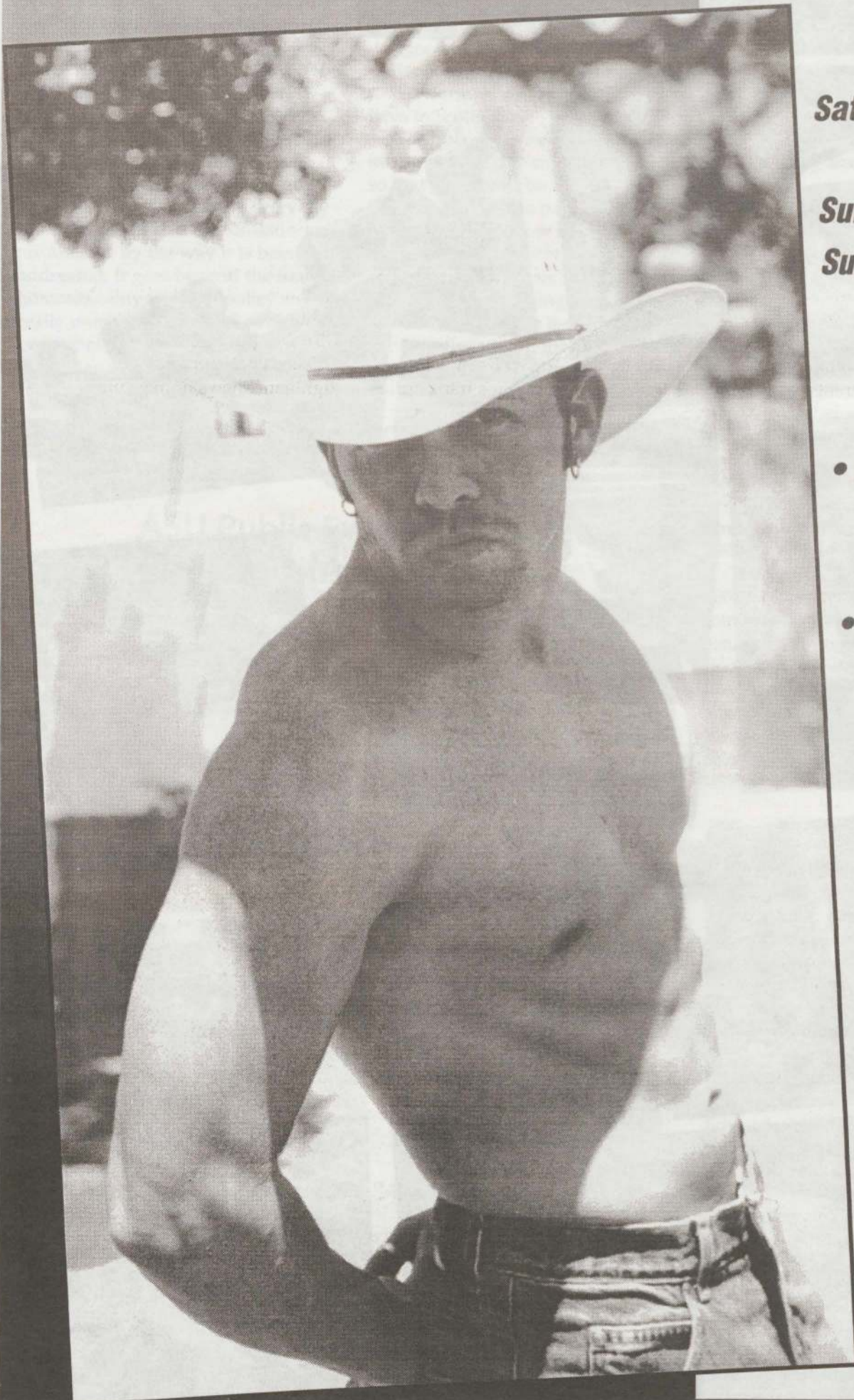
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**Saturday Night - Mini Rodeo on
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Sunday - Bears BBQ

**Sunday Night - Kurt McGreger
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Monday Oct. 19th

- **Project Lifeguard Nite**

Wednesday Oct. 21st

- **IGRA Cocktail Party Co-Hosted
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Oct. 23rd, 24th & 25th**

**IGRA Finals Rodeo
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GLAAD Alert

Gay and Lesbian Alliance
Against Defamation

Oprah and Dateline explore coming out

The *Oprah Winfrey Show* and NBC's *Dateline* recently explored the coming out process using profiles of lesbian activist and author Chastity Bono as a springboard for discussions.

On Sept. 28, *Oprah* featured parents and their lesbian and gay children. Bono (GLAAD's former entertainment media director) was joined by her superstar mom Cher.

Cher spoke of her initially negative reaction to Bono's sexual orientation and of the struggles she went through in learning to accept her daughter. Two other lesbians, who were joined by their families, relayed their own experiences as well.

On the Sept. 29 edition of *Dateline*, Bono and Cher told *Dateline* co-host Jane Pauley about the impact of Bono's coming out upon their relationship, which is chronicled in Bono's new book, *Family Outing*. Also covered in the piece: Cher's negative reaction, Bono's tabloid "outing," and the estrangement she had from her father, U.S. Rep. Sonny Bono, in the year leading up to his death.

Both programs brought wide-ranging audiences a greater understanding of a tough yet ultimately liberating experience: coming out to friends and family. Both shows made clear that the process can often be a painful one for families, but that the end result is often stronger, more loving relationships between child and parent. The pieces are especially timely given the fact that Oct. 11 is National Coming Out Day.

Please thank both *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and *Dateline* for chronicling the process, the pain, and eventually the love and understanding that accompanies many lesbian and gay coming out experiences.

Contact: • *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, PO Box 909715, Chicago, IL 60690, e-mail via WWW:

<http://www.oprah.com> • Sharon Scott, Supervising Producer, *Dateline*, 30 Rockefeller Plaza #408, New York, NY 10112-0002, fax: 212.664.7864, e-mail: dateline@news.nbc.com

Post judges "don't ask, don't tell" ruling

A Sept. 26 *Washington Post* editorial on the U.S. Court of Appeals ruling upholding the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy explained that the unanimous three-judge panel found the government's justification for the ban to be "sufficiently rational to make the policy, though clearly discriminatory, acceptable. ..."

That justification: it "promotes unit cohesion, enhances privacy, and reduces sexual tension."

On behalf of the court, Judge John Walker, Jr., wrote, "[W]e cannot say that the reliance by Congress on the professional judgment and testimony of military experts and personnel that those who engage in homosexual acts would compromise the effectiveness of the military was irrational."

The *Post* editorialized: "We can. Perhaps not by legal standards, but then again, a law's being constitutional and its being reasonable policy are two entirely different things. And if 'don't ask, don't tell' manages to clear the first hurdle, it still badly fails to clear the second. It preserves a kind

of outlaw status for gays who wish to serve their country on the basis of nothing more than a suspicion that their presence might make others uncomfortable. It places the military in the position of simultaneously sanctioning prejudice and using that prejudice as a justification for a discriminatory policy. Eventually, this policy must change."

The *Washington Post* editorial dissects the appellate court ruling to expose the specious reasoning that flaws the decision. The newspaper castigates the federal appellate court's avoidance of the core issues in which opposition to the morally bankrupt "don't ask, don't tell" policy are anchored: fairness, reasonableness and individuals' right to equal treatment under the law.

Please thank the *Washington Post* for exposing the appellate court's ruling to the unforgiving light of logic—and for treating the court's role in upholding the shameful injustice of the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy with deserved disdain.

Contact: Meg Greenfield, Editor, Editorial Page, *Washington Post*, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20071-0002, e-mail via WWW:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

Post advice: family bonds can cross borders

In Carolyn Hax's advice column, published in the Sept. 27 *Washington Post*, a New York reader tells her he's a gay man from a developing country in South Asia. His parents, who still live there, don't know he's gay and are pressuring him to marry.

"My American friends have mostly come out to their parents and advise me to do the same," the man writes. "But, until quite recently, homosexuality was an unmentionable subject in my country."

Stating that the issue has kept him from seeing his parents for four years, he writes, "Sometimes I feel my parents will be able to take it. But then I think, what if the news kills them? How will I ever be able to face them after voicing such deeply taboo subjects?"

Hax replies, "Funny thing to be worried about, since you've spent four years not facing them after voicing nothing at all." She continues, "They want a straight married son, and you ain't it. But you know what? The thing that will disappoint them has already happened, and nothing you do will change it. It's over, done with, out of your hands. You're gay. It's liberating, knowing what you can and can't change. Something you can—and need to change before obsessive indecision makes you outright squirrely—is your orientation toward your parents. ..."

