

DRAMA KING

AN AMERICAN MASTER VISITS ARIZONA

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

"No, I don't write about the gay movement," playwright Lanford Wilson says without a trace of apology.

The Pulitzer-winning author has been proudly out of the closet since the start of his writing career in the early '60s. He's in the Valley this spring to participate in an ongoing celebration of his four-decade legacy to the American theater.

The honor is being organized by Arizona State University.

The university mounted a production of Wilson's *Lemon Sky* in March. ASU is producing one of his earliest plays, *Balm in Gilead*, this month and will wrap the semester with a staged reading of *Book of Days*, his newest drama, on April 29 and 30.

Wilson is here because his long-time director, advisor and close friend Marshall Mason, with whom he helped found New York's acclaimed Circle Repertory company (also in the early '60s), teaches acting and directing at the Tempe school.

In the years since Wilson and Mason's paths first crossed, dozens of Wilson's plays have been published and produced. He's won numerous awards and is considered a legend among living American playwrights.

Wilson says he's never felt guilty about his sexuality. He came out at the age of 19 and has lived in New York—at the heart of the country's gay rights movement—since shortly after that. Yet he rarely writes gay characters and his work almost never addresses overtly gay themes.

"Let Larry [Kramer] do that," he explains. "He's on me all the time about that—that I don't write Gay Plays. He just thinks that's a terrible sin."

What Wilson does write about is the human condition, according to ASU playwriting instructor Guillermo Reyes, himself an openly gay writer.

"His observations are universal and the bulk of his plays deal with issues that everyone can relate to, and that of course is what makes his work so great," Reyes said.

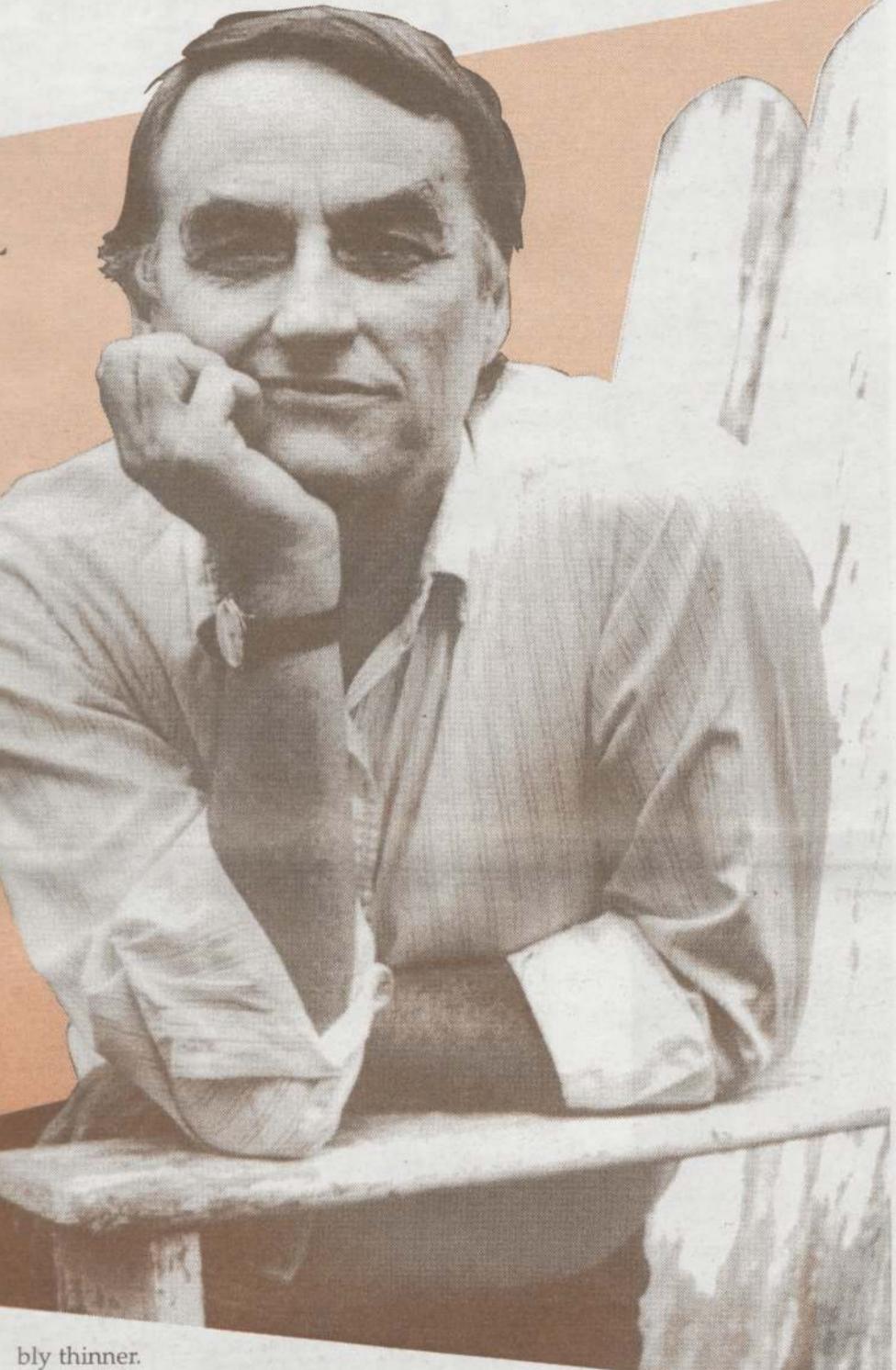
"The characters or situations may not be gay, per se, but the themes are definitely there. He is writing about humanity. And so the subject matter and the characters' sexuality are not important. His message is what is important."

Wilson was born in 1938 and graduated high school in the tiny town of Ozark, Missouri. Many of his plays, including the family dramas *Fifth of July*, *Talley and Son* and the Pulitzer-winning *Talley's Folly*, are set in Lebanon, Mo., where he lived until the age of five.

Tall, engaging and friendly, the laid-back writer's Midwestern roots are all too obvious—despite over 35 years of living in fast-paced Manhattan and a career among streetwise theater folk.

In fact, on the sunny afternoon of our interview, one can easily imagine that—if the Hawaiian shirt Wilson is wearing were plaid rather than floral, and his feet were clad in boots instead of sandals—he might not look or sound much different from the farmers he left behind when he deserted Ozark in the late '50s.

Except, of course, that he's proba-



bly thinner.
And much more articulate. And definitely more gay.

HeatStroke: How do you answer Larry Kramer when he accuses you of this "terrible sin" of not writing Gay Plays?

Lanford Wilson: You know, I am just happy to think of an idea. I'm so glad just to have an idea and then let it play out. . . . I love Larry and what he does, and what he stands for. I'm a big fan of his work and I think *The Destiny of Me* is absolutely wonderful.

HS: Why haven't you written your autobiography?

LW: Oh God. I tell you what, they're printing a *Collected Works* now, and volumes one, two and three are out—volumes two and three just came out in March. There's an introduction to each of the plays saying what I was doing and how the play happened, where things came from, and how it evolved. Because when I read a writer's autobiography, that is what I'm interested in—and they usually never mention it at all.

Tennessee [Williams] has so little

about writing the plays or where they came from [in his autobiography]. You know, I don't really give a damn who laid him early on, or who he laid. And that's the entire book.

HS: People probably want to read both the professional and the personal history.

LW: You have to get some of that personal information in there, yeah.

HS: But yours could include what you've witnessed from the vantage point of a gay man who came to New York from a small town in the early '60s. You must have seen that whole Gay Metropolis story develop first hand. From pre-Stonewall and onward to today.

LW: Yeah! That—it would be interesting.

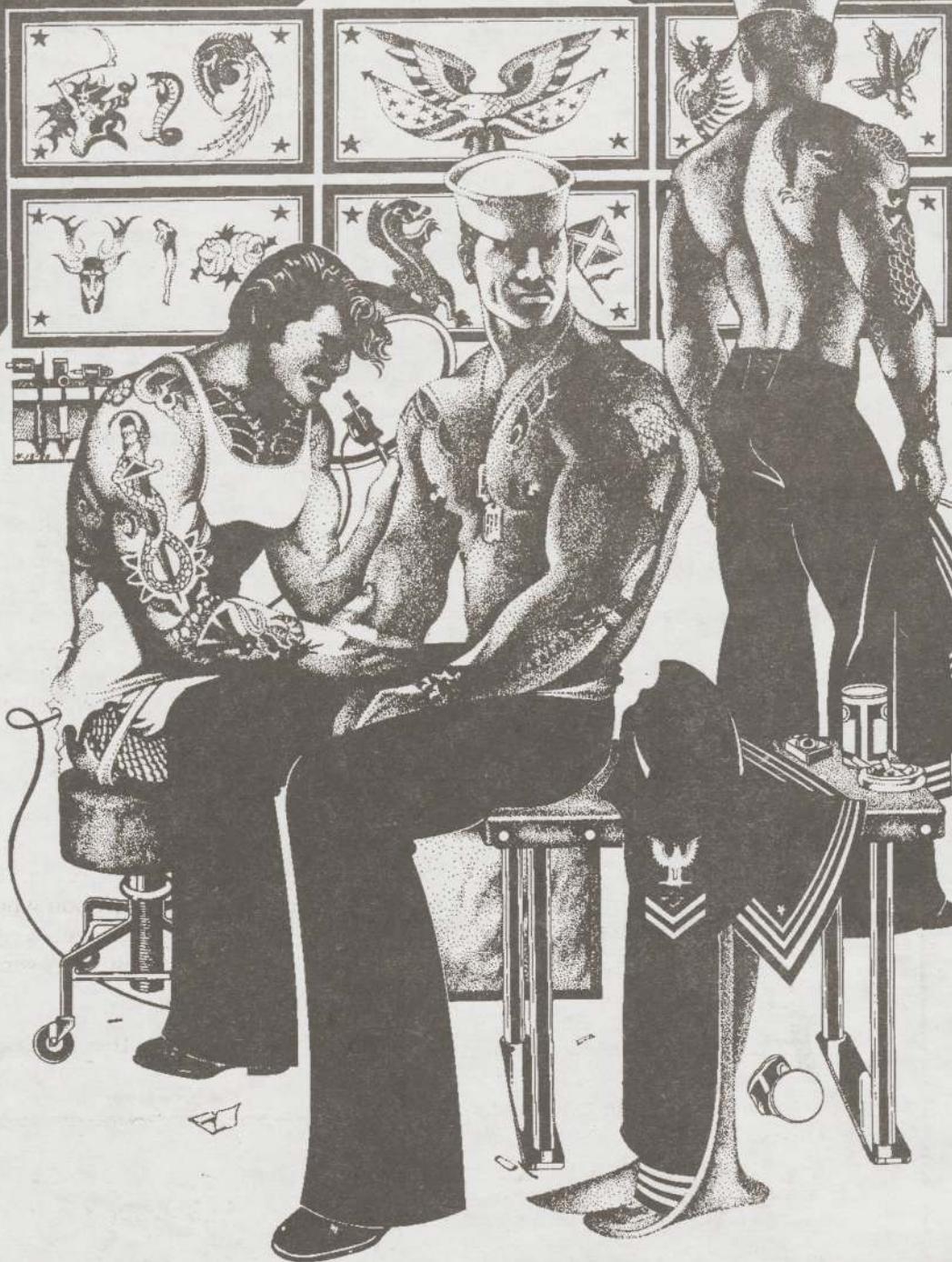
HS: The Stonewall riots in 1969, for example . . .

LW: I don't think I can ever forgive myself for not being there that night—I

See "Gay Playwright," page 16

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(Computer fax/modem, please call
before sending).

Managing Editor

Kelly Justin Reidhead
reidhead@idt.net

Editor

Allen Kalchik
alkalphx@aol.com

Contributors

Alison Bechdel, Eric Orner,
David Horowitz, Karyn Riedell,
Andrew Collins, Jill Dearman, Bobbi Dugan
Glen Hanson & Allan Neuwirth,
Mario Rodriguez, Michael Thomas Ford,
Mark Hoffman, Dave Brousseau,
Kathie Gummere, Rex Wockner,
Romeo San Vincente

National Advertising Sales
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
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Horowitz:

What are we proud of?

I've gotten into many lengthy discussions about the merit and desirability of gay pride events such as the Valley's recent Arizona Central Pride Festival.

Within months of coming out, I was fortunate enough to attend the San Francisco gay and lesbian pride parade and festival. Words only begin to describe the incredible elation I felt knowing for the first time that there were hundreds of thousands of other people (literally present right then and there) who were also gay. I came back completely full of myself—gushing with pride, if you will.

When I talked about the experience, others' lack of enthusiasm surprised and disappointed me. By the time I returned to Phoenix, some of my friends had seen the reports from San Francisco on the network evening news programs. Based on what they saw, I could certainly understand the reactions.

The footage showcased the most outrageous elements of the day in about twenty-five seconds. Many of the visuals were censored because of nudity and vulgarity. The story talked about many of the Dykes on Bikes leading the parade wearing nothing above the waist except Band-Aids. A montage of

When we march down Central Avenue each year on gay pride day, we honor every gay man, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered person who came before. We also clear a path for those yet to come.

amazingly tacky drag queens flew across the television screen. People asked me what I had to be so proud of.

Friends—other lawyers, of course—pointed to our community's consistent argument that being gay is not a choice. If you don't choose to be gay, then being gay is no big accomplishment either. How can one reasonably be proud of an immutable characteristic? Furthermore, isn't pride evidence an extreme sense of ego? Conceit? Arrogance? Why have parades, when all you really need is self-esteem?

Why, indeed.

I've made my own list of "proud-isms": I'm proud to be an American. I'm proud to be Jewish. I'm proud I worked my way through college and law school. I'm proud to have lost a lot of

weight.

I'm proud of my family. I'm proud to be a teacher. I'm proud to live in Arizona. I'm proud to serve my community as a volunteer.

Not all of these involve accomplishment or choice. I didn't choose to be an American; I've simply chosen to express pride in my country. I simply accepted my parents' religion, but I choose to be proud of my rich heritage.

More than arrogance or ego, I believe that pride represents inner feelings of self-esteem and self-respect. I didn't choose to be gay, but I do choose to be open, honest and loving about who I am.

I choose to recognize that my community has a history of overcoming great hatred, violence and discrimination. I choose to honor the brave men and women who came before me and fought for my rights and liberties. I remember that their lives were much more difficult than mine is. I can only imagine the terror some of them felt at the mere possibility of being found out. Not only did they not receive equal protection under the law, their mere existence was criminal. This column is about gay people, but this paragraph is about Jewish people.

Anyone who has ever felt or been made to feel less than a full human being deserves a pride parade and festival.

Humans got into the business of harming each other centuries ago. Winning the fight to know in our hearts that we should receive every joy that life has to offer creates cause for celebration and pride.

When we march down Central Avenue each year on gay pride day, we honor every gay man, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered person who came before. We also clear a path for those yet to come.

Now that's something to be proud of.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney.

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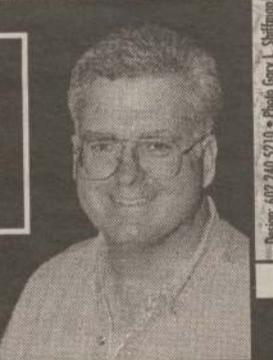
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Group home for gay men seeks to 'convert' them to heterosexuality

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Jeff, a 35-year-old computer technician, believes if he loves Jesus enough he will stop having sex with men. Marc, a 39-year-old father of four, studies the Bible with the hope it will help him stop having homosexual affairs.

Both men live in an unusual group home. It has only gay residents and is run by Love In Action, an independent Memphis ministry which preaches that homosexuals can become heterosexuals through Christian faith—and will pay the price of an unhappy, disordered life if they don't.

"I believe God holds us accountable for choices that are inappropriate," said John Smid, Love In Action's director and a self-described former homosexual.

Jeff, who like the other residents declined to give his last name, has seen changes in himself since he joined Love In Action about two years ago.

"I have a renewed connection with God," he said. "I'm finding joy in embracing masculinity, traditional masculinity."

The belief that homosexuality is a choice rather than a predisposition is not new, nor is the idea that homosexuals can be "converted" by following the Bible. Some fundamentalist Christians refer to that conversion as "reparative therapy."

Last year, Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council and the Christian Coalition began a national advertising campaign urging gays to find religion.

In December, the American Psychiatric Association's board rejected Christian-based therapy for homosexuals, saying it could cause "depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior." The American Psychological Association reached a similar conclusion a year earlier.

"Somebody can be a real, true Christian but at the same time have sexual feelings which are very different. You get kind of an irreconcilable conflict. Am I really this or am I that?" said Leon Hoffman of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Steven Baines, a Southern Baptist minister and member of Equal Partners in Faith, a Washington, D.C., group that preaches religious tolerance and inclusion, said campaigns like the one started by the Christian groups can be dangerous.

"It creates an environment that allows the extremists to act on their hate. We have to stop rhetoric that demonizes individuals simply because they are attracted to the same gender," said Baines, who is gay.

Love In Action is one of more than 90 ministries drawing referrals from Exodus International of Seattle, one of the largest organizations for "ex-gays" in the country.

Exodus officials say they know of three other residential programs for gays—New Hope in San Rafael, Calif.; Freedom at Last in Wichita, Kan.; and CrossOver Ministries International in Lexington, Ky.

Love In Action has three group homes in Memphis with room for 16 men and four women. Currently, 14 spots are filled. Most of the parti-

pants come to Memphis from other parts of the country.

Each house has staff managers on duty 24 hours a day, and clients are closely monitored over the 18 to 24 months they are in the program. They pay \$950 a month rent and must find jobs approved by Love In Action that will not interfere with counseling sessions or other program functions.

Participants follow a 12-step program similar to those used by recovering alcoholics and drug addicts. The first step is to admit "we are powerless over homosexuality and compulsive sexual behavior, that our lives had become unmanageable." Other steps include believing that Jesus Christ can "restore us to sanity," and making "a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves." The last step is experiencing a "spiritual awakening" that will control the rest of their lives.

Group discussions are held four to five nights a week. Residents who feel compulsions to act on homosexual tendencies can call Love In Action counselors 24 hours a day.

Jeff, a St. Louis resident, repeated more than a year in the program after he was caught looking at gay pornography.

"He could either leave or start over," said Smid, who estimates 60 or so of the 185 clients who have come to his program over the past 12 years "remain free of homosexuality."

Jeff said the incident renewed his commitment to becoming straight. "I know now that absolute sobriety is necessary," he said.

While the ultimate goal is a change to heterosexuality, abstinence of homosexual acts is imperative, Smid said, even if gay thoughts persist.

"What you starve, dies," he said.

His group considers any sexual act outside a Christian marriage as a sin, including masturbation and viewing pornography.

Marc, the Louisiana father of four, said he came to Love In Action after his wife filed for divorce. He said his homosexual feelings and infidelities raised tensions in his household to unbearable levels.

"These behaviors were the things I turned to when I got angry, when I was upset, when I was hurt, as someone else might turn to drugs or alcohol," he said.

Stephanie, 28, of Memphis, said she joined the program because of "inappropriate emotional attachments" to other women, though she has never had sex with a woman.

"I definitely have struggled strongly with lesbianism and would have ended up in the lifestyle eventually," she said.

Baines said the idea that there is such a thing as a "gay lifestyle" is a misnomer propagated by groups like Love In Action.

"We do the same things everyone else does. We go to movies. We take walks on the beach. It's about an intimate connection with another human being," Baines said. "There is no gay lifestyle. It's a phrase to scare sincere people of faith into saying this is some kind of national evil."

Pittsburgh offers same-sex health benefits to unions

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The city has agreed to allow the same-sex partners of workers in two white-collar unions to receive health benefits and may extend them to other labor organizations, officials said April 13.

The agreement makes available to gay and lesbian couples the same benefits that have always been offered to the husbands and wives of city employees, said Barbara Parees, Pittsburgh's personnel director.

While only two unions have requested the coverage, officials are willing to negotiate with the seven other city unions for the same coverage, Parees said. Since employee benefits won by city unions typically are extended to non-union employees as well, the coverage may eventually include Pittsburgh's 500 non-union workers, Parees said.

Forty-three U.S. cities now offer same-sex benefits, as do 12 counties and three states, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign, a gay-rights group. Philadelphia already offers the benefits, but no other Pennsylvania cities do, according to the group.

