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phoenix resource

ANew DECADE OF PRIDE

JUNE 10,
PHOENIX, AZ

1990

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CALENDAR OF PRIDE WEEK EVENTS INSIDE

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GUIDE

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AIDS Info Line
234-2752

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Mesa 85201
461-2437
461-2205

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

Community AIDS Council
PO Box 32903
Phoenix 85064
265-2437

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

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

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

Planned Parenthood
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Phoenix 85014
George: 277-PLAN

Sedona AIDS Group
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Phoenix 85011
224-5486

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

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Phoenix 85012

Eagle-US West
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Phoenix 85067
244-1278

Feminist & Lesbian
Activist Coalition
967-2570
276-5840

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

Lesbian & Gay Community
Switchboard
234-2753

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

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

Relationship Discussion
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870-9597

The Women's Center
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Tempe 85282
496-9931

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Phoenix 85002

Copperstate Leathermen
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Phoenix 85064

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Phoenix 85011
831-5920

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Phoenix 85001
957-3476

Desert Valley Squares
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Phoenix 85067
968-7184

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A.S.U.
Tempe 85287

Lesbian & Gay Community
Youth Group
241-4230

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Phoenix 85061
843-1329

Our Gang Bowling League
PO Box 12131
Scottsdale 85267

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

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

Phoenix Gay Youth Group
PO Box 1075
Mesa 85211

Phoenix Lesbian & Gay
Youth
Artie Michals
938-3932

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

Independent Tavern
Owners of Arizona
Contact ITA Members

POLITICAL ACTION

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

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

Arizona Democratic Party
254-4179

Arizona Republican Party
957-7777

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

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Phoenix 85023
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Phoenix 85014
248-7921

David Russo
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843-5993

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969-9110

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Phoenix
231-9837

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966-0203

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220-4419

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840-3750

Dombrowski's Floral
Design
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Styling
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528-8962

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Rabid Graphics
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997-9433

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Universalist Church Of
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Paradise Valley 85253
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Gentle Shepherd
3425 E. Mountain View
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996-7644

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

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

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

SOCIAL GROUPS:

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

Brethren Mennonites
Council
PO Box 5613
Glendale, 85312

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

Lutherans Concerned
PO Box 7519
Phoenix 85011
870-3611

Mishpachah Am
(Congregation of Lesbian
& Gay Jews)
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224-5778

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248-9609

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248-0065

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254-0231

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265-9002

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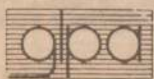
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EDITORIAL

NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN...

Bj Bud

I have worked in the Phoenix lesbian and gay community since March, 1976. I have seen lots of organizations start, get too big for their britches, and die slow deaths. I have sat on many boards and have been involved, directly or indirectly, with a myriad of lesbian and gay organizations.

I recall an organization which was started in February, 1977. That organization, Citizens for Constitutional Rights (CCR), was a political organization which lasted until about 1979. During its almost two-year existence, the organization was permeated with controversy. CCR was repeatedly accused of errors in judgement and outright misconduct.

Since I sat on the CCR Board of Directors for seven months, I was witness to many of their "errors in judgement." My favorite of these was when it was proposed that "no one was allowed to discuss what went on in the Board meetings." Because there were only three of us who could understand the ludicrousness of such a motion coming from a Constitutional Rights organization, we were outvoted.

I mention CCR as an example of an organization which certainly had good intentions when it began, but which got too caught up in itself to be effective.

Unfortunately, Community AIDS Council (CAC) is becoming another CCR. When CAC was organized in December, 1987 by Bob Aronin, its intentions were admirable: to have a "Sharing Weekend" at local gay bars to collect money which would be used for direct financial assistance to People Living with AIDS. I was one of six Board members to sign the incorporation papers.

I was appalled when I attended the board meeting in which the Board of Directors discussed changing the by-laws to read "at least half the Board would be HIV positive." This was, among other things, a none-too-subtle attempt to exclude women from the board. Perhaps with a Board of Directors which has fifty members, making half the board be "something" might be okay, but we are talking about a board with only 10 members. If 51% is required or even recommended to be "something," in this case HIV positive, we're talking about four people who can be on the Board and not be that "something." Obviously, that means a 6 - 4 split. Since in Arizona women make up only 5.34% of the 1,024 cases (as of December, 1989, according to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)), there probably are not a lot of women in the Valley who are HIV positive and wanting to serve on the CAC Board.

Aronin stated in the CAC annual meeting last month that the CAC board "should consist of the same proportion of factions as the general population. Given the population of Phoenix and using the widely accepted Kinsey figure suggesting that 10% of all people are gay/lesbian, that means that there are 200,000 gay/lesbian people in Phoenix. There are over 10,000 cases of HIV statewide, not all of whom are gay or lesbian. But assuming underreporting, let's presume there are 10,000 gays and lesbians who are HIV+. We are talking about 5% of our population. There are still 95% who are not infected. If the CAC Board were to reflect the general population, less than one person would have to be HIV+. And half the board would be women.

All seven of the new Board nominations which were rubber-stamped at the Annual Meeting were for men. Two of the retained Board members are women: Martha Jones and Bev Flemming. There was, as far as I know, no attempt to ask any woman to serve. But Aronin stated that the by-laws change was not intended to discriminate against women.

I support the Sharing Weekend Committee in their resignation. When it suits me, I claim to be a member of that committee. I fully understand why they felt that their only alternative was to resign. They have tried for over a year to work within the system. Only one member of the Committee was allowed to sit on the Board.