"The arc I've seen with conservative parents is shock and rejection that give way, eventually, to acceptance. But that's here. There, in a less receptive culture, you might get disowned. Or embraced—your love for your parents is a sure sign they're good to you. They'll take it as Fate, or God, or New York. But you're the only one who knows them well enough to decide. Regardless of your choice, confess or conceal in person. Just go, visit them, be their son."

Deciding whether or not to tell one's parents is among the most wrenching questions that lesbian, gay,

bisexual and transgender persons are forced to deal with. Toss cultural differences into the mix and it can become paralyzing.

Hax acknowledges this. She wisely refrains from advising which course the man should choose; optimally, such a move should remain an individual's decision. She does, however, point out possible consequences of not telling—including barring the man's parents from one of the most integral parts of their child's life.

Hax doesn't minimize the difficulties; she acknowledges how cultural differences might impact parental reactions—but points out that many parents overcome their initial distress and regain closeness with their children. She focuses on another key concern, as well—that the issue has kept the man separate from his parents for four years now—and properly advises him to visit them whatever his decision may be.

Please thank Hax and the *Washington Post* for providing this understanding, compassionate and clear-sighted examination of one of the tougher issues facing almost all lesbians or gay men.

Contact: Robert G. Kaiser, Managing Editor, and Carolyn Hax, *Washington Post*, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20071-0002, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

Register demystifies transgender experiences

"Casey Gradischnig's appearance stops people short," Rekha Basu writes in the Sept. 29 *Des Moines Register*. "Sometimes it's frank curiosity, and other times it's hostile. Once,

an off-duty police officer threatened to kill her."

Casey is a female-to-male (FTM) transgender person, Basu writes. She is "knowingly blurring gender lines in a society that tries to keep them visibly distinct." You could argue that Gradischnig, "a 36-year-old able-bodied white woman from Iowa, brings the hostility on herself because of how she looks," Basu writes.

"But she would reply there's no choice about it. You have to give her this much: Who would invite stares and abuse if there were an option?" Transgender individuals "will unsettle and even anger some," she writes.

Gender identity "punches holes in some basic assumptions most of us make—that the world is divided into two sexes, with no crossing over."

Don't expect to understand it at a first glance, she concludes: "It's complex, mysterious, sometimes contradictory and often threatening—much like sex in general. But if you take nothing else away, take this: Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Even those who look different. Especially those who look different. In a world of sexual hypocrisy and lies, abuse, aggression and impropriety—all the way up to the White House—Casey Gradischnig is struggling to live honestly and with integrity within the confines of her contradictions. How many of us can make that claim?"

Basu presents a positive, sensitively drawn and illuminating profile of an FTM person.

Contact: Diane Graham, Managing Editor, *Des Moines Register*, P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, IA 50304, fax: 515.286.2511, e-mail: dgraham@news.dmreg.com

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Notable Quotes

Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"If all gay men settled down into pairs like animals clambering into Noah's ark, a world of possibilities would disappear. A culture that embraces nonmonogamy, casual public sex, erotic art, sex toys, costuming and a theatrical attitude toward pleasure is a national treasure, not a shameful anachronism. Twenty years ago, who could have predicted that any gay activist worthy of the name would be preaching the same values as Anita Bryant."

—Sex activist-author Pat Califia in the October *POZ* magazine, alluding to writers Larry Kramer, Gabriel Rotello, Michelangelo Signorile and Andrew Sullivan, among others.

"The man who arranges himself in a sling, awaiting anointing with Crisco, has come in perfect love and trust like a child to baptism. Lust can be a sacrament that washes us clean of envy, pride and anomie, and returns us to daily life with a satisfied heart, renewed hope and greater compassion. The mouth is not the only orifice that generates poetry; we must learn to listen to the hymns of our other openings, other lips. If 'gay literature' did no more than rescue our genitals from revulsion, and celebrate them instead, it would be heroic."

—Longtime sex writer Pat Califia in the October issue of *POZ* magazine.

"[It was] just not natural, unless maybe you're Barney Frank."

—U.S. Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif., about a rectal procedure he underwent in conjunction with his prostate cancer, in a Sept. 5 talk to prostate-cancer sufferers.

"Every time I hear one of these right-wing jerks say I'm only trying to get his approval, it's someone's approval you couldn't give to me as a gift."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., as quoted in the *Des Moines Register*, Sept. 7.

"The way you are not an extremist in the Republican Party today is you do not predict the heavens will rain hail on people who disagree with you. If you don't predict hurricanes or meteor showers on your opponents — then you are a moderate."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., as quoted in the *Des Moines Register*, Sept. 7.

"If you gave me \$1 million tomorrow and told me to promote homosexuality, I haven't the faintest idea what I would do. What do you do? Have a contest? Make up posters? Put ads on television? The notion of promoting

homosexuality is preposterous. Our agenda is very simple: Please leave us alone. Please let us be what we want to be and live our lives with others."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., as quoted in the *Des Moines Register*, Sept. 7.

"The right wing love to hang onto a ridiculous notion of perfect families because it protects them from having to face the much more complicated reality of real emotions and real diversity. At least Bill and Hillary represent life as lots of people actually live it, rather than the behind-curtains hypocrisy of Republicans, whose pretence that only Slick Willy enjoys a blow job with someone he doesn't live with frankly defies belief. Clinton may not have been sensible, but at least he didn't sell arms to the Contras or illegally topple any regimes. That's what Republicans do, even gay ones."

—Simon Fanshawe, columnist for London's *The Pink Paper*, Aug. 28.

"That's just angry queens [saying I shouldn't play a womanizer on the new NBC sitcom *Encore! Encore!*]. I should only play flamboyant gay roles? I have no desire to be a role model for anybody. But in a sense I feel like I have been because I've played a wide variety of gay characters. ... There are two gay characters on [*Will & Grace*]
—plenty for one network. They don't need me prancing around."

—Actor Nathan Lane as quoted in the *Miami Herald*, Sept. 6.

"This much-touted new series [NBC-TV's *Will & Grace*] about a friendship between a gay man and a straight woman is most definitely not 'Ellen: The Next Generation.' It's a retro sitcom that returns its gay characters to the safe and acceptable territory where they hovered until DeGeneres attempted to set them free."

—San Jose Mercury News Television Editor Ron Miller, Sept. 7.

"My attitude is that the outing of living persons, who do not exist in isolation but belong to a complex web of family, friends and professional associates, is a fascist practice that belongs to Puritan Salem or Stalinist Moscow, not to a progressive civil rights movement. On the other hand, outing may possibly be justified in cases of gross hypocrisy, as when an elected or appointed official with real power to do harm may be condemning homosexuality publicly while living a secret gay life."

—Writer/academic Camille Paglia in her Sept. 15 *Salon* magazine column.

"Though far from a gay liberationist in conservative Czarist society, [Russian classical composer Peter] Tchaikovsky never really tried to keep his sexuality a secret despite a brief, disastrous marriage he entered into for appearance's sake in 1877. His letters are full of cross-gender naming—feminizing the names of men—and he enjoyed cross dressing, once performing a drag show with another renowned gay composer, Camille Saint-Saens."

—The *St. Petersburg* [Florida] *Times*, Sept. 15.

"Can't people respect that I went out there and told the truth about myself and Ellen [DeGeneres]? Let me alone. I can't fight stupidity. If I'm honest enough to go out there and say I'm in love with Ellen and that I'm the first openly gay actress in the movies, don't try to knock me down at the lowest level. Understand that I have a wife whom I care for. ... We're leaving for Massachusetts soon; she's doing a film there, *The Love Letter*. Ellen came with me to Hawaii when I filmed *Six Days, Seven Nights*. Now I'm the housewife. I've been cooking every day, preparing for that."

—Actress Anne Heche to the *Miami Herald*, Sept. 6.

"They're not going to show us puking and farting. But almost everyone I know has had some kind of side effect from these [AIDS] drugs. And when that happens, the ads [that run in the gay press] make you think you're doing something wrong. It's performance anxiety. You feel like you can't compete. [I walked up to Merck's Crixivan booth at the AIDS conference in Geneva and said,] 'I'm doing pretty well on your drugs, but when am I going to look like a mountain climber?'"

—Clinton AIDS adviser Bob Hattoy to *POZ* magazine, October issue.

"It was up in Sacramento [at an AIDS benefit] and someone yelled out, 'When are you coming out, Helen?' and I said, 'If there's a woman here with a hairy chest and a big dick, I'm hers!'"

—70s megastar singer Helen Reddy to *Frontiers*, Sept. 10.