"It's a growing trend throughout the country," said group spokesman David Smith. "Since gay people are not allowed to marry, these benefits are a means of providing equal pay for equal work."

Even if the offer were accepted by all nine unions, which represent 3,700 employees ranging from police and firefighters to parks workers and crossing guards, the same-sex benefits would have little budgetary impact,

Parees said.

Only one same-sex couple has inquired about the benefits so far under the contracts signed with the two white-collar unions, which cover 500 employees, Parees said.

Besides offering the benefits to married couples, the city has traditionally offered them to people in common-law marriages, Parees said.

The benefits are not available to employees' partners of the opposite sex who live together because no law prevents them from getting married, Parees said. The benefits are only being extended to same-sex couples because they don't have the option, she said.

The unions that won the coverage are the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees locals 2719 and 2037. Staff representative Eric Momberger said he negotiated the changes last year because union members asked him to. The agreement took effect in January, he

said.

The Fraternal Order of Police, the city's largest union, has not decided whether to pursue the benefits, said Marshall "Smokey" Hynes, the group's president.

Word of the city's willingness to extend health, dental and vision insurance to partners of gay and lesbian employees did not surface until Monday in a Pittsburgh Human Relations Commission hearing involving a complaint filed against the University of Pittsburgh by a former legal writing instructor.

The former employee, Deborah Henson, alleged in a complaint before the panel that Pitt's refusal to extend health benefits to her lesbian partner violated a city law forbidding discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Pitt attorneys have denied any dis-

crimination and argued that the university is not required to provide those benefits under state or city law.

They also have argued that most employers in the region, as well as

Only one same-sex couple has inquired about the benefits so far under the contracts signed with the two white collar unions, which cover 500 employees.

most colleges, do not offer same-sex benefits. Until the city's disclosure Monday, Pitt had contended that Pittsburgh did not offer such coverage.

The city did not release the information before Monday because no one had asked, Parees said.

British House of Lords blocks attempt to legalize gay sex at 16

LONDON (AP)—The House of Lords refused April 14 to lower the age of consent for homosexual acts from 18 to 16.

Members of the unelected chamber voted 222 to 146 to effectively kill government legislation to make the age of consent for homosexuality the same as it is for heterosexuals.

Lady Janet Young, who led the opposition, said lowering the age of consent to 16 would lead to further reductions in coming years.

"This bill is just one more nail in the coffin of family life," she said.

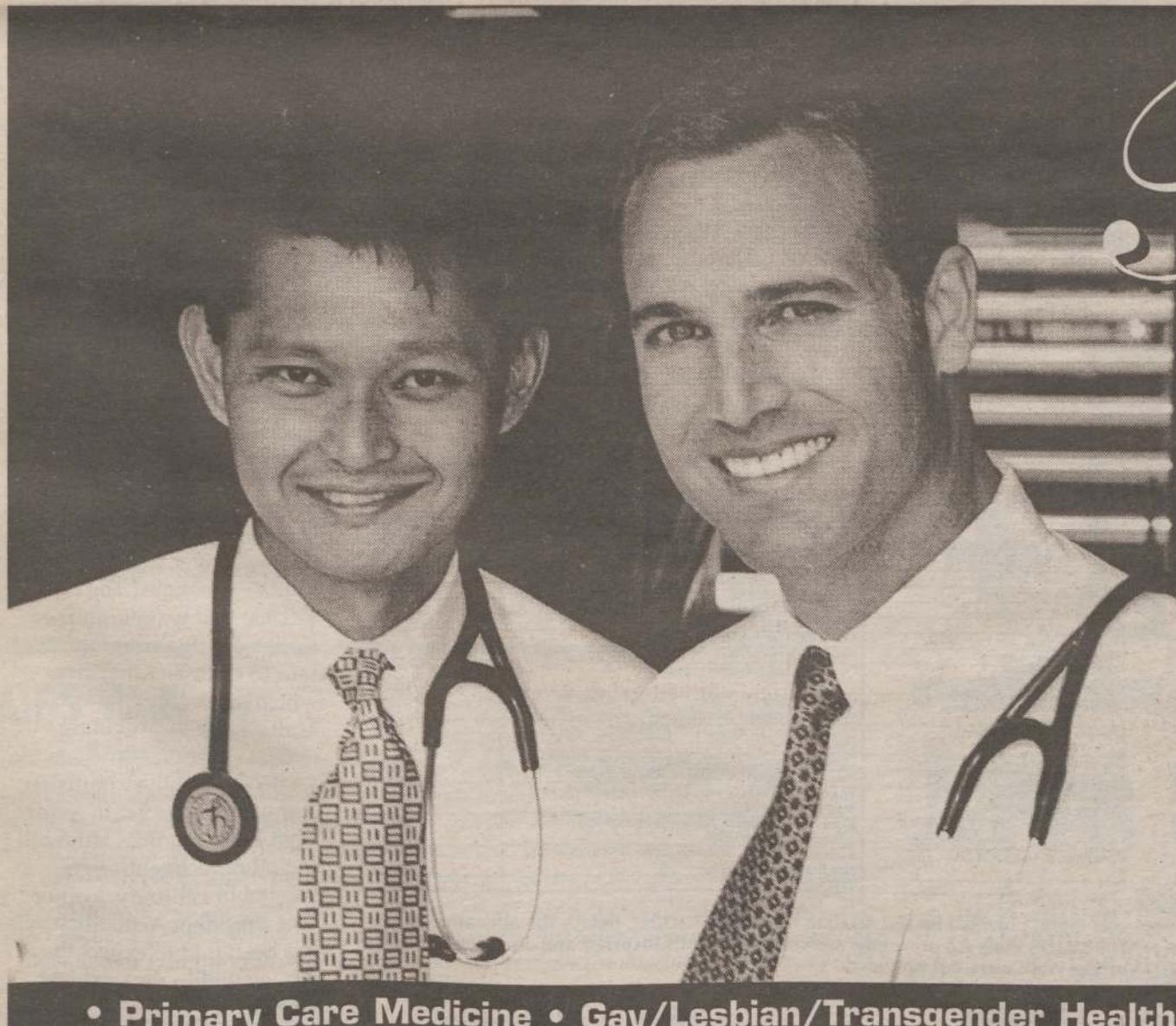
This is the second time the lords have rejected the change, which was overwhelmingly supported by the more powerful House of Commons last month. But the lords can't permanently obstruct the bill.

Lord Gareth Williams of Mostyn, a government minister, said Britain's Labor government would probably invoke the little-used Parliament Act—created to ensure that the will of

the country's elected lawmakers prevails—to enact the measure.

Officials said that probably wouldn't occur before early next year. The bill would bring Britain in line with most other European Union nations.

"My belief is that we should, as a matter of duty ensure equality before the criminal law for young homosexuals and heterosexuals," Williams said.



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AIDS Walk AZ moves in a new direction

By Allen Kalchik, Editor, with additional reporting by
Bobbi Dugan, HeatStroke Contributor

When AIDS Walk Arizona 1999 steps off on October 17, it will be as an entity less closely associated with AIDS Project Arizona (APAZ).

APAZ director Peter Houle said that although the 12-yr-old fundraising event will still operate under APAZ's 501c3 federal non-profit tax exemption, it will be housed at a separate location and have a separate staff.

Houle said the changes that took effect April 1 were made so that the Walk, which raised slightly more than \$1 million for HIV/AIDS in 1998, could grow and better serve the HIV/AIDS community.

On Feb. 20, Edward Kramer, Treasurer of A Place Called Home, a Phoenix service agency that houses needy people with HIV/AIDS, sent a letter to '98 Walk Chair Marc Kellenberger that asked specific questions about how '98 Walk funds were distributed.

In his letter, which was copied to *HeatStroke*, other area news outlets and several local AIDS service providers, Kramer also inquired about APAZ's staff expenditures and other direct expenses related to the Walk.

The agency's former director, Dr. Steve Karpak, announced a few weeks after Kramer's query was sent that A Place Called Home will not support the Walk in 1999 to the extent it has in the past, based on the lack of allocation information provided by Kellenberger and APAZ.

Houle said that dissatisfaction with the division of 1997 and 1998 Walk proceeds was not a factor in the APAZ/AIDS Walk AZ split. "The only thing I did was house [AIDS Walk Arizona] here. I was never a part of the allocation committee. But we've taken a lot of heat," he admitted.

Joseph Mioduszewski, the former director of Malta Center and the new administrative director of AIDS Walk Arizona, declined to comment on reasons for the move. "I don't want to stick my foot in my mouth," he said. He did inform *HeatStroke* that the Walk office is now located at 4811 N. 7th St., and the phone number is still (602)265-WALK.

Michael Reiser, co-Chair of the 1999 AIDS Walk Arizona, said the split from APAZ had nothing to do with public complaints regarding the way APAZ handled Walk funds in the past, or with the recent close of Malta Center, an AIDS service agency that operated in the Valley for ten years under the

cities hire outside groups to run their AIDS walks.

Reiser also said AIDS Walk Arizona is one of the top-three attended walks in the country. He is proud that it is the only volunteer-operated walk of that size and he wants to keep it that way. "APAZ did a great job," Reiser said, "but we want to grow to the next step. That is why we separated it out."

As for the allocation of Walk funds, "It's not an easy job," Reiser said. The allocation committee consists of representatives from the major Walk sponsors, such as Wells Fargo, Community Hospital, Channel 12 TV, KZZP radio.

Several local corporations including Bank One, American Express and Arizona Public Service also have representatives on the committee. The Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona Republic have a presence, as well as non-voting members from some of the local AIDS agencies.

The allocation process is open to the public, Reiser said. In fact, last year it was taped at Channel 12, "so we would have a record."

Reiser understands that small agencies have a problem being funded, but said often they are their

Houle said that dissatisfaction with the division of 1997 and 1998 Walk proceeds was not a factor in the APAZ/AIDS Walk AZ split.

own worst enemy. Poor grant writing can cause setbacks for organizations that can't afford to pay a professional grant writer. However, Reiser said AIDS Walk Arizona will assist agencies in writing grants.

One of the things that will cause a grant to be turned down, Reiser said, is requesting funding for a service that another organization already provides. He suggested the smaller groups merge and avoid duplicating services. But he pledges to make 1999 Walk funding as equitable as possible.

One small agency that has felt the pinch is Joshua Tree, a feeding program for people with HIV/AIDS.

After years of trying to be included in Walk funding, Joshua Tree finally managed to get a piece of the pie by using a much larger agency, the Malta Center, as its fiscal agent. Malta was to write the grant for itself, Joshua Tree, and Agape Network, all of which provided hot meals as well as take-home food for clients.

But after Malta announced its closing in late 1998, it turned its Walk funds back to APAZ. The returned moneys were sent to other agencies that took over some of Malta's functions. The \$20,000 that was earmarked for the feeding programs was sent to Catholic Charities, which agreed to take over Malta's role in providing meals.

Because of this confusion, Joshua Tree has yet to receive 1998 Walk funding, although the other recipients were funded in February. Joshua Tree president Artie Michaelis has been told to expect the money within the next few weeks.

"We will be getting a check," he said, "but we have really been in a mess." Because they expected funding early in the year and didn't get it, Joshua Tree board members have had to dig into their own pockets to keep the program—which feeds 100-plus people a week—afloat.

He added, however, that "it's nobody's fault" and said he is grateful for the \$9,700 he expects to

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Agency	Program	Grant Amount
Aid to Adoption of Special Kids - Arizona	Community Health Nursing and Respite Services for children with HIV/AIDS	\$20,000
AIDS Project Arizona	General Support	\$393,965
Area Agency on Aging, Region One, Inc.	Personnel costs for HIV Care Directions unit clerk/secretary	\$20,000
Aunt Rita's Foundation	Individual Financial Assistance Program	\$10,000
Catholic Social Services	Fiscal agent for Agape and Joshua Tree meal programs	\$20,000
Community Center	The Community Center's AIDS information and referral line	\$10,000
Concilio Latino Salud, Inc.	Youth SHAPE Program	\$5,000
Hospice of the Valley	Total care and support of 8 HIV/AIDS patients	\$15,000
Maricopa County Bar Foundation	HIV/AIDS Law Project ("HALP")	\$7,000
Mercy Housing, Arizona	Resident Services-Casa de Shanti & SteppingStone Place	\$20,000
Mission to the America	Counseling and personnel expenses	\$9,000
Compassion in Action		
Phoenix Body Positive, Inc.	General Support (\$110,000); Salary and benefits for a master level social worker (\$40,000)	\$150,000
Phoenix Children's Hospital	general support for the Bill Holt Pediatric Infectious Disease Clinic	\$15,000
Phoenix Shanti Group, Inc.	General Support (\$37,000); Housing support \$10,000	\$47,000
Piace Called Home	Nutritional support for homeless with HIV/AIDS	\$7,000
Planned Parenthood of Central and Northern Arizona	To expand HIV/AIDS Testing services to targeted, at-risk populations	\$26,046
Terros, Inc.	Expansion of Outreach, Prevention, & Testing To Non-Injection Substance Users	\$24,000
Volunteers in Direct Aid, Inc.	Emergency funding, Certificate for personal hygiene, One Step Beyond	\$5,000
	TOTAL	\$804,011

This table, provided by The Arizona Republic Charities, details the allocation of 1998 AIDS Walk AZ proceeds; administrative costs incurred and donations received by the Walk were not provided.

umbrella of the Phoenix Catholic diocese.

"We had been planning [to split off] anyway," Reiser said. The idea came from a planning session to grow the Walk larger. He said that he and Kellenberger wanted to make the Walk "more of a community event."

Reiser said AIDS Walk Arizona was the last of the "big walks" to be operated through an AIDS agency. New York, Los Angeles, Boston and other major

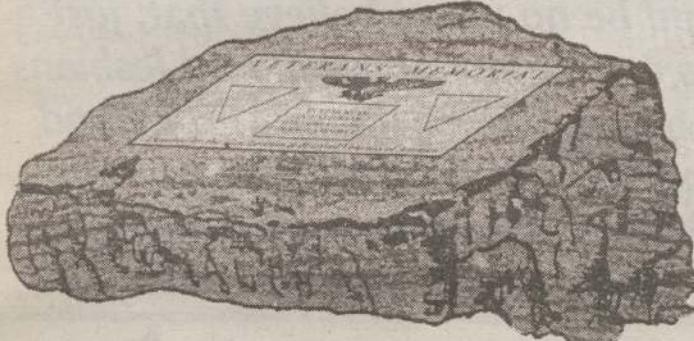
First memorial for gay vets unveiled

By Bobbi Dugan, HeatStroke Contributor

A plan for the nation's first memorial for gay veterans was unveiled at an April 16 event in Phoenix, where what started out as an intimate little fundraising dinner grew into nearly 60 people crowding the banquet rooms of the Old Spaghetti Factory on North Central Avenue.

The attendees came to hear guest speakers Miriam Ben Shalom and Edward Clayton and to see an artist's rendition of the proposed memorial.

The memorial, a "rainbow" colored granite boulder, will be placed at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona. A faceplate will bear the inscription, "In Memory Of All Veterans Who Served With Courage And Pride" and "donated by the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America."



Phoenix gay veterans plan to raise \$5,000 to erect this proposed memorial in the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona.

The monument is sponsored by the Phoenix Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (PGLBVA), the organization that hosted the April 16 dinner event.

Ben Shalom, the founder and former president of the national GLBVA, was the first homosexual veteran to be reinstated in the military in U.S. history. She moved many in her audience to tears when she told them, "You are a roomful of heroes ... you chose to honorably serve a nation that did not love you as much as you loved it."

Ben Shalom, who has recently been less active in gay veterans events due to health problems, said the PGLBVA members had inspired her to become re-involved in the cause. She said the gay community must work together to end discrimination in the military the

way it worked to battle AIDS—with "a flaming anger" and "a desire for justice."

"You burned before. I've got to ask you to burn again," Ben Shalom said.

Clayton, the current president of GLBVA, was cashiered from the Marine Corps after gay love letters were discovered in his barracks. He was sentenced and sent to the brig, where an HIV-positive inmate raped him. After telling Clayton he had been exposed to HIV, the Marines turned him out onto the streets of Los Angeles.

Clayton, a fifth-generation marine, told the Phoenix audience he was proud of the proactive stance the Phoenix chapter of GLBVA took after being told it would not be welcomed in the 1999 Veterans Day Parade.

He said local members had enlightened Arizonans to the reality that "gay veterans do deserve to march with other veterans on Veterans Day." The memorial, he said, would go far to educate mainstream America about the role of gays in the military.

A representative of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund (SLDN) attended the fundraiser. SLDN defends gay service members who run afoul of military regulations.

Openly gay Republican Arizona state representative Steve May, himself a veteran, also was at the dinner.

During the banquet and at the next day's Gay Pride Festival, the Phoenix Chapter of GLBVA raised \$1500 toward the \$5000 cost of the memorial, PGLBVA president Wally Straughn said.

The group hopes to have the necessary funds to dedicate the memorial on Veterans Day, 2000.

Contributions may be sent to PGLBVA Memorial Fund; PO Box 81401; Phoenix, AZ 85069-1401.

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Life Talk (21 and over Gay and Bi Men) every 3rd Wednesday
Queer Talk (18 to 25 year old Gay and Bi Men) every 4th Thursday

Programs of AIDS Project Arizona

AIDS Walk AZ

Continued from previous page

receive from the Walk. "I think it should be more, but anything we get is well appreciated," Michaelis said.

"We are never going to be able to make everyone happy," Walk '99 co-Chair Richard Leitner said.

But Leitner reiterated that the separation of APAZ and the Walk had nothing to do with questions regarding the mishandling or unaccountability of funds on the part of the parent agency. "There's no scandal," he said. "It was just time."

Leitner does hope that having the Walk separate from APAZ will ease the concerns of the smaller AIDS organizations and "other agencies will step up to the plate to help out."

HeatStroke

Stars come out for GLAAD awards

By Rex Wockner, HeatStroke Contributor

LOS ANGELES — The Century Plaza Hotel and Towers was overflowing with stars April 17 for the 10th Annual Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Awards.

Seventeen hundred guests and 110 media organizations attended.

Reporter Rex Wockner wandered between the main hall and the Press Room with his tape recorder to capture these snippets:

Tom Hanks—

"In this era of political and religious attacks on the gay and lesbian community, their lives are an excellent, a perfect example of true, genuine family values. Love is love, it's a constant, it's the speed of light, cannot be changed, cannot be slowed down."

"I'm here because . . . I like the work that GLAAD does. It's important work that, hopefully, within another ten years, won't be necessary. . . . Wouldn't it be great if by the year 2008, if out of sincere disinterest, no one is showing up at the GLAAD event? Wouldn't that be a nice thing? I'm more than happy to do something because ultimately, to me, it's common sense and it's very American to embrace what is embraced here."

"Ultimately, the best thing [about Philadelphia was] we had a movie about somebody who was gay and the movie made money. That was the biggest thing that it did. And that means we have TV shows in which, sonofagun, there's characters that are gay on TV and they do fine and people watch them and it works out good. . . . Half a decade has gone by and—you know what?—it's not that big a deal any more, is it? That's good stuff."

Melissa Etheridge—

"Here we are standing in this lovely room in front of some of the most beautiful people on earth, and we don't quite know what to say because this is a strange kind of an award. It's strange to get an award for just living your life every day, you know? It's, like, OK. But we're here and we—Julie and I—just want to say thank you."

"I was 17 and I was growing up in the great state of Kansas in the fine town of Leavenworth. . . . I was 17

and I kissed a girl for the first time. And the earth moved and the heavens opened up and I looked around and I felt like I was the most alone person on this earth. Because as far as I knew there were no other girls who had ever kissed any other girl ever. And the thought that I would be isolated and rejected for the rest of my life was a very, very real one. Then one day, I was looking through my father's books—he used to teach high school psychology and I was looking through his books—and there was this little pamphlet on homosexuality and it had this little pencil drawing of two girls holding hands and my heart lept. I was not alone. Someone had drawn a picture of two girls holding hands, so somewhere someone had seen two girls holding hands. I didn't care what the pamphlet said. I didn't care if it said if we were sick or not or whatever; all I cared about was that image, the feeling of hope. And if the power of one small drawing was so great to me, imagine what the work all of us are doing means to young gays everywhere today."

