

# HeatStroke

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# Gay Rape

*Male/male rape happens more than we admit. And — like female rape — the victim often gets the blame.*

By Frank Repice, HeatStroke Contributor

Jason is offered a drink by a guy in bar. He accepts, and they begin to converse. When Jason finishes that drink, another is waiting.

After a few drinks, he is a bit buzzed. The guy offers Jason a ride. He accepts.

After a few minutes of cruising the streets, the man pulls over. He starts kissing Jason and rubbing his crotch. Jason pushes him away, but that only makes the man come back with more vigor.

Regardless of Jason's efforts, the man continues to increase contact. Jason is not able to fight back due to the amount of alcohol he has consumed.

Jason is a pseudonym but the situation is real. This is just one scenario in which man-to-man rape, or male rape, can occur. In 1992, the Bureau of Justice Statistics recorded approximate-

ly 60,000 rapes of males in the United States. The assailants were almost always other men.

Every day gay men become victims of rape in this country. It is a serious problem for the gay community to face. Rarely does the media report a situation where a male becomes the victim of some form of sexual assault, unless the assault involves youth.

The Phoenix Police Department defines rape within the category of sexual assault and as "sexual contact without lawful consent of another."

According to Lieutenant Yahner in the Sex Crimes Unit, 525 sexual assaults involving adults have been reported in the Phoenix metropolitan area in 1997 so far (through the end of July).

The lieutenant stressed that this number refers to reports made, not necessarily the number of actual crimes. He noted that rape is the crime with the highest rate of underreporting, especially by male victims. Sexual assault statistics broken down by gender are not available in Phoenix.

See "Rape" page 6

## Pride '98 to include circuit-type party

*Spring festival continues to evolve; Fire & Ice backers add event*

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

When the Arizona Central Pride board of directors recently announced that the Valley's 1998 Pride festival will be held in Phoenix on one day—April 18—and will include a downtown parade, many people in the local gay and lesbian community welcomed the news.

Since the information was made public, people across the Valley have praised the all-volunteer committee for its action in changing both season

and locale. There has also, however, been some question whether a one-day event will be long enough to effectively celebrate gay pride in a city this size.

And now, a Phoenix man and his business partner have reacted to the scheduled changes by investing their own resources to expand the event. Desert Quest Productions is producing an upscale, outdoor, Sunday evening dance party on the heels of the Saturday festival.

This dance party, still in the planning stages, is slated to be held April 19 at the Phoenix Zoo. If negotiations with zoo officials go as hoped, it will mirror the wildly popular "Zoo Party" thrown each year in San Diego as a part of that city's series of Pride events.

The Phoenix version of the Zoo Party will be called Zoo Pride. The event is intended to expand the festival, to provide a fun, circuit party atmosphere for the local community,

and to draw visitors from beyond the state, according to Desert Quest co-owner Ron Foxworthy.

Foxworthy, whose company is producing the upcoming Fire & Ice III circuit party in downtown Phoenix in November, said Desert Quest's presentation of Zoo Pride will be handled in cooperation with ACP, but will nevertheless be a separate event.

The main difference, he said, is that ACP is a non-profit organization

See "Event," page 7



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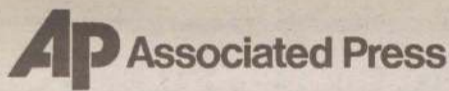
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## from an editor

The jury did its job and threw the bum out. So now we have a new governor. What does it mean for Arizona's gay and lesbian population? The short answer is that it's too soon to tell.

But there are a few reasons to be hopeful.

First of all, Governor Hull is a woman. And if she's like most straight women, she's probably not as threatened by homosexuals as most straight men seem to be. This, alone, is cause for celebration in our community.

The Symington Administration was replete with gay baiters who took a perverse pride in their homophobia — Symington's Chief of Staff, Jay Heiler, was a prime example. I don't expect homophobia to be among the list of job qualifications for Governor Hull's Administration.

Another good sign is that the new Governor has referred to herself in recent interviews as a "Goldwater Conservative." Her decision to associate herself with retired Senator Barry Goldwater is a fascinating move. It sends at least three distinctly different messages about the Governor's political philosophy.

To most Arizonans, invoking the name of Barry Goldwater is sensible and respectful. After all, he has been lauded nationally as the mastermind of this country's conservative revolution.

In his home state, however, he's become a giant thorn in the sides of conservative Republicans. By aligning herself with Barry Goldwater, Governor Hull has sent the right wing of her party into a state of apoplexy.

For gays and lesbians, Barry Goldwater has become one of our most visible champions. The Governor's statement, then, that she's a "Goldwater Conservative" is music to my — very queer — ears.

Several years ago, during the final weeks of a close race in Arizona's 4th Congressional District, Goldwater unexpectedly endorsed a female candidate — Democrat Karan English — over an arch conservative Republican.

## Horowitz: grace and disgrace

We've just been inundated with news of two fallen icons. Princess Diana suffered a tragic, untimely death, while Fife Symington succumbed to a long-fought battle with justice.

Both Lady Diana Spencer and J. Fife Symington, III grew up in wealthy, aristocratic environments. Both married into families with far greater wealth than their own. The real story, however, does not lie in the public endings reported last week.

Diana's death commanded great sorrow worldwide. Fife's tumble from the governor's office created substantial satisfaction for many, and sympathy for the family whose patriarch will likely serve prison time.

Humanity will remember Diana as the Queen of Hearts and the People's Princess. Fife's public life will simply add to the evidence that Arizonans don't elect good governors. The legacies both these public figures left truly reflect their public lives and ideals.

Diana's life epitomized compassion, duty, style and beauty. Her physical beauty paled next to her glorious spirit. She made individuals feel significant. She not only worked tirelessly for charities — most notably with AIDS organizations — but she taught her sons that same volunteer ethic.

She made her boys wait in line at McDonald's just like everybody else. She faced publicity with humility while keeping her personal suffering secret as best she could. Despite her many obligations and enormous wealth, she gave freely of her most precious commodity — time. I hope the world's children see her as a role model.

Fife's life thus far epitomizes greed, misuse of power, self pity and shunning personal responsibility. He accepts no responsibility for his legal and financial troubles, blaming everyone and everything from a depressed real estate market to a liberally biased media.

He redecorated the governor's office while many of Arizona's school children studied in decaying, often dan-

As a result, Goldwater was credited with single handedly winning the election for English.

Goldwater's endorsement of a Democrat over a fellow Republican was perfectly consistent with his brand of conservatism: the government should stay out of the private lives of its citizens. English was pro-choice, while her Republican opponent was stridently against abortion rights. Although she was a Democrat, Goldwater endorsed the true conservative.

The blasphemous endorsement caused a huge rift in Arizona's Republican Party. The right wingers were so infuriated that they tried — unsuccessfully — to rename Goldwater Center, the state's Republican headquarters.

Goldwater, whose grandson is openly gay, has also been unwavering in his support for the rights of gays and lesbians. In 1992, he was instrumental in the fight to win approval from the Phoenix City Council of a watered-down gay rights ordinance. The passage of that weak legislation — a largely symbolic victory that has yet to be strengthened — was nevertheless a resounding slap in the face of Arizona's right wing.

It's possible, of course, that Governor Hull had something else on her mind when she called herself a "Goldwater Conservative." We can, however, be certain of this: she's had 18 months since Symington's indictment to think about how to describe herself. And in those 18 months, she couldn't have chosen a more politically loaded label.

If Governor Hull truly is a "Goldwater Conservative," then it's logical that she would support the repeal of Arizona's sodomy statute. After all, the state's attempt to forbid private, consensual sexual behavior is the most intrusive invasion into the lives of Arizona's citizens.

We need to ask her the question, and lobby for her support. Maybe she means what she says.

Maybe she is another Barry Goldwater.

Kelly J. Reidhead, Managing Editor

gerous classrooms. When the business ventures he had personally trumpeted and guaranteed to succeed (and promoted as good reasons to elect him in the first place) failed, his own opulent lifestyle continued undiminished and uninterrupted.

Pensioners who relied on Fife's word lost a big piece of their future security. He has consistently complained to the media and to the people of Arizona about his unhappy lot in life.

The self-effacing young lady who only wanted a better world for her two young children will go to heaven. The self-aggrandizing, dishonest businessman/politician will go to prison. Diana's life will become a chapter in world history. Fife's career as governor will be a blemish on Arizona history.

The gay community exhibited traits similar to Diana's in its response to the AIDS crisis. We lovingly ministered to our sick and dying brothers and sisters. We initiated research where there was none. We created a memorial in the quilt.

We took our hearts, filled them with compassion, and insisted that progress be made in the treatment of this dreadful disease. We gave and raised money with donations often coming from people of relatively low means.

Presidents Reagan and Bush left the White House with blood on their hands. Real leadership doesn't come from the title one holds, but from the actions one takes and the compassion one shows. With or without "Her Royal Highness" attached to her name, Diana — by word and deed — brought love wherever she went.

She won't be remembered for her imperfections. She will be remembered for her love. I hope that, during his impending period of incarceration, Fife can develop even a small percentage of the grace Diana showed.

He can take a lesson from gays and lesbians.

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



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# Phoenix judge acquits lesbian accused of assaulting 16 year-old boy

## Lawyer says police improperly handled possible hate crime

By Káryn Riedell, Staff Writer

After months of worry about facing a future prison sentence and a criminal record for assault, Lori Peltz is finally able to breathe a sigh of relief.

On Sept. 2, Judge Matt Tafoya in Phoenix acquitted Peltz of assault charges that stemmed from a traffic altercation in which she was accused of beating up 16-year-old Michael Laramée (as reported in *HeatStroke* Issue #17, July 3-16).

"Being 30-years-old and having a clean record looks great," Peltz said following her court victory. "I was really happy it was over with."

Although Peltz's attorney, Roger Rea, was pleased about winning the case, police testimony at the trial further convinced him that officers had not handled the investigation well.

The officers' lack of knowledge about gay issues also convinced Rea that police are not receiving adequate diversity training. This shortcoming may lead to a failure to recognize and investigate hate crimes, Rea said.