The problems with CAC go far deeper than by-

laws changes and misogyny. There have been many questions about the organization not being financially responsible. Sharing Weekend raises about \$4,000 each month. Some construe that portions of the \$48,000 per year have not always gone to help gay and lesbian PLWAs. The majority of the money CAC raises goes to AIDS Referral, Counseling, and Education (ARCE), in Mesa. The majority of the money is raised in Phoenix. Why do PLWAs have to go to Mesa to acquire financial assistance? Many of them are very sick and cannot drive, which means taking a bus. When the Arizona AIDS Project (AAP) requested \$500 from CAC to buy bus passes for PLWAs, the requested was refused. Why?

As far as Aronin "and a couple of friends" creating CAC and keeping it alive for two-and-a-half years, I beg to differ. I'm certainly not one of his friends. Most local nightclub owners have been very cooperative during Sharing Weekend. We use over twenty-five volunteers each Sharing Weekend to collect money; most of them don't even know Aronin. About three- to four-thousand people donate money each weekend. I'm guessing here, but my guess is that even Aronin doesn't know all of them! Without the efforts of the Committee and without the contributions from the lesbian and gay community, there would be no CAC.

After the annual meeting, Martha Jones and David Blackert were selected to "get Sharing Weekend back on its feet." Certainly, PLWAs need a source for direct funding, but then so do people who have cancer, heart attacks and other life-threatening and debilitating illnesses. The lesbian and gay communities around the country have risen to the occasion and formed various organizations to help those within the community; AAP has received some direct funding. The former Sharing Weekend Committee has also considered reorganizing under their own non-profit status so that they would have better control of how the money is spent. They have talked about raising money as their only job. Consider the alternatives.

According to Former Surgeon General of the United States C. Everett Koop, the three best measures to prevent the spread of AIDS is "Education, education and education." The Governor's Task Force on AIDS Report, published January, 1990, noted that in Arizona only \$80,786 was spent on education in 1989: "Money spent on prevention today should be thought of as an investment to curb the inevitable costs of this disease. According to conservative estimates from the Arizona Department of Health Services, one dollar spent on HIV/AIDS education and prevention saves the state \$18 in future medical costs and \$201 in lost income and productivity." Sounds like a good deal. Not only would education save money, but the lives of our friends as well.



Sharing Weekend Committee Walks Out of CAC Annual Meeting

Bj Bud

During a sparsely attended Community AIDS Council Annual meeting on Sunday, May 20, 1990, the entire Sharing Weekend Committee submitted their "resignations in total, along with that of a substantial number of our volunteers".

Artie Michaelis, Chairperson of the CAC Board of Directors, opened the meeting by reading a letter submitted by the Sharing Weekend Committee. The letter stated, in part, "...we the volunteers, have become more and more disenchanted with the actions of the majority of the CAC Board of Directors..." The disenchantment included "revision to the by-laws calling for at least 50% of the Board's members to be individuals (who) are HIV-positive to be discriminatory against both women and those members of the community (who) have remained healthy, and still want to volunteer their services."

The committee apparently had two problems with Bob Aronin's employment as head of the Gay Men's Sex Project (GMSPP), which was funded by a County grant. Aronin's salary is \$5,000 more than the \$25,000 grant and he was not removed from his position as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. The letter called the salary "fiscally irresponsible."

Other problems that the committee had included not having input to the Nominating Committee, not being given notification of Board meetings and the exclusion of businesses as voting members of CAC.

The letter went on to state, "It is a sad day when people such as ourselves (who) are dedicated to helping PLWA's, have to make such a decision, but since we feel that the Board is both morally and ethically bankrupt, we have no other choice." It urged other people, organizations and businesses to "search their hearts about a continued commitment" to CAC.

Following the reading of the letter, Michaelis announced that during the last Sharing Weekend \$4,483.52 was raised. Then he resigned as Chairperson, a member of the board, and as an individual member.

Michaelis stated that he "does not like nor support deficit spending" in regard to the employment of an office manager and Aronin's salary. He also remarked on the discrimination of women and healthy people in referring to the by-laws change.

Following Michaelis' resignation, he and the entire Sharing Weekend Committee left the meeting en masse.

Mark Issacs-Ward stated he thought the action of the Committee was "a grandstand move." Aronin, as Vice Chair, conducted the remainder of the meeting.

Martha Jones moved that "all gratitude and caring and love" go to Michaelis, Ed Noehre (former Board member and Sharing Weekend Committee member), Ryan and Aronin.

Alyson Acquires Popular Children's Book, Lesbian Erotica Press

BOSTON, MA - Alyson Publications, the nation's largest gay and lesbian publisher, has purchased the popular children's book, *Heather Has Two Mommies*, from In Other Words Publishing of Northampton, Massachusetts. This title is the first in Alyson's recently announced line of books for the children of gay and lesbian parents.

Heather Has Two Mommies, written by Leslea Newman, is the story of the daughter of a lesbian couple and how she copes with the realization that her family is different from others. Illustrated by Diana Souza, *Heather* realistically approaches issues central to lesbian parenting: artificial insemination, the birthing process, and the needs of a lesbian household.

"This is an example of the high caliber of children's books we will be publishing for the gay and lesbian community," says publisher Sasha Alyson. "This fall we will publish our first original children's book, which has been written and illustrated by Michael Wilhoite."

The book's reissue came just prior to an announcement that Alyson had acquired Lace Publications, a press specializing in lesbian erotica and science fiction.