"Mayonnaise is the biggest social problem Baltimore has. Every meal is a medley of mayonnaise. And basically that is what causes everyone to be overweight. Baltimore is a fat city in a way that I don't mean badly, but many, many people here—it's an ample city. It's a hefty city. That's why they should restrict mayonnaise here. They could save a lot of social problems!"

—Gay filmmaker John Waters to the *Baltimore Alternative*, September issue.

"I'm not adverse to outrageousness for the spectacle of it all. In fact, I'm mostly in favor of it. But most of what passes for outrageous is just old to the truly outrageous. I mean drag queens? That's so over. What's interesting now is drag kings, but it will take a while for them to figure that one out."

—Gay filmmaker John Waters to the *Detroit Free Press*, Sept. 18.

"For polygamous folks—it is a religious belief and at least through their religious ceremonies they think they are married before God.

Homosexuality is not part of somebody's religion. Polygamy has been blown totally out of proportion [in recent discussions in Utah]. These people out there living polygamous lives are not bothering anybody."

—Gayle Ruzicka, president of the conservative Utah Eagle Forum, to the *Salt Lake Tribune*, Sept. 18.

"We want a movement that fights for the rights of each of us. Even if we do not fit into the corporate image of an 'American family.' That these national organizations project white Christian middle-class representations and set the agenda accordingly is nothing less than institutionalized racism. Claims to diversity mean nothing if the sexual is sanitized and no genuine effort is made to include the perspectives and leadership of LGBT's [sic] from different races, classes, sexualities and genders."

—From a two-page ad in the Sept. 18 *Washington Blade*, placed by the Ad Hoc Committee For An Open Process which opposes the manner in which HRC and MCC are organizing the Millennium March on Washington.

"At one point, the President inserted a cigar into Ms. Lewinsky's vagina, then put the cigar in his mouth and said: 'It tastes good.'"

—This column's favorite sentence from "The Starr Report."

"He lies by being technically accurate. I wish he would stop it. He's not 14 anymore trying to outsmart the principal."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., on President Clinton, as quoted by AP, Sept. 15.

"Gay and lesbian people, I think, can relate to persecution and attacks for private, consensual behavior. In that sense there is empathy with the president. At the same time, our community is part of the American public, and there is a sense of disappointment and disapproval with the president lying and misleading the American people."

—Tracey Conaty, communications director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, to the *Washington Post*, Sept. 20.

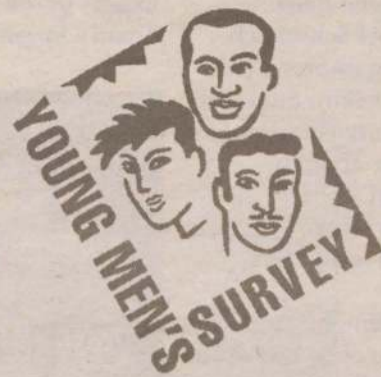
"Gay is just so not an issue. The two gay characters are having so much fun, it's not a controversy. These guys are gay, they're comfortable with that, they're not embarrassed or ashamed. They're just healthy, out gay men. ... I want to get to the point where everyone so wants Will to be happy that his first kiss won't be a kiss just to make controversy."

—Eric McCormack, Will on the new NBC-TV series *Will & Grace*, to the *Washington Blade*, Sept. 11.

"We're certainly not taking a political stance — the gay issue in our

Notable Quotes continues on page 33

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Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

DeNiro and the Drag Queen

Despite the *Batman and Robin* debacle, fey director Joel Schumacher is still able to attract big names to his projects, with Robert DeNiro attached to his latest work. Schumacher wrote and will direct *Flawless*, about a retired security guard (DeNiro) whose recovery from a stroke includes vocal sessions with a drag queen.

Philip Seymour Hoffmann (who played the nerdy techie obsessed with Dirk Diggler in *Boogie Nights*) was just signed to play the drag queen who, believe it or not, forms an unlikely bond with DeNiro's gruff working class character. I must say I'm looking forward to hearing one of the *GoodFellas* sing show tunes.

Honorary Queer

Hetero star Robert Downey Jr. is making quite a living playing gay in movies such as *Home for the Holidays*.

He's at it again in James Toback's upcoming film, *Black and White*, which stars Brooke Shields as a documentary filmmaker chronicling two white Manhattan teens' obsession with hip-hop. Downey Jr., who was in Toback's last movie, *Two Girls and a Guy*, portrays Brooke's queer husband.

Babs: The Movie

Mrs. James Brolin is in talks with legendary director Mike Nichols (*The Birdcage*) about filming a "farewell" concert tour (tentatively scheduled for the year 2000). Of course, Streisand will want plenty of control over what is shown, so whether she and Nichols would be able to co-exist creatively remains a big question.

The Fashionable Miss DeGeneres

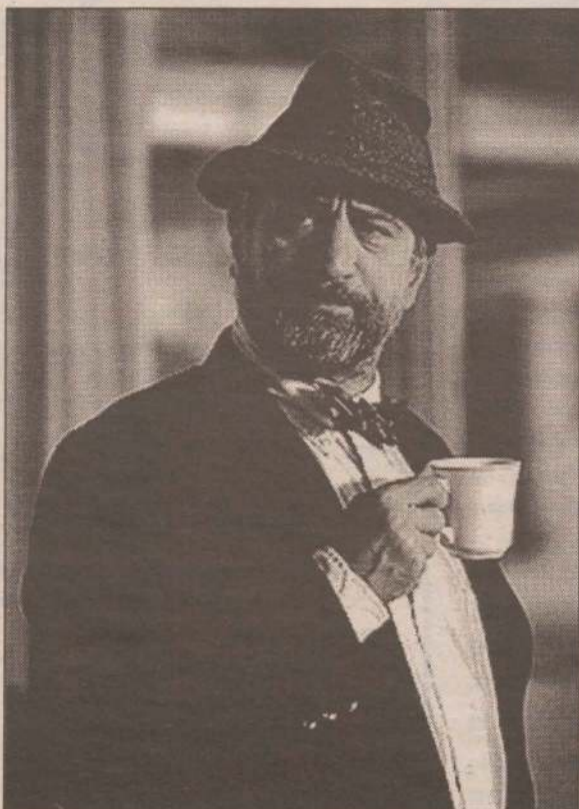
Ellen returns to the spotlight Oct. 27th to host VH-1's Fashion Awards. Fortunately it seems her departure from the closet left room for better wardrobe decisions.

Accolades for Elton

Elton John's new Disney-produced musical *Elaborate Lives: The Legend of Aida*, previewed recently in Atlanta, the pop star's part-time home.

The project re-teams the designated mourner with *Lion King* lyricist

Tim Rice. Advance word is excellent. Expect to see the show premiere on Broadway sometime next year.



Travis Bickle befriends a drag queen? DeNiro will star in Joel Schumacher's next film, *Flawless*.

©1997 New Line Cinema

how the gay angle will be played, er, underplayed.

From watching the premiere, it's easy to miss the fact that lawyer Will Truman is even gay—a fact that straight actor Eric McCormack admitted recently. The sitcom will eventually address his character's sexuality, though it won't be a big issue since, unlike Ellen Morgan, Will has been out of the closet for a while.

Famed television director James Burrows (who'll helm the first 13 *Will and Grace* episodes) has been quoted as saying the show is primarily about two friends, one of whom happens to be gay. But he hinted that *Will and Grace* might be the first TV show to feature a man-on-man kiss, though not until the public is "comfortable" with McCormack's character.

Of course, that all depends on the unlikelihood of the show surviving its tough competition, namely Fox's *Ally McBeal* juggernaut.

Valley of the Remakes

Some of Hollywood's leading actresses are being courted for the *Valley of the Dolls* remake being directed by Betty Thomas (*Dr. Doolittle*).

Minnie Driver and Gwyneth Paltrow, who

the movie that basically killed her big screen aspirations.

Speaking of remakes, here's one we don't need to revisit. But these days, what teen queen Jennifer Love Hewitt wants, she gets. The *Can't Hardly Wait* star will take on the role Ali McGraw made famous in the 1970 weepfest *Love Story*.

The character, of course, meets the love of her life just as she is diagnosed with a fatal disease. Hewitt will also be playing legendary pixie Audrey Hepburn in an ABC biopic and is set to star in a *Party of Five* spin-off next season for Fox.

Inside Biz

Former Warner Bros. marketing chief Chris Pula (*Nightmare on Elm Street, Seven*), who is openly gay, is in talks to head a new "genre division" within the aforementioned company.

If all goes through, Pula will be the only openly gay man in Hollywood in such a high position, with the ability to green-light several films a year.

Coming Soon...

The advance word on some hot upcoming gay-themed releases isn't great. The British press is lambasting gay filmmaker Todd Haynes' latest, *Velvet Goldmine*, which explores the music and the open sexuality of the '70s glam rock movement.