The incident that led Rea to question police handling of possible gay hate crimes began several months ago, on the morning of Feb. 11.

On that morning, Peltz and her partner, Betsy Helseth, were taking Peltz's 10-year-old daughter to school near 21st Avenue and Maryland. According to Peltz, Laramée rear-ended her truck while she pulled to the curb in order to drop off her daughter.

After she and Laramée got out of their trucks, Peltz said the teen called her a "dyke," pushed into her and started swinging.

When Helseth tried to help her partner, Laramée slugged her in the face, too. Both women were taken to the hospital, where they were treated for facial injuries.

According to Laramée's version, Peltz caused the accident by intentionally applying her brakes. He also maintained that Peltz started the fight by punching him in the neck and face. Initially, he attempted to push away the punches, Laramée said, but finally punched Peltz and Helseth in the face to get the women to stop hitting him.

Melinda Smith, who was driving by at the time, backed Laramée's version: that it was the two women who started the fight and that Laramée merely fought back in self-defense.

Peltz could have accepted the city prosecutor's offer to settle out of court, in which case her 20-day jail sentence and \$400 fine would have been suspended upon proof of counseling. But she would still have to pay for the damages to Laramée's truck. And she would have a record for assault.

Peltz decided instead to fight the assault charge and hired Rea to defend her.

From the beginning, Rea argued that there were serious flaws in the police investigation and that the case should have been investigated as a possible hate crime because of the gay pride stickers on Peltz's truck.

*Continued on next page*



Happy days: Lori Peltz and her partner, Betsy Helseth, celebrate the acquittal.

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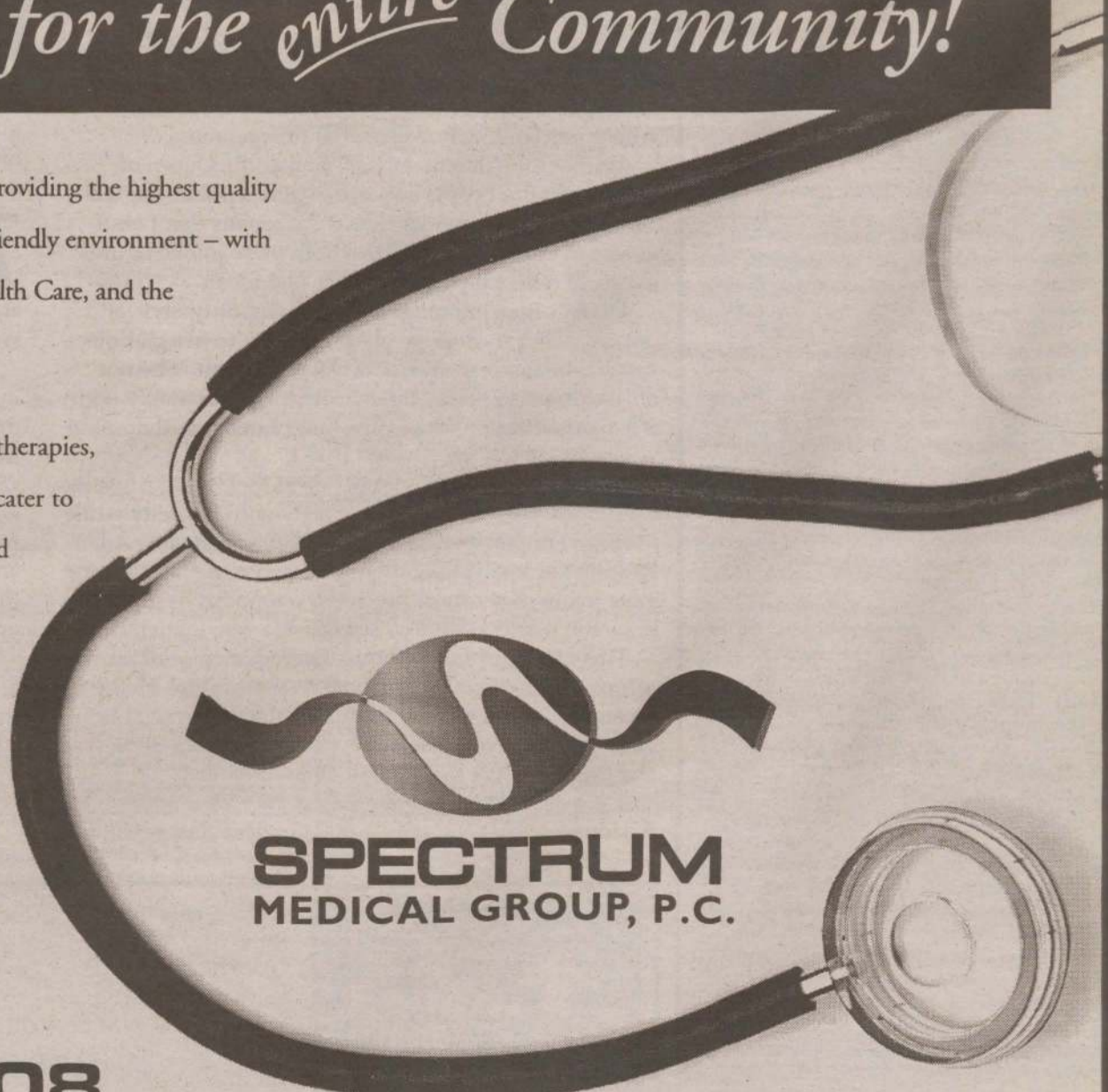
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## Lesbian acquitted

Continued from previous page

Letters written to the court in which the boy—and his parents—expressed their fears about AIDS also indicated a “preoccupation” with Peltz’s sexual orientation, Rea added.

At the nonjury trial, officers were unable to identify gay symbols such as the rainbow flag and the pink triangle, Rea said.

“(One officer) could not identify the triangle or the flag,” Rea said. “If you can’t identify that and you’re a two-year veteran, what kind of diversity training are you getting?”

At the trial, Laramee testified that he thought the two women were men—until he heard Peltz speak. But Helseth doesn’t buy that claim, saying that Peltz spoke almost immediately upon getting out of the truck.

Ultimately, the judge found Peltz not guilty of the assault charge, stating that reasonable doubt had been established.

“It was a bad case,” Rea said of the prosecution’s charge against his client. On the Friday before trial, the city prosecutor’s office had filed a motion to continue because the witness, Melinda Smith, was on vacation and would not be available for trial testimony.

“I never got a copy of that, and it was denied by the judge,” Rea said of the prosecution’s motion. “I had no idea the judge had denied it either.”

As for Peltz, she is just happy to be getting on with her life after months of anguish.

Both good and bad have come out of the experience, the two women said.

Peltz said she couldn’t have fought the charges without the help of her grandmother, with whom the family lives. It was Lil Peltz who loaned her granddaughter the \$2,000 needed for attorney’s and investigator’s fees.

Peltz and Helseth were also touched by the support of the men at the night school they attend. They are taking classes toward a degree in automotive training. “All the guys supported us. They are breaking the cycle of the male macho in the automotive field,” Peltz said proudly.

The stress also caused the couple to have problems in their relationship, as they considered the possibility of Peltz having to serve jail time and face the prospect of a criminal record. “If ever there was a test of a relationship, this was it,” Helseth said.

The prosecuting attorney’s last question struck Helseth as odd. “His last question was—‘Do you love her?’ I said, ‘Of course, I do.’”

Despite their commitment, the two women no longer display affection in public, nor do they display gay pride symbols on their truck, Peltz said. “We’re really not affectionate in public for fear of something else happening. You just don’t know people, and you don’t know what they’ll do.”

## Tonight Show guitar man to lead local AIDS Walk

Kevin Eubanks, the popular music director of the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, will come to Arizona to show his support for the 10th annual AIDS Walk Arizona on October 19.

He will join thousands of Arizonans as they participate in the 10-kilometer AIDS Walk Arizona, the major AIDS fundraising and public awareness event in the state. The Walk will be held in downtown Phoenix.

Eubanks is a talented guitarist who was named music director of the *Tonight Show* in 1995 after filling in for several months for the band’s original director, saxophonist Branford Marsalis.

In addition to his television work, Eubanks has released 12 albums in a 13-year recording career and scored the HBO Pictures presentation *Rebound*, directed by ER’s Eric La Salle.

The fundraising walk on October 19 begins and ends at Patriots Square

Park at Central and Washington Avenues.

The walk, which began in 1987 with a few hundred walkers who raised several hundred dollars, has grown considerably. Last year’s 6,000 participants raised \$466,000, benefiting more than 15 AIDS service organizations that work to provide

services for men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS.


This year, The Arizona Republic Charities, a fund of the Robert R McCormick Tribune Foundation, will match every dollar raised by walkers by 50 cents on the dollar.

Agencies that will be participating include AIDS Project Arizona, The Malta Center, Phoenix Body Positive, Phoenix Shanti Group and a number of other

AIDS service and education providers.

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# Rape: it happens to men, too

Continued from page 1

Many people believe that rape is not a problem gay men should worry or think about. But cases prove otherwise. Gay and bisexual men do need to think about rape, and more specifically about date rape.

Date rape is unique in that the two men are not complete strangers and have agreed to spend time together. When one man, however, coerces sexual contact with another man, that is where the date ends and the rape begins.

Coercion takes many forms. Physical force, alcohol and other substances, and psychological pressure are types of coercion.

At Project LifeGuard, AIDS Project Arizona's prevention unit, an alarming number of individuals have sought support for sexual assault. As the coordinator of support and referral at the organization, I have heard these men describe situations in which they were, technically, victims of rape.

Though each episode had its individual factors, they all shared similar characteristics. Each victim knew his violator or agreed to meet with him prior to the assault.

A substance, such as alcohol or ecstasy, was used by the violator in nearly all situations as a tool to lower the victim's defenses. Each victim I spoke with was anally penetrated during the assault, and a condom was not used by the violator in any of the cases.

Not one of the cases was reported to authorities.