"We're excited about this new step," Alyson says. "Lace has been a pioneer in overcoming the myth that lesbians aren't interested in sex."

"Alyson Publications seeks to serve every possible group within the gay and lesbian community," Alyson said. "And the purchase of Lace is a big step toward realizing our goal."

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Gay Political Group Backs Helms Opponent

WASHINGTON, DC - The Human Rights Campaign Fund, the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, has contributed \$5,000 to Harvey Gantt, the former mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, who is seeking the Democratic nomination to replace Jesse Helms (R-NC) in the U.S. Senate. The amount is the maximum contribution allowed by federal law in a primary.

"Harvey Gantt is a compassionate man who understands the importance of civil rights for all Americans," according to Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Campaign Fund. "He has demonstrated his ability to serve and will make an effective and capable Senator."

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

Helms was successful in keeping the recently passed Hate Crimes Statistics Act off the Senate Floor for three years. When the bill eventually was considered by the Senate, he offered an anti-lesbian and gay amendment which was rejected 77-19, following extensive lobbying by HRCF and other national organizations. In addition, HRCF's "Speak Out" program generated over 10,000 messages to Capitol Hill opposing Helms' amendment.

When President Bush signed the bill into law, the Campaign Fund, the

National Lesbian and Gay Task Force and other lesbian and gay groups were invited to the White House to witness the signing.

Helms is also the author of the notorious "no promote or encourage" amendment which was designed to weaken AIDS prevention materials aimed at gay and bisexual men. The Senate has refused to accept his amendment in the last few years.

"Helms has suffered a string of defeats at the hands of his colleagues in recent years," said McFeeley. "Most Democrats and an increasing number of Republicans are no longer willing to put up with his bigoted tactics." He is, however, the front-runner in the election for a fourth six-year term. If he wins in November, he will serve until January of 1997.

In recent weeks, Gantt has stepped up his attacks against Helms on issues of concern to the lesbian and gay community. He accused Helms of appealing to people's emotions, rather than addressing the nation's real problems.

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

Gantt, an African American, "represents the best of what North Carolina can offer the nation, independence and vision, not the ignorance, bigotry and hate that Jesse Helms embodies," McFeeley stated.

FDA Grants First Approval of HIV-2 Test

SEATTLE, WA - Genetic Systems Corporation has announced it has received both FDA and Canadian approval to market a test to detect antibodies to Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 2 (HIV-2), the second virus known to cause AIDS. The Genetic Systems test is the first such approved in either nation.

HIV-2 was first isolated in 1985 from a West African AIDS patient. Subsequently, more than 600 infected individuals have been identified in Africa, Europe, North America, and South America. At least 26 North American cases have been identified - 17 in the United States and nine in Canada.

HIV-2 is transmitted in the same manner as HIV-1, the first AIDS virus discovered. Infection occurs through sexual intercourse, reuse of infected hypodermic needles, from infected mothers to their fetuses, or through transfusion of contaminated blood.

Since the U.S. incidence of infection with HIV-2 is still extremely low, the FDA has not recommended universal donor screening by U.S. blood banks. However, the approved test directions do not preclude use of the test for blood screening.

At a May 15 meeting of the FDA's Blood Products Advisory Committee, a representative of the U.S. plasma industry said the industry intends to adopt testing for antibody to HIV-2 in order to comply with European regulations requiring that all plasma be tested for antibody to HIV-2.

In recognition of the potential for widening of HIV-2 infection over time, the FDA announced it will work with other agencies of the public health service to increase the level of surveillance for HIV-2.

The Health Protection Branch of Canada's Health and Welfare Department has approved the Genetic Systems test for use in diagnostic applications by 37 HIV-designated laboratories, where 95 percent of Canada's AIDS-related testing is conducted.

Since 1987, Genetic Systems has collaborated with scientists at the Centers for Disease Control, the FDA, and other research laboratories to determine the prevalence of HIV-2 in the United States. The first U.S. case of infection with HIV-2 was reported in January 1988. The Centers for Disease Control recently reported the first known case of infection with HIV-2 in a U.S. blood donor.

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NGLTF Post Card Campaign Goes Over

New Sponsors Sign on to Civil Rights Bill

WASHINGTON, DC - More than 90,000 post cards on the Federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill have been printed and distributed to thousands of individuals and organizations in a nationwide lobbying onslaught organized by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). In addition, NGLTF's National Lobby Days will be held in June this year to capitalize on the massive mobilization of gays and lesbians celebrating pride events around the U.S.

The post card campaign is designed to increase awareness and cosponsorship of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. The bill currently has 79 cosponsors in the House of Representatives and ten in the Senate. Four lawmakers have signed on since the start of the campaign last February: Reps. Bill Gray (D-PA); Gerry Sikorski (D-MN); Jose Serrano (D-NY); Craig Washington (D-TX); and Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RI).

"The post card campaign is helping us lay the groundwork of constituent support that will enable us to pass the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill, which we plan on doing this decade," said Peri Jude Radecic, NGLTF legislative director.

The bill is officially called the Civil Rights Amendment Act of 1989. It provides broad anti-discrimination protection for gays and lesbians by prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and federally assisted programs based on affection or sexual orientation.

NGLTF urges gays and lesbians to send their federal lawmakers a pre-printed post card and ask them to cosponsor the bill. The post card campaign will continue through June 1990.

Meantime, the Fourth National Lobby Days, sponsored by NGLTF, will be held in June this year to coincide with gay and lesbian pride events around the country.