"I was thinking about what this award ceremony was like then [when I received an award for a video in 1994] and it was a bit more of a grass-roots kind of thing—kind of, 'Hey, rah-rah, c'mon, we can go'—and I remember there was one actually out actor—it was, I'm sorry, I forgot his name, but the guy on *Frasier* [Dan Butler], he was out. It was like, 'Oh, he's really out and he's, like, on a TV show, whoo' . . . and it was a big deal. . . . Wow, in like five years, it's so exciting to watch *Will & Grace* and then celebrate that."

"k.d. [lang] and I pretty much harangued [Ellen DeGeneres] for a long time, saying, 'Girl, c'mon, you gotta do this,' and everything, and we were on her for a long time, not really knowing what we were saying, not really understanding the scope of it and what it would do to her as a person—just catapult her into sort of this activism full-on. I mean, she was our little funny Ellen who used to make us laugh at parties and such. [Now] she's out there blazing trails for us."

Whoopi Goldberg—

"The parts I've taken, I've taken

because I believed in them. I've never seen any difference between me and anybody else—white people, Chinese people, Spanish people, gay people, straight people, sheep."

"Do not shove people out of the closet. Don't do it. It's wrong, child. You have to let people come when they're ready. Because when they are ready, they will be your ally. . . . It's like McCarthyism, it's like namin' names. No one has the right to do that. If we're going to be a cohesive unit, not just as gay folks but as human beings, then we have to respect each other, and not everybody's ready. Forcing people out doesn't make it an easier road for other people. It just makes you hide more."

"Will I be able to play more les-

like you're the guy that gets to run over the finish line at the end of the year. It's a relay and we're at the end, so we get to hit the ribbon, but the rest of the race was run by somebody else [*Ellen*] and we're very grateful for it."

"I'm more leading man as a gay man than I ever was as a straight man."

Sean Hayes

Jack on *Will & Grace*—

"[The response from the gay community has been] nothing but positive. Everybody loves it [*Will & Grace*]. They get Will, they get Jack, they get all the spectrum. It's all good."

"I wash my hands of that [talk of a kiss scene]. I have no clue about that."

My one hope in this world is that gays will be running the entire world, and I mean overtly, not behind their little respective closets but out in the open. There would be no war, I believe that, just a greater emphasis on military apparel. And lesbians will perpetually be organizing the proverbial and infinite counterpoints, and the political counterattack—along with increasing their upper-body strength and working to develop auto-fertility.

Roseanne

bian women, or is my time up? Because, you know, I see all of you [lesbians] all around—I figure I ain't gonna get no goddamn work now."

Eric McCormack

Will on *Will & Grace*—

"You have to be careful [*Will & Grace*] because you're going to piss somebody off one way or the other. The main way [for us] is just to keep four characters that you love watching week after week. If they love them, you can get away with murder sometimes, which is great."

"My worst nightmare was gay men e-mailing me saying, 'What?!' And it's been the opposite very much. They've been writing saying: 'Thanks for showing another kind of gay man, a gay man that doesn't get shown a lot. That's me. Or that's my brother.'"

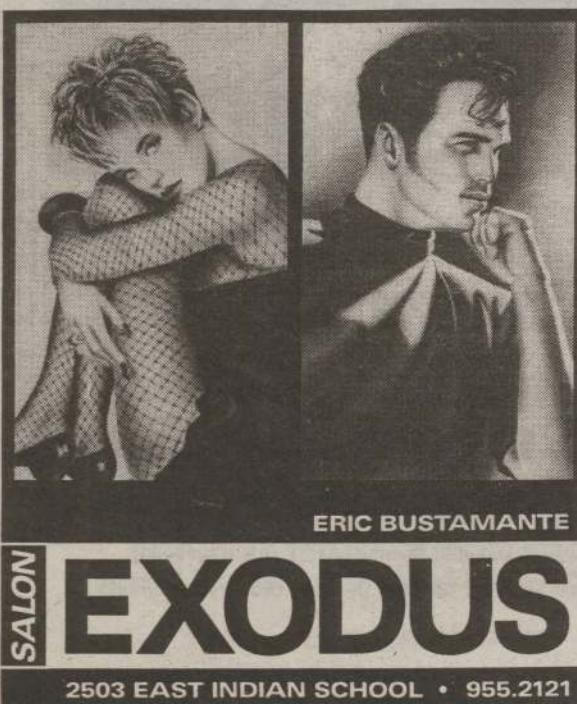
"[The success of *Will & Grace*] feels

But, sure, Will is human and will get a date and probably will kiss a guy. Who knows when? You know, he's a little anal right now. He's not Jack."

Roseanne—

"I'm always so surprised at who I see here at these GLAAD things. I have to say I'm even more surprised at the people I don't see here."

"My one hope in this world is that gays will be running the entire world, and I mean overtly, not behind their little respective closets but out in the open. There would be no war, I believe that, just a greater emphasis on military apparel. And lesbians will perpetually be organizing the proverbial and infinite counterpoints, and the political counterattack—along with increasing their upper-body strength and working to develop auto-fertility. The military code



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would change for the better, I believe, as well as the country and the world. Please ask, and do tell."

"I've known lesbians all my life. It's because of lesbians that I have a career, honestly. Thank them. And I find them to be the most unique as well as [most] frightening individuals alive. Only after myself, of course. Though I personally never tongued another woman's labes. Maybe because I hate women more than I hate men, I guess. And to lesbians, of course, that makes me a dyke. But I personally have always resented that myth, the one that says that lesbians hate men. How could they hate men? They don't have to fuck them! I truly believe that it is my godly duty on this planet to teach men how to fuck. Now don't laugh, because the truth is gay guys do not know how to fuck any better than their straight cousins. All men just want to do it a lot and run like hell."

"It really doesn't matter who you love, it matters that you love. So, I don't give a shit who you're fucking or any of that shit, I could give a shit, it's all a bore to me."

"My task nowadays [as a talk-show host] is to appear or become interested in any old bag of fuckin' wind they're sittin' in front of me. But, oh my God, I'm finding that I'm having a hard time being a supportive Oprah-type of role model. I think I'm like the Anti-Christ Oprah. Oh my god, it's horrifying. I'm not trying to save people or be a role model to them; I just wanna fuckin' scold them."

"God is only about love. Love. And more love. . . . The devil is about hate, OK? The devil is where, like, hatred comes from, you fucking devil-worshipping, child-molesting, gay-bashing Nazi skinheads. Rest assured, if you hear this in your head: 'They must die'—if that's in your head at all, that is a message from Satan, OK, not from God."

David Crosby

of Crosby, Stills and Nash—

"In rock music there are people who really don't give a hoot what gets you through the night, at all, never have. . . . And then there are people who are different, who probably do have some homophobic tendencies. Myself, that has

never been a part of my character, and I'm glad about that, I'm proud of it. And I think there's a lot of the music industry that feels the same way. From the beginning of Crosby, Stills and Nash, David Geffen was part of our team, and I picked him, on purpose. . . . There are people who get it and there are

people who don't, and the job here is to make the people who don't [get it] understand that everybody's human beings, all of us."

"Matthew Shepard did some good because he made an awful lot of people realize that he was a human being and that he didn't deserve to go down the way he did. . . . Anything that humanizes gay people in the eyes of the public is a good thing. That's the only good thing I can find about that [Matthew's murder]."

Kathy Najimy co-star of *Veronica's Closet*—

"I find gay people as a group really incredibly interesting and stimulating and so I've always surrounded myself—I have gay members of my family, my best friend is gay—and in the last ten years the reason I've sort of upped my advocacy for gay and lesbian rights is because I think AIDS is a direct result of the homophobia we have in this country, and as long as people hate fags they're not going to care about AIDS. So I think hand-in-hand with my AIDS work, I've got to carry on my gay and lesbian work; it's the same thing."

"When I first presented an award at GLAAD, it was in somebody's living room, like in Encino, I swear to God. There was like eleven of us. . . . I walked in today and I was completely mindblown—Sharon Stone and Whoopi Goldberg and Melissa Etheridge and k.d. lang and Tom Hanks. I mean, not that celebrities make it but I think it's a symbol of how it's outreached out to—it's the universe now. Of course it could be better. I would like for there to be characters on television where it's not about them being gay. But we have *Will & Grace*, we have *Ellen*, I'm thrilled. . . . Tom Hanks being here is everything because the world looks up to him like Jesus Christ."

Ellen Degeneres—

"I have a different perspective now [on *Ellen's* cancellation]. I don't look at it as shit that happened. I mean, I should have been a little more realistic about it, you know, known what was going to happen. It's not that I feel vindicated. I'm thrilled that [*Will & Grace*] is on the air. I'm thrilled every single time I see any progress at all. And it seems like we take one step forward and then Matthew Shepard gets killed and still Wyoming won't even pass a hate-crime law, even after this guy was tortured. . . . The more that we're represented everywhere in television and film, and shown as people that exist and live lives like everybody else, it's a wonderful thing. I'm thrilled to see this [*Will & Grace*] on TV."

Matthew Shepard did some good because he made an awful lot of people realize that he was a human being and that he didn't deserve to go down the way he did. . . . Anything that humanizes gay people in the eyes of the public is a good thing.

David Crosby

Kerr Smith

Jack McPhee on *Dawson's Creek*—

"When Kevin Williamson told me they were thinking about this [gay storyline] with the character, I told him I was at a hundred and ten percent because it's a challenge, it's something you look for as an actor. I think we're doing a great thing. There's a lot of teenagers that are going through the same kinds of issues as Jack McPhee and I'd like to think that we're helping some people out, shedding some light."

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Mark Hoffman's Positive Perspective



Our time has come

In my December column, I wrote that it would be through the development of a vaccine—not behavioral interventions—that we would find the solution to the stubborn plague of AIDS that has had enormous impact on the way our community thinks and acts.

I stated "... AIDS is first and last a scientific research matter, only to be solved by basic investigation in good laboratories. It is truly an emergency for science and the gay and lesbian community that will continue to require the FULL attention and dedication of each of us... for the welfare of the entire community."

Ironically, that time has come!

A private biotechnology company, VaxGen, has selected Phoenix to be one of the study sites for its AIDSVAX preventive vaccine. This experimental vaccine has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to enter phase 3 of clinical study trials which will determine, after three years of investigation and tracking of study participants, whether this new vaccine will be effective in preventing the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus to men and women who now stand at risk for contracting this disease.

AIDSVAX is the very first vaccine to make it to this advanced stage of study. In many ways, our future will be changed forever with the development of an effective protective vaccine.

This vaccine has already been proved safe (through animal and

If you yearn for the days when infection with sexually transmitted disease did not place your life in peril, then you must realize how your participation in this study is so very important. It may indeed be that one extraordinary opportunity when your action will result in a priceless benefit to mankind.

smaller human studies) for administration to a large group of humans. VaxGen will be looking at gay men, women, and intravenous drug users

during this study, but the Phoenix site will only examine men who engage in sex with men.

Enrollees will be followed for three years in order to determine if those participants in the groups receiving the vaccine have a lower incidence of developing HIV infection than those in the control group, who will only receive a placebo in their inoculations. The hope is that the result will show whether AIDSVAX has protected HIV-negative persons from becoming infected.

The vaccine is not a "live" virus. Its engineered form stimulates the human body to produce antibodies that will recognize HIV when it enters the body and then direct the body to attack and eliminate the virus. So a study participant will not become infected with HIV when inoculated and will not develop AIDS.

Hopefully, enrollees will never contract HIV infection even if exposed to it during the three-year course of the study.

Dr. Andy Myers, medical director of Phoenix Body Positive (who is conducting the trial for VaxGen here in

Phoenix), put the importance of this study in perspective as follows: "The only way we're going to get the epidemic under control is to prevent people from

being infected. This is the dream of those of us who do HIV medicine."

Those persons that enroll in this study will have an opportunity to be part of a research project that will have enormous impact upon the gay and lesbian community here in Phoenix and upon millions of persons around the globe.

Even if the results of this particular study are inconclusive, great steps will be made in understanding how to develop newer, more effective vaccines. Success in research has often only come through failure of an investigational idea. Therefore, whether or not this trial succeeds is unimportant. What matters is that you participated and made a contribution to research to improve the human condition.

If you yearn for the days when infection with a sexually transmitted disease did not place your life in peril, then you must realize how your participation in this study is so very important. It may indeed be that one extraordinary opportunity when your action will result in a priceless benefit to mankind.

No one of us can afford to stand by and wait for others to do the work for us. The time to act is here.

For information on enrolling in this study, call Zach or Bill at Body Positive, 955-4673.



Mark Hoffman is the Health Educator and Treatment Advocate for Phoenix Body Positive and A Place Called Home. The opinions expressed in this column are his own and do not represent those of either organization.

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Well Vodka \$2.00

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"Booze & Cruise"

8pm-12am

Reduced prices on well drinks, domestic beer & shot specials

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Beer Bust 8pm - 12am

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Extended Happy Hour

8am - 9pm

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No Cover

Phoenix softball tourney top-rated

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

Balmy, 80-degree days and more than 700 gay and lesbian athletes merged in the Valley on April 10 and 11 to make the sixth annual Cactus Cup softball tournament an unqualified success.

"It's the most players we've ever had, and by all reports everyone is having a great time," said tournament co-Director Kevin Whitenack.

Whitenack reported that 73 teams in total participated in the weekend-long event. There were four divisions of play, including a Women's Division and three divisions for the men—A, B, and C, split by varying skill levels.

Four different parks in the Phoenix metro area were utilized: Estrella Park in the West Valley, the Rose Mofford Sports Complex north of Sunnyslope, and Scottsdale's Papago and Eldorado Parks.

"I'm loving this entire weekend," said Rick Elander of Seattle. Elander and his partner, Steve Timmons, are the owners of R Place, a Seattle gay men's bar. The bar sponsored three Seattle teams at the tourney. R Place's top squad made it all the way to the highly competitive A Division final on Sunday.

Hawaiian group lobbying Vermonters against gay marriage

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—A Hawaiian group that opposed efforts to legalize gay marriage in that state is trying to energize Vermonters to fight against same-sex marriage.

Mike Gabbard, chairman of the Alliance for Traditional Marriage Hawaii, wrote a letter to all Vermonters, encouraging them to get in touch with a local group opposed to same-sex marriage.

The \$40,000 mailing was paid for by the Citizens for Community Values of Ohio.

The effort comes in anticipation of a Vermont Supreme Court ruling that could decide whether same-sex couples can legally marry in Vermont.

"This will make people a little more aware of this issue and hopefully spark some interest with a grassroots effort. That's how we won in Hawaii," Gabbard said.

In November, after seven years of court fights over same-sex marriages, Hawaiian voters gave lawmakers the go-ahead to declare marriage the union of a man and a woman.

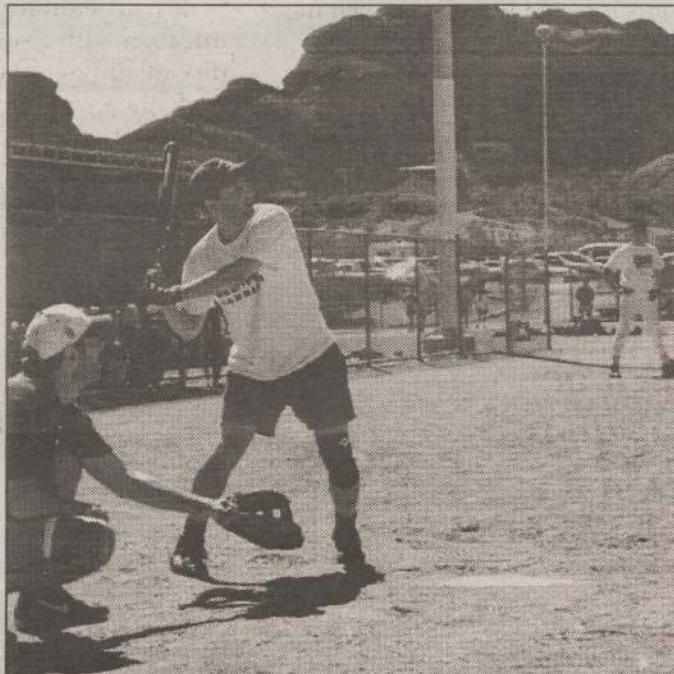
Gabbard said he worked with Vermont activists and the Cincinnati group to organize the mailing. He said he was not sure if more mailings would follow.

The letter is billed as an open letter from Hawaii's residents to Vermonters.

"We believe that traditional marriage, between one man and one woman, richly benefits our society. We

"We're so glad we were able to get away and come down to support the players. We've had a great time" Elander said. Asked if that great time was due to the fantastic weather or his team's winning streak, he laughed and said, "It's both."

Phoenix's Cactus Cities Softball League plays host to the event each April. Several CCSL teams participated. The team from Nasty Habits had



the best local showing, earning a slot in the semifinals in the Women's Division and coming in third overall.

Meanwhile a team out of Tucson, the Arizona Aces, took first place from among 24 teams in the men's C Division for the second year in a row.

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Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction
Massages
Live/Silent Auction
Entertainment

May 2, 1999
Noon to 10pm
at The Park
3002 N. 24th St.

G-ELLO WRESTLING II

All proceeds will benefit the APAZ Being Alive Wellness Center. Through your generous support the Wellness Center will continue to address the ever changing needs of the HIV community.

WANTED:
Amateur Wrestlers,
Volunteers,
Bachelors/Bachelorettes

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AIDS PROJECT ARIZONA

For tickets &
more information
call, AIDS Project
Arizona, 265-2437
\$12 - VIP Seating
\$5 - General
Admission

At least 57 Vermont House members have signed a bill that would forbid same-sex marriages.



French Assembly approves another partner bill

France's National Assembly again passed a measure April 7 to grant gay and unmarried straight couples many of the rights and obligations of matrimony.

The vote was 300-253. Deputies affiliated with the leftist government parties supported the bill while deputies from the opposition parties generally rejected it.

Under the measure, partners must support each other financially and be jointly liable for debts related to housing and living expenses. Spousal rights are accorded in areas such as social-security benefits, synchronized vacation time, immigration, taxation, inheritance and housing.

A similar bill passed the Assembly last Dec. 9 but was rejected by the Senate March 18. The new measure now moves to the Senate.

116 anti-gay murders in Brazil

There were 116 anti-gay murders in Brazil in 1998, reports the Bahia Gay Group (GGB), which has kept violence statistics for several years.

Seventy-three of the victims were gay men, 36 transvestites and seven lesbians.

"Most of the gay men were shot

dead inside their own apartments, while the transvestites were mainly killed in the street," said the group's Luiz Mott. "Many of these crimes are committed with excessive cruelty, with many stab wounds, strangulation, suffocation and torture."

Mott said arrests occurred in only 10 percent of the cases and convictions resulted in only four percent.

GGB's statistics show 1,661 anti-gay murders nationwide in the past 20 years but "these numbers are only the tip of an iceberg of hatred and blood, since in many cases, owing to the carelessness and failures of the police and pressure from members of the family, the homosexuality of many victims is not disclosed," Mott said.

GGB's 1998 report also catalogs non-fatal violence against gays and anti-gay discrimination by governments, churches, schools, employers and the media. For a copy of the report, write GGB, Caixa Postal 2552, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, fax 011-55-71-322-3783 or e-mail luizmott@ufba.br.

British military boots gay servicemembers

Sixty-five members of the British armed forces were ejected for being gay in 1998, *The Pink Paper* reported April 2.

Forty-one were men and 24 were women. One was an officer. The majority served in the army.

Britain's military gay ban is currently under scrutiny from European courts.

Netanyahu says Palestinians are anti-gay

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Jewish gay groups April 5 that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority is anti-gay.

In a letter to the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations, Netanyahu said the authority has a "negative attitude toward gays."

He attached a clipping from the Hebrew newspaper *Yerushalayim* entitled "Palestinian Police Chief Maligns Homosexuals," in which Chief Ghazi Jibali denounced a Palestinian policeman who was executed in February for sodomizing a 6-year-old boy.

Jibali also said: "We do not like homosexuals and I heard that in Britain there is even a law against homosexuals. I even heard that the Australian ambassador to Sweden is a homosexual."

Stephen Brady, 39, Australia's ambassador to Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Norway, is openly gay.

German AIDS numbers drop

German AIDS cases dropped from 1,414 in 1997 to 922 in 1998, officials reported last week.