Perhaps most disturbing is the detached, emotionless and matter-of-fact manner with which these victims described their encounters. This detachment may be due in part to what A. Burgess and L. Holstrom labeled in 1979 as Rape Trauma Syndrome.

They described reaction to rape in two phases: acute and long term. Immediately following sexual assault, in the acute phase, victims exhibit one of two emotional styles: expressive (showing fear, anger and anxiety), or controlled (masking feelings and showing a calm exterior).

Sometimes, physical symptoms appear such as sleep problems, headaches and stomach pains.

The long term phase involves a process of reorganization, in which victims take action to ensure safety. Examples are changing telephone numbers, moving and increased trips to visit family members.

Experts agree that rape is the only crime in which the character of the victim seems to be viewed as important. This is part of the "blaming the victim" phenomenon. The style of dress, personality, or carelessness of the victim become

issues that help others determine whether he contributed to his own assault.

Blaming the victim also leads the victim to blame himself. His esteem breaks down and feelings of guilt become dominant, both of which can lead to self-destructive behaviors.

"A lot of guys think that if they got an erection or had an orgasm during [the sexual contact] then it could not be labeled as rape," commented a 21-year old gay man (preferring anonymity) who was raped six months ago in Phoenix.

**Rape is the only crime in which the character of the victim is viewed as important. The style of dress, personality, or carelessness of the victim become issues that help others determine whether he contributed to his own assault.**

Again, most experts say that this is also part of blaming the victim, and people who think that way are forgetting that erections and orgasms are simply biological reactions and are not always controlled by the circumstances under which the stimulation occurs.

The man detailed his victimization: "I had met him in one of the bars. Then we went to his place and he offered me a drink. He had to have put something in it, because a little while later I was tripping. I couldn't think and I could barely see straight."

The young man was then penetrated anally without the use of a condom. He said he was concerned for quite some time that he may have been infected with HIV during the incident. He said his initial and follow up tests have thankfully been negative.

Statistics have shown that date rape can happen in many different environments and under many circumstances.

In the gay community, bars often seem like the most likely place for date rape to develop because many feel that a large percentage of gay men frequent bars as a means to finding sexual contact. But the bar itself may not be a factor. Other factors, such as alcohol and other drugs, also play a role.

There are a number of ways to avoid situations in which date rape can occur, and the rules apply to gay men as readily as they do to women.

Most counselors agree that one good idea when going to bars is to go with one or more friends. Friends can help when a person is not thinking clearly, as when he has alcohol in his system. They can also help make decisions with regard to strangers.

Another common-sense tip is to hold a first date in a public place, and to avoid isolated places such as an individual's home. It is also advisable to avoid getting too intimate too quickly.

Though little is said about it, gay date rape is a serious and traumatic experience. Society teaches men to be strong, bold and confident. Today, we know that rape is not just about sex, it is about power. Research has shown, in fact, that this violent crime affects heterosexual men as well as homosexual men, and that the assailants are both heterosexual and homosexual.

When someone is raped, whether violently or through effective coercion, he is stripped of his feeling of security. The violation is immeasurable and trust becomes impossible. The issue is very real.



Frank Repice is the Coordinator of Project Q and the former support and referral coordinator for Project LifeGuard, a program of AIDS Project Arizona.

Test your knowledge of rape. The following is a list of true and false statements. How many can you correctly identify? See how well you did by checking the answers below given by researchers Frazier and Borgida.

1. "Stranger" rape is more common than acquaintance or date rape.
2. Individuals of all races and socio economic levels are equally likely to be raped.
3. Most rape victims recover in about a month.
4. Most rapes are planned in advance rather than occurring spontaneously.
5. Most victims report the rape to the police and want to see the rapist punished.
6. If a victim blames himself/herself for the assault, it often means that he/she played some role in the rape.

1) False; 2) True; 3) True; 4) True; 5) True; 6) False

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# Pride Festival to add event

Continued from page 1

while Desert Quest is a professional company. This means that, although ACP will be endorsing the party, Foxworthy's organization will be solely responsible for it financially.

"We are happy to have Ron Foxworthy step in and do this, and we hope it works," said Ernie Mendoza, ACP president. Mendoza said he understands why some Phoenixians have criticized the Pride Committee for not including a big, circuit-type party as part of the festival here. But he said it was not a viable option.

"When you talk about these big theme parties like they have in LA and San Diego, you are talking big production dollars," Mendoza explained. "We have discussed it, but it is beyond the limits of our committee's resources to produce something like that, and we don't think people would pay the entrance fee we would have to charge to cover our end."

Mendoza said because Foxworthy is experienced in planning a party of this nature, the ball will now effectively be in his court. He also said the Pride Committee will support the Sunday event and help promote it in every way.

"I have always thought there was a need for something like this in Phoenix," said Foxworthy of the party he is planning. "The weather was always such a negative factor when the festival was in June, but now that it will be in April, we

should take every advantage available."

Foxworthy said a well-attended, springtime dance party will show people from all over the country that Phoenix is a great place to party out-



Ernie Mendoza — the ACP leader says a theme dance party will be added to Pride '98

doors, and will encourage people from other areas to fly in and attend the festival here.

"That's what we need to expand the festival," he said. "To offer something more, something bigger, and make our Pride Festival more of a

world-class event that befits a city of this size."

The Desert Quest name was licensed to Foxworthy and a partner earlier this year. The company was changed from a non-profit organiza-

An area where Desert Quest, as a professional organization, will help to improve Pride festival attendance is in advertising. "They will be able to promote this much better," said Mendoza. "Ads for the Desert Quest event might attract people we (ACP) would not otherwise reach, and that will probably carry over to improve attendance for our festival."

Mendoza said the Pride Committee, by contrast, has no advertising budget. The committee members will also be stretched to their limits with planning the parade and subsequent festival on Saturday.

"Getting the word out to people all over will be a big factor in making an event of this scale work," Foxworthy said. "We also want all the locals to come, so it can't be too expensive. We are looking at starting the party around four in the afternoon, and keeping the admission costs down." Foxworthy said he hopes 3-4,000 people will attend.

tion at that time. The first two Fire & Ice festivals (in 1995 and 1996) were produced by volunteers as charitable events, while the 1997 party (November 7-9) will be a professional production with a portion of the net donated to local HIV service organizations.

Fore information on the party as it evolves, or to learn more about the upcoming Fire & Ice III, call Desert Quest at (602)785-1376. Or, contact their website at [www.fire-and-ice.com](http://www.fire-and-ice.com). To volunteer for the 1998 parade and festival, call Arizona Central Pride at (602)279-1771.



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BBQ 12-6 with AIDS Walk Arizona  
Ginger, Ms. AGRA Contestant Show, 9pm

Monday, September 15

The Roxy Blue Show, Miss AGRA Contestant, 9pm  
Also, Project LifeGuard undies night  
"The heat's still on, so come on in, take your pants off  
& cool down! Every Monday is underwear night."

Tuesday, September 16

Country Bears' Jamboree  
6:30pm BBQ & 9:30pm auction

Wednesday, September 17

Dart League Night: turnabout & show

Friday — Saturday,  
September 19-20

Wild West Saloon days — under the stars

Wednesday, September 24

Latino Night with DJ Oscar

Sunday, September 28

Mr. Gay Arizona Contest  
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Undie Mondays, 7-12. Party in your underwear & drink anything in the house 1/2 price. Pinball Tournament, 9:30pm; Renegades practice night.

Tuesday

Draft Blowout, 7-12. Miller Lite/Genuine Draft pitchers \$1.50. Sunburst Squares practice night. Volleyball with Michael at 8pm. Pony Express Night — an exciting way to meet new friends. Dart League night & Open Dart Tournament, 9:30pm.

Wednesday

Top Shelf Night, 7-12. \$2 Top Shelf, \$1.25 well drinks. Dance lessons with Troy at 7:30pm.

Thursday

The Original 1/2 Price Night, 7-12. 1/2 Price on everything. Renegades practice night. Dart Tournament, 9:30pm.

Friday

Start your weekend at Charlies. Sunburst Squares practice night.

Saturday

\$1 well drinks, 12-7pm. Free pool/darts 3pm. Dance lessons with Marque at 7:30pm.

Sunday

BBQ, 12-6pm for \$3. \$1.50 Long Island Iced Teas until 9pm. \$1.50 Frozen Strawberry Daquiris on the patio noon to 7pm. \$2.50 pitchers noon to midnight. Tea Dance 3-7pm. Dart Tournament, 9:30pm.

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# Workshop facilitator looks forward to Phoenix experience

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"I have the best job in the world," says Honey Ward, President and Facilitator of The Experience. "I feel very grateful to have been a part of this work for nearly twenty years."

Ward spoke to *HeatStroke* from New Mexico, where The Experience is now based and where she makes her home in Santa Fe with her partner, Lynn Shephold.

The Experience is a weekend-long, individual growth seminar geared toward gay men and women.

It was founded in 1978 by David B. Goodstein and Rob Eichberg. Eichberg was known as the co-founder of National Coming Out Day and the author of *Coming Out: An Act of Love*.

The workshop will be held in Phoenix the weekend of September 26 - 28. "Experience Weekends" are held throughout the country year-round. It has been more than three-and-half years since the seminar was offered in the Valley and Ward is happy to return.

"I love the idea of coming back to Phoenix," she says. "It is a wonderful community."

Ward has seen many changes in American society since she became involved with The Experience in 1979. These changes have positively affected The Experience, she says, in that it is easier for gay men and lesbians to open up today than it was twenty years ago.

"People today are not dealing with denial to the degree they were in 1979," she says. "They approach the workshop having already dealt with the issue of hiding in their lives." She says that such was not the case when the workshop was founded and an emphasis on coming out was a larger part of its focus.

The organization has adopted and copyrighted the motto: "By the year 2000 it will be absolutely OK to be lesbian or gay, and diversity will be valued and celebrated."

With this goal less than three years away, Ward welcomes the improved self awareness and higher self esteem of today's community as compared to the late 70's. "I really believe we are in an incredibly exciting and revolutionary time," she says.