The NGLTF Lobby Days are designed to encourage and organize a grassroots lobbying front aimed at the U.S. Congress. The Lobby Days advance the federal lesbian and gay civil rights agenda and expand local activism in the federal legislative process.

This year's Lobby Days will focus on the federal gay and lesbian civil rights bill and pending Congressional issues, including AIDS funding and housing, National Endowment for the Arts, immigration reform, military, home rule for the District of Columbia, and others.

NGLTF is currently recruiting organizations and individuals to write letters, organize correspondence campaigns and/or arrange lobbying visits at district offices. To assist local activists, NGLTF provides updated lobby days kits, which include voting records for all members of Congress, fact sheets on political issues, legislative summaries, sample letters, information on "how to" arrange office visits, write a letter or place a phone call to a legislative office.

Couples Say They Came Out to Census

SEATTLE, WA - Millions of gay and lesbian couples could be counted by the 1990 U.S. Census, if the couples selected the "unmarried partner" option to describe their relationship. An overwhelming majority of couples may have done so, judging from responses to a reader survey conducted by *Partners*, a newsletter for lesbian and gay couples.

Of the ninety-six couples responding to the mid-March survey, ninety-two said they had declared themselves as "unmarried partners." Only four kept their relationship secret.

"Of course, this small survey cannot accurately predict how all American couples responded," said *Partners* co-publisher Stevie Bryant. "However, we have reason to believe that the respondents are fairly typical of couples nationwide."

The respondents reside in thirty states, and have been together an average of six years, ranging from less than one year to twenty-three years. Female couples accounted for fifty-three percent of the responses.

"Our readers strongly identify as couples," Bryant added, "but by no means are all of them visible as couples in their communities. For example, some feel it necessary to confirm that our newsletter is mailed in an opaque envelope for privacy."

In response to another survey question, eighty-one percent of the couples said they would be legally married if the option were available. Until same-sex marriage is available, union ceremonies are a popular option. Thirty-one percent of the couples have had such a ceremony and twenty-six percent plan one.

Partners is a subscription newsletter featuring interviews of committed couples, and news and information about couples issues, such as domestic partnership, court rulings, and gay marriage. The four-year-old

newsletter recently lowered its annual subscription rate from \$36 to \$21. Formerly an eight-page monthly, the newsletter now will include sixteen pages and be published six times a year.

Congressman Asks For Stamp Honoring Ryan White

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - An Indiana congressman has asked the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring former AIDS patient Ryan White for his crusade against ignorance and intolerance.

Rep. Dan Burton, (R-IN) wrote to the Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee, "Ryan emerged as a national spokesperson for victims suffering from AIDS. He urged America to become more aware of the disease and the desperate need to do something about it."

The 18-year-old youth died late last month of complications from AIDS after a five-and-a-half year battle with the disease.

Burton serves on the House Post Office Committee and Civil Service Committee.

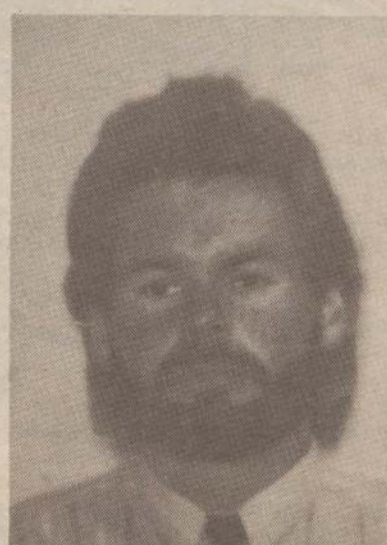
Postal Service spokesperson Art Shealy said that for a person to be honored on a stamp, they have to have been dead for ten years, unless they were a president.



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PERSPECTIVE

Don Slutes

FEDERAL AIDS

The federal government is trying to do the right thing for AIDS patients, but for people in that netherworld between HIV-positive and AIDS-symptomatic, the issue is not so clear.

For people with AIDS (and for people not yet exposed to the HIV virus), the U.S. Senate recently passed a funding measure that would result in spending an estimated \$2.9 billion over five years, targeted at urban areas where the ravages of AIDS are most severe. (Phoenix did not make the list, by the way.) This bill, co-sponsored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), was approved by an overwhelming vote of 95-4, no doubt boosted by the bipartisan appeal of its co-sponsors.

Demonstrating a further commitment to battling AIDS, the Senate also defeated several pernicious amendments, many of which were sponsored by a familiar anti-gay bogeyman, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

For some, the passage of this measure represents the federal government's first real acknowledgment of its responsibility to tackle the medical dimensions of the AIDS epidemic. But AIDS presents other public-policy dimensions, and this is where the federal government tends to fall down.

Last week's debate in the U.S. House of Representatives over the proposed Americans With Disabilities Act resulted in a loosened commitment to protect the rights of people with AIDS. An amendment, sponsored by Rep. Charles Douglas (R-N.H.), would allow employers "reassign" workers with "contagious diseases," when such workers come into contact with food. Debate over the amendment made it clear that the disease in question was AIDS.

In fact, Rep. Douglas admitted that his amendment was a reaction to the public's ignorance, rather than medical fact. The congressman acknowledged what he and his colleagues know; that is, that the disease is not easily transmissible. But, he reasons, the public hysteria over AIDS forced this compromise. "Perception is reality," Rep. Douglas said.