New infections were down as well, from 4,826 to 4,028.

In all, 17,955 Germans have developed AIDS and two-thirds of them have died.

VOA broadcasts gay cause to China

Voice of America shortwave stations broadcast a 50-minute interview and call-in show on gay issues to the

People's Republic of China March 24.

Longtime Washington, D.C., gay activist Frank Kameny was the guest. He answered questions from Chinese callers on everything from gay marriage and ex-gays to role-playing and the causes of homosexuality.

VOA says tens of millions of Chinese listen to the program, called American Issues.

Activists zap Bank of Scotland

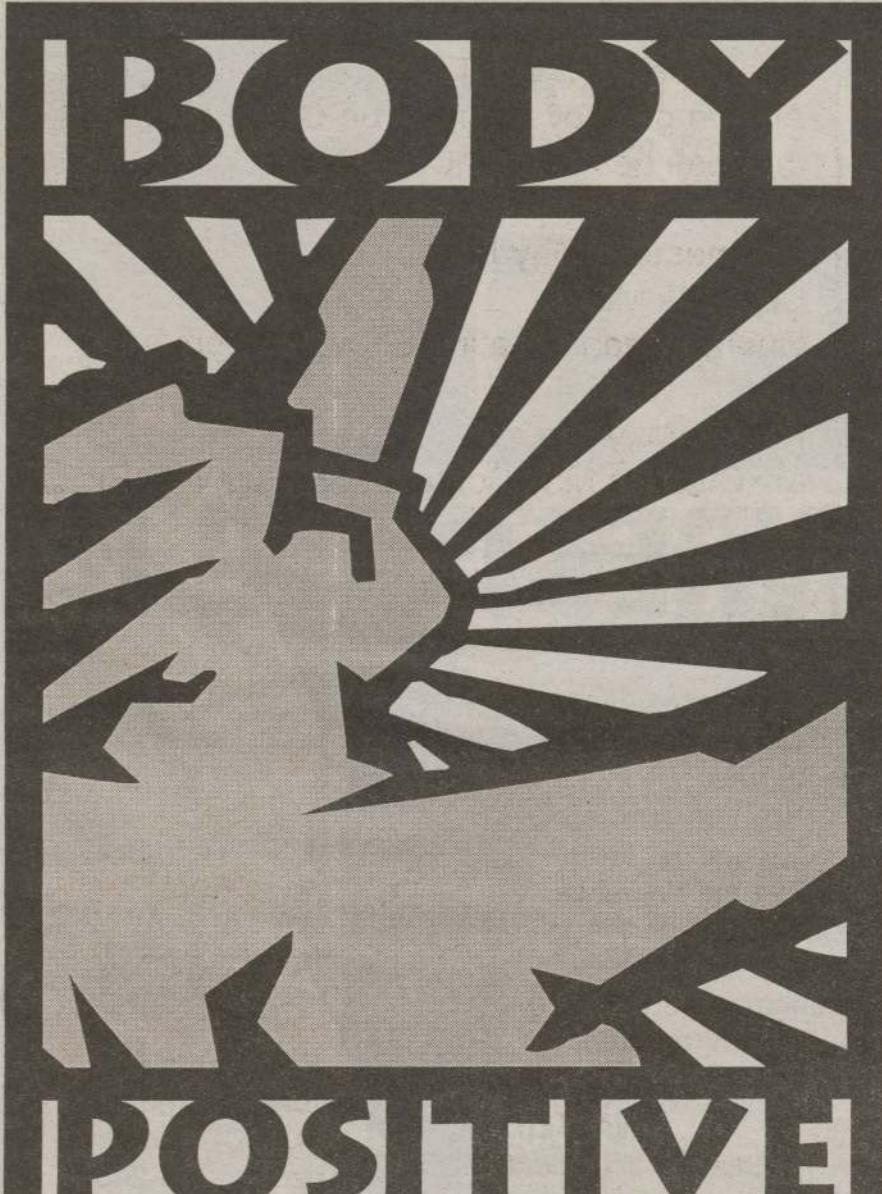
Members of the London direct-action gay group OutRage! zapped the Bank of Scotland booth at London's *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition April 10.

The bank is launching a subsidiary in the U.S. that will be 25 percent owned by anti-gay TV preacher and former presidential candidate Pat Robertson. Like the Bank of Scotland, it will operate only via mail, telephone and the Internet. Robertson is expected to promote the bank to members of his Christian Coalition and viewers of his 700 Club TV program.

The protesters handed out leaflets and brandished signs reading, "Bank of Scotland in bed with American fascist" and "Stop multi-billion deal with American homophobe."

"People should know what their money is funding," said OutRage!'s Gordon Lee. "Robertson is a politician who actively promotes racism, sexism and homophobia in a national political campaign."

The joint-venture has been denounced by Edinburgh City Council, the Church of Scotland, and Action for Churches Together in Scotland, which represents nearly all of Scotland's 1.5 million churchgoers.



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Funded in part by the Federal Dept. of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration the Ryan White Care Act Amendments of 1996 and the Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health Services.

Register NOW for the New "Path to Positive Living" class

begins
Wednesday, May 12th, 6-9 pm
continuing on

Wednesday evenings through June 2nd

Topics Include:
Understanding HIV, Coping with Emotions/Stress, HIV Medications, Nutrition and Herbs, Complementary Therapies, Sexuality/Dating/Disclosure, Mind/Body Connection, Legal Issues and Community Resources

Call Julie to register. Dinner provided.

PHOENIX BODY POSITIVE

NEW GROUP MEETINGS STARTING:

Visualization Group
with
Dale Parker, C.Ht.

beginning
Monday, May 17th, 2 pm
at
Phoenix Body Positive

Come explore
the mind/body connection!

HIV Support Group for Gay Men
with
Bill Luke, CMSW

Friday afternoons
1-2 pm
at Phoenix Body Positive

Call Bill at 955-4673
for information

Charlies

PHOENIX

IT'S ALWAYS HOT AT CHARLIES!...

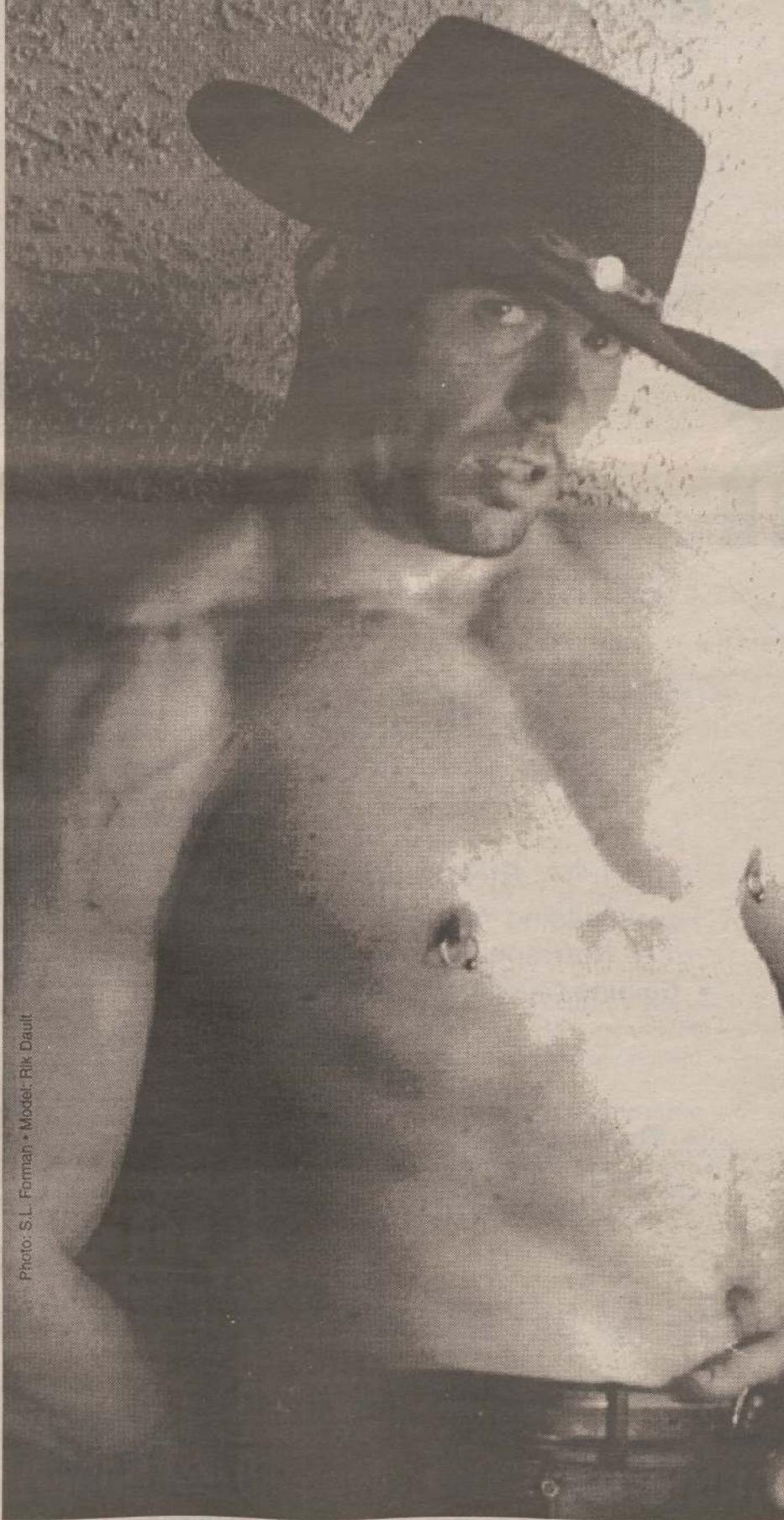


Photo: S.L. Forman - Model: Rik Dault

Friday & Saturday, April 23 & 24th
Renegades 5 Year Anniversary

Sunday, April 25th
Lacy Edwards Show...A benefit
for AGRA State! BBQ hosted by Camp
Hakuna Matata 2-7pm.

Wednesday, April 28th
Arizona Central Pride Show
Troy shows us how to Swing! 7:30pm

Sunday, May 2nd
Cher Apoloosa Night
All little gay boys want to be Cher...tonight
they can be! Suicide Cher Drag!

Wednesday, May 5th
Cinco de Mayo
Guera & friends Latino Show at 10pm.

Friday, May 7th
Mr. Charlies May Contest...Sign up with Rick.

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- *Charlie's Renegades*
- *Charlie's Knights*
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Dr. Jon Kaiser's

Healing HIV Health Fair '99

PHOENIX

**Wednesday
May 5, 1999**

5:30 pm - 9:30 pm
St. Joseph Hospital
Cullen Auditorium
350 W. Thomas Road

(Free parking in 6th Avenue Garage with this flier.)

FREE!

For more information
call Mark Hoffman at:

(602) 955-4673.

Or call (800) 514-7197.

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viral load assays mind body medicine

IX

anabolic steroids nutrition NURTI's

Jon Kaiser, M.D.,

Author of *Healing HIV*
will lecture on

**"Rebuilding Your
Immune System"**

and

"Healing From HIV"



- *Free Massages*
- *Free Acupuncture*
- *Exhibitor booths*

5:30 p.m.
Lite Buffet

6:30 p.m.

- Building Your Healing Program
- Nutrition, Vitamins, and Herbs
- Gaining Muscle with Anabolic Therapies

7:30 p.m.

- The New Crop of Upcoming Antivirals
- Highly Effective Antiviral Programs
- Case Histories of Long Term Survivors

8:30 p.m.

- Mind Body Medicine
- Meditation and Guided Visualizations



Sponsored by **Phoenix Body Positive**, and **AIDS Project Arizona**.
RSVP to Phoenix Body Positive.

mind body medicine Take Charge!

hormonal therapies nutrition protease inhibitors anabolic steroids NURTI's

Goings On

APAZ Volunteer party April 27

All volunteers for AIDS Project Arizona are invited to the organization's annual volunteer thank you party on Tuesday, April 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Amsterdam.

There will be hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine and gifts for volunteers. To RSVP, call Sharon at (602)265-2437.

Fourth Annual Night for Life April 30

Phoenix Body Positive's largest fund-raising event of the year, *A Night for Life*, is scheduled for Friday evening, April 30 at the Camelback Inn.

Last year, the dinner and auctions raised more than \$120,000 and was attended by more than 600 people.

This year's event begins with cocktails and a silent auction on the patio at 6:30. Dinner and the live auction will begin at 7:30. Scott Jacobson will emcee.

Co-chairs for the event are Gary Abeyta, Steven Methvin and Lydia Lee.

During the evening, four individuals and organizations will be honored for their commitment and support to Phoenix Body Positive through their financial contributions, volunteer efforts or their collaborative efforts.

Tickets are \$125 each, with table and corporate sponsorships available by contacting Phoenix Body Positive at (602)955-4673.

Alternative Health Fair returning May 5

Dr. John Kaiser's Healing HIV Health Fair '99 will be presented in Phoenix on Wednesday, May 5 at 5:30 pm in the Cullen Auditorium on the campus of St. Joseph's Hospital, 350 West Thomas Road.

The San Francisco-based M.D. will lecture on Rebuilding Your Immune System and Healing From HIV. He's the author of the popular book, *Immune Power* and a renowned expert in the field of mixing holistic and herbal therapies with conventional medicine in the treatment of HIV.

When Dr. Kaiser lectured in Phoenix in 1997 and 1998, more than 150 people attended his evening seminars. This year's event will feature free massages and acupuncture, information and exhibitor booths, and a light buffet. And once again, it's all underwritten by drug companies and local service organizations,

AGRA cowboys rodeo in the LA rain

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association Team competed in a day of sunshine and a day of pouring rain at the Los Angeles Rodeo '99 held April 10 - 11 in Burbank, California.

Chuck Browning, president of the AGRA-Phoenix Chapter, shared the honor of first runner up to the All Around Cowboy title. Browning competed in every event in the Rodeo and is one of the very few Cowboys (gay or straight) in the country that regularly does so.

Browning took first place in Bull

News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

so there's no charge to attendees.

For more information call (800)514-7197 or call Mark Hoffman at Phoenix Body Positive, (602)955-4673.

The joys of G-ello wrestling

The second annual jello wrestling fund-raiser for Phoenix's Being Alive Wellness center will take place on May 2 at the Park, 3002 North 24th Street.

The event will last from noon to 10 pm. Amateur wrestlers, bachelors, bachelorettes and several volunteers are needed to make this event as big a success as it was in 1998. Call 265-2437 for more information.

POZ Expo returns May 21

The POZ Life Expo, a community health fair for people impacted by HIV/AIDS, will return to the Valley on Friday, May 21.

This informative, day-long expo features a variety of workshops, discussions and presentations, as well as a diverse array of exhibitors. It's sponsored by POZ magazine and it's all designed to bring the latest in HIV/AIDS information and treatments to the people who need it most—and it's all free.

The POZ Expo held in Phoenix last August was a great success and this year's edition promises to be just as exciting. It will be held on the campus of St. Joseph's Hospital, at 350 West Thomas Road, beginning at 11:30 am and wrapping up after a keynote speaker slated for 6 pm.

Call (602)955-4263 for information.

Connect with women's community via Telephone Tree

The Phoenix area lesbian and bisexual women's community operates a women's telephone tree that can help send any message at no charge. It's a great way to get the word out whether you're selling or buying an item, looking for a roommate or a place to live, announcing a new business, or looking for help with a project.

Volunteers are needed to make just one call—the more people on the tree, the more people who will hear the message. Call Jean at (602)954-8007 for news or to volunteer.

Riding on Saturday, second on Sunday, and earned seconds both days in Bronc Riding. Browning also fared well in the roping, horse and camp events with partner Brian Helander, who took first place on Saturday in chute dogging and also placed well in the camp and horse events.

The AGRA team overall took home 1912 points, putting the team in second place overall to the very large Golden State Gay Rodeo Association's home team.



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Tuesday-Friday
4-7pm*

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Tues:	Darts
Wed:	Hump Day: remember Happy Hour starts at 4pm!
Thurs:	Country Western Dance Lessons with Geri 7:30-9:30pm
Fri:	Country Western Music with DJ "AJ"
Sat:	Country Western Music with DJ "De"
Sun:	Steak & Chicken Fry \$3, 6-8pm; DJ & Country Western Dancing until 11pm.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR OUR 2ND ANNIVERSARY
PATIO PARTY!
COMING MAY 28, 29 & 30
(MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND)
WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS!



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ASU CELEBRATES GAY PLAYWRIGHT

Continued from page 1

was there two nights before.

You realize it was the best dance bar in the entire world, because its dance floor was so dark, but still romantically lit. Very dark, but you could still see who you were with. Pretty much. And almost exclusively slow music. And so it was incredibly romantic. You were just—essentially fucking, but all night long and without a climax.

And then if you got sick of that—which I seldom did—there was the other half of the bar that was just a bar and was great fun. It was also one of the great cruising bars that I've ever been to, because it was just so incredibly open. You didn't feel at all intimidated going up and talking to someone. And you could talk to someone all night and not really feel that you had to go home with them or they had to go home with you. It was just a friendly place. It was a great bar. It was a bar like Cheers, only for gay people—a lot of them. Not just six people in the bar, it was packed.

The riot was started by the queens. The absolute, six-foot-two black queens that sashayed around there in drag saying, "Honey Darlin', what do you want?" The police came to get everyone in the paddy wagon and about three of them said, "No. We are having a conversation." And that started it and before you knew it they were throwing bottles through the window and beating the policemen over the heads with—someone said dildoes—but it was really gin bottles and beer bottles.

We went down there the next night, of course. The entire city came out the next day. It was closed for a long while. I don't think they ever reopened it—not as the Stonewall. It's there now again but it's not the same at all.

I had a straight friend who was just walking by and saw what was happening. He knew I went there all the time and he was arrested. He was slamming policemen over the back of the head and enjoying it no end. And I just have never forgiven myself for not being down there and getting my licks in and being arrested.

HS: Now you've settled in Sag Harbor. Where is that?

LW: A hundred-ten miles outside New York on Long Island, on the harbor side, not the ocean side. I just fell in love with the town. It's a wonderful place.

I started to split my time between New York and Sag Harbor and write in New York until I was going crazy and then go to Sag Harbor and work there until I was being driven mad and then go back to New York. But the government got on my ass and I had to sell the apartment. And so three years, I guess, I've lived out there all the time. Eventually if I get any money at all I'll get another [Manhattan] apartment.

HS: If you get any money at all?

LW: The picture of a successful writer as rolling in dough is erroneous. The money's in television which I would prefer not to go near, and in the movies—and not one of my plays has been made into a movie. So I haven't got that \$400,000, \$800,000 pay-cluck.

HS: Wasn't your play *Hot L Baltimore* made into a short-lived TV sitcom back in the '70s?

LW: Thirteen episodes, yeah. I didn't want to be involved and they didn't want me. After I saw four episodes I called up Norman Lear and said, "Maybe you should have me there after all," and he said, "No, no, Lanford. We're gonna get it, I know I know, but we're gonna get it." And it never really came to anything much.

HS: It stirred some controversy at the time because there was a gay couple on it.

LW: That's right. They changed it in ways that made no sense to me at all.



Lanford Wilson (center) on the set of *Talley's Folly* in May, 1979 with (l-r) ASU's Marshall W. Mason, Trish Hawkins and Judd Hirsch.

They had two middle aged—either fifties or sixties—gay men, who were always together and they were obviously a couple and said so, and acted effeminately—slightly. But they aren't in the play. They don't belong in the play.

There's a lesbian in the play and that's it, a sweet little lesbian. I wouldn't mind having gay characters in it at all, but not those two. They were just unattractive.

Anyway, the play is about urban decay and what we are doing to our cities, and they just missed it by a mile.

HS: When you were little, were you shy or were you a troublemaker?

LW: I was the sissy that everyone picked on. I said picked on—that's wrong. I was popular. I had a really good singing voice and I was the best artist in the school. And so I drew pictures and everything. But I was lousy in sports. Just—I'm embarrassed at how bad I was in sports.

And so since, in high school—or in that high school at least—the sports stars are the heroes, I wasn't a hero. I wasn't unpopular. But I was still a sissy. The farmboys would still take their dicks out and say, "you wanna suck my dick?" And like an idiot I didn't used to, most of the time.

HS: What prompted your move to New York? Was your sexual orientation a factor in that?