Still, I'm curious about the film, what with hotties like Ewan McGregor (*Trainspotting*) and Christian Bale (*Empire of the Sun*) playing key roles and with Haynes' strong track record (*Poison, Safe*).

Beauty or Beast?

Stardom has brought fame, fortune, and self-confidence for recently outed actor Kevin Spacey (he won't confirm or deny the rumor). So his latest project shouldn't be much of a stretch. *American Beauty* is a dark comedy starring Spacey as a working class lug with a loveless marriage and boring job who transforms himself into a hunk.

Debbie Does Dyke?

Wholesome '80s popster Deborah (formerly Debbie) Gibson continues her career makeover that began with Broadway musicals and is now taking her to the big screen.

Her new film, due later this month in limited release, is a gay comedy called *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend*, in which Debbie plays the jilted lesbian. Maybe she'll write a song about it.

Will it Fly?

The first episodes of NBC's allegedly groundbreaking sitcom *Will and Grace* give some indication as to



Another bright idea brought to you by Hollywood: Jennifer Love Hewitt will play Ali McGraw's role in the remake of 1970's *Love Story*.

© 1998 Columbia Pictures

Whoizit?

He plays the All-American boyfriend on one of those "TGIF" sitcoms, and his face is a mainstay in teenybopper mags. But teen idoldom comes with a price, as said young actor discovered during a recent outing to West Hollywood's "Boystown."

Hoping to remain anonymous in the crowded clubs, the late teens star was anything

but—as boy-crazy patrons were quick to notice his presence, causing a quick departure.

but—as boy-crazy patrons were quick to notice his presence, causing a quick departure.

Romeo San Vicente, who's looking for an intern to call his own, can be reached in care of *HeatStroke* or at RSVicente@aol.com.

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Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



Pittsburgh

There may not be another city in America better able to reinvent itself than Pittsburgh, whose can-do spirit is manifested in the countless relics of the industrial age that have been converted into homes, museums, offices, and retail and entertainment centers.

Once a leader of mining and metals manufacture, Pittsburgh has reemerged over the past decade into one of the nation's leaders in health and medical research, education, and computer software.

Simultaneously, a city once considered conservative and wary of change has become an increasingly popular and happening destination among gays and lesbians.

Pittsburgh's gay scene is small-town in feel and not terribly visible, but at the same time well-integrated within the mainstream population. Particularly among the under-30 set, gays and straights mix at many bars, restaurants, and coffeehouses.

There's no gay ghetto, but gays and lesbians have made a marked presence in several up-and-coming residential enclaves, notably North Side, South Side, and Shadyside. The city has numerous theaters with artsy and gay-themed films, and a remarkably high appreciation of alternative culture.

Although downtown's thriving business district (a.k.a. "the Golden Triangle") contains only a hint of what greater Pittsburgh has to offer, its handsome contemporary skyline and regal command over the confluence of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela rivers imbues it with a stately countenance.

A few blocks from Market Square—downtown's social and commercial anchor—Liberty Avenue claims some of the city's better-known gay bars (around 8th Street).

Best-known are the dance bar Pegasus and the more laid-back Liberty Avenue Saloon, which also serves tasty pizzas (both traditional and "white") and addictive cholesterol-laden "Saloon fries" with Monterey jack, cheddar, bacon, and

Cajun ranch dressing. Also downtown is Pittsburgh's hottest gay club, Cairo.

Liberty and parallel Penn Avenue are the spines of the 14-block Cultural District (a.k.a. "the Penn/Liberty District"). Its theaters and performance halls house the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Ballet, the Pittsburgh Opera, and various theater companies.

A bit farther east are the historic warehouses and still-operating wholesale markets known as The Strip, which is a hotbed of dance clubs, hip restaurants, art galleries, and offbeat shops.

The top alternative music venue in the city is Metropol, which like many businesses in the area has an artsy and fairly gay following. A

new addition to the fray is Club Millennium, which glows pink on Sunday nights with a circuit party-style ambience.

South of downtown, the Mt. Washington neighborhood rises sharply above the Monongahela River. No visit to Pittsburgh is complete without a ride up here via the Monongahela Incline, a funicular that clings tightly to the precipitous slope of Mt. Washington.

From the base of the hillside, you're on the edge of Pittsburgh's South Side, a repository of funky shops, galleries, and restaurants. Once the heart of the city's Lithuanian and Polish communities, Carson Street is now lined with music stores, bric-a-brac emporia, coffeehouses, and such on-the-edge galleries as Women's Work, a feminist art gallery with a strong community following.

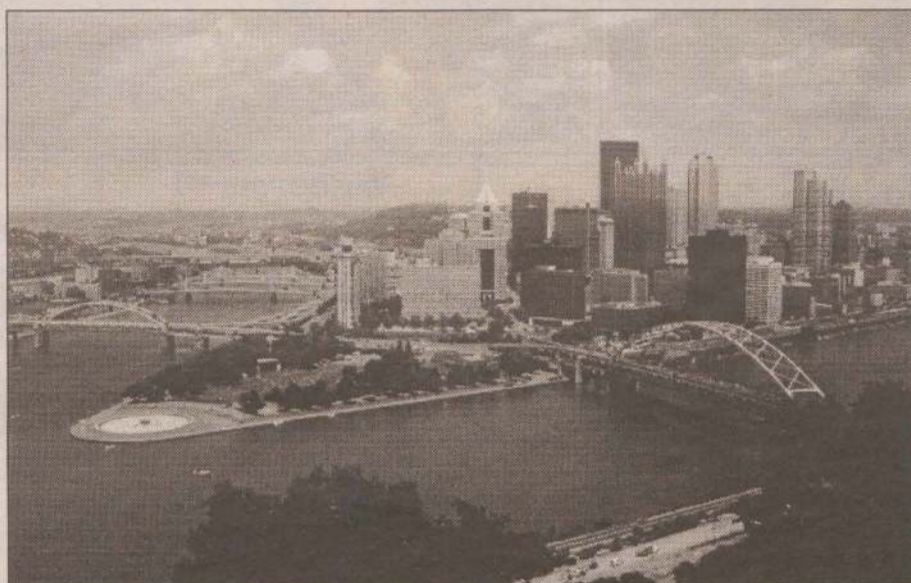
Carnivores should plan an evening around dinner at queer-popular City Grill, which hardwood-grills the best burgers in the city inside an old-fashioned coal-fired oven.

A few miles east of downtown, Oakland has enough offices, hospitals, universities, and businesses to make locals think of the area as its own city.

The University of Pittsburgh and

Carnegie Mellon University set the tone for this bustling neighborhood, and collegiate shops and cafes surround the campus. Be sure to check out the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History.

The art museum has well-conceived architectural and decorative arts exhibits. The Natural History museum's great strengths are its cache of artifacts from ancient Egypt and the nation's third-largest dinosaur collection.



The platform outside Pittsburgh's Monongahela Incline station offers the best skyline view of the city.

Andrew Collins

In the heart of the neighborhood is one attraction that merits at least a couple of hours of exploration, the Andy Warhol Museum, which celebrates the life of the late pop art icon (he grew up in nearby Oakland).

Created inside an eight-story 1911 steel supply warehouse, the museum contains 3,000 works, from Campbell's soup cans to countless earlier sketches and drawings, as well as Warhol's time capsule-boxes in which he stuffed each day's receipts, notes, lists,

and other ephemera.

This is an outstanding, engaging, and often very funny museum, laid out with abundant commentary on Warhol's life (and his homosexuality).

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

These campuses fringe gorgeous Schenley Park, the highlight of which is the 1893 Phipps Conservatory, a Victorian glass edifice comprising 13 rooms of orchids, palms, bonsai, and other exotic flora.

East of Oakland is Shadyside, a gentrified patch of neatly kept yards and attractive old homes. Although more queers live here than elsewhere in Pittsburgh, it's a mixed neighborhood and not an obvious gay ghetto.

Shadyside's Ellsworth Avenue (around the 5800 block) has several gay-popular eateries and businesses, including the quintessentially queer cabaret-restaurant, New York, New York. Java junkies lounge around nearby Common Grounds Coffee House.

From downtown, you can easily cross the Allegheny River via any of the close-together bridges, known as the Three Sisters, to reach North Side.

Here you'll find the Carnegie Science Center, which contains the world's most technologically advanced planetarium, an Omnimax theater, and 250



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the funnies

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by Eric Orner

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Wow, he MUST be FRENCH.

WHOOPIE #1

(Air smooch in a straight setting)

NEW BOSS

OH SHIT

SMACK SMACK

WHOOPIE #2

(Handshake in a queer setting)

OOPS.