The Americans With Disabilities Act has been called the most significant step in civil-rights protection since the 1960s. The measure would protect the disabled from discrimination in employment, public accommodations, transportation, and communications (i.e., requiring telephone systems to assist the speech- and hearing-impaired). In earlier debate, the definition of the "disabled" was determined to include AIDS patients.

At press time, the House version of the Disabilities act had to be reconciled with the version of the bill which earlier passed the Senate.

Each member of the House represents more than half a million citizens, so perhaps it's unrealistic to expect legislators at the federal level to lead rather than be led by their constituents. But there's something wrong with the legislative process when ignorance dictates the law. Especially when the lawmakers themselves know the truth.

HILL'S BROTHERS

During debate in the Arizona Senate on passage of a paid state holiday to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., State Sen. Jeff Hill (R-Tucson/Green Valley) cited the results of a Channel 10 phone poll. The question du jour: "Should the legislature or the people decide the King Day issue?" An overwhelming majority of Arizonans wanted to retain their right to decide the holiday issue, Hill said. Therefore, the Legislature should back off.

For backers of the King holiday, who welcomed the Legislature's intrusion, Sen. Hill's citation of Channel 10's survey was unfortunate on several counts. First, the results seemed to support this year's best excuse for King Day opponents, allowing them to distance themselves from blatant racism. Second, this type of poll, which requires viewers to call in with their opinion rather than be selected at random, is wildly unscientific. When the issue is whether their vote is being "taken away," who is most likely to call in--those who resent losing their vote, or those who are content?

If Channel 10's poll question was "Should the Legislature or the people decide issues of taxation," the result would no doubt be similar, despite the inappropriateness of having citizens go to the voting booths to decide the intricacies of revenue enhancement.

Jeff Hill, therefore, is a demagogue. Gov. Mofford was right when she said that it has always been the legislature's role--not the "people's"--to decide the other holidays.

In fact, the people took the voting power away from the Legislature. With this latest action, the Legislature merely sought to correct its previous mistake (cancelling the Columbus Day holiday in deference to King Day). That's fair (and perfectly Constitutional, despite the shrill protestations of Republican Attorney General candidate David Eisenstein). If the people are still dissatisfied, let them target this latest action. Let them say: we unequivocally *do not* want a King Day under any circumstances.

In fact, that is precisely what impeached Gov. Evan Mecham has done, albeit under the guise of trying to "Restore Our Vote," by which name his latest political enterprise is known. Mecham has launched a petition drive, seeking to force a public vote on the new King Day law.

Mecham, like Jeff Hill, is championing the citizen's right to vote, but his true aim, of course, is to prevent a King Day from occupying the state's holiday calendar. When the people's right to vote is "restored," how do you think they will vote? Mecham has said he believes the King holiday will be repealed.

Sen. Jeff Hill, during that same Senate debate, expressed gratitude that, at the very least, the Legislature's new King Day proposal didn't eradicate one of his favorite holidays: Lincoln's Birthday (the most logical course for the Legislature would have been to combine Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays into a single "President's Day," as the federal government has done, rather than adding an extra paid holiday.) Hill holds up Lincoln as a hero, both to Republicans (he was

—cont. on page 14

A TREE GROWS IN TONTO

Shanti Dedicates Living Tree Memorial

Ellen M. Young



The ravages of the fire can still be seen after two years. Old partially burned trees continue to stand among the occasional patches of green. The ground is eroding.

On this day, a tent stands a few yards away from the road. Guests are seated in the shade beneath, as a cold breeze blows through and a woman plays the guitar. Around them, exposed to the sun, are a myriad of freshly dug holes, their contents lying in dry mounds on the desert floor.

Those gathered here have come to renew the life of this forest. And they have come to reawaken the spirit of life in themselves. More than two hundred trees will be planted in this place. Each memorializes the life of one who has left the earth, most of these as a result of AIDS.

On May 12, the Phoenix Shanti Group dedicated the Living Tree Memorial in the Tonto National Forest northeast of Carefree. After ten months of planning, a monument was placed in the forest and the planting of indigenous trees will become an annual event. Springtime was chosen as a symbol of renewal and rebirth, while the idea itself originated with Dean Jones, former vice president of marketing for Shanti, who passed away in February of this year. It was Jones, along with Shanti Development Coordinator Nancy Harkins, who chose the site for the monument in November of 1989. During the dedication ceremony, special tribute was paid to Jones, and a tree was planted beside the monument in his honor.

Phoenix Shanti Group is a non-profit corporation founded in May of 1986 to provide emotional support and medical care to people living with AIDS in a non-judgmental atmosphere. The Phoenix Shanti Living Center on East McDowell Road currently provides counseling, education, case management, and information on short-term housing. Having recently signed a long-termed lease, the facility will soon provide adult day health care, resident care, and an HIV wellness clinic as well.

This year's event was not the first tree planting for Shanti. A similar event in June of last year involved some ninety trees, although they did not serve to memorialize specific individuals. It was during this first planting that a forest ranger introduced Shanti representatives to a school teacher. As a consequence, this year's planting was assisted by local students from science clubs and earth science classes. In addition, Valley Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts participated in the event as a restoration project for which they earned badges.

The native trees - primarily Palo Verde and Mesquite - were donated by Mountain States Nursery. Each was tagged with a ribbon which specified the name of the person for whom it was being planted. Upon leaving the event, friends and relatives could remove the ribbons as mementos.