LW: No. Not at all. Theater. I was always going to be a graphic artist or a painter. I'd always been writing but I didn't take it seriously. I was writing

stories and typing them up and sending them out to magazines and getting rejection slips. But what I really was was an artist.

When I was 20, 21, along in there and living in Chicago, I had an idea and I thought, hmm, that's more of a play than a story. So I started writing it as a play and by page two I said, "I'm a playwright." It was just as clear as day. A lightning bolt. I knew that I would never come to the end of it, it would always be a challenge, I would never be completely satisfied with anything, there would always be a goal down at the end of the line.

And I haven't painted at all since. I did a lot of posters for Circle Rep. Sometimes I'd say the only reason I write plays is so that I can do the posters.

There's so much theater activity in Chicago now—but at that time, there was none. There was Drury Lane that did musicals. There was Second City doing revues. And there was another

written the *Millennium* play, he would have been a master playwright. He's already at the top and there'll never be a mid-career for him.

So we ended up [choosing] Richard Greenberg, who's very good, too. There's a black, woman writer, Susan Lloyd Parks, who is great. I've never seen her work, I've only read it and it's work that shouldn't be read but should be seen. She carries repetition to a level that would have frightened Gertrude Stein. It's just amazing. I said, "A production of her play would either thrill me no end or drive me out of the theater," —meaning the profession.

I just saw *Sideman* and it's very good. Especially because it gives you a chance to hear a ton of jazz and that's great fun. But I was a Tony nominator and so I had to go to all of the Broadway plays. I live a hundred miles outside New York City so when I go in I have to spend my time seeing Broadway shows.

And so consequently I didn't see *As Bees In Honey Drown*, I didn't see *R & J*, I didn't see the Oscar Wilde trial play. I didn't see [the 1998 Pulitzer-winner] *Wit*. All of the things I want to see, I can't see. And all of the things I wouldn't go near, I'm forced to see.

HS: You have such a large body of work—if someone sees several of your plays, or sits in a library and reads one after another, is he or she getting an accurate picture of who you are as a person?

LW: I think you'd get a good picture of my interests, at least. With *The Mound Builders* being so much about archaeology and how we screw each other, and *Sympathetic Magic* showing an interest in astronomy and how we fuck each other over—it just happens that in both of those plays the scientists don't come out very well—it's not a complimentary picture of them, by the end.

I think you can see where my mind has been wandering, and probably a bit of a moral code along in there somewhere, that I couldn't express any other way except in the plays and the way people treat each other.

I don't think I'm autobiographical the way Tennessee was. Almost any play could be read as "Him, and the people around him." I don't put myself in the plays in that way, but every character is some sort of aspect of me, I think. And then some of them are observation.

HS: What do you think of this rather academic quote: "An analysis of Wilson's work reveals several recurring themes. The importance of individuality and personal history; the necessity to preserve the past and learn from it; and, especially, the importance of familial support—surrogate or otherwise?"

LW: Yes! Yes, I've been told—I don't think about these things, you understand—but I've been told that the search for family or for an extended family is the primary focus—a primary analysis of my work would reveal that.

HS: So you don't write overtly gay themes and yet that is a central theme of the lives of many gay people—the search for an extended or surrogate family, a search for our tribe.

LW: Absolutely. Absolutely.

HS: So is it fair to say that there is indeed a Gay Theme somewhere in there?

LW: Oh of course. But it's only overtly in there in *The Madness of Lady Bright*, *The Great Nebula* in

HS: Who are some playwrights coming up behind you that you admire?

LW: Paula Vogel is just phenomenally good.

The best of the lot right now is Tony Kushner. Wendy Wasserstein and I were asked to judge—to give a \$5,000 award to a playwright in mid-career, around 35 or something like that. And we automatically eliminated Tony Kushner because we considered him a master playwright. If he'd only

Orion, Lemon Sky, Fifth of July, Balm in Gilead, of course. Oh, and a tiny little play that I wrote called *Your Every Day Ghost Story* that I like enormously. It's only about ten minutes long. There's a group performing plays for a continuous AIDS benefit in San Francisco and they tour around constantly. I gave them that—they're the only company allowed to do it and I don't get a nickel for it. That's a sweet little play and I like it very much.

Oh and *Burn This!* I forgot. *Burn This!* certainly has a gay character, and one that has just died. That's my AIDS play. It's a heterosexual love story, but everything is just an aching lament for this lost gay dancer.

HS: How has your sense of personal liberation changed over the years? Were you as comfortable with yourself as a gay man when you first started writing plays as you are today?

LW: Apart from my Mother and Stepfather, who I never did tell that I was gay—they wouldn't have gotten it. As articulate as I can be—I could have written a script and it still wouldn't have worked.

And so aside from that—we always have to talk aside from that—and I'm very uncomfortable with not having been able to tell them—I've been fairly comfortable with it since I left Missouri. I guess since I realized. I realized I was gay when—I mean, I was having sex with half the boys in the high school class. But it was dinky, little jerk-off stuff.

HS: You mean you didn't have any emotional attachment to it.

LW: No. Not at all. we were just playing.

But when I was 19 and at San Diego state, this poet—he's in *Lemon Sky*—he had graduated, he was 25. He

have always been this way. I've been very lucky in not feeling guilt about being gay, and discovering that I was a playwright, and finding the theater. And being accepted by the theater.

Also, the way was prepared for me by Truman Capote and Tennessee Williams, going on all the talk shows and being just as queer as they could possibly be, with no secrets whatsoever.

So by the time I was writing and starting to be recognized, it was accepted that a gay man could be a serious artist, and a serious artist could be a gay man without it harming anyone. It was no longer alarming.

By now my brothers and sisters—I have two half brothers and two sisters—they all know and think nothing of it. Well, I shouldn't say that. I have no idea what they think of it.

The two boys and one of the girls who've never met are living in California and the other sister is an Assembly of God gal. She's one of the only real Christians I've ever met in my life. She's actually a fabulous person, but she's very much Christian Right. So we don't talk about politics or sex or much of anything.

HS: So your ties to the Midwest are gone?

LW: Yeah. Except in my mind. Except for what I write.

HS: Isn't playwriting an interesting career choice, in that it is an artistic medium where you must rely on the contributions of other people?

LW: Well, only in the interpretation of it, or in the presentation of it.

HS: With that in mind, is it more fulfilling for you just to get a play written, or is it really not done until it is produced?

LW: Not done. Not done until it's produced, for me. The rehearsal process is my favorite part.

HS: Really?

LW: Yeah. I love actors. Oh, God—just adore them. Umm... actresses, too, are okay.

HS: I thought a playwright might dread the rehearsal process.

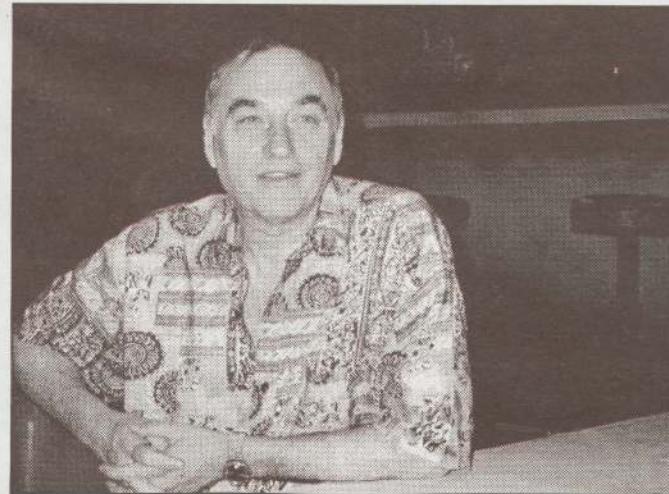
LW: Oh, it drives me crazy of course. But it's a very exciting

time for me.

Hey—what did we say my plays are about? Looking for an extended family. And that's where it is! It's in all these people contributing something to the play and then going out and drinking together every night.

They have the same process that a writer does. They have to say, What in my life can I draw from in order to say that line? In order to know the depth of this moment? Or the shallowness, the silliness of this moment? So it's fun to watch them. I've given them a tool, basically, to investigate a certain aspect of their lives. And it's just great fun, I really enjoy it a lot.

It's, you know, "We're Putting on a Play!"



Lanford Wilson on the set of his play *Balm In Gilead*—currently in production at ASU.

was just terrific and he was only going to be there for a few days. He was house sitting, and there were two girls that were invited along. He invited them for cover.

And when I was so drunk that I had to lie down, he told them they could leave. And I was with him for 20 hours or something like that. Sobered up real quick. And it was very much like going to New York, it was just—you know, the shoe dropped. "That's what's been going on all this time. Well, that's a relief."

And it was a relief. It was never anything I was the least bit sorry about. I would have been a lousy father. I'd have been just as bad as my father was. And so I never felt any regret at all, and had little confusion about it. Except for when I went back home to Missouri.

HS: Does being gay contribute to your talent at all?

LW: Do I know? I don't know. I

Lanford Wilson's new play, *Book of Days*, will be performed in a staged reading at ASU on April 29 & 30. For information, call (480) 965-6447.

Harkins Theatres

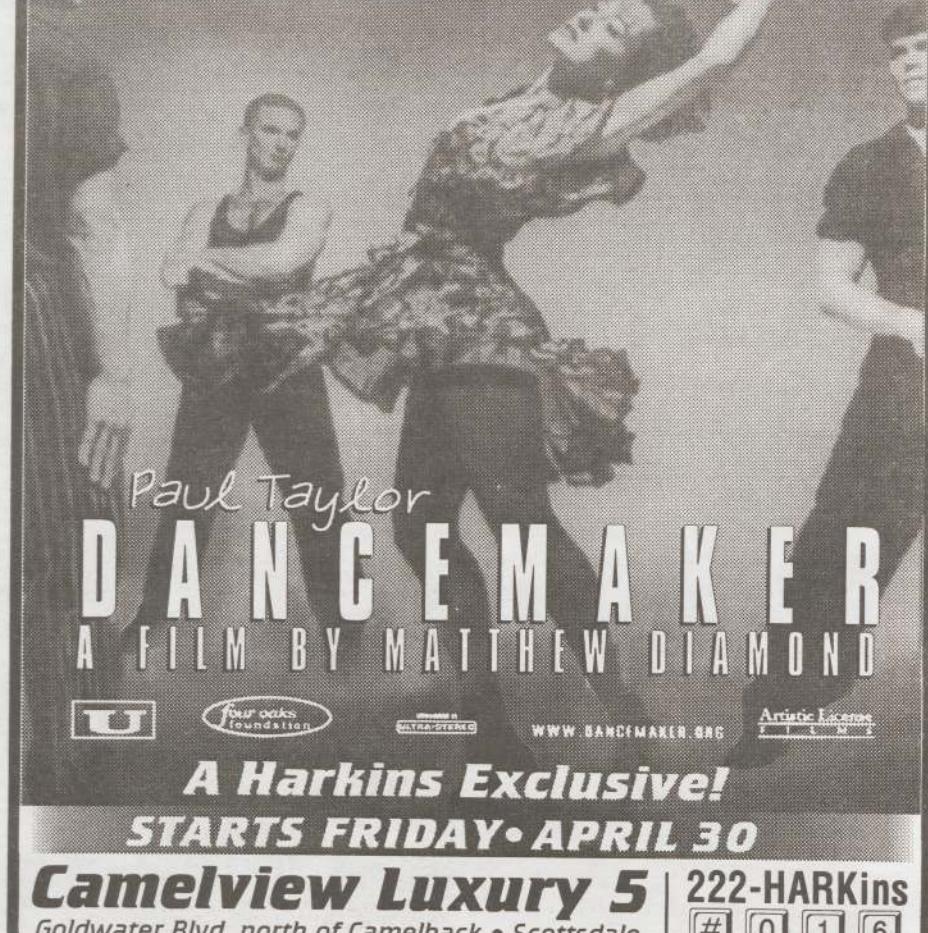
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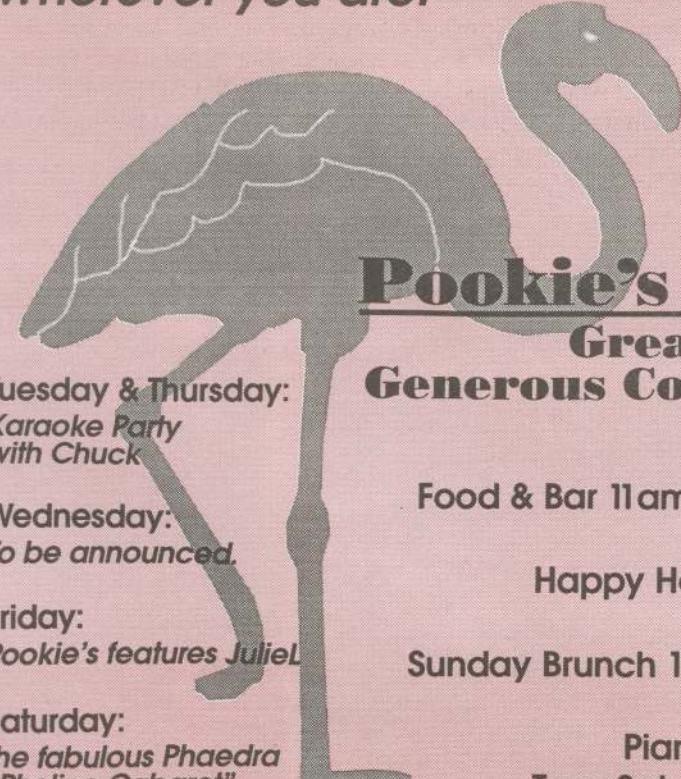
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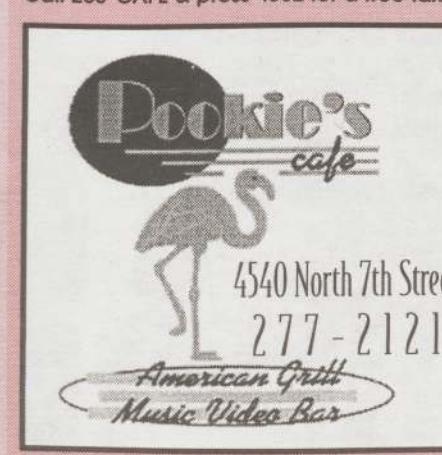
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Breathe Normally at Gammage April 24

Academy Award winning actress and erstwhile Steel Magnolia Olympia Dukakis joined forces with choreographers Margaret Jenkins and Ellie Klopp to create *Breathe Normally*, a ground breaking new work that explodes the myths of aging and delves into the chaos of transitions that all adults—but especially women—experience as they mature.

Dukakis' recorded voice narrates the work, and stories from the actress' own life form the basis for the narration.

Breathe Normally will take the stage at ASU's Gammage Auditorium for one show only, Saturday, April 24 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$9 - \$29

and are available by calling (480) 965-3434.



Line up for IMCO's "healthy" comedy

Lisa Loomer's smart and disturbing comedy, *The Waiting Room*, will wrap the 98-99 season for Phoenix's In Mixed Company ensemble, opening May 6 at PlayWright's Theatre.

The play is a wild ride through medical and sexual politics that explores the timeless quest for beauty. This production features Robyn Allen, Angelica Frost, Michelle Gardner, Kevin Kerrigan, Alan

Plado, Mel Reid, Timothy Lopez Rogers, Vique Rojas and D. Scott Withers. Jean Thomsen, who helmed IMCO's *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, will direct.

The play runs through May 22 at 1121 North 1st Street in downtown Phoenix. Tickets are \$16.50. Call (602)252-8497 for show times and reservations.

Come along for deride: Rudy's back!

Traveling showman Rudy de la Mor returns to Phoenix for a two-night-only engagement at Pookie's, April 25 & 26, at 7:30 pm both nights.

With his box full of hats and mouthful of insults, the wacky de la Mor has been donning his caftans, hurling his jibes and pleasing audiences on the gay piano bar circuit for longer than even he can remember. And he ain't young.

Call Pookie's at (602)277-2121—reservations are recommended. The Cafe is located at 4540 North 7th Street in Phoenix.



GLAAD Alert

Los Angeles billboard promotes homophobia

In the first week of April, community members in Los Angeles were perplexed by the sight of billboards that read—"Do You Know If Your Son's Coach is Gay?" They were uncertain whether this was a piece of religious extremist propaganda or an ironic campaign from a coalition of southern California gay bars.

GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Scott Seomin learned that it was neither, but rather a local advertising campaign conceived by Los Angeles talk-radio station KFI-AM, and implemented by the billboard company, Outdoor Systems. GLAAD met with both Outdoor Systems and the radio station, as well as local area merchants who lease the space to Outdoor Systems, educating each on the implications of such a campaign.

Considering that the other billboards read, "Do You Trust Your Babysitter?" and "Who is Reading Your E-mail?" this particular billboard campaign was obviously designed to exploit people's fears. The billboard in question employed stereotypes, reinforcing fears that might be manifested by violence towards gay men.

"Even after discussions with GLAAD, KFI-AM failed to consider that its listeners might be offended by the campaign, and refused to remove the billboards. Outdoor Systems thought differently. After receiving concerned phone calls from area merchants, they registered GLAAD's complaint that the banners were dangerous, ultimately complying with our request to take down the offending matter," said Seomin.

Please write KFI-AM and let them know that provocative advertising campaigns need not be offensive. In addition, please commend Outdoor Systems for accepting responsibility as an exhibitor. Contact:

- Stewart Turner, Marketing Director at KFI-AM, 610 South Ardmore Avenue, LA, 90005.
- Dennis Kuhl, and account executive, Carol Lewis at Outdoor Systems, 1731 Workman Street, LA 90031

Homicide's Bayliss faces bi-phobia on the force

In two recent episodes of NBC's GLAAD Media Award-nominated *Homicide: Life on the Street*, Detective Tim Bayliss (Kyle Secor) has been tested as he has tried to come to terms with being openly bisexual, a Buddhist and a cop.

As he has personally grown more at ease with his sexuality, his private life has been subject to professional scrutiny. Just as the show has been praised by law enforcement agencies for accurately depicting life on the homicide beat, it has sensitively scripted Bayliss' vulnerable position as a bisexual.

On the March 26 episode, when Bayliss visits a uniformed—and closeted—officer, after having had a drink with him at a gay bar, he is threatened by the officer who says, "Leave me alone or I'll kick your faggot ass." From that point on, he must contend with officers who view him as a predator, and see his honesty "as flaunting" his sexuality.

On the April 2 episode, Bayliss joins an investigation after a Buddhist monk is found murdered. While he

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

regains the trust of his fellow officer Mildrick Lewis (Clark Johnson) for solving the case, he remains at a crossroads, uncertain of how to accommodate his professional and personal lives.

Please watch and thank *Homicide: Life on the Street* for providing viewers with thought-provoking, groundbreaking television.

Contact: Mssrs. Barry Levinson, Tom Fontana and Jim Finnerty, Executive Producers, *Homicide*, c/o NBC Studios, 330 Bob Hope Dr., Burbank, CA 91523

Washington Post columnist calls for appointment

In an April 6, 1999 column for the *Washington Post* Geneva Overholser questions where Americans stand with regard to full acceptance of homosexuality.

While she acknowledges the work of sociologist Alan Wolfe, whose concept of "homosexual exception" speaks to misconceptions Americans continue to have regarding the practices of sexual minorities, Overholser asserts that a clear majority of Americans do support equal access to employment, housing, and job protection for all.

She then follows this observation with an endorsement of openly gay James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg. [In 1997, Hormel's nomination was scuttled at the hands of Jesse Helms; his name was resubmitted in January, 1999.] Overholser advocates for Hormel saying, "[Trent] Lott should listen to the people on this one. Even for a gay man, when it comes to job applications, live and let live is the rule."

Please thank the *Washington Post* for publishing this articulate editorial.

Contact: Meg Greenfield, Editor, Editorial Page, *Washington Post*, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20071-0002, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

Salsa teaches tolerance

In the March 30 *Los Angeles Times*, columnist Agustin Gurza wryly recounts his experience partnering with a male salsa dance teacher, and tries to explain why Latino elected representatives who are heterosexual have supported legislation that benefits the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

While he does not dispute that Latino culture has had a tradition of being conservative, Catholic, and aggressively heterosexual, he believes that a younger segment of the population is open-minded and perceives the issue to be one of civil rights. While two Latino assemblymen have been targeted by one Art Pedroza, Jr. and have been charged as being "anti-family," Gurza returns to the example of his dance class, affirming that if you can "come to admire those guys who can do both parts, dancing the male role in reverse," then you can begin to understand the mindset that supports full citizenship for all.