Eric Orner

www.stonewallinn.com ericorner@aol.com

A Couple of guys

by Dave Brussean

SO, UM, HOW'S IT COMING ALONG?

e-mail: acplofguys@aol.com

NOT BAD... *@#!... HAN' ME THAT WRENCH.

Y'KNOW, I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS. I JUST-- OH. JOEY'S HOME!

GLANK

HI, BABY... ERIC, WHAT'S WRONG?

OH, I'M SO EMBARRASSED I FEEL LIKE THE STEREOTYPICAL GAY MAN.

THE PIPES UNDER THE KITCHEN SINK STARTED LEAKING, AND I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO, SO I HAD TO CALL SOMEONE.

AW, SO WHAT? WHO'D YA CALL? THE SUPER? YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW, MARTY? MY COUSIN, PAULIE?

NAW, I COULDN'T REACH ANY OF THEM.

BUT FORTUNATELY, SIMONE'S BEEN BRUSHING UP ON HER GAY STEREOTYPES, TOO.

YOU NEED A NEW NUT.

THANKS, BUT I LOVE THIS ONE.

© 1998 Dave Brussean

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

STRAY VOLTAGE

WOW. YOU'RE ONLY WIRED FOR SIXTY AMPS. LOTTA ROENT DAMAGE TOO, I'M SURPRISED THIS PLACE HAVN'T BURNED TO THE GROUND.

UH... REALLY?

SO, CAN YOU GIVE US AN ESTIMATE?

LEMME GO OUT TO THE TRUCK AND WORK IT UP.

IN A MOMENT... LOOK, I'M NOT ASKING STUART TO MOVE IN. I'M NOT READY FOR THAT KIND OF COMMITMENT. I DON'T CARE HOW BADLY WE NEED THE MONEY.

STARROW, THIS IS NO TIME FOR INTIMACY ISSUES. JUST THINK OF IT AS HAVING A TEMPORARY ROOMMATE TILL WE PAY OFF THE REPAIRS.

DON'T LECTURE ME ABOUT INTIMACY ISSUES. YOU'RE THE ONE OBSESSED WITH A MARRIED WOMAN. AT LEAST STUART IS AVAILABLE!

WHY DON'T YOU ASK CLARICE TO MOVE IN, GINGER. YOU'RE GENERATING ENOUGH ELECTRICITY WITH YOUR CRUSH, WE WON'T NEED TO REWIRE.

MEANWHILE... THANKS FOR THE BOXES, MORTON! LL CREAM. SHE'S SO EXCITED ABOUT THE MOVE, SHE'S DEVELOPING A CARDBOARD FETISH.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO THRILLED.

I'M A WRECK. I'M THINKING ABOUT GINGER ALL THE TIME. IT'S CRAZY. I'M AFRAID TONI KNOWS SOMETHING'S WRONG.

CLARICE, YOU'VE GOTTA RECONCILE YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT LEAVING THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IT'S NOT GINGER YOU'RE ATTRACTED TO, IT'S WHAT SHE REPRESENTS, THE CO-OP, THE PARK, THE BLOCK FESTIVAL, THE COMMUNITY!

OH, SO IT'S REALLY THE COMMUNITY'S INNER THIGHS I WANT TO DRIZZLE WITH MAPLE CREME ANGLAISE, WHICH I THEN SLOWLY EAP UP WHILE STRADDLING THE TANTALIZING TONGUE OF THE CO-OP.

UH... WELL, SORT OF...

MEANWHILE, IN ST. LOUIS, JEZANNA AND AUDREY ARE PACKING UP JEZ'S FATHER TO COME BACK AND LIVE WITH THEM.

IT'S BEEN IDLELY WITHOUT YOUR MAMA. BUT I'M GONNA MISS THIS HOUSE.

YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR MIND. WE HAVEN'T SOLD IT YET, AND I CAN ALWAYS RETURN THE U-HAUL.

UH... LOTTA MEMORIES HERE, HUH, DAD?

REMEMBER THIS BURN MARK ON THE BASEBOARD, FROM THE TIME YOU STUCK THAT PIECE OF ERECTOR SET IN THE OUTLET? YOU WERE ALWAYS POKING INTO SOMETHING.

MMH GIRL!

BACK AT THE RANCH... OF COURSE, THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE REPAIRING THE WALLS AFTER I'M DONE.

Y'KNOW, MAYBE MY RELUCTANCE TO COMMIT IS A TAD UNHEALTHY.

\$525 INCLUDING UTILITIES.

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Dear Cowboy,

I read the letter from the gay man who was in love with a straight guy at work and found it interesting since I have the opposite problem. A "straight" married guy where I work has a thing for me and it is driving me crazy.

He keeps giving me gifts and making these sexually suggestive comments. My lover says I should try to be supportive because the guy needs help with his coming out process, but to me he's just weird—especially the way he acts totally different and

really butches it up when other people are around. What do you think? Should I try helping him "come out" or leave him alone?

Signed, Object of Affection

Dear Object,

Don't spend any more time around this guy than your employer requires. Helping messed up married men out of the closet and onto the gay trail is not part of your social job as an "out" guy. The best thing you can do is set an example. Continue demonstrating that you are in a

happy, committed relationship with another man, and that you know how to conduct yourself with dignity. And tell the guy his gifts are no longer welcome and that his comments are not funny or sexy.

Dear Cowboy,

My roommate thinks I'm evil because I won't go out with HIV-positive men. I'm looking for a relationship and not a one night stand. The last two guys I dated were positive. Both of them told me on the first date, which turned out to be the last (no sex was involved).

I'm negative and I just don't want to deal with the possibility of getting HIV or with a boyfriend who gets sick on me. My roomie and best friend says I'm mean and rude. I believe it is everyone's right to prefer men who are uninfected. What do you think?

Signed, Negative and Holding

Dear Negative,

You aren't evil, and it is your right to choose who you will or will not share the trail with on your ride through life.

But you're limiting your choices in a big way when you fence off so large a portion of the herd along HIV-plus/minus lines. You're also uninformed if you think that jumping into the bunk with an HIV-positive guy automatically puts you at risk. It isn't who you sleep with, it's what you do under the covers that matters.

Ever heard of drug treatments and ongoing research? An HIV-positive cowboy isn't necessarily headed for the last roundup anytime soon. Nor is an HIV-negative guy guaranteed to make it to a ripe old age. There are no guarantees in the rodeo of life, so learn to take it one event at a time. Love and respect are more important than T-cells.

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Phoenix 258-6122
- 3. Apollo's
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Phoenix 277-9373
- 4. BS West
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Scottsdale 945-9028
- 5. The Bunkhouse
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Phoenix
- 6. Cash Inn
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Phoenix 244-9943
- 7. Charlie's
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Phoenix 265-0224
- 8. Club Roxy
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Phoenix 258-8343
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- 11. The Rose
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Phoenix 867-2463
- 17. Nasty's Sports Bar
3108 E. McDowell
Phoenix 267-8707
- 18. NuTowne
5002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix 267-9959
- 19. Paco Paco
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Phoenix 263-8424
- 20. The Park
3002 N. 24th Street
Phoenix 957-6055
- 21. Roscoe's on 7th
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Phoenix 285-0833
- 22. Shooterz
998 E. Indian School
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- 23. 307 Lounge
222 E. Roosevelt
Phoenix 252-0001
- 24. TRAX
1724 E. McDowell
Phoenix 254-0231
- 25. Waterhole
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Glendale 937-3139
- 26. Wink's
5707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 265-9002
- 27. Yanks
4132 E. McDowell
Phoenix 275-3509

Staples

- 30. The Adult Shoppe
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2345 W. Holly St.
Phoenix 253-7126
- 31. The Barn Adult Shop
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Phoenix 245-3008
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Phoenix 254-9651
- 38. StatScript Pharmacy
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Phoenix 433-1100