While the planting of trees serves as an emotional and cathartic outlet for those accepting the loss of a loved one, it is also a living symbol of renewal for those involved. Shanti's Nancy Harkins opened the dedication ceremony:

"This morning we are gathered here in the sanctuary of the Tonto National Forest to celebrate life. We are celebrating the life and not the death of our loved ones. We are going to celebrate the love and the joy and the happiness that they brought into our lives, and we will do this by planting trees, and giving back to the earth, life."

Later, during the dedication ceremony, Johnny Wilson - District Ranger for the Cave Creek District and the Tonto National Forest - further explained this symbolism.

"This fire that burned the area behind us was started in 1988. It was a man-caused fire. So, in essence, man took away some of the natural beauty of the earth, and it's through the efforts of this group that you're giving back to the earth some of what man has taken away, and I wanted you to know that the Cave Creek Ranger District and the Tonto National Forest appreciates that very much."

Senator Dennis DeConcini expressed similar feelings in a letter, read at the ceremony by his representative, Ruth Ann Norris.

"The restoration of this site, previously damaged by fire, with living trees has created a special place of beauty and peace where our friends will always be remembered."

An aide to Governor Rose Mofford was also present at the dedication. Geoffrey Gonsler reiterated a conversation he'd had with the Governor in which she said "to congratulate all of you for all of your efforts, to thank you for all of your efforts, but more importantly, to bless you."

The Living Tree Memorial monument, a three-and-a-half by four foot semi-circle of rose granite, sits in a secluded area at the edge of the forest. It was placed at a distance from the road in order to avoid vandalism by those unconcerned with its significance. Organizers believe that those who are aware of its existence will be able to locate it, while at the same time passers-by "will not have it thrust upon them." In this way, the monument will remain undisturbed for the benefit of those who will truly appreciate it.

The two men responsible for the monument are Doug Ireland and Bob Troost of the Arizona Granite and Marble Company. As Harkins explained, "These two gentlemen have not been touched by AIDS in any way, but they felt a sense of pride and a sense of commitment to do this for us, and it was all donated."

The monument was dedicated by Shanti President and CEO Randy Gorbette. Having asked those present to hold hands, he said, "We dedicate this monument in the memory of all those persons who have fought their lives for AIDS, and to all of us living with AIDS today. We are all one in this journey, with much to give and much to receive, with much to teach and much to learn."

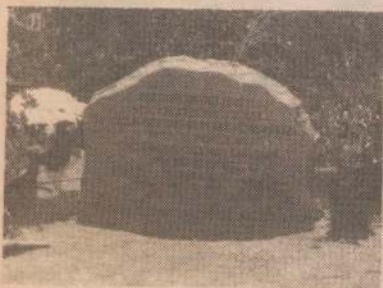
The inscription on the monument reads, "Portions of this forest, which were burned in 1988, have been restored by planting new trees in living memory of those individuals who have died as a result of AIDS. Dedicated May 12, 1990." The names of those individuals were read later during the ceremony. It is the intention of Shanti that these names eventually be displayed at the Living Center.

While the monument refers only to deaths resulting from AIDS, there were also trees planted to memorialize loved ones who died from other causes. According to Harkins, it was not the intention of Shanti to place restrictions upon those planting the trees. "We've had several people come to us that thought this was a great idea, and they didn't know anybody specifically who had died from complications of AIDS, but they had a loved one that had been killed in a car wreck or died of another terminal illness, and they thought it would be nice to kind of carry the memory on through a living tree."

The reason for planting a tree is perhaps best explained by Sharon Barbano who, with her husband John, planted a tree for her brother, Leroy Venema.

"It's a way that my brother will live on in our lives. We can always come up here and see that tree flourish and grow, and know that he's still alive and he's still with us."

■ ■ ■
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BOOK REVIEW

■■■■
Meg Umans

Moritz! A Comic Novel

Bob Herron; New York: Calamus, 1982. 213 pages, \$6.95 paperbound.

Calamus is one of the publishing enterprises included in Gay Presses of New York. The others are Sea Horse and JH, and Gay Presses prints a few titles under its own imprint. At this time, the only female writer they publish is Jane Chambers, but their selection of writers and titles encourages me to think that this is open to change.

Moritz Jellico is a young gay man who lives in a small farm community. Good-looking, well-endowed, eager-to-please...all the right stuff to set himself up for a life of ease under the auspices of a local official. Moritz considers this option, and decides early on that he can do better elsewhere.

Each major episode of Moritz' adventures has its own title and chapter, and could stand alone; the last chapter has appeared in a collection (*A True Likeness*, edited by Felice Picano). The early chapters of this book are so absurd and overwritten that they're rarely funny, except possibly to hardcore camp devotees. But don't skip the beginning - it'll heighten your appreciation of what follows.

Once Moritz has decided that he can peddle his talents and himself more profitably in New York, things get more interesting, for us as well as for Moritz. He learns fast.

Herron introduces Moritz to facets of the gay life in the big city that have far more comic potential than sex, and enough resemblance to reality to keep the story palatable as well as genuinely funny.

"Moritz Goes to a Garden Party" is the widely acclaimed favorite. John Preston said of this chapter, "...the most hysterical recounting of the culture clash between leather men and piss-elegance that you'll ever find." Yes, and more than that, the description of the logistical abortions of this particular garden party will ring bells for all of us.

My own personal favorite episode involves one of Moritz' jobs: he's one of the entertainers in a leather men's night club. What he does is certainly physically possible, and I know that variations of his act are part of some men's leather scenes. This one isn't for the squeamish among us, but if you're that sensitive, you'd have stopped reading a lot sooner. Like almost everything Herron describes, Moritz' act is usually important and serious for the participants: here it's very funny and very human.