Please thank the *Los Angeles Times* for providing its readers with this witty and erudite column.

Contact Michael Parks, Managing Editor, *Los Angeles Times*, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053, fax: 213.237.7679, e-mail: letters@latimes.com

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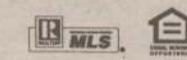
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AP Associated Press

My Queer Life

Prom Queen

By Michael Thomas Ford, HeatStroke Contributor

Spring is traditionally the time for high schools across the country to hold that most agonizing of teenage experiences—the senior prom.

As planning committees perfect the art of making tissue paper roses and fight over choosing *The Times of Our Lives* or *An End and a Beginning* as the theme, girls fret about what to wear and boys wonder if they'll get lucky.

Things were a little more agonizing than usual this year for 18-year-old Charles Rice, a senior at Taylor High School in Pierson, Florida.

Charles, who is gay, not only had to worry about what to wear, he had to be concerned with dancing in heels. Putting a new twist on an old theme, Charles attended his prom in full drag, which featured a stunning red satin evening gown and rhinestone accessories.

Not surprisingly, this did not go unnoticed. When Charles's plans were first announced, school officials told him he would be barred from the event "for his own protection," even though he had appeared in drag at several school functions before with no negative results.

They later reversed the decision when Rice threatened legal action.

When I read about Charles, I found myself thinking back to my

own high school days, when Carla Becker wore a tuxedo to the prom. Carla, who played left field on the softball team and wore her hair in the prototypical dyke haircut of long in back and short all around, brought as her date a femme who came in the traditional gaudy dress with too many bows and too-big hair.

The two of them danced the night away to the sounds of "I've Had the Time of My Life" while everyone applauded their individuality, never once considering that they might be more than gal pals poking fun at prom culture.

I didn't get to see Carla and her date in person. Being the school fag, I didn't find things like dances to be wonderful opportunities for social interaction. Even though some of my female friends begged me to go with them to save them from other, less-appealing options, I opted to stay home and think about how much above it all I was.

But I heard about it afterwards in a long, breathless phone call from my friend Rebecca, who recounted what everyone was wearing and just how slutty Mary Lou Ackerby looked after she'd given John Kernans head in the parking lot and came back with her lipstick smeared and an oil stain on her dress.

I did get a chance to experience a prom first hand, but it wasn't until

my sophomore year in college, when my friend Leslie invited me to be her date to the spring formal.

This was a big deal at our little religious college. It was to be

held on a boat that sailed around New York, and it would feature music, if not dancing and alcohol, both of which were forbidden to us. Making it even more festive, Leslie and I were double dating with my friend James and a young woman named Vickie.

"What do you mean they don't know?" he said, shocked, when I voiced my suspicions. "How could they *not* know. I mean, I complimented Leslie on her *shoes*, for heaven's sake. How many straight guys would do that?"

There really wasn't anything we could do about the situation except see it through, so we went back to the table and tried to continue on as if nothing were out of the ordinary. Except that something *was* out of the ordinary, and all of us felt it.

Now that I knew Leslie thought we were on an actual date, I felt like it was high school all over again. I didn't belong on that boat, and I didn't want to be there.

To make things even worse, the man I had a heartbreak-ing crush on was there with his girl-friend, looking as handsome as could be in his tux only a few tables away. As Leslie took little disinterested bites of cheesecake, I imagined dancing with the object of my obsession and feeling his big hands on my back.

The rest of the event is something of a blur of strained conversation, nervous laughter, and an awkward ride home. Back at the dorms, as I said goodnight to Leslie, I fumbled with my words while she looked at her feet. Then, perhaps in a last ditch effort to salvage her vision of what the night should have been, she kissed me. It was a restrained romantic effort, wanting to be something more than it could be, and when it was over we quickly went our separate ways.

I might never have had my prom fantasy come true, but I love thinking of Charles Rice dancing the night away, the lights flashing off his rhinestones as he laughed and enjoyed himself with his friends. I'm proud of him—and of all the openly gay young people out there—for being who they are. And I hope at the end of the night, he got kissed by the man of his dreams.



Michael Thomas Ford's new book, *That's Mr. Faggot to You*, will be invading stores next month. He welcomes e-mail at Shopiltee@aol.com.

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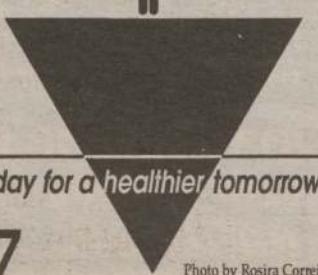


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—Bruce Bagemihl, author of the new 751-page book *Biological Exuberance, Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity*, to the *Hartford [Connecticut] Courant*, March 23.

"I always seem to find myself attached to unavailable men."

—Monica Lewinsky, attending the March 26 London premiere of the film *Gods and Monsters* with its openly gay star, Sir Ian McKellen, to the *London Evening Standard*.

"She was coming to London so I thought it would be nice for her to come and see the film here with me. I am a real admirer of hers. She's a brave, intelligent girl and I think she has come out of it all very well."

—Gay actor Sir Ian McKellen on taking Monica Lewinsky as his date to the March 26 London premiere of his film *God and Monsters*, to the *London Evening Standard*.

"I've never seen *Will & Grace*."

—Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mom, to *Chicago's Outlines*, March 24.

"He's made me such a fan of Tinky-Winky. I'd never seen it, and now when I'm changing channels and I come across it, I watch, and it's so darling. It's the sweetest thing in the world. The man is crazy."

—Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mom, on Jerry Falwell, to *Chicago's Outlines*.

"Cher and Diana Ross and David Bowie were my role models."

—Ru Paul, accepting a special achievement award from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation March 29 in New York City.

"I say to you, walk a mile in my pumps."

—Gay Catholic San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano March 29 as the Board voted to ignore loud Catholic objections and let the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence close Castro Street on Easter Sunday to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

"I can't see love being a bad thing. Lust is different. But if you're in love, you've got to follow your heart and trust that God will explain to us why we sometimes fall in love with people

of the same sex. Judgment Day is coming, and I ain't going to be the one standing over people up there."

—Country singer Garth Brooks to *George* magazine, April issue.

"My people call it the gay Superbowl."

—Movie reviewer Frank DeCaro on his Oscar preview show *Frank DeCaro's Out At The Movies Fabulous Big "O" Buffet*, on Comedy Central.

"Why is the cue-card guy wearing a thong?"

—Jon Stewart of Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* appearing on openly gay movie reviewer Frank DeCaro's *Out At The Movies Fabulous Big "O" Buffet*, on Comedy Central.

"Tom Hanks and his all-boy glee club go to Europe for the same reason all of us go to Europe—to bring home a man."

—Openly gay movie reviewer Frank DeCaro on *Saving Private Ryan*, on *Frank DeCaro's Out At The Movies Fabulous Big "O" Buffet*.

"In the beginning, when people got AIDS, we didn't know how they got it. But at this point they know, and for lesbians to continue to help people who are purposely infecting each other [via 'barebacking']—I think that's being codependent. It's enabling behavior that destroys people."

—Millennium March on Washington Executive Producer Robin Tyler to the *Advocate*, April 13.

"Perhaps [HIV] prevention should be about fear [again]. Maybe if, instead of just seeing hot bodies having sex, people saw and read about the difficult drug regimens, the hunchbacks, the fat deposits, the soaring cholesterol levels, the nausea, and the diarrhea, it might make them think more about staying safe. Maybe if people saw, through prevention efforts, real-life stories of those for whom the drugs don't work, people who are desperately trying everything to no avail, there might be a change in behavior [away from 'barebacking']. Maybe if people saw in safe-sex campaigns how those infected with drug-resistant strains of HIV spiral downward quickly into sickness, it might affect their decisions around bareback sex."

—Author Michelangelo Signorile writing in the April 13 *Advocate*.

"Giftgiving is a real turn on for me. You would be surprised how many guys want me to fuck them just because I am poz. I have pozzed 3 confirmed over my 14 years of known HIV+ status but countless others [also] as I rarely use latex. There are quite a few of us around who are really into it. [My lover] has an idea about how I enjoy it as he has heard

me talk to guys as I infect them with my death cum but he has no idea how much of a turn on it is. I am a twisted fucker huh. One limit I do have though is that if anyone asks my status, which these days is rare, I always tell them the truth. Are you and [your partner] into it? Or have I totally turned your stomach?"

—From e-mail correspondence between the author of this quotes column and a barebacker whom the author chatted with in person a day earlier at a San Diego gay bar beer bust.

old V-8 commercial. As if this act didn't pass, heterosexual men all over the country would say, [smack] 'I could've married a guy!"

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass, in an April 2 speech at the University of Texas Law School.

"The lesbians were our first fans, especially the lesbian community in New York City. They're the ones who started the underground buzz about us. They really gave Xena a groove."

—Actress Lucy Lawless, star of *Xena: Warrior Princess*, to *TV Guide*, April 10.

"There was a big petition on the Internet to have Seven be the first lesbian on Star Trek. Then somebody issued a fake press release announcing it was going to happen. Then all the fans got disappointed when it didn't. Well, not everyone. I don't know that mainstream America is ready for it. But who knows? My character is exploring all aspects of humanity—and sexuality is certainly one of those aspects—so it wouldn't surprise me if lesbianism is touched on. Seven would be the obvious character to explore it with. Our show is about acceptance and shedding prejudice."

—Actress Jeri Ryan, *Seven of Nine* on *Star Trek: Voyager*, to *TV Guide*, April 10.

"PlanetOut's 216,454 registered members alone number more than the circulations of *Out* magazine, the *Advocate*, *Curve* magazine and *Genre* combined."

—From a March 24 press release from Tom Rielly, founder of www.planetout.com.

"The NRA [National Rifle Association] is the most influential political organization in the country, and I don't remember the last time they had a demonstration or parade."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass, in an April 2 speech at the University of Texas Law School.

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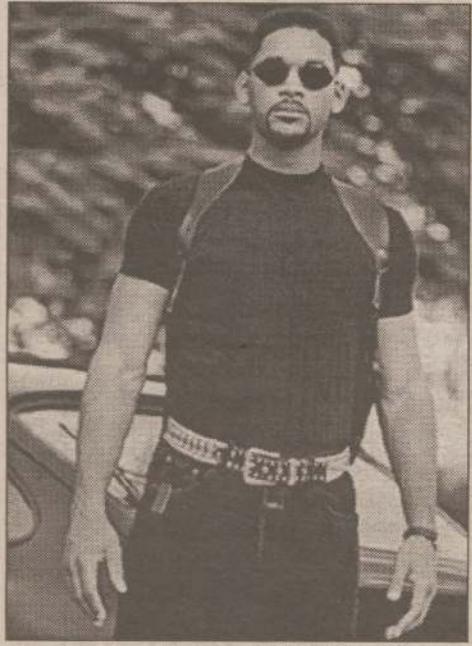
Hollywood Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

Gettin' Homo With It

In what could prove to be the priciest gay-themed comedy of all time, Universal Pictures is attempting to zero in on deals with hunky Hollywood heteros **Will Smith** and **Nicolas Cage** to star in *I Now Pronounce You Joe and Benny*. The film is being developed by veteran comedy director **Tom Shadyac**, who's responsible for the mega-hits *Ace Ventura* and *Patch Adams*.

The plot focuses on two single fire-



Another gay role is in Will Smith's future: he's lined up to play opposite Nicolas Cage in the forthcoming *I Now Pronounce You Joe and Benny*.

fighters of the heterosexual persuasion—a widower with kids (Academy Award-winner Cage) and a slick-talking ladies' man (that would be Big Willie)—who, after a brush with death, decide to marry each other for insurance benefits for the kids.

With a hot script by **Barry Fanaro** (who wrote *King Pin*), the project has *Birdcage*-like blockbuster potential written all over it.

But such a high-profile pic could cost a fortune before making it to the alter, as Shadyac, Cage, and The Artist Formerly Known As The Fresh Prince all require huge up-front fees and a huge chunk of the back-end (uh, no pun intended).

We're waiting to see if Will will balk at kissing Cage; he reportedly had some trouble sucking face with a guy in his last homo role, in *Six Degrees of Separation*.

Are You There, Alanis? It's Me, God.

Disney, the film studio that prides itself on its squeaky-clean Kathie Lee kinda image, is in bit of a bind.

Disney is the parent company of Miramax, the production entity behind such independent film hits as *Shakespeare in Love* and *Scream*, as well as filmmaker Kevin Smith's "never fall in love with a lesbian if you're a hetero male" cautionary tale *Chasing Amy*, a hit with audiences and critics alike.

Miramax has financed Smith's latest effort, a scathing religious satire called *Dogma* that features the unorthodox casting choice of femme rocker Alanis Morissette as God. The hot cast also includes Ben Affleck, Matt Dillon, and Chris Rock.

Dogma is chock full of protest-worthy subject matter, such as renegade angels cavorting with a stripper and a relative of Jesus who works in an abortion clinic. It's the stuff NC-17 ratings are made of.

Miramax is no stranger to religious controversy; the company released *Priest* in 1995, about a gay clergyman. But its agreement with the Mouse House doesn't allow it to release any films with an NC-17 rating domestically.

In the past, Miramax has formed a different domestic company to release niche pictures, but *Dogma* is a different beast, since it's rumored to have the makings of a crossover hit. To be fair to Kevin Smith, the Miramax honchos intend to buy back the film from Disney and resell the domestic distribution rights to a third party, most likely Universal or Paramount, while holding onto the international rights.

Is it Cher or is it Memorex?

Cher (who's been reinventing herself since before Madonna was eating out of garbage cans) is once again the toast of gay dance clubs and gyms with her dance hit "Believe" in über-heavy rotation.

The diva recently made an appearance at the gay-themed White Party in Palm Springs... or did she? While major news sources reported the former Mrs. Bono showing up in the wee hours of the a.m. to perform her new single "Strong Enough", a source close to the show (one of the few pre-

sent at the fest who was sober through the evening) wasn't convinced.

He said it wasn't the diva performing but a Cher impersonator, adding fuel to the rumors that Chastity's mama hires out an approved reasonable facsimile when she doesn't want to perform.

Pamela Anderson Lee-sbian?

Shock jock and lesbian-booster **Howard Stern** is reportedly close to seeing his labor-of-love, *Fartman*, make it to the big screen.

Writer **J.F. Lawton**, who counts *Pretty Woman* and *Under Siege* among his many credits, began the project years ago and has finally managed to regain control of his script.

Stern, who played himself in the autobiopic *Private Parts*, has long wanted to take on the role of Clyde Flatiron, an aspiring tabloid journalist who becomes a marked man when he exposes the evil doings of a ruthless realtor. When thugs contaminate his high colonic with a potent combo of nuclear ingredients, Flatiron's digestive tract becomes the gastrointestinal version of an atomic reactor.

No great superhero is complete without a Lois Lane-like love interest, and *Fartman* is no exception—except, in classic Stern fashion, his love interest is a lesbian.

Pamela Anderson, whose syndie hit *VIP* is executive produced by Lawton, is the frontrunner for the



Pamela Anderson may play the lesbian love interest in Howard Stern's *Fartman*.

role. Naysayers think that Ms. Anderson's flamboyant heterosexuality (as witnessed in her bestselling honeymoon video) makes the part a stretch for the buxom beauty, but let's not forget: the woman's a professional.

Jodie and Mel, Together Again

Jodie Foster and Mel Gibson,

who proved they had no chemistry in *Maverick*, are gonna try it again.

Paramount Pictures has forked over a hefty sum for the dark comedy-slash-action script *Mace and Mardi* for Foster (an icon in the lesbian community) and Gibson (who's not exactly gay-friendly) to co-produce and co-star in.

The story focuses on a neurotic married couple who work as bounty hunters. While undergoing marriage counseling, they decide they want to quit the business—only to realize they've got to hunt their asses off (so to speak) to finance their retirement.

Also up for Jodie: a possible reprise of her Academy Award-winning role of Clarice Starling in the long-awaited sequel to author **Thomas Harris's** *The Silence of the Lambs*.

Ten years after the original book was written, Harris has turned in a sequel, which will be published in June. Universal has first dibs on the book, which every studio in town wants. Both Foster and **Anthony Hopkins**, who won an Academy Award for his role as fava-bean loving flesh-eater Hannibal Lecter, have expressed interest in revisiting their roles.

Bringing back *Silence*, though, won't be as easy as it seems. The original flick was made back in '90 for less than \$30 million; the sequel could cost well over \$100 million to reach the big screen, largely because of Foster's and Hopkins' mega-salaries.

Campy Collaboration

Gay writer and *To Wong Foo* scribe **Douglas Carter Beane's** semi-autobiographical play *As Bees In Honey Drown* is getting closer to the big screen, now that campy director **P.J. Hogan** (who helmed both *Muriel's* and *My Best Friend's* weddings) has committed to the project.

Bees tells the tale of a recently unknown writer who's high-profile project catapults him into the crazy fame game.

Bearded Lady and Gent

The latest rumor around town? That veteran *Washington Post* writer **David Richards** is finishing up a screenplay about a highly photogenic Hollywood couple whose love is a ruse; the two go so far as to do explicit love scenes together to hide their homosexuality.

Hmm... my guess is the story isn't inspired by **Pamela Anderson** and **Tommy Lee**.

Romeo San Vicente's honeymoon video can't be purchased anywhere. You can contact Romeo in care of HeatStroke or e-mail RomeoDeep@aol.com.

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Out of Town

By Andrew Collins



New York City on a Budget

You may think it impossible to tackle Manhattan without spending a fortune—hotel rates in the Big Apple average about \$300 nightly, dinner for two at a fine restaurant can easily total another \$300, drinks at many bars are \$7 to \$10 a pop, and good seats to the theater run for \$80 (and that's from the box office rather than a super-expensive broker who specializes in scoring last-minute tickets to hot shows).

It's mind-boggling to think about New York City's exorbitant costs, and most guidebooks and magazines dedicate a good bit of their coverage to the scary prospects of having to dole out \$34 for a bowl of soup at Lespinasse, or \$600 for a basic double room at the Four Seasons.

Don't let the hype deter you, however. If you're looking to stretch your dollar while still experiencing New York in style, a great many deals abound, including several fine gay-friendly accommodations for less than \$100 nightly, and a slew of cheap eateries and queer bars with tempting drink specials.

It's all a matter of digging around a bit and avoiding the tourist traps, favoring instead the funky parts of the city—like the East Village and Chelsea—which also happen to be the city's gayest sections.

Your greatest challenge will be to find a reasonably priced hotel room, so dedicate the bulk of your trip-planning energy to this.

Concentrate your efforts on a handful of downtown properties. Slackers, club kids, and fashion addicts—the city's trendsetters—hole up at Hotel 17, a modest hotel near Union Square with tiny rooms (many shared) but a hip clientele.

Not far away, the Gershwin Hotel is stuffed with faux pop art, photographs of Warhol, groovy furniture, and brightly colored bare-bones rooms (including some common dorm-style accommodations). Expect

a lively, youthful crowd, and take advantage of the rooftop terrace, the wine bar and lounge, and the views of the Empire State Building.

In Chelsea—the very belly of the beast when it comes to experiencing the high-profile queer scene—there are a pair of venerable and reasonably priced queer guesthouses: the Chelsea Pines, an 1850s town house with small but agreeable rooms and a fantastic patio and greenhouse, and the Colonial House Inn, another historic brownstone especially memorable for its art-filled common areas and secluded roof-deck.

For those staying in Chelsea, here's a dining hint: the cruisy Big Cup coffeehouse is a friendly inexpensive option for pastries, burritos, soups, and sandwiches.

Tartine, the top choice for affordable romantic dining is an easy walk south of here, in the West Village. You may have to wait for a table at this immensely popular BYOB purveyor of delicious French bistro fare—endive and goat cheese salad, grilled salmon with a citrus vinaigrette—but this place is first-rate.

Close to the East Village action is Off Soho Suites, a simple spot with brightly decorated suites; this little-known gem is one of the best deals in the city.

From here, you're steps from one of the best discount shopping districts in the land, the Orchard Street Bargain District, where faux leather and jewelry, inexpensive apparel, and various housewares are proffered for next to nothing. (Many stores are operated by Orthodox Jews and are closed on Saturday.)