Tubs

- 40. Chute
1440 E. Indian School
Phoenix 234-1654
- 41. Flex
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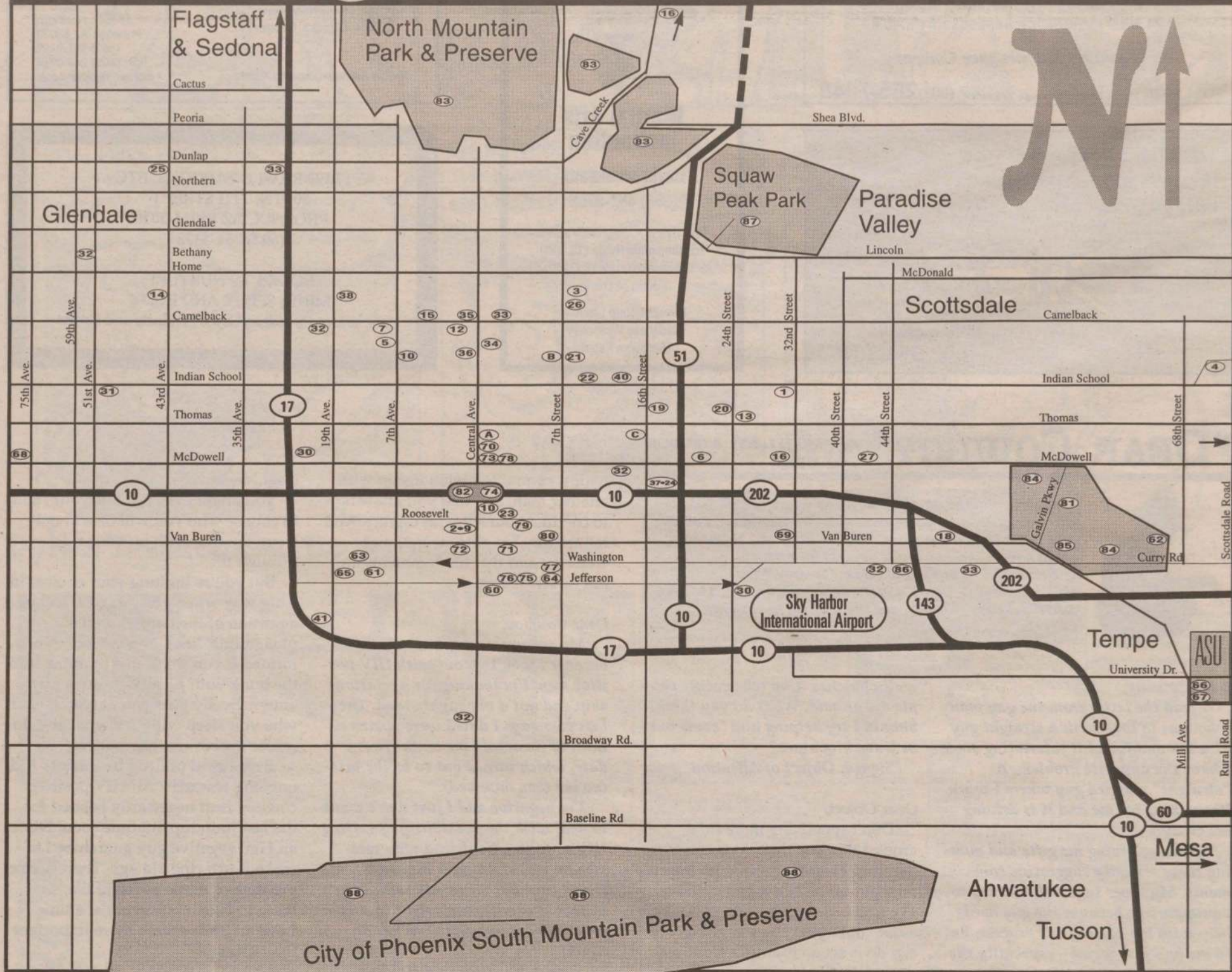
Culture

- 60. America West Arena
201 E. Jefferson
Phoenix 379-7800
- 61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum
1101 W. Washington
Phoenix 255-2110
- 62. AZ Historical Society
Museum
1300 N. College
Tempe 929-0292
- 63. AZ Mining & Mineral
Museum
1502 W. Washington
Phoenix 255-3791
- 64. AZ Science Center
600 E. Washington
Phoenix 716-2000
- 65. AZ State Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix 542-4675
- 66. ASU Art Museum
Nelson Fine Arts Center
Mill Ave. & 10th Street
Tempe 965-2787
- 67. ASU Gammage Center
Apache & Mill Ave.
Tempe 965-3434
- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky
Pavillion
2121 N. 83rd Ave.
Phoenix 254-7499
- 69. Celebrity Theater
440 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix 267-9373
- 70. Heard Museum
22 E. Monte Vista
Phoenix 252-8848
- 71. Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
Phoenix 254-7399
- 72. Orpheum Theatre
203 W. Adams
Phoenix 262-7272
- 73. Phoenix Art Museum
1624 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 257-1222
- 74. Phoenix Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix 262-4636
- 75. Phoenix Civic Plaza
225 E. Adams St.
Phoenix 262-6225
- 76. Phoenix Symphony Hall
225 E. Adams
Phoenix 262-6225
- 77. Phoenix Museum of History
105 N. 5th Street
Phoenix 253-2734
- 78. Phoenix Theatre
100 E. McDowell
Phoenix 254-2151
- 79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural
Theatre
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Outdoors

- 81. Desert Botanical Garden
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Phoenix 941-1217
- 82. Margaret T. Hance Park
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McDowell & Roosevelt
Phoenix 534-2406
- 83. North Mountain Park &
Preserve
10600 N. 7th St.
Phoenix 262-6696
- 84. Papago Park
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 256-3220
- 85. Phoenix Zoo
455 N. Galvin Pkwy
Phoenix 273-1431
- 86. Pueblo Grande Museum
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Phoenix 495-0900
- 87. Squaw Peak Park
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- 88. South Mountain Park
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Phoenix, AZ 85011 650-1967

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Arizona Human Rights Fund
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P.O. Box 34766
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Gay & Lesbian Caucus
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Feminist Lesbian Activist
Coalition
P.O. Box 26031
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Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness
Project
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A Rose—Transgender Support
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Copperstate Leathermen
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Delta Lambda Phi - Phoenix
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Tempe, AZ 85281 248-5270

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

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

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual
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864-6092; pglbwa@aol.com

Girth and Mirth of AZ
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Phoenix, AZ 85011 655-8229

The Leatherlords 254-9651

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

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

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

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Project Q
TRIBE
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The Community Center
and Youth Services 265-7283
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Switchboard 234-2752
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Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

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Professional Association
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Casa De Cristo
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Phoenix, AZ 85014 234-2180

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222-8664

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Phoenix, AZ 85067 409-3160

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Q Puzzle

"Opera Queen"

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	
12				13		14	15	16					
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62			63				64	65	66		67		
68					69						70		
71							72				73		

ACROSS

- 1 Diamond, for one
- 4 Word with hard or lard
- 7 Mr. Gaylord
- 12 Actress Gardner
- 13 Closet emotion
- 16 Journalist — Rogers St. Johns
- 17 So-so, on the links
- 18 Opera by 40-Across
- 20 Cigar-smoking Adams
- 22 Stonewall occurrence

- 23 Pop's mate, '90s-style
- 24 Opera by 40-Across
- 29 Name of two Roman statesmen
- 30 — Beach, San Francisco
- 33 — Darya (Asian river)
- 36 Triangle, to the Greeks
- 39 Lee of frozen desserts
- 40 Gay 20th-century composer
- 44 Chastity is one
- 45 Old anesthetic
- 46 Heart chart, for short

- 47 Overflowing with water
- 49 Biblical seed-spiller
- 51 Orchestral work by 40-Across
- 58 R-V hookup
- 60 Lecherous man
- 61 Squirrel's home
- 62 Church drama by 40-Across
- 67 Don Bachardy's output
- 68 Risque writer Nin
- 69 Gay-rights opponent Bryant
- 70 Actress Carrere
- 71 Button site
- 72 Fork over
- 73 Conger or moray

DOWN

- 1 Stared dumbfoundedly
- 2 Dodge
- 3 West Side Story song
- 4 Egyptian cobra
- 5 Gay man, campily speaking
- 6 Made a lap
- 7 Gay historian Duberman
- 8 Mean Amin
- 9 Not extreme
- 10 4-Down was her doom
- 11 Metal fastener
- 14 Talk-show host Griffin
- 15 Pennsylvania port
- 19 Shapely suffix?
- 21 List-ending abbr.
- 25 "If I — Hammer"
- 26 Anne and Ellen, for one
- 27 "It's true!"
- 28 Price
- 31 Difficult journey
- 32 Engage in autoerotic asphyxia
- 33 "Dancing Queen" group
- 34 Pussy sound

- 35 Like homosexuality, if you ask 69-Across
- 37 It's a blast
- 38 Detest
- 41 Threesome actor Charles
- 42 Descartes or Auberjonois
- 43 Where Saddam-ites live
- 48 Supposed Corpus Christi offense
- 50 Wacko
- 52 "Incredible!"
- 53 Distinctive quality
- 54 Jockey's strap
- 55 Mad as hell
- 56 Ghostly
- 57 Heavy —
- 58 Surface wound, after a few days
- 59 3-Down, e.g.
- 63 — Abner
- 64 Limo passenger
- 65 Airport abbr.
- 66 Bolger or Bradbury

S	E	L	F		S	M	I	T	H		G	R	E	G		
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Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle: "Relatively Speaking." Note: the solution to the 1998 Crossword Contest will appear in the Oct. 22 issue of HeatStroke.