-Meg Umans

VIDEO



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- *Now, Voyager*
- *Jezebel*
- *Madame Sin*
- *Death On the Nile*
- *Of Human Bondage*
- *Watchers in the Woods*
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THE BOYS IN THE BAND

L. Clemente

In an ideal world, a film like *Longtime Companion* might be received like any other Hollywood movie, critiqued in terms of style and performance, rather than as a media event. But evaluating a first-run, major release movie concerning itself with hot tabloid topics like AIDS and gay men is a task, given that one must consider the film and not the fact that its existence is a cultural occurrence.

Too bad, because *Longtime Companion* deserves to be seen first as a functionally adept film rather than as a Hollywood commercial breakthrough. Writer Craig Lucas has created a convincingly emotional film which turns up all the gay male clichés we've been waiting to see American cinema handle responsibly. Unfortunately, that may be all this film - or Lucas - will be remembered for.

In short, *Longtime Companion* tells the story of how the AIDS epidemic has affected the gay male community in America. Covering a nine-year period, beginning with the now-infamous *New York Times* article detailing a "rare gay cancer" in 1981, the film centers on the lives of ten young, white, wealthy gay men. Some of them get sick, some of them die, and all of them recreate experiences onscreen that many of us have been experiencing in real life. To see these realities enacted via *Movieland* is sometimes overpowering.

Yet Lucas and director Norman Rene are such deft craftsmen that they are able to present unnatural death and wrecked lives alongside camp humor and raw satire without sacrificing dramatic credibility. I expected to hate that Lucas chose to depict only affluent guppies, portrayed by pretty actors in beautiful clothes. Instead, he convinced me that this was his experience of the crisis, and that there are millions of people for whom this is what AIDS is about. Anyway, Lucas is no idiot: there's certainly more tragedy in watching a beautiful, rich person die of a painful, stigmatized disease than a character representative of the masses.

We might complain that Lucas inundates his film with too many recognizably gay images, but we also might ignore the headlines about John Travolta's gay lover. Lucas and Rene acknowledge their audience, and that's probably the most striking element of this film. No one will ever convince me that a non-gay audience will appreciate the "Dreamgirls" sequence as much as gay men might; as with the best of Lucas' camp, there's a gay element onscreen that's aimed directly at us, an acknowledgement that the filmmaker knows we're out there, watching.

In fact, I found this the most comforting aspect of watching the film - that this was a movie aimed at me that didn't pander to my ethnicity. *Longtime Companion* makes assumptions - that we're going to get the in-jokes, that we'll recognize AIDS dementia - without spelling things out for another potential audience. That there's any comfort to be found in a film dealing with such an emotionally dark subject is commendable in itself.



Cris Williamson, Lynn Lavner to Headline Pride Week Celebration

Phoenix' annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Week celebrations will feature a pair of concerts by two nationally acclaimed performers.

Cris Williamson, heralded as one of the most successful artists in independent music, will appear at Scottsdale Center for the Arts on Saturday, June 2 at 8:00 pm. Williamson will perform songs from her *Changer* and *the Changed* album, in celebration of that LP's fifteenth anniversary. *Changer* is Williamson's most successful album to date, and has become one of the all-time best selling albums on an independent label.

Second Wave recording artist Tret Fure will appear in concert with Williamson. Fure has toured extensively with major acts including Yes, Poco and the J. Geils Band. Fure performs with Williamson in concert, performing her own material as well as backing Williamson on guitar.

Comedienne/singer Lynn Lavner is scheduled as feature entertainer at this year's Pride Rally on Sunday, June 10. Lavner performs original material addressing a myriad of issues, among them lesbianism, leather and growing up Jewish in New York. Lavner will also emcee portions of the rally, which will take place at El Lienzo Charro Rodeo Grounds, 27th Avenue and Baseline.

Play Misty For Me

Just about when we'd thought that gay bars in Phoenix had attempted every form of entertainment known to personkind, Charlie's—ever a trend-setting establishment—shocks us out of our smug stupor with another first.

Charlie's "Sun Mist Saturdays" will allow its patrons to sunbathe under a misting system just installed out back, by the volleyball court and patio bar. Fifty cent daiquiris and complimentary suntan oil complete this ultra-violet picture; who can resist?

Remember when gay bars just served cocktails?

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JUNE 3: PRIDE WEEK KICK-OFF PARTY
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JUNE 4: SELF ESTEEM WORKSHOP
Phoenix Shanti Group, The Living Center
1314 E. McDowell Rd., 6-10pm

JUNE 5: CHARLIE'S 9 YEARS OF PRIDE
9-cent Cocktail Party
Charlie's, 727 E. Camelback Rd, 8-10pm

JUNE 6: "OILING THE HINGES" — A play and art show
Presented by Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Youth Group
Alwun House, 1204 E. Roosevelt, 7:30pm

JUNE 9: COMMUNITY DANCE
presented by Couples of Arizona
Adobe Gardens—5555 E. Van Buren

JUNE 10: PRIDE DAY FESTIVAL
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Pride Committee at:
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FICTION

■■■

First Summer

Buffy St. Germain

I remember the summer I fell in love in Phoenix. It was on the first hot day that we had that year. I always remember the first hot day. Not because of all the scorching, useless afternoons that follow or because of all the dead car batteries that seem to make up the summers here, but because only the first hot day has any character; it's the only day which stands out at all.