If you find yourself broke and underfed in the Village on the final night of your vacation in New York, consider heading to Dojo and slumming alongside the unwashed masses of poor college students who come for the cheap and healthful fare. Most of the dishes are meatless, several of them flavorless. The carrot cake, however, is rich and tasty.

In the East Village, Stingy Lulu's is a Formica fantasyland with above-average diner food, and Yaffa Cafe is a funky open-all-night basement

restaurant on St. Marks Place. Lesbian grungettes are commonplace, as are green-haired boys with pierced extremities and drag queens fighting over the last few morsels of the best chocolate mud cake in town.

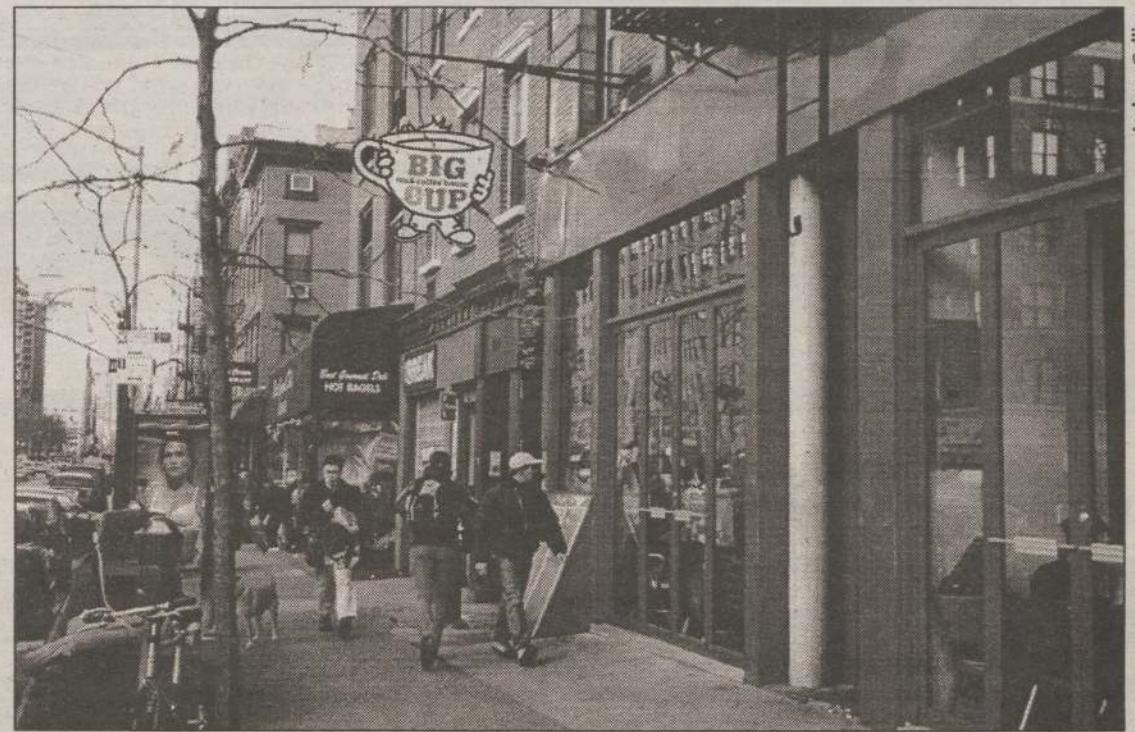
Near Midtown, you'll have to sacrifice the usual creature comforts for a room costing under \$100. Best bets are the Vanderbilt YMCA, whose tiny bare rooms accommodate from one to four persons. The health club is popular, and there's an above-average cafeteria.

Rooms and health club facilities at the West Side YMCA, where Montgomery Clift lived as a young actor, are a bit dowdier than at the Vanderbilt Y, but on the plus side

until show time, but lines can be long.

And now a word about saving money at the clubs. Some gay bars have nice drink specials, which are typically held on weekdays, and most have happy hours—the best ones for dykes are at the grungy East Village boite, Meow Mix.

Gay men who typically suffer nosebleeds north of 23rd Street still flock religiously to the Works, an Upper West Side institution known for its great drink deals, including \$1 margaritas on Thursdays (they taste like very bad lemonade mixed with bottom-shelf tequila, but they get the job done). The Works' sister bar, the Break (in Chelsea), has similar offerings.



The festive Big Cup coffeehouse on Chelsea's 8th Avenue is an ideal spot for inexpensive noshing, sipping and people-watching.

you'll be steps from Lincoln Center and Central Park and close to the subway lines to Chelsea and the West Village.

For a Midtown splurge—but still far less costly than most hotels in the area—stick with the Paramount Hotel, whose minuscule rooms draw the ultrachic, thanks to designer Philippe Starck's clever touches, like quirky conical stainless-steel sinks.

The Paramount is ideal for performing-arts buffs because it's in the heart of Broadway. Although theater tickets aren't cheap through the standard routes, the adventurous can drop by the TKTS booth, a discount, same-day clearinghouse where tickets to major and lesser-known shows often go for as little as half price (cash only). The booth is open from about four hours before most performances

Every hour feels like happy hour at nearby Rawhide, a dark, edgy cruise bar whose bartenders are famous for pouring out stiff and cheap drinks.

If you happen to be very cute and completely comfortable bumming free drinks off deep-pocketed admirers, Midtown is the place for you.

The best bets for aspiring Holly Golightly's are the swank Townhouse, for gay men, and nearby Julie's, for lesbians.

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

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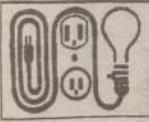
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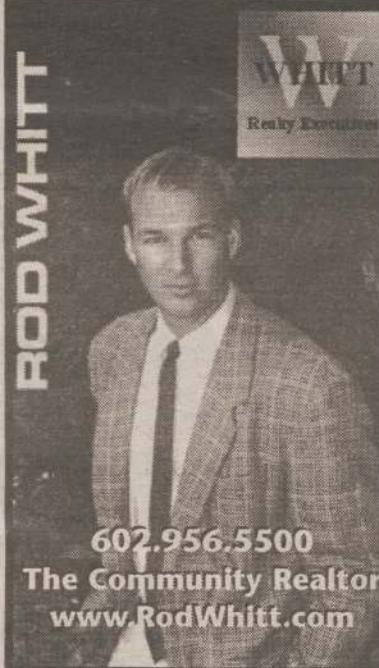
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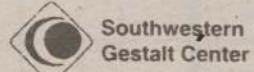
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Send your questions to "Dear Cowboy," c/o HeatStroke, P.O. Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ, or e-mail to alkaphx@aol.com — we'll pass them along to the wise one for you.

Dear Cowboy,

What do you think children (say 7 to 11 years old) should know about the differences and similarities between homosexuality and heterosexuality?

Your no nonsense and ability not to squint in the sun (or in this case, wince at a difficult question) are just what this city slicker could use.

Signed, Uncle Stumped in Tempe

Dear Uncle,

The best thing we gay and lesbian cowpokes can do is to set an out-of-the-closet example for our nieces and

nephews by being as frank and open as possible in front of them from day one.

Do you talk candidly about same-sex dating with your adult relatives, then lower your voice or leave holes in your sentences when the kids are around? Do you think twice about the slogans or symbols on your T-shirts when you visit them, or hide "out" things in your hacienda when they come over?

If you've been covering up anything, chances are you've been sending the younguns a subliminal message of shame these past 7 or 11

years—or maybe you haven't been out yourself until recently. No problem, there's plenty of time to mend that fence.

A general rule when it comes to telling little ones about sex is that if they've got the gumption to ask, then they deserve the honest truth—no matter how old they are or how astonishing their questions might seem to us grown-ups. But the trouble with the "tell-when-they-ask" theory is that many kids will never inquire about sex at all—at least, not in so many words.

So try prompting a few questions. Sit down with each of the kids and one parent (the one that's your sibling, I'd expect) and ask them individually (so they won't be influenced by another kid's reaction) what he or she knows or thinks about gay men

and women. Explain that same-sex relationships and sexual acts (be prepared to be specific about those—you'd be surprised what even a seven-yr-old might have already heard) are perfectly natural for many people, including you. There are some great books that should help, geared toward all different reading levels—call the folks at Obelisk for suggestions.

It's never too early. These days, any 7 to 11 year-old can turn on MTV's *Spring Break* and get a half-hour, heterosexual-only biology lesson. They'll be teens before you know it and the sooner they understand that not every teenage boy and girl is going to be wildly attracted to the opposite sex, the better for them and everybody they encounter along the trail.

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A. **Pookie's**
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3. **Apollo's** 5749 N. 7th Street Phoenix 277-9373
4. Boot Camp 3702 N. 7th St. Phoenix 212-9888
5. BS 7125 5th Avenue Scottsdale 945-9028
6. The Bunkhouse 4428 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix
7. **Cash Inn** 2140 E. McDowell Phoenix 244-9943
8. **Charlie's** 727 W. Camelback Phoenix 265-0224
9. Club Roxy 4343 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix 285-9200

10. Crowbar 702 N. Central Ave. Phoenix 258-8343
11. Cruisin' Central 1011 N. Central Ave. Phoenix 253-3376
12. The Rose 44301 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix 265-3233
13. Harley's Club 155 Harley's Too! 155 & 125 W. Camelback Phoenix 274-8505
14. Incognito 2424 E. Thomas Phoenix 955-9805
15. JC's Fun One 5542 N. 43rd Ave. Glendale 939-0528
16. Johnny Mc's 138 W. Camelback Phoenix 266-0875
17. Marlys' 15615 Cave Creek Phoenix 867-2463
18. Millennium 2001 3300 S. Price Rd. Tempe 756-2445
19. **Nasty's Sports Bar** 3108 E. McDowell Phoenix 267-8707
20. **NuTowne** 5002 E. Van Buren Phoenix 267-9959
21. Paco Paco 3045 N. 16th St. Phoenix 263-8424
22. The Park 3002 N. 24th Street Phoenix 957-6055
23. Roscoe's on 7th 4531 N. 7th St. Phoenix 285-0833
24. Padlock 998 E. Indian School Phoenix 266-5640
25. 307 Lounge 222 E. Roosevelt Phoenix 252-0001
26. TRAX 1724 E. McDowell Phoenix 254-0231
27. Waterhole 8830 N. 43rd Ave. Glendale 937-3139
28. Wink's 5707 N. 7th St. Phoenix 265-9002
29. Scandals 4132 E. McDowell Phoenix 275-3509
30. **The Adult Shoppe** 111 S. 24th Street Phoenix 306-1130 2345 W. Holly St. Phoenix 253-7126
31. **The Barn Adult Shop** 5021 W. Indian School Phoenix 245-3008
32. **Book Cellar** 4029 E. Washington Phoenix 275-0015 (other Valley locations)
33. Castle Boutique 5501 E. Washington Phoenix 231-9837 (3 other Valley locations)
34. **Obelisk Books** 24 West Camelback Phoenix 266-Book
35. Movies on Central 4700 N. Central #121 Phoenix 274-0994
36. **Tuff Stuff** 1714 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix 254-9651
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 Pavilion 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

Tubs

40. **Chute** 1440 E. Indian School Phoenix 234-1654

41. **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

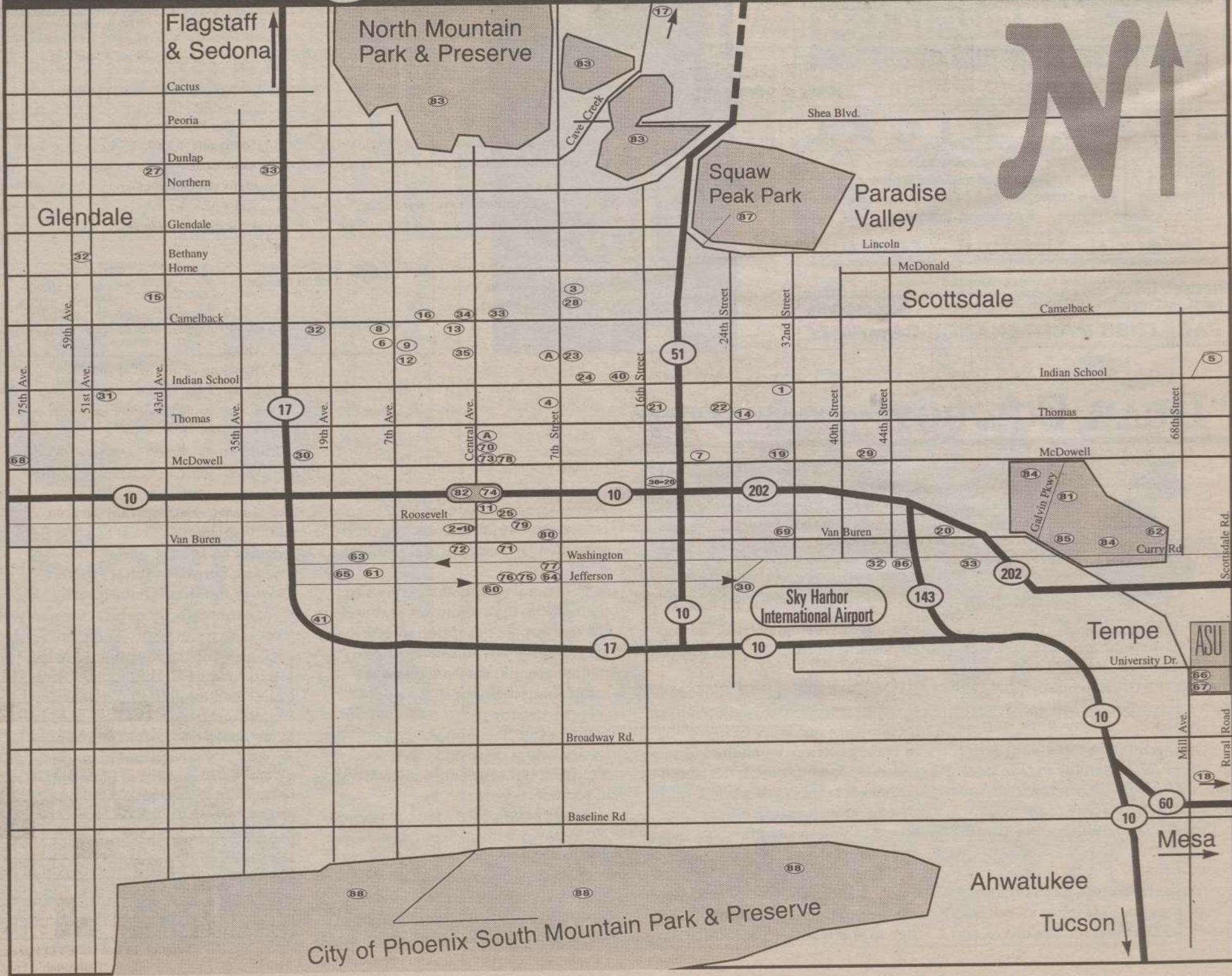
64. AZ Science Center 600 E. Washington Phoenix 716-2000

65. AZ State Capitol Museum 1700 W. Washington Phoenix 542-4675

Staples

30. **The Adult Shoppe** 111 S. 24th Street Phoenix 306-1130 2345 W. Holly St. Phoenix 253-7126
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Finding it in Phoenix



Directory of Community Services

Aids Services

AGAPE Network
P.O. Box 32778
Phoenix, AZ 85064 234-6143

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

A Place Called Home
3431 W. Thunderbird #13-403
Phoenix, AZ 85023 942-1572

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

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

AZ AIDS Services for the Deaf
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Phoenix, AZ 85012 265-9953

Aunt Rita's Foundation
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Coalition of Meal Providers
992-6593

HIV Care Directions
1366 E. Thomas #105
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Indian Community Health Serv.
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Joshua Tree Feeding Program
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Maricopa County Health Dept.
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Phoenix, AZ 85016 277-7526

Phx. Body Positive
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Phoenix, AZ 85016 955-4673

Phx. Shanti Group
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Phoenix, AZ 85015 279-0008

Terros, Inc.
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Wellness Center
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Phoenix, AZ 85016 864-0710

American Civil Liberties Union
P.O. Box 17148
Phoenix, AZ 85011 650-1967

Arizona Central Pride
P.O. Box 16847
Phoenix, AZ 85011 279-1771

Arizona Human Rights Fund
P.O. Box 25044
Phoenix, AZ 85002 650-0900

Arizonans for Fairness
P.O. Box 34766
Phoenix, AZ 85067 265-7283

AZ Democratic Party
Gay & Lesbian Caucus
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Phoenix, AZ 85004 257-9136

Feminist Lesbian Activist
Coalition
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Tempe, AZ 85285 966-4521

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness
Project
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Phoenix, AZ 85082 351-3080

Log Cabin Republicans
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Phoenix, AZ 85082 428-3596

Maricopa Cty. Libertarian Party
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Girth and Mirth of AZ
P.O. Box 16605
Phoenix, AZ 85011 655-8229

The Leatherlords
254-9651

Lesbian & Gay Alanon
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Phoenix, AZ 85006 548-0936

Lesbian & Gay Overeaters Anon.
607-7640;
cave4bear@hotmail.com

Los Amigos del Sol (LADS)
PO Box 27335
Phoenix, AZ 85061 997-2411

Parents & Friends of Lesbians
and Gays
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Phoenix, AZ 85069 843-1404

The Phoenix Bears
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Tempe, AZ 85068 216-8000

Community Church of Hope
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Phoenix, AZ 85014 234-2180

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TRIBE
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Phoenix, AZ 85012 266-7233

The Community Center
and Youth Services
265-7283

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24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C
PO Box 33367
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

Professional Organizations

Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 2097
Phoenix, AZ 85001 225-8444

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

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

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

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

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association
P.O. Box 16363
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P.O. Box 60953
Phoenix, AZ 85082 222-8664

Gentle Shepherd MCC
7810 N. 27th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85051 864-6404

Desert Adventures
PO Box 2008
Phoenix, AZ 85001 266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares
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Gay League Association of Darts
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Alliance (PUGBA)
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Phoenix, AZ 85064 246-9643

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

Team Arizona
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Phoenix, AZ 85067

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43 www.gaymen.com, for one

46 *Billy Budd* composer making tracks?

53 Charlie Chaplin's fourth wife

54 Stripling

55 Unwelcome gift from a lover

56 *The Front Runner* novelist getting lucky?

62 Suffix with cyan

63 ___ & The Gang ("Celebration" singers)

64 Attacks enthusiastically

68 Peeples of MTV

69 Jacob's hairy twin

70 Stop on an organ

71 Get hard

72 One to watch out for, according to Alison Bechdel

73 It may be beaten or bucked

DOWN

1 Yoko of *Double Fantasy*

2 Openly gay *Frasier* actor Butler

3 Suffix of ordinal numbers

4 Do it a la Austin Powers

5 Least loony

6 To ___ (alternating from one place to another)

7 Not out

8 *Doing Time on Maple Drive* director Ken

9 He played a cross-dressing *M*A*S*H* character

10 See 48-Down

11 Chew ___ (chat)

12 Separated, in music

13 *The Glimmer Man* star ___ Ivory Wayans

21 *Jaws* sighting

22 Swampland

23 Sgt. or cpl.

24 Heavyweight great

25 ___ monster (large lizard)

29

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Q S C O P E S

By Jill Dearman, HeatStroke
Contributor

ARIES: This is a good week to make money and to spend money, sweets. Mercury joins generous Jupiter in your sign in late April, and that bodes well if you want to make incredible connections with important people. A Cancer could help your career or love life.

TAURUS: Your love life should definitely get hotter as April draws to a close, just be sure to articulate your feelings to your number one gal or guy. Neptune squares Saturn in your sign, so strive for extra clarity. You have the power to get what you want, especially with an Aquarius.

GEMINI: You may have to make some compromises on your job while Mars is retrograde in the work sector of your chart. Choose your battles. The Sun is stirring up significant symbolism and metaphors as it transits your house of the unconscious. Another Gemini can help interpret.

CANCER: Saturn squaring Neptune could place extra pressure on your closest relationships. There's no middle ground, honey. Choose sides and stick to them. It would help however, if you toot your own horn (in a classy, restrained way, of course). An Aries likes the way you give orders.