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HOROSCOPES

By Deane Jaye, HeatStroke contributor

Libra (September 21 - October 20)

At your service, Your Highness! You'll be king of the hill (or queen of the castle—whichever you prefer) for the next couple of weeks, and you'll be operating from a lofty point high above the rest of us for as long as it takes to get that kingdom in order. Your unusual methods for convincing others to do your bidding will seem less and less peculiar once you begin to produce results, so ignore the whispers coming from the front row and press onward.

Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)

Your eagerness to share some discreetly obtained (but nevertheless wicked) wisdom may find you revealing Too Much Information at a social gathering around mid-month. Stop yourself before it's too late and keep your tongue tied as long as you can, unless it's truly your aim to frighten the horses—and everyone else in the room. The path between your brain and loins will be easy to travel around the 11th, when you may get what you think you want in bed.

Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)

Many things you have been holding inside need to be revealed, and now is the perfect time to lift the curtain and show the little man operating the controls behind the Great Wizard. Lay it all out on the table and do whatever you can to clear the air, or you may explode in a shower of psychological sparks, ruining one or two particularly close relationships in the process. An Aquarius native has something flashy to show you.

Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)

Changes in your living situation could well be on the way. Perhaps you'll be moving into roomier digs, or maybe there'll be a revamping of your present abode—either way, your comfort level at home should increase due to the changes soon to ensue. Meanwhile, the road is beckoning and you oft-traveling Capricorns are ready to experience something new and exotic that could be hiding around the bend.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)

"The hills are alliiive, with the sound of..." Well, okay. Maybe not music. But there's *something* magical working in your favor this month if you're willing to experience the view from a higher elevation. So gather up your Alpine skirts and climb, Maria, climb. This new vantage point could show you something you had previously missed and if you keep your mood up there as well, you just might land a handsome Baron for yourself.

Pisces (February 21 - March 20)

Your tendency to get worked up over what seems like your inevitable inability to conform will be heightened this month. There's nothing wrong with standing up for your own way of doing things, the problem is caused by your ineffectiveness at communicating your reasons. When people think you're being odd just for oddness' sake, they'll resist. Gather your thoughts, lay out your argument and show others that your plan truly is the better one.

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

Immaturity is your best friend this month, so splash around in a kiddie pool or plop your butt down in a sandbox and see what the other younguns are up to for some important clues as to the direction in which your life is headed. Don't listen to grown-up influences who'll tell you it's time to come in, settle down and stop playing. A wily Sagittarian may invite you to go traveling—be sure you know his/her destination before you say yes.

Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

What's good for the goose is good for the other goose, or something like that. What that means in this case is, "don't dish it out if you can't take it." When it comes to spreading rumors and truths that might do harm, you've likely been indulging that Taurean desire a little too heavily of late and are in danger of becoming a victim of nasty gossip yourself. Back off before it's too late and let just one argument end without having to have the last word.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Feel the rhythm and roll with the beat—you'll be deeply involved in marching to your own tune for the next couple of weeks and the weekend of the 16th in particular could find you dancing in the sheets before the sun comes up on Sunday. Pay less attention to how you land these nighttime conquests and focus instead on what you learn from them, if you want a connection that will last. Your homebody side could make a rare appearance around mid-month.

Cancer (June 21 - July 20)

The honored place you hold in the nuclear family will be made significant sometime after the 13th, when your advice and counsel are much needed to set things right for others within the unit. Don't tumble overboard into empathy if you can help it—you'll do better to offer suggestions from afar and let the injured parties sort it out from there. Travel is in the picture, but a successful trip will require that you have some input in the plans this time.

Leo (July 21 - August 20)

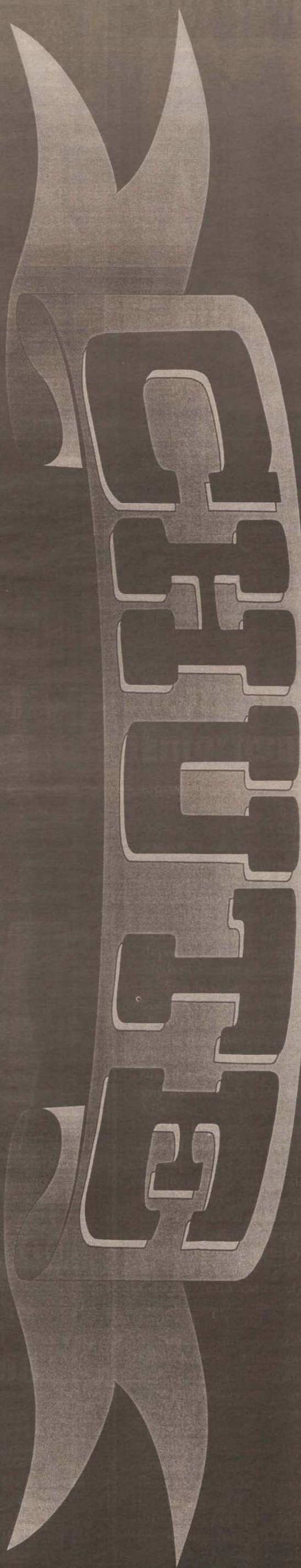
It's going to feel as though everyone is staring right at you—and not in a good way—when you become the Monica Lewinsky of your own little scandal at a social event or some other large gathering around the 18th. Your best tack is to keep your ears open and your mouth closed if you wish to avoid becoming further fodder for gossip among peering peers. A steamy Scorpio pal can best demonstrate that if you act like nothing's wrong, nothing is wrong.

Virgo (August 21 - September 20)

Your bark is generally much worse than your bite, but anyone crossing you in the next few weeks may learn that your chompers work pretty good, too. The trick is alerting others in advance when you wish to be left alone, so issue a warning or two when you feel those foul moods coming on. If you want some time alone, take it and don't apologize. Comfort will come from the familiar, so avoid exotic foods and unfamiliar locales for a while.