She believes the changes in the gay community's attitudes toward

activism and the closet are due in part to the greater understanding of gay issues in society as a whole. The AIDS crisis has been a factor, she says, because it spurred gay people to come out and get involved—people who might otherwise have remained closeted.



Honey Ward, President of The Experience.

The organization's literature explains that people who attend the seminar come away with a clear understanding of its message, which is to support people to function truthfully, powerfully, lovingly and with integrity.

Tools and experiences acquired can positively impact interpersonal relationships, family and career issues, physical and spiritual development, sexual identity affirmation, political focus and community activism.

"We have a commitment to a tradition of greater community effectiveness among the graduates of The Experience," Ward explains.

The Experience has been inspiring personal growth and community activism for nearly two decades. It is known as one of the premiere leadership training programs in the country in the area of advocacy for gay issues.

Ward notes that Experience grads have gone on to found or become involved in activist/advocacy organizations including: National Coming Out Day; Human Rights Campaign; Stop AIDS Project; National Minority AIDS Council; Interfaith AIDS Network; Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project; leaders in PFLAG; and many others.

There are many self-empowerment workshops available to professionals interested in personal growth and exploring volunteerism, Ward says. But none are quite like The Experience.

"What separates the Experience from many other valuable courses available is the fact that we do have a particular issue of serving the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community," Ward says.

"We have a commitment to serving that community, and—while everyone is welcome to participate—it is a space in which gay and lesbian people tend to feel fully free to be themselves."

To reserve a space for The Experience in Phoenix, call 1-800-966-3896.



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# Goings On

news & events in the greater Phoenix queer community

## Bartlett Bash set for Sept. 20 - 21

The annual Bartlett Bash, a community-wide camping, water-skiing and boating trip, will be held September 20 and 21 at Bartlett Lake, northeast of Phoenix.

The event is co-sponsored by the Lambda Yacht Club and Arizona Central Pride. The \$15 cost of the trip includes a Saturday night picnic dinner and a Continental brunch on Sunday. Proceeds will go to ACP, the non-profit committee that produces local Pride events.

"This is really not a major fundraiser for us," said Ernie Mendoza, ACP president. "But it is too much fun not to do again. Everyone always has such a great time."

Mendoza said about 150 people attended the bash last year. He said the September event gives the gay and lesbian community a chance to get together and have fun outdoors in the Fall, when the weather is nice and the Pride Festival is still several months away.

"It's like a mini Pride festival," he said. "You can't miss the gay and lesbian group, because there are so many jet skis, tents, trailers, campers and boats at our site, and more than half of them are sporting rainbow flags."

Tickets are still available by calling ACP at 279-1771. To find the group, follow the signs east out of Cave Creek to Bartlett Lake, then look for the signs and rainbows directing you to SB Cove.

## Lesbian lawyer to give South Africa presentation

Phoenix attorney and community activist Dianne Post recently returned from a trip to South Africa. Post was there to aid in monitoring the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the National Lawyers Guild.

On Tuesday, September 30 at 7:30pm, Post will present a slide show and talk based on her visit at the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 3136 N. 3rd Avenue in Phoenix. There will be a \$1 admission charge. Call the Center at 265-7283 for more information.

## Bowling for youth

Valley One in Ten (VOIT) will hold a fundraising bowling event on October 11 at the Squaw Peak Fair

Lanes, 3049 E. Indian School Rd. in Phoenix from 2 - 4:30pm.

Called "Out on the Lanes: Bowl-A-Thon," the event was chosen to allow people to come together in a non-threatening, diverse and fun environment. It will be an opportunity for individuals of all ages to come together and have fun bowling.

Participants will be allowed to register individually or as a team, and are to collect pledges for the number of pins they knock down. Registration forms are located at the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 3136 N. 3rd Avenue in Phoenix.

VOIT is a peer-led group for, by and about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth and their allies between the ages of 14 and 20. VOIT is a program of the Valley of the Sun gay and Lesbian Community Center.

## Project LifeGuard: testing hours & staff changes

Project LifeGuard Phoenix has changed its office and HIV counseling and testing hours beginning Monday, September 8.

The office will now be open from 10am to 7pm Mondays through Thursdays and 9am to 6pm Fridays. HIV counseling and testing will be 5 to 7pm on Mondays, 3 to 7pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 10am to 7pm on Thursdays.

Project LifeGuard has also made several personnel changes. Frank Repice, who was the coordinator of individual and couples support and referral, had taken over the position of youth coordinator.

The youth coordinator is responsible for Project Q, which offers workshops, discussion groups and social and recreational programs for gay and bisexual men between the ages of 18 and 25.

On an interim basis, Sam Van Leeuwen, project coordinator, will handle individual and couples support and referral. Van Leeuwen will be covering the program, known as Man 2 Man, in addition to his duties as coordinator.

Project LifeGuard, which provides services for gay and bisexual men, is a program of AIDS Project Arizona. HIV counseling and testing is provided through TERROS and Maricopa County Department of Public Health. For more information about Project LifeGuard, call 266-SAFE(7233).

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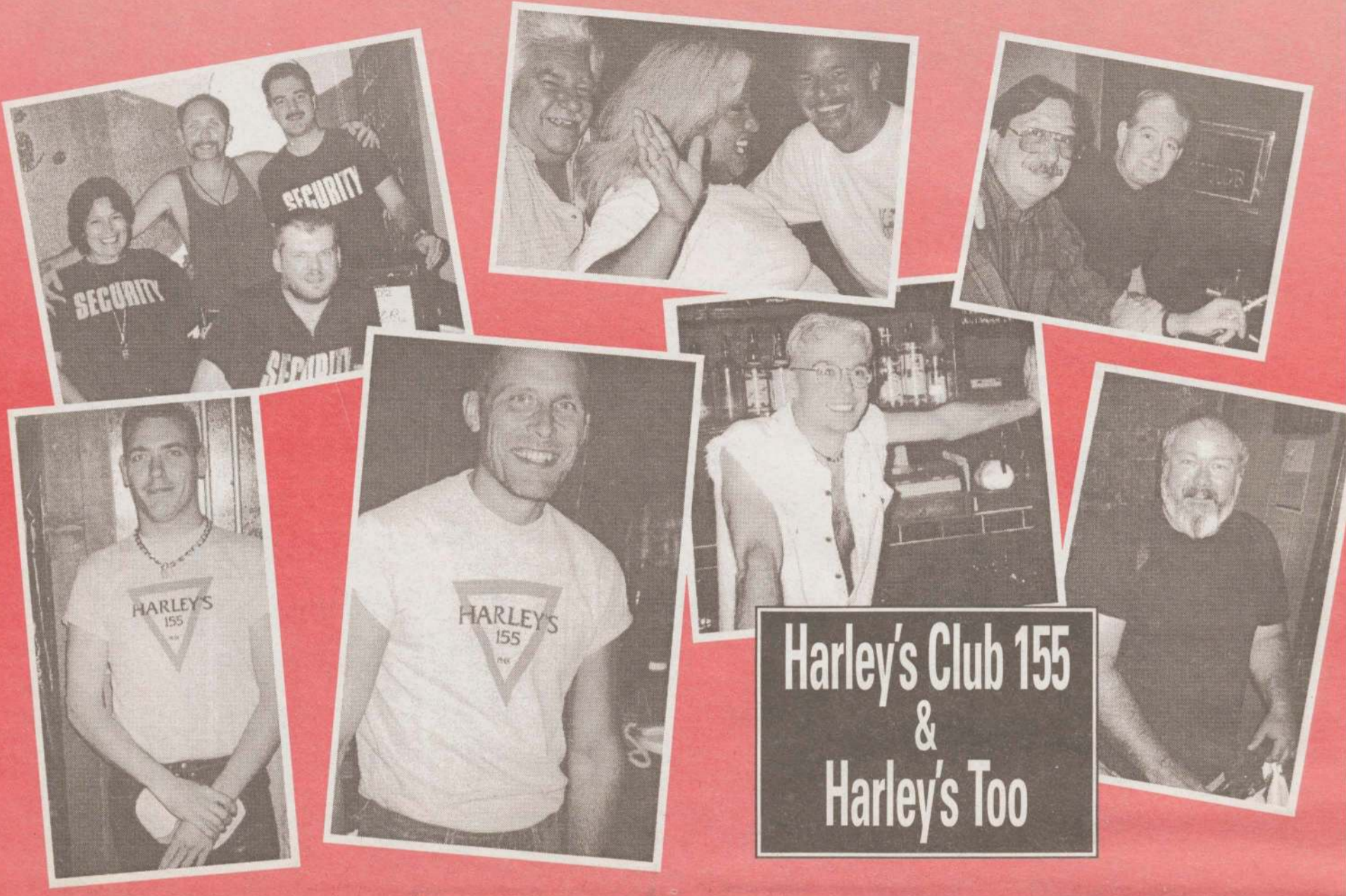
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# Out & out funny

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Making big budget, gay-themed films starring popular, heterosexual American actors really isn't a new concept, even though the Hollywood Machine keeps telling us it is.

Remember when Ryan O'Neal played queer and shucked his boxers to solve a series of Castro District murders in the 1982 disaster *Partners*? What about Tom Hanks in *Philadelphia*? Or Robin



Prelude to a kiss: Tom Selleck (right) and Kevin Klein in *In & Out*.

Williams' recent swish through *Birdcage* with Nathan Lane?

We heard for months in advance how "ground-breaking" each of those roles would be.

Now *In & Out*, a breezy new comedy from Paramount Pictures, is making the gay publicity rounds and opens in very wide release on September 19. Like others before it, the movie is being hyped as groundbreaking—even titillating. Of course, it is neither.

But it is a well-made, funny and touching film, the freshest—and smartest—Tinseltown entry in the growing field of what might best be called Gay Mainstream Movies.

Kevin Kline stars as a popular high school English teacher named Howard Brackett. He loves teaching and his students in Greenleaf, Indiana love Howard. Why wouldn't they? He's fun, funny, good-looking and genuinely interested in their lives.