LEO: Mars is retrograde in your home sector, which suggests you should act out your fears and fantasies in a safe place. An exciting break in your career could occur in late April or early May, but it's up to you to seize the opportunity, dear Leo. Don't neglect a Taurus, either.

VIRGO: You have a sixth sense about sex these days, Virgo dear. It's as if you can read the most twisted thoughts of a Pisces. Stop talking yourself out of a meaningful relationship. It's inspiration time. If you've been living with a dozen great ideas for months, at last you could figure out which one will bring you what you so righteously deserve.

LIBRA: Life is full of surprises if you look for them, sweetie. This is not the

time to sit home and pine. Instead seek out something real, and *really* hot with another Libra. Mercury and Jupiter conspire to bring you just the right words to turn on pretty much anyone who comes your way.

SCORPIO: Planetary forces are pulling you in many different directions now, but you have the power to put it all into perspective. It's time to act like the alchemist you are and turn concrete creations into magical dreams-true. A Capricorn can put you back in touch with your fantasy life.

SAGITTARIUS: The full moon on the 30th in your house of the unconscious could be the catalyst for some major changes in the way you behave in your intimate relationships. A little humility is good for your psyche right now. A Virgo can put you in your place.

CAPRICORN: Mars retrograde in your friendship house could stir up intensity between you and your pals. Indulge in a cathartic screaming match, then cut to the part where everyone is hugging and loving each other. Sex is especially friendly with a Sag in the days ahead.

AQUARIUS: Venus in the creative sector of your chart is pushing you to do something artistic and liberating. You've been thinking too much, baby. The people closest to you will give you the best advice. There's a Scorpio who cares about more than just your body.

PISCES: Jupiter and Mercury in your house of money promise a nice windfall if you are smart enough to demand the highest price for your services. A Capricorn cares more about your ideas than your bank account. Don't squander your wealth in either area, dearest.

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

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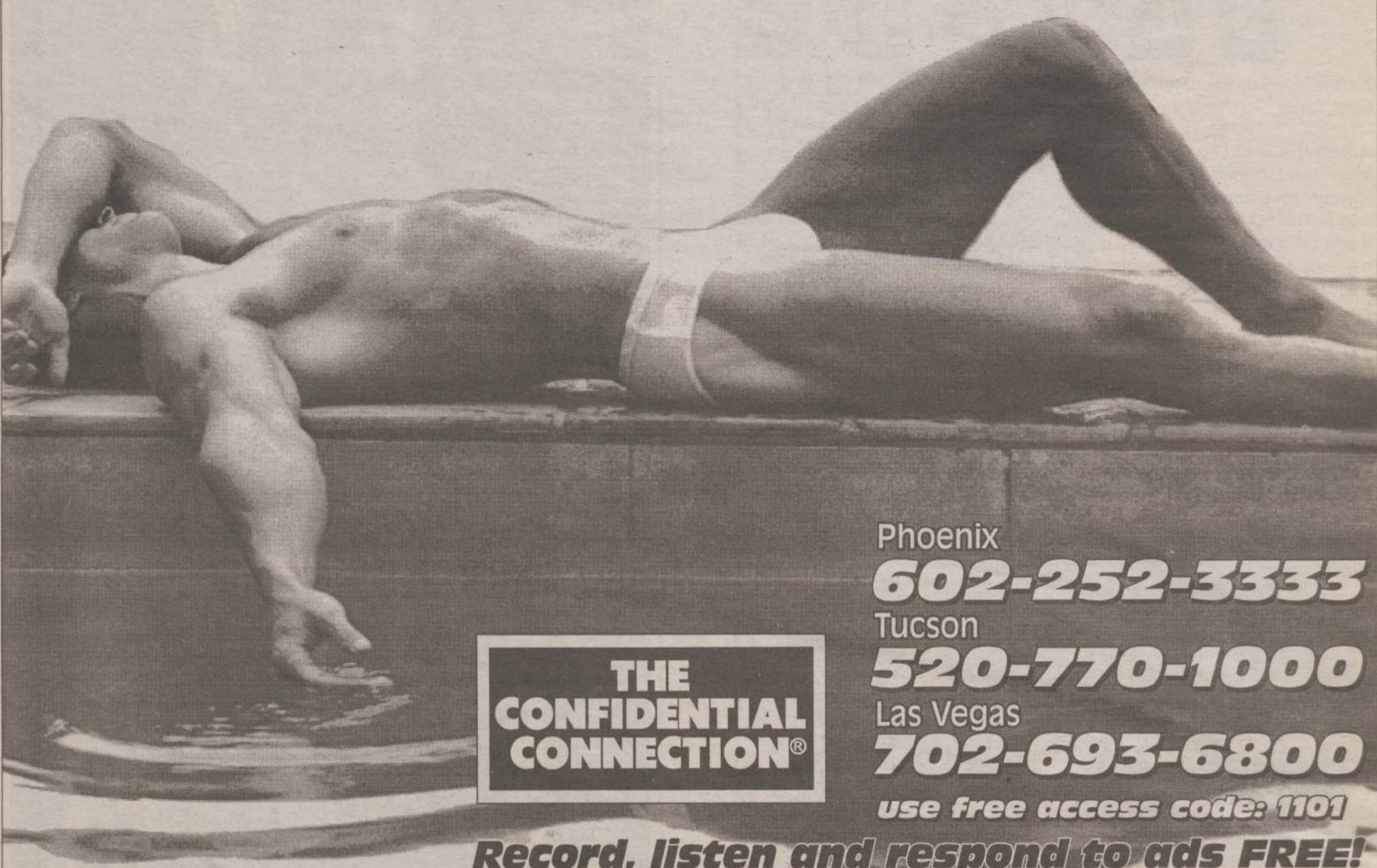
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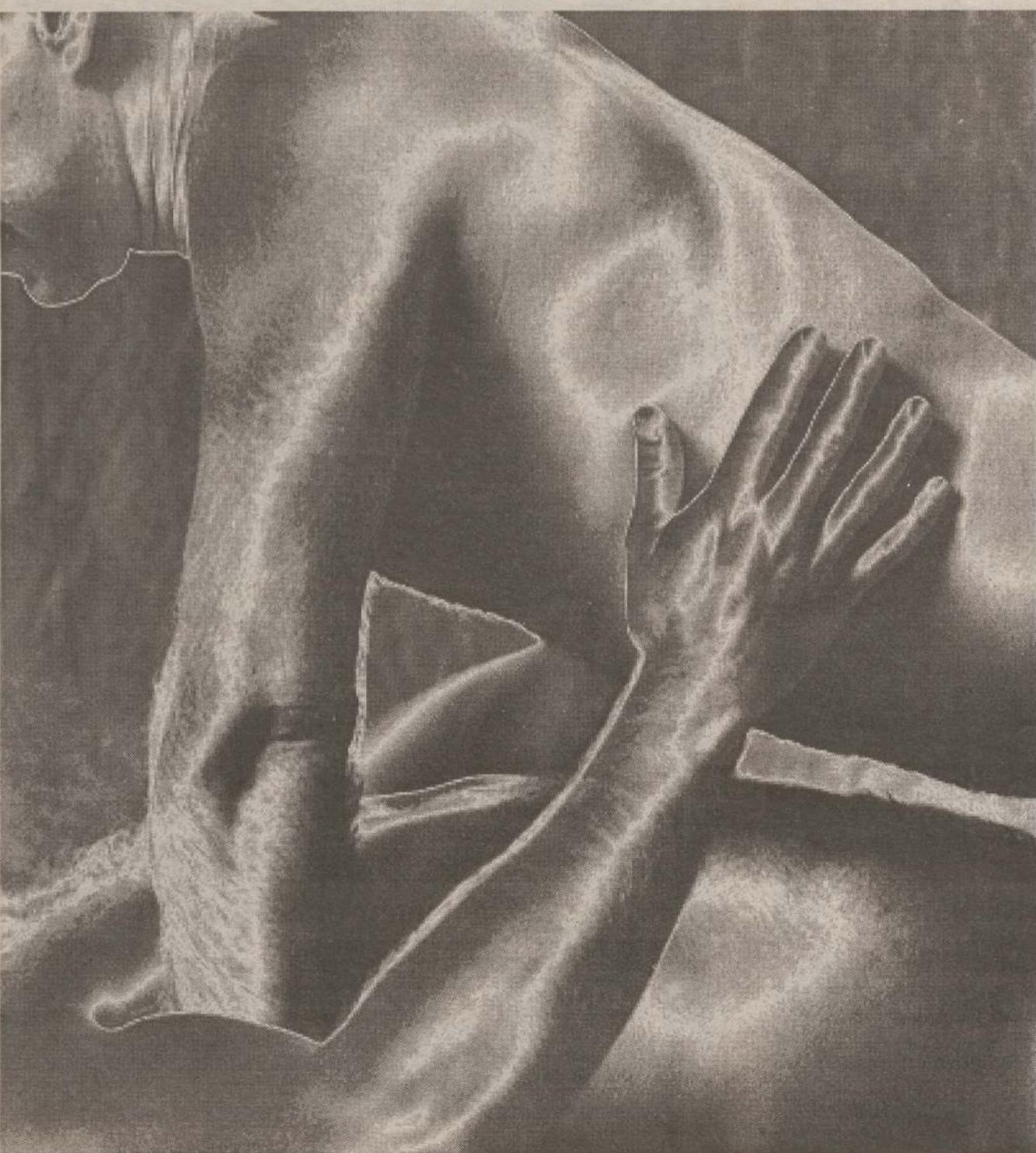


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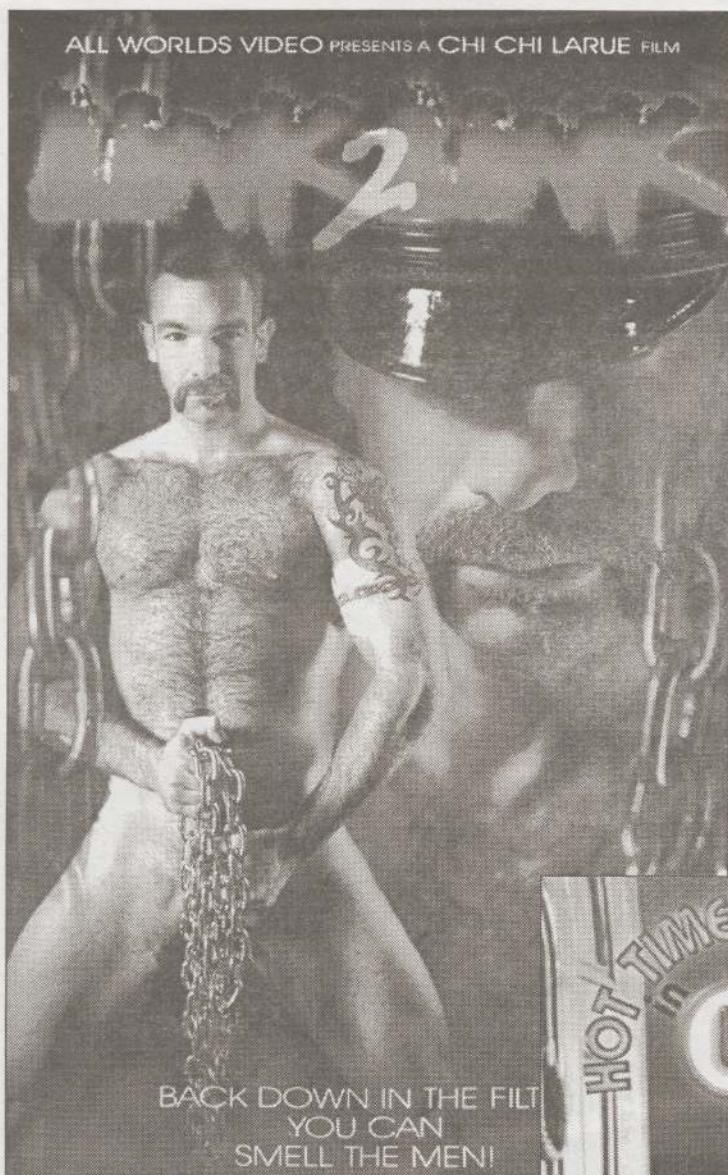
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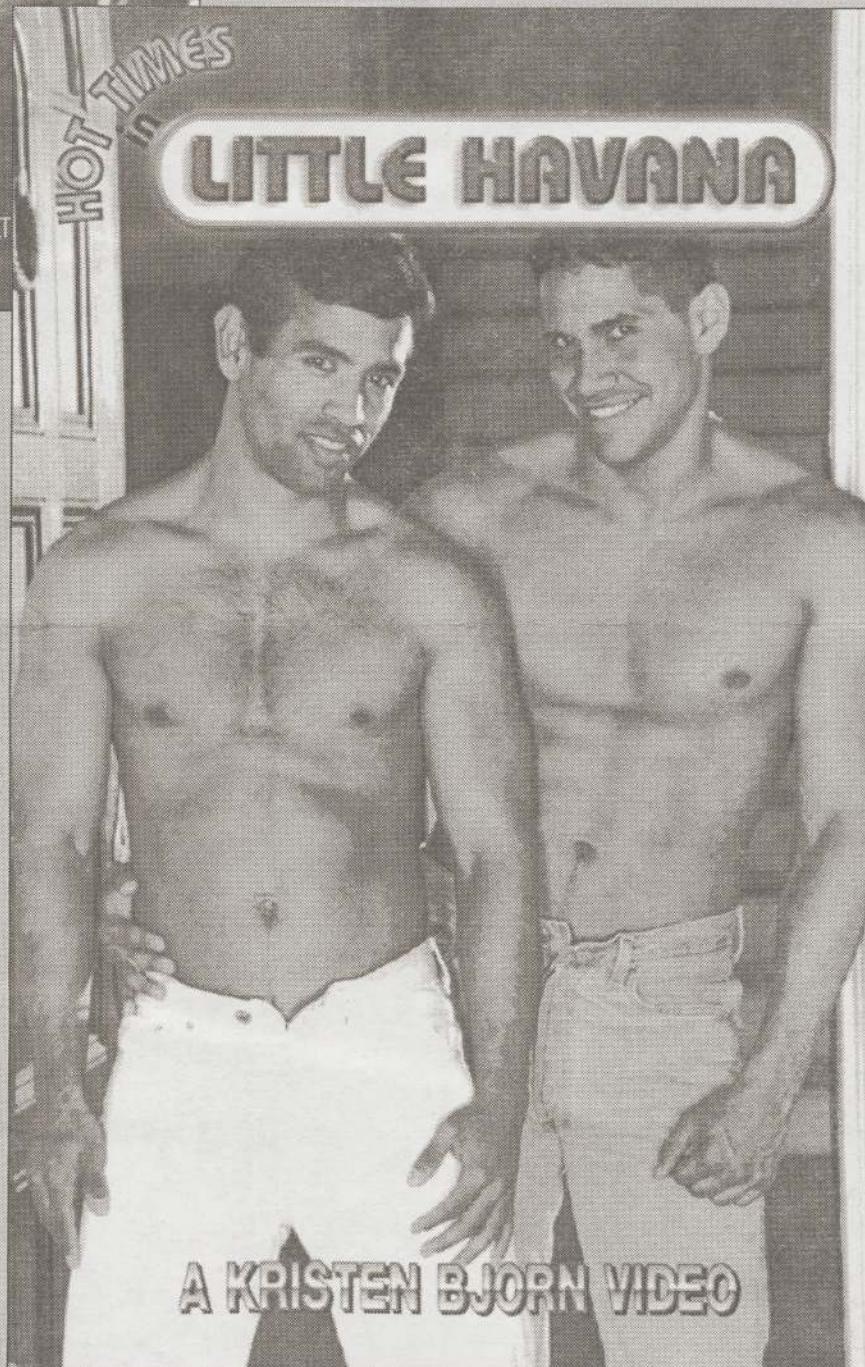
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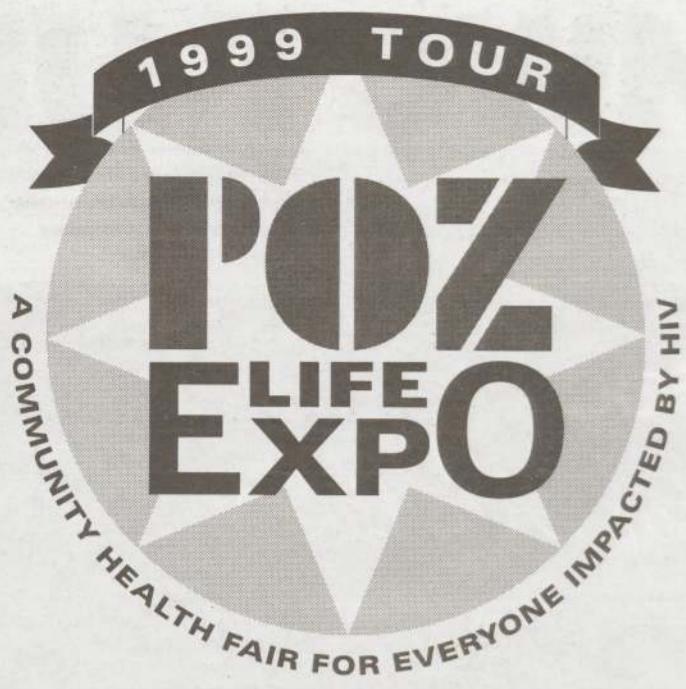
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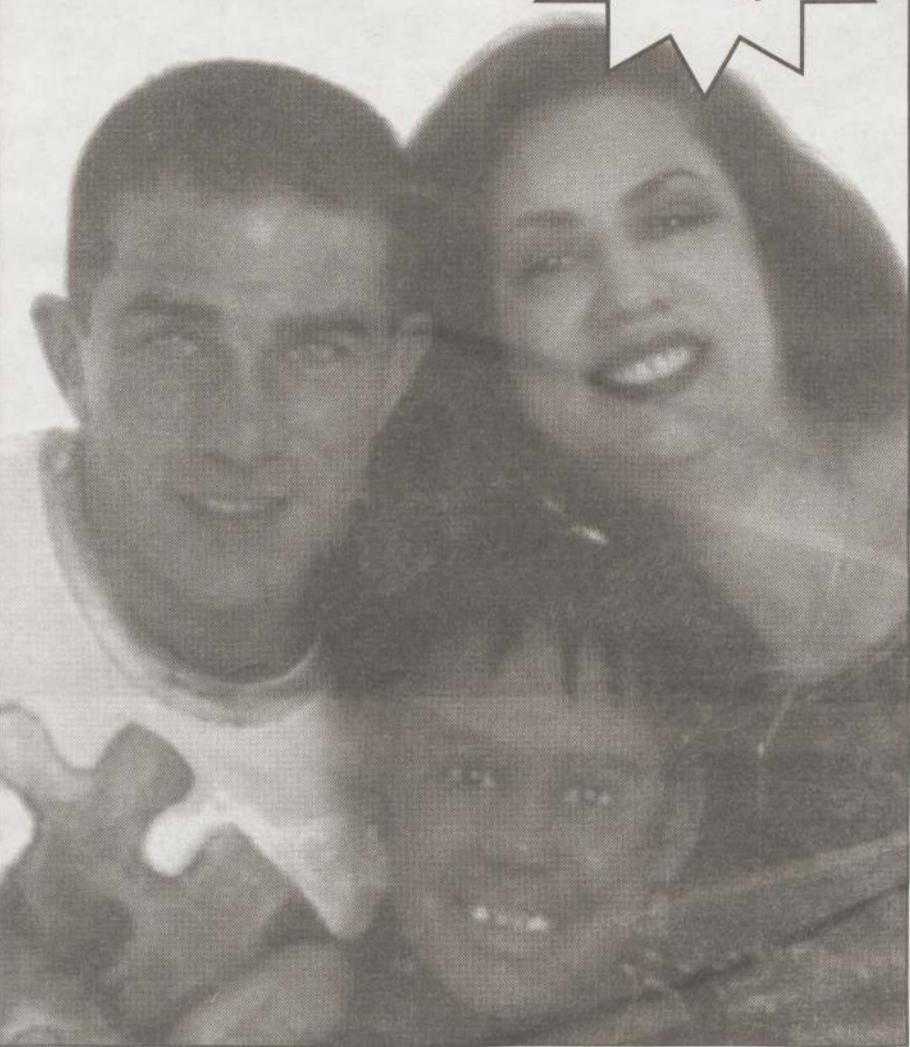
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