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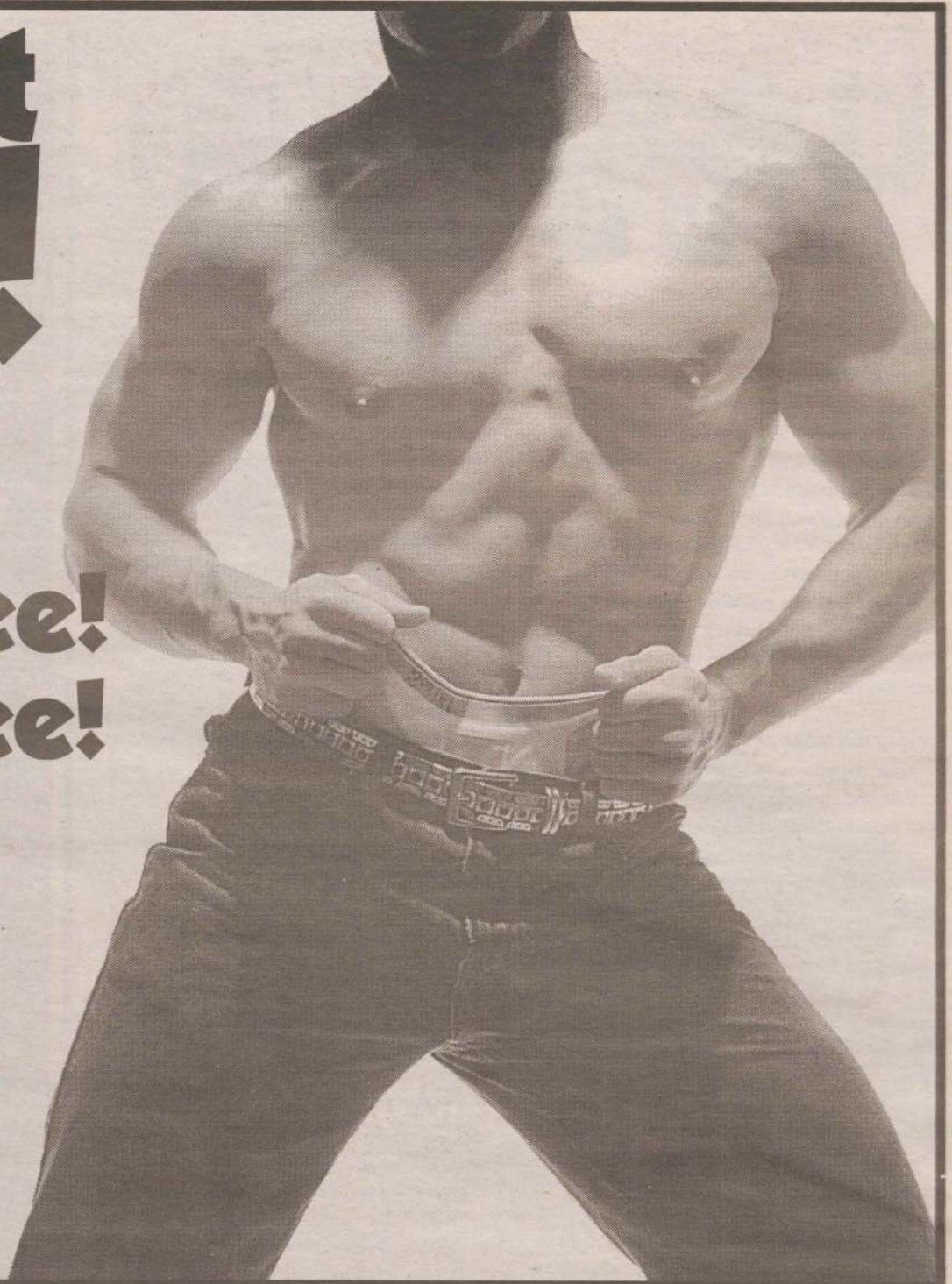
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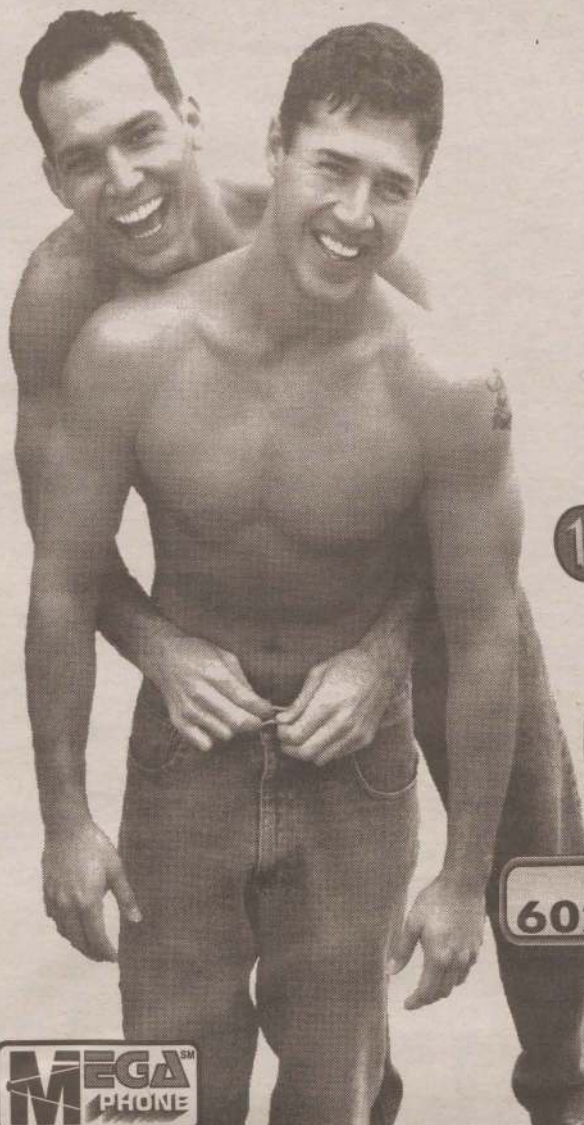
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Notable Quotes continued from page 23

show is a non-issue. We're trying to show America that gay can be a flavor in people's lives the same way as anything else. In our show Will and Jack have been out for 15 years; we can allow it to be who they are without it being who they are every single day."

—Eric McCormack, Will of TV's *Will & Grace*, to the *New York Post*, Sept. 28.

"People thought I was gay in the 2nd grade. I think a lot of guys I went to school with are now going to be saying, 'You see, honey, I told you he was gay!'"

—Eric McCormack, Will of TV's *Will & Grace*, to the *New York Post*, Sept. 28. Will is gay.

"Straight people say, 'C'mon, you know you're just gay,' and gay people say, 'C'mon, you know you're just gay,' and everybody just wants to make me gay! There is such a thing as bisexual. People want black and white. And I enjoy being bisexual. I enjoy being with men and I enjoy being with women."

—Newsradio star Andy Dick to *Salon* magazine, Sept. 22.

"Baltimore now has more edge than New York. I'm so happy I'm not 20 any more. If I wanted to stay out all night, where would I go? I have to go to

my memory. The places I went, the outrageous experiences ... sipping a cocktail while your best friend got fucked in the corner [or] seeing Angela Lansbury at Hellfire. That's over. I've never seen anybody famous at Blow Buddies or the 82 Club. Next, it'll be prohibition. It will become illegal for kids to skateboard off loading docks."

—Gay filmmaker John Waters to *Denver's Out Front*, Sept. 9.

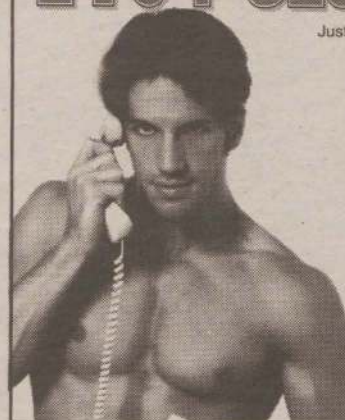
"All that stuff about me and Bert? It's not true. We're both very happy, but we're not gay."

—*Sesame Street* puppet Ernie in an appearance before students at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, Sept. 10.

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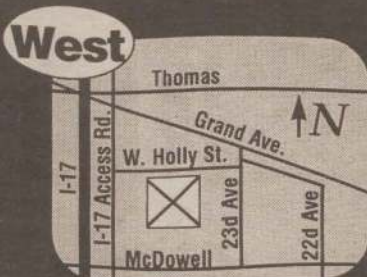
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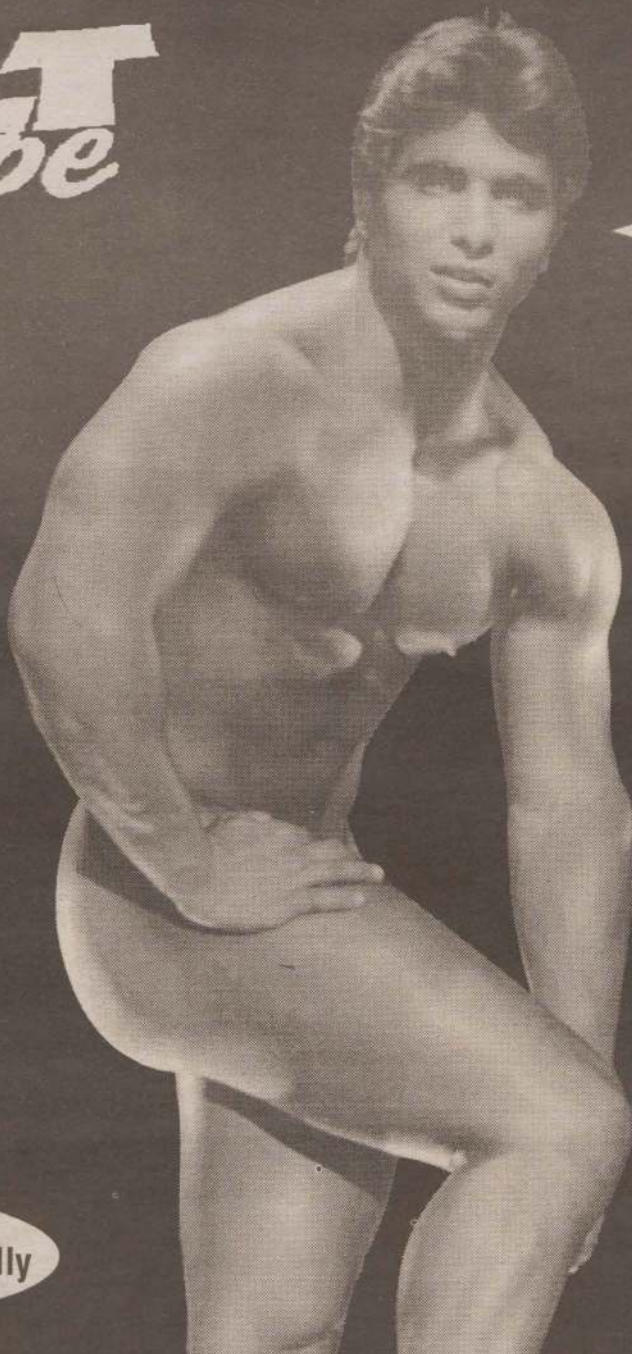


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