The Midwestern townsfolk also love him—he's considered a pillar of the quaint community. A longtime bachelor, he is set to wed fellow faculty member Emily Montgomery (Joan Cusack) and all the Hoosiers down in Hoosierville are looking forward to the occasion.

But Howard's tidy world is rocked when, only days before his impending nuptials, a former Greenleaf High student (hilariously played by Matt Dillon) wins the Best Actor Academy Award.

Accepting the award on national TV, he thanks the popular teacher for his positive influence and then promptly announces to the world—including the folks back home—that Mr. Brackett is gay.

But Howard is not gay, and claims the dim-witted actor is somehow confused. When the worldwide media descend upon the sleepy little town in search of the Big Story behind his abrupt fame, Mr. Brackett literally runs from the cameras. "I'm not gay" is what Howard consistently

says, and "I'm not gay" is what Howard believes.

He is not alone in his resolve. His devoted fiancée doesn't believe Howard is gay—after all, he is about to marry her. His Mom (Debbie Reynolds) wants this wedding more than anything else in the world.

Howard's graduating students also refuse to believe their favorite teacher is gay. In fact, despite the very public outing, no one in Greenleaf thinks that Mr. Brackett could possibly be gay.

And yet. Howard is a wonderful dancer. He dresses so well. He adores Barbra Streisand. And his physical relationship with Emily has yet to advance beyond hand-holding and a peck on the lips. So folks do begin to wonder.

The person who sees clearest into Howard's cluttered closet is an outsider, tabloid TV newshound Peter Malloy (Tom Sellek). Gay himself, Malloy smells more than a juicy headline when he comes sniffing around Howard.

Malloy will do whatever he can to derail the scheduled ceremony (including initiating the full-on, 20-second, Kline/Sellek liplock the press has buzzed about since the scene was shot late last year).

*In & Out's* Capra-esque scenario—one that places a good-hearted, unextraordinary man in the sudden limelight with a life-altering choice to make—may sound inherently silly, but it works.

Scott Rudin, one of the busiest (and wealthiest) openly gay producers in the biz, has teamed with gay writer Paul Rudnick (*Jeffrey*) and director Frank Oz (*Little Shop of Horrors*; a.k.a. the man responsible for muppet diva Miss Piggy) to give the subject of outing this big-screen treatment.

They've cast big names and given their actors a bright, functional script to work with. It's not seamless and the safe ending won't please everybody. *In & Out* is, nevertheless, one of the best gay comedies ever to have come out of Hollywood and ranks among the funniest movies of the year.

The film owes much of its success to the inspired way Kline's exceptional talent for physical comedy is combined with writer Rudnick's sarcasm and wit. This melding is perfected during the outrageous scene in which Howard dons denim and plaid, then powers up a cassette player for an "Exploring Your Masculinity" self-help session in his living room.

Director Oz keeps the action moving and guides the story toward its inevitable conclusion with humor and passion. There's poignancy, but no preaching.

*In & Out* is one Gay Mainstream Movie that packs its humorous punch without pity. It helps blow another hinge off Hollywood's closet door and further paves the way for whatever gay subject the studios decide to risk financing next.

# Secrets and spies

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

If you thoroughly enjoy the kind of mystery movie that never lets up in intensity—a steamy pot-boiler that will keep you from using the theater's bathroom (no matter how badly you might need to go) for fear of missing even a minute of its ever-twisting plot—then you'll be quite satisfied by *LA Confidential*.

This clever period film isn't meant to be taken as historical fact, but it sure is fun. Set in early 1950's Los Angeles, the script explores the seedy underside of that developing city.

It's a land of drug lords, strained race relations, police kickbacks, mob corruption and high-end call girls who had their faces surgically altered to make them look like specific movie stars.

*LA Confidential's* basic story—a multiple homicide in an all-night cafe that turns out to be much more than

it at first seems—may not be new, but the treatment is.

The movie is cunningly directed by Curtis Hanson and was adapted from James Ellroy's popular novel by Hanson and veteran screenwriter Brian Helgeland.

Hanson and Helgeland happily break a few rules here—most notably in the way they weave the complicated web of their plot around the evidence stylistically uncovered not by one detective functioning as the central character, but by three.

This multiple-lead strategy is generally considered fine for novels but too complex for audiences, and complexity is a Hollywood no-no. Happily, the three-man plan in *LA Confidential* triples the adrenaline level, challenges the viewer's expectations, and especially pays off for the three talented actors tackling these meaty roles.

The three are played by Ruggedly handsome Australian actor (*The Sum of Us, Romper Stomper*) Russell Crowe, Oscar-winner Kevin Spacey, and Guy Pearce, another dashing Australian (perhaps best known to American audiences as "the cute, muscular one" among the trio of feathered drag queens that sashayed across the desert in a bus they named Priscilla).

Also cast are James Crowell as the pragmatic police captain, Kim Basinger as a Hooker With a Heart of Gold, and Danny DeVito as a tabloid journalist who has his sticky fingers buried in every scandalous pie in town.

None of the variously flawed cops has yet encountered a scandal as dangerous as the one about to blow up in their collective faces. In the race for

*LA Confidential* is not a short film and its many violent scenes are not for the squeamish. It also draws a bit heavily on other period cop dramas in tying up its numerous unraveled ends. The movie further loses points for its tidy Hollywood ending.

Even so, *LA Confidential* should be welcomed as a complex mystery that is unafraid to flaunt its smarts. This atmosphere-laden film is a slick addi-



Russell Crowe, left, and Guy Pearce in *LA Confidential*

information and answers, the boys keep the audience guessing as much as they do each other.

tion to the Whodunit genre—a real bladder buster that sticks to its guns and is well worth the price of admission.

# Out on film

Andy Schwartz

Peter Sorel

# The family that laughs together...

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Screenwriter Paul Rudnick is fast becoming one of the most "in" writers in The Biz.

The script for his latest film, *In & Out*, has the same witty observations, deadly accurate gay characterizations and well-aimed insults that delighted moviegoers in his screen version of the HIV comedy *Jeffrey*.

The unabashed, pointed gayness of *Jeffrey*—based on Rudnick's original play—earned its writer Industry respect as both a humorist and risk-taker.

Rudnick then scripted *Addams Family Values*, his first collaboration with *In & Out* producer Scott Rudin, and one of the best recent examples of hilarious gay humor perking up an essentially straight movie.

He is also known as the fictitious film critic Libby Gelman-Waxner. Under the pseudonym, Rudnick contributes irreverent movie reviews and gossipy industry commentary columns to *Premier* magazine every month.

*HeatStroke* caught up with Rudnick via telephone from Texas, where he's touring to promote the highly anticipated new comedy, opening here September 19.

**HeatStroke:** *The last screenwriter I interviewed—who wrote and directed a movie with an overt, gay-positive message—wouldn't out himself during our interview. What do you think about that?*

Paul Rudnick: That's interesting. I think most people are so over the gay issue by now, that it's hard to guess why anyone in this business would want to stay closeted.

Although, it is kind of a pain when you are always labeled a Gay Screenwriter. You never see anyone called a Straight Director or Straight Screenwriter.

Still, I do understand how gay people need to see other gay people accomplishing things, not just in the movie industry but in all areas. So for me, it's fine when they call me a Gay Screenwriter. It's really about the work and how people respond to it, not about me.

**HS:** *Do you think of what you write as Gay Humor, or is it just Paul Rudnick's Humor?*

PR: I just write what I think is funny and people react to it in different ways. Some people looked at *Addams Family Values* as Gay Humor. I don't really think of the Addams' as having a sexuality. Unless they have their own, odd sexuality that probably involves homicide.

I was interviewed by a Jewish community newspaper, and the guy said he thought the Addams' were Jewish. So I guess the way people see my humor comes from whatever their own perspective is.

**HS:** *Would you be just as witty if you were not gay?*

PR: That's impossible to answer. Are we going to accept that gays have some sort of gene that makes



Writer Paul Rudnick (left), discusses a scene with Director Frank Oz and Producer Scott Rudin, on the set of *In & Out*.

us funnier? Of course it isn't true, because there are plenty of gay people who aren't funny. And then you actually do run into the occasional, humorous straight person.

But I think people who have suffered oppression have a tendency to use humor better, as a way of getting through it, like the tradition of Jewish Humor. Gay Humor has its own tradition but we have such a hard time defining what it is.

We could go into a restaurant and order what we would call Gay Food off the menu. But how do you tell someone else what Gay Food is? There are all these things we are tuned into, that straight people aren't. Things we recognize as Gay but can't explain.

**HS:** *That's kind of the crux of the movie, isn't it? We know the main character is inherently gay even though he is not having sex with men, just because of how he thinks and acts.*

PR: Right, that's the whole thing I'm playing around with. People get very caught up in everything being P.C., and maybe they don't like the stereotypes. But I'm saying that the stereotypes are a part of reality.

Why does my being gay make me act or talk a certain way? I know it does. The truth is, a lot of gay people do act differently. If you accept that as part of yourself, you are more likely to see that making fun of it can be very funny.

**HS:** *What are you working on now?*

PR: Another play—it's still in the typewriter. I like doing the movies and there will be more movie work, but I really love switching back and forth.

# SNEAK PREVIEW!

## Saturday Night

### September 13<sup>th</sup>

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PRODUCTION DESIGNER KEN ADAM DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ROB HAHN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ADAM SCHROEDER  
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# Queer Sporting News

Sponsored by Roscoe's on 7th

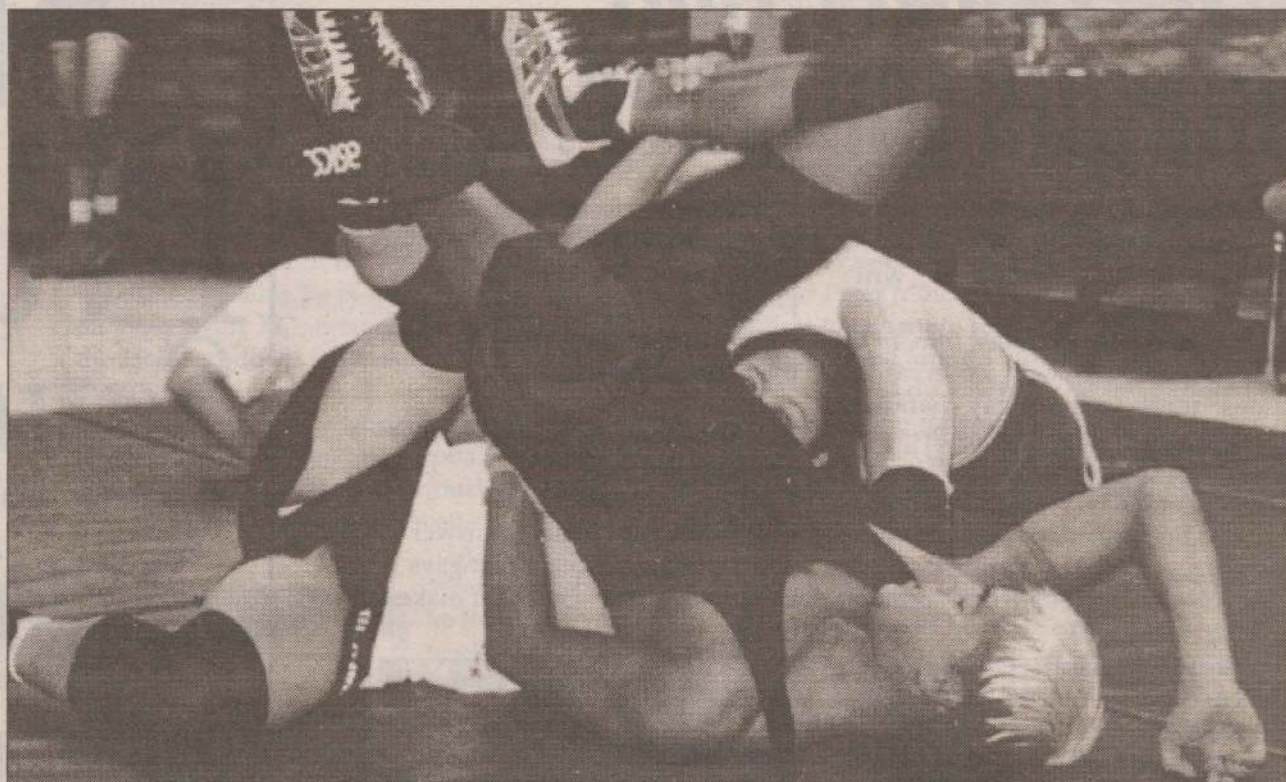
## Spartans: mixed gang meets on the mats

More than a dozen people turned out for the Spartan Wrestling Club of Phoenix's first practice of the season on September 7 at the Community Center. Included among the wrestlers who came to hone their skills and learn new ones was the club's very first female wrestler.

Spartan Club Coach Dennis Spillman worked with great enthusiasm, barking instructions and suggestions to the eager participants. The group meets at 6pm on Sunday evenings at the center, which is located at 3136 N. 3rd Avenue in Phoenix.

Spartan members span a broad variety of age, weight and height differentials. The level of past wrestling experience also varies widely among the members. This variety helps make the club more fun than it is competitive, according to member John Shovestall.

To find out more about joining this growing community athletic organization, call Shovestall at 1-888-728-6050 or 340-8070. Or, e-mail the club at azspartans@aol.com.



## Softball League announces fall season

The Cactus Cities Softball League has announced the kickoff of its new Fall 1997 season, beginning on Sunday, September 21 at Eldorado Park in Scottsdale. This first day will be a sign-up and training session. Regular team play will begin the following Sunday.

CCSL is the Valley's gay and lesbian community softball league. The league completed a successful spring season on June 8, then enjoyed a summer break. During the break, a number of CCSL teams competed at various national tournaments,

including the Gay World Series of softball, held in San Diego in August.

"We have had a fall league before," said Open Division Commissioner Jack Pruitt. "But this is the first time we've asked existing teams to play. Before, it was more of a recruiting season."

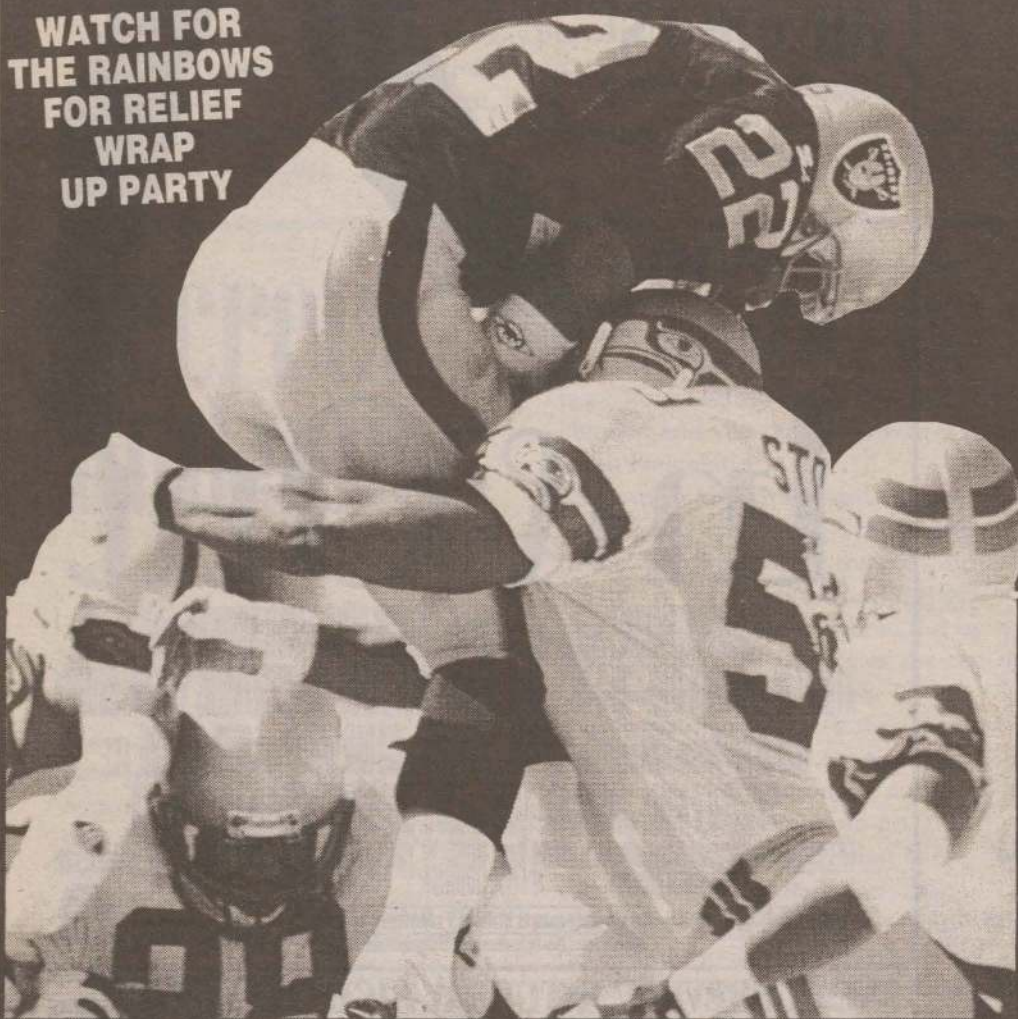
Pruitt said there is a lot of enthusiasm and support for the fall season among the league players. He also said he is excited about the move to Eldorado Park, because the park is much nicer. The spring session games were held at Monterey Park in Central Phoenix.

The fall CCSL season will continue Sunday mornings through Nov. 23, ending just before Thanksgiving.



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# Out of Town:

Sponsored by Select Travel

## Charleston, South Carolina

By Andrew Collins, HeatStroke Contributor

Although it's never been a beacon of gay and lesbian tourism, the quintessentially Old South city of Charleston has recently begun drawing increasing numbers of gay and lesbian visitors.

It ranks among Conde Nast Traveler readers' top 10 U.S. destinations, and among the top 20 worldwide.

With historic house-museums, sophisticated restaurants, renowned galleries, a first-rate lineup of cultural events and festivals, and a few decent nightlife options, this "Lowcountry" getaway is fast creating a community following for itself.

If you've ever spent time in Caribbean islands like Barbados or St. Thomas, you'll recognize Charleston's pastel-hued Colonial homes with their trademark broad piazzas (porches, as they're called here).

The city's sunny palm-lined streets, water views, and nonstop bustle also recall a festive island village.

Meeting Street runs the length of the Historic District and contains most of the city's top attractions.

The Historic Charleston Foundation is ground zero for information on local architecture and on tours that view it. Specifically, the foundation sponsors a month-long Annual Festival of Houses and Gardens mid-March through Mid-April, during which gaggles of Garden Club ladies and Southern queens descend upon the city's most beautiful homes.

The other major event is the Spoleto Festival, which offers two weeks worth of first-rate opera, dance, theater, music, poetry readings, visual arts exhibitions, and other cultural festivities at venues throughout the area.

Year-round you can tour either of two foundation-operated museums, the 1817 Aiken-Rhett House and the 1808 Nathaniel Russell House.

From the latter you can walk a few blocks south to Waterfront Park, a grassy tree-filled plot of land with gardens and an adjacent promenade overlook-

ing the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper rivers. Be sure to walk back up toward town by way of East Bay Street, which is lined with mansions of every 18th- and 19th-century ilk.

Other leading attractions on Meeting Street include the Gibbes Museum of Art, which opened in 1905 and stages excellent exhibitions and showcases a 7,000-piece permanent collection, and the Charleston Museum, which opened in 1773, making it the oldest museum in America.



Live oaks tower above a gazebo in Charleston's historic Waterfront Park.

Meeting — as well as King and Bay — streets have their share of both high-quality and borderline-tacky gift and antiques shops, but the best shopping is had at the dozens of crafts stalls found inside the covered Old City Market, opposite which are several restaurants.

No visit to Charleston is complete without a side trip to one of the nearby sprawling plantations, the best of which are Drayton Hall and Middleton Place — the latter's unbelievably colorful gardens date to 1741 and are the oldest in the country.

Charleston specializes in Lowcountry cuisine, which blends soul, Creole, and down-home southern recipes and takes advantage of the region's bounty of local seafood.

It's rare that you'll ever see more than a few other gay couples dining beside you in this city, but at many eateries gay staff are commonplace.

One of the best new restaurants in the South, Peninsula Grill feels like an elegant vintage supper club and serves such innovative fare as pan-seared jumbo scallops with tomato tortilla salad and pecan

coulis. Head to Slightly North of Broad (aka "S.N.O.B.") for delicious New Southern cooking with flawless service and several seats facing directly into the high-tech kitchen.

Less pricey, the Charleston outpost of the tres gay Atlanta restaurant, Vickery's, is popular for such tasty Caribbean and Cuban favorites as black bean cakes and jerk chicken. And after the bars close, plenty of family head to Mickey's, the city's only 24-hour diner — food here comes in two varieties: greasy and extra greasy.

Charleston's nightlife is fairly quiet, with one large disco, the Arcade, and a smaller but charming neighborhood tavern, Dudley's. Both of these are technically private clubs, which means only that you must present a photo ID, sign in, and pay a nominal cover.

The crowds are a mix of students from the University of Charleston, older couples, and visiting tourists — it's not an easy pick-up scene but it's friendly nonetheless. Women come to both places but are most visible at the Arcade.

Most of Charleston's historic inns will set you back \$125 to \$300 a night, but they are

among the most sumptuous and romantic hostleries in the country — maybe the world.

If these rates are too high, the city is represented by virtually every chain hotel you can think of; the Hampton Inn is one of the nicest.

All of them draw a predominantly straight clientele, but the painstakingly restored Planters Inn, many of whose luxurious rooms have whirlpool tubs, has an extremely gay-friendly staff.

Another favorite is the John Rutledge House Inn, a 1763 mansion with two adjacent carriage houses. But if you're dead set on staying with family, you won't go wrong with the 1855 Charleston Columns, a comfy house that's at the northern edge of the Historic District.

Andrew Collins is the author of *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*, three recently released gay guides covering the West Coast, and forthcoming gay guides on New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam. He can be reached care of *HeatStroke* or at [OutofTown9@aol.com](mailto:OutofTown9@aol.com).

Andrew Collins

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## Gay troubadours to headline Community Center benefit



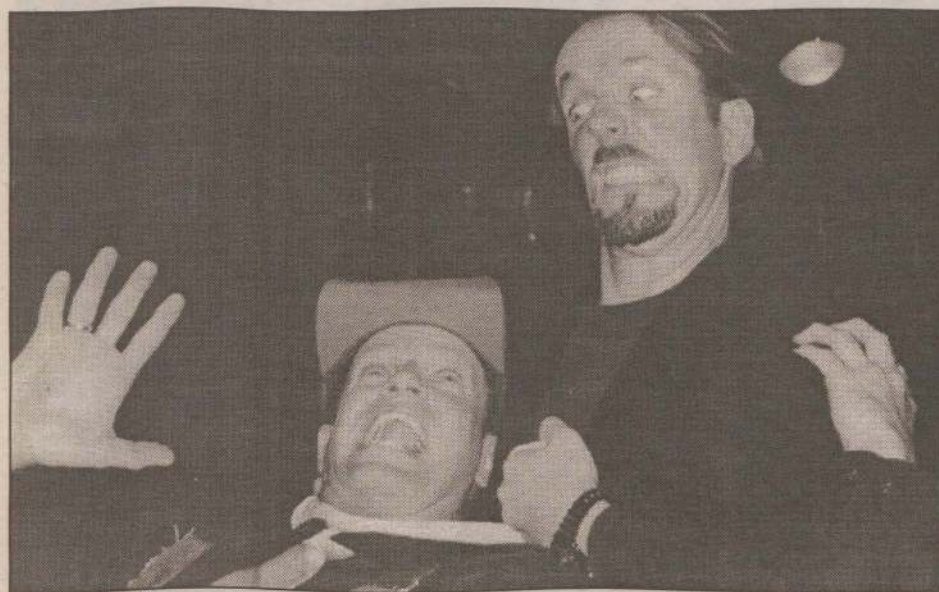
Their most recent, live CD is called, *Let's Flaunt It!*. And "flaunting it" is exactly what legendary gay musical humorists Romanovsky & Phillips will be doing when they headline a special concert to benefit the Valley of the Sun Lesbian and Gay Community Center on September 13.

The event, entitled An Evening of Music and Comedy, will begin at 7pm at Phoenix College's Bulpitt Auditorium. In addition to Romanovsky and Phillips, lesbian comic Karen Ripley will be featured. The benefit is being co-produced by Bas Bleu Productions.

Ron Romanovsky met Paul Phillips in San Francisco in 1982 and the pair combined their songwriting and performing talents shortly after. To date, they have released six albums that have sold over 70,000 copies nationwide.

Tickets for this event are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. Contact The Center for more information or to purchase tickets, at 265-7233. The Bulpitt Auditorium is located at 1202 W. Thomas Road in Phoenix.

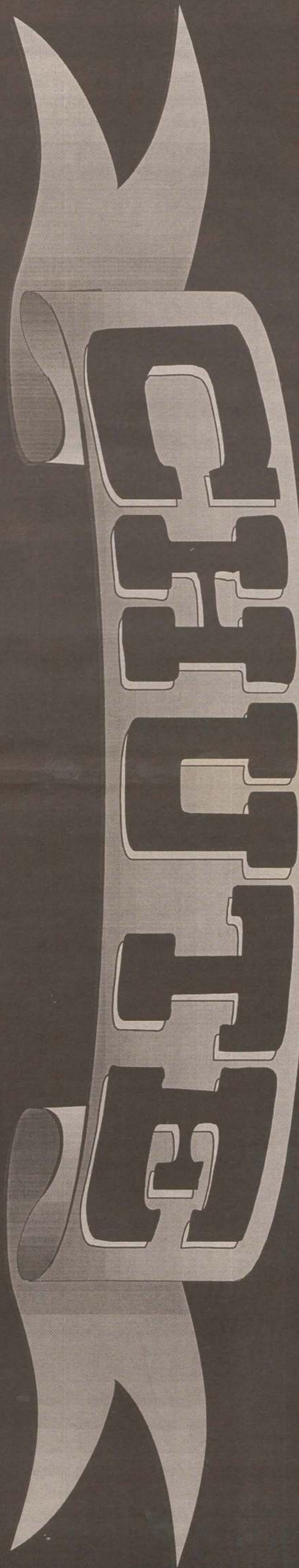
## Dinner theater serves up fresh slapstick



*Footlight Frenzy*, a comedy farce by Ron House, Dix White, Alan Shearman & Bud Slocum, is now playing Friday and Saturday evenings at the Copperstate Dinner Theater at Max's, through October 18.

Tickets are \$24.95, including dinner and the show. Dinner service begins at 6:30 with the curtain at 8pm. For reservations, call 937-1671. Max's is located at 6727 North 47th Avenue in Glendale. This production is directed by Peter J. Hill.

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Dear Cowboy,  
When scheduling a date with a man, is it proper to tell him that you are unavailable on a particular night because you already have a date planned with someone else, or is it best just to explain that you are otherwise engaged, and leave it at that?  
Telling the guy I am planning to see Saturday that I also have a date for Friday has an advantage, in that it makes it clear I am not putting all my eggs in one basket, and am not desperate for company.  
But it also has a disadvantage, in that he may think I am either: A) a

tramp; or B) less interested in his company. What is the best solution?  
Signed,  
Busy Boy

Dear Busy,  
A real cowboy plays his hand close to the vest, so don't make a habit of telling your dates every item on your rodeo schedule. The news that you are dating others should come up in a face-to-face chat about both your commitment expectations well before the chute opens.  
Just stick to the basic facts and keep the details to yourself—a heartfelt, "I have other plans" is fine.

Dear Cowboy,  
What, exactly, is "height and weight proportionate?" I have chatted with a number of men on the internet who have said they were proportionate, only to meet them and find out that they would only have been "proportionate" if they had been about 6'5". Do all men lie? Or maybe my standards are all wrong. How can I tell?  
Signed,  
Bad Judge of Character

Dear Judge,  
To get technical, height and weight "proportionate" refers to charts like the one put out by Metropolitan Life Insurance that outline the height/weight ratios considered appropriate by health professionals. The charts were

recently revised to allow for the extra pounds many modern-living folks carry these days.  
To answer your other questions: No— all men do not lie, and Sorry— there is no way to tell if your cyber-cowboy is lying about his physique when you agree to meet up later. I suspect these guys represent themselves in the best possible light in order to make the first barrel with you. They assume your hormones will kick in by that point, you won't mind the extra poundage in their saddlebags, and they can complete the ol' pattern and head for home. The risk you're taking comes with the territory. Listen to your intuition as you make the plans and let your experiences guide you.

**The news that you are dating others should come up in a face-to-face chat about both your commitment expectations well before the chute opens.**

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

A Place Called Home  
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Arizona AIDS Information Line  
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Arizona AIDS Services for the Deaf  
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AZ Democratic Party  
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Valley of the Sun Gay & Lesbian Community Center  
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Phoenix, AZ 85001 225-8444

Valley Career Women  
P.O. Box 33393  
Phoenix, AZ 85067 460-4481

## Religious & Spiritual Organizations

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

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

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

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

Community Church of Hope  
4400 N. Central  
Phoenix, AZ 85014 234-2180

Dignity and Integrity  
P.O. Box 60953  
Phoenix, AZ 85082 222-8664

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

Gentle Shepherd MCC-285-9020

Goddess Womyn's Network  
P.O. Box 17312  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 266-4111

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

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

Phoenix Light of the Lamb  
Christian Church  
PO Box 16332  
Phoenix, AZ 85011 274-5202

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

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

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

Westem Orthodox Catholic Church  
241-9776 pasizozi@cris.com

## Music, Sports & Hobbies

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

Arizona Lambda Yacht Club  
951-9481

Cactus Cities Softball League  
254-0648

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

Desert Valley Squares  
P.O. Box 34615  
Phoenix, AZ 85067 252-0048

Gay League Association of Darts  
P.O. Box 941  
Phoenix, AZ 85013 841-4489

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

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

Our Gang Bowling League  
2644 E. Birchwood  
Mesa, AZ 85204 969-4629

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

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

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

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

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

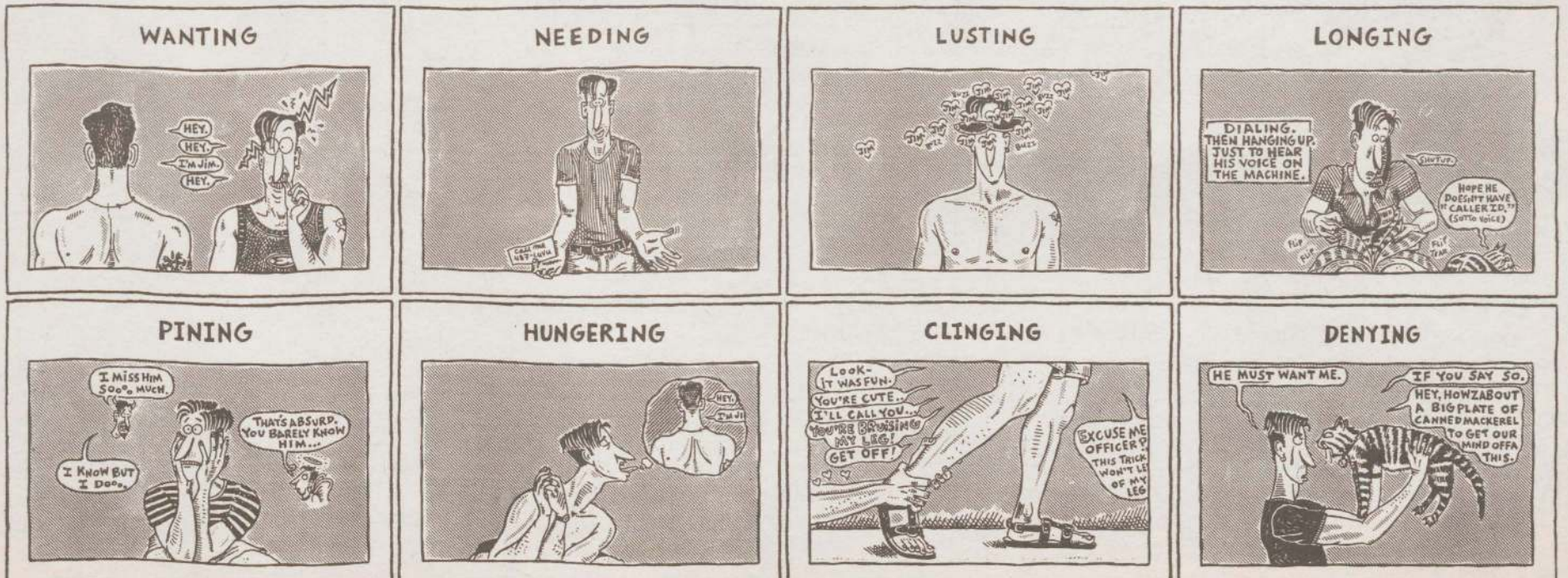
www.visi.com/~oprairie/



ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ONE OF THOSE TORRID SUMMER ROMANCES,

Perhaps you'll recognize

## THE EIGHT FACES OF INFATUATION



ETHAN GREEN BY Eric Orner.

## Edibles

- A. Durant's Fine Foods  
2611 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 264-5967
- B. Pookie's  
4540 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 277-2121
- C. That's a Wrap!  
2022 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 252-5051  
2765 N. Scottsdale Rd  
Scottsdale 941-0484
- D. Tony & Maria's  
2814 N. 16th St.  
Phoenix 266-7173

## Libations

- 1. Ain't Nobody's Bizness  
3031 E. Indian School  
Phoenix 224-9977
- 2. Apollo's  
5749 N. 7th Street  
Phoenix 277-9373
- 3. BS West  
7125 5th Avenue  
Scottsdale 945-9028
- 4. Cash Inn  
2140 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 244-9943
- 5. Charlie's  
727 W. Camelback  
Phoenix 265-0224
- 6. Country Club  
4428 N. 7th Ave.  
Phoenix 264-4553

- 7. Crowbar  
702 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix
- 8. Cruisin' Central  
1011 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 253-3376
- 9. Desert Rose  
44301 N. 7th Ave.  
Phoenix 265-3233
- 10. Foster's  
4343 N. 7th Ave.  
Phoenix 263-8313
- 11. Fundy's  
15601 N. Cave Creek  
Phoenix 493-5123
- 12. Harley's Club 155  
Harley's Too!  
155 & 125 W. Camelback  
Phoenix 274-8505

- 13. Incognito  
2424 E. Thomas  
Phoenix 955-9805
- 14. JC's Fun One  
5542 N. 43rd Ave.  
Glendale 939-0528
- 15. Johnny Mc's  
138 W. Camelback  
Phoenix 266-0875
- 16. Marlys'  
15615 Cave Creek  
Phoenix 867-2463
- 17. Nasty Habits  
3108 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 267-8707
- 18. NuTowne  
5002 E. Van Buren  
Phoenix 267-9959
- 19. The Park  
3002 N. 24th Street  
Phoenix 957-6055

- 20. The Pumphouse  
4132 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 275-3509
- 21. Roscoe's on 7th  
4531 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 285-0833
- 22. 307 Lounge  
222 E. Roosevelt  
Phoenix 252-0001
- 23. TRAX  
1724 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 254-0231
- 24. The Wave  
998 E. Indian School  
Phoenix 266-5640
- 25. Wink's  
5707 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 265-9002

## Staples

- 30. The Adult Shoppe  
111 S. 24th Street  
Phoenix 306-1130
- 31. Astro — Vintage Modern  
Furnishings  
2403 E. Osborn  
Phoenix 957-8770
- 32. The Barn Adult Shop  
5021 W. Indian School  
Phoenix 245-3008
- 33. Book Cellar - 8 locations  
4029 E. Washington  
1020 S. 24th Street  
1838 Grand Avenue  
3420 S. Central Avenue  
2103 W. Camelback Rd.  
402 W. Hatcher  
1421 E. McDowell Rd.  
6527 N. 59th Avenue

- 34. Castle Boutique-4 locations  
5501 E. Washington  
300 E. Camelback Rd.  
8802 N. Black Canyon  
8315 E. Apache Trail
- 35. In Furnishings  
6307 N. 7th Street  
Phoenix 263-9003
- 36. Obelisk Books  
24 West Camelback  
Phoenix 266-Book
- 37. Movies on Central  
4700 N. Central, #121  
Phoenix 274-0994

## Tubs

- 38. Chute  
1440 E. Indian School  
Phoenix 234-1654
- 39. Flex  
1517 S. Black Canyon  
Phoenix 271-9011

## Culture

- 60. America West Arena  
201 E. Jefferson  
Phoenix 379-7800
- 61. AZ Hall of Fame Museum  
1101 W. Washington  
Phoenix 255-2110
- 62. AZ Historical Society  
Museum  
1300 N. College  
Tempe 929-0292
- 63. AZ Mining & Mineral  
Museum  
1502 W. Washington  
Phoenix 255-3791

- 64. AZ Science Center  
600 E. Washington  
Phoenix 716-2000
- 65. AZ State Capitol Museum  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix 542-4675
- 66. ASU Art Museum  
Nelson Fine Arts Center  
Mill Ave. & 10th Street  
Tempe 965-2787
- 67. ASU Gammage Center  
Apache & Mill Ave.  
Tempe 965-3434

- 68. Blockbuster Desert Sky  
Pavillion  
2121 N. 83rd Ave.  
Phoenix 254-7499
- 69. Celebrity Theater  
440 N. 32nd Street  
Phoenix 267-9373
- 70. Heard Museum  
22 E. Monte Vista  
Phoenix 252-8848
- 71. Herberger Theater  
222 E. Monroe  
Phoenix 254-7399
- 72. Orpheum Theatre  
203 W. Adams  
Phoenix 262-7272
- 73. Phoenix Art Museum  
1624 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 257-1222
- 74. Phoenix Central Library  
1221 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 262-4636
- 75. Phoenix Civic Plaza  
225 E. Adams St.  
Phoenix 262-6225
- 76. Phoenix Symphony Hall  
225 E. Adams  
Phoenix 262-6225

- 77. Phoenix Museum of History  
105 N. 5th Street  
Phoenix 253-2734
- 78. Phoenix Theatre  
100 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 254-2151
- 79. Planet Earth Multi-Cultural  
Theatre  
909 N. 3rd Street  
Phoenix 241-1821
- 80. Union Hall  
512 E. Van Buren  
Phoenix 253-7100

## Outdoors

- 81. Desert Botanical Garden  
1201 N. Galvin Pkwy  
Phoenix 941-1217
- 82. Margaret T. Hance Park  
3rd St. to 3rd Ave. between  
McDowell & Roosevelt  
Phoenix 534-2406
- 83. North Mountain Park &  
Preserve  
10600 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 262-6696
- 84. Papago Park  
Van Buren & Galvin Pkwy  
Phoenix 256-3220
- 85. Phoenix Zoo  
455 N. Galvin Pkwy  
Phoenix 273-1431
- 86. Pueblo Grande Museum  
4619 E. Washington  
Phoenix 495-0900
- 87. Squaw Peak Park  
2701 E. SquawPeak Dr  
Phoenix 262-6696
- 88. South Mountain Park  
10919 S. Central Ave.  
Phoenix 495-0222

# Finding it in Phoenix