Everybody was wearing white, that night. All the muscle shirts that had been locked into all the closets of Phoenix were let out that evening: they were all white. I was in heaven. All the visiting boys who spend an occasional weekend in Our Fair City during the Winter wear their muscle shirts like a sign that says: "I'm just visiting from someplace a lot cooler. Do I blend in?" But tonight the white muscle shirts were native and it was okay. The shirt I had my eye on was filled, at the moment, by a youngish guy with eyes alive with the heat of the evening.

His skin wasn't tan, but still had the oily sheen of happy perspiration from a day in the sun. I love that reddish, rusting, golden skin that the dark red-haired can acquire. Not the sickly white of the anemic red-haired boy, but the full and robust red that is easily mistaken for brown hair. Sunset skin, let's say, that wants you to feel its soft surface. He was nicely muscled and nicely built; I thought it appropriate to nicely introduce myself.

"Buffy St. Germain," I said, extending my hand quickly. "I hope you'd like to dance to this." He did.

I always try to bring up the subject of straight porno films while dancing with hot men I've just met.

It's funny how first impressions go. I could tell by the way he nodded at the same time he turned to set his drink on the bar that I was going to like him, that I hadn't selected a dick, that I stood a good chance of someday seeing all of that beautiful sunset skin at the same time.

We talked a lot while we danced. More, I think, than one is supposed to while dancing.

"Oh, yeah!" he hollered over loud music, "I love it when the girl fake-screams 'Please...don't...stop...'" I always try to bring up the subject of straight porno films while dancing with hot men I've just met. He was enjoying this line, as well.

We danced a few more, then decided to eat. It was clear we were going to spend the rest of that first one-hundred-and-three degree night together. And we did.

Traffic was still heavy that early April Saturday morning. Do we all daydream of silly love, in heavy traffic, driving home the next morning? I've done it more than once. At home I pruned my roses; Saturday chores floated peacefully by, like the April days which followed this one.

By July I was becoming obsessed with him. Work house days became longer as the ridiculous, insolent sun climbed thoughtlessly in the sky.

I was always hot. I wanted more. We seemed to be together constantly. It wasn't all kissy-face and roses, either; ours was a sophisticated love. Controlled, even; at the same time reckless. The word *love* is inadequate; it does not describe what I felt.

Asian cultures see relationships more clearly than American culture does; there is no word for *love* in China. The Chinese say *honor, respect, cherish, commitment, desire*. All parts of our *love*, but without the stigma which allows us to change our minds, or fall in and out of love. When I say we were in love, I mean in a funny, nonverbal, Asian sort of way.

In bed, we didn't say, "Yuk. Get away from me, you're all hot and sweaty," as we might have. We held together in a communal pool of perspiration.

As we lay in bed, sweating, we spoke in gentle tones; careful not to disturb the thin blankets of cool air selfishly doled out by the reluctant swamp cooler.

"Does you want some water?" he asked in a baby-voice. I loved it.

"No." I couldn't see into the darkness, but I heard the concern in his voice, his raised eyebrows. "I'm in heaven."

"I'm really the golden boy at work lately," he told me.

"Uh-huh."

"Someone told me I was in line for the next Regional Manager opening."

"As long as it's *this* region."

"It's the Northeast."

"You'll freeze solid," I told him, trying to camouflage the concern in my voice.

"I'll make almost twice what I'm making now."

"So?"

"It'll probably never happen."

"Yeah."

September brought the news, just as the heat was starting to let up. Hard to say that ninety-nine degrees is any more a "letting up" than one-hundred-and-twelve, but these are the milestones of summer in Phoenix. He was leaving.

I was torn up. He didn't want to go, I thought. I never asked him to stay, or why his work was more important than his love. (Although I did point out that mine was clearly not more important.)

I still see why I thought he'd never go through with it. Why do it? For money? I guess I decided he was a fool for the love of money, and maybe we didn't have all that much in common after all. That was the excuse I gave myself, anyway.

So he left.

That winter I took long walks in the cold night air and, kneeling before the snapping fire, felt the confusion of being warm and cold and sad and happy all at the same time. I recalled the brutal summer heat and the sunset skin and the end of summer in Phoenix.

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SLUTES

cont. from page 6

the first Republican president) and to African Americans (Lincoln, of course, freed the slaves). Hill's implication is, why do blacks need King Day when they can celebrate the birthday of the Great Emancipator?

But Lincoln is not the ultimate hero for African Americans. He ended slavery, true, but only after it had become moot. The civil war was not about slavery but secession (if we pointed that fact out to the Lithuanians, perhaps they'd better understand our tolerance for Gorbachev). Lincoln himself believed in the superiority of the white race. African Americans should not accept Jeff Hill's idea of a hero.

Do we still have a racial problem in this country? Yes, of course. Why are so many African Americans disaffected? Because they feel disenfranchised. This nation is by and for white people, and it shows. The symbolic effect of a national holiday honoring a black man is therefore significant.

When Arizonans make an issue of this holiday, especially when it has been accepted by 47 other states as well as the federal government, they insult every racially sensitive African American in this state and in this country. Passing the King holiday hurts nobody. Repeatedly rejecting it hurts a lot of people.

If you are a racist, if you don't believe that a black man should be honored with a holiday, then you don't have to join in the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Stay home. Rent "Birth of a Nation" on videotape. Revel in your racism. No one will stop you.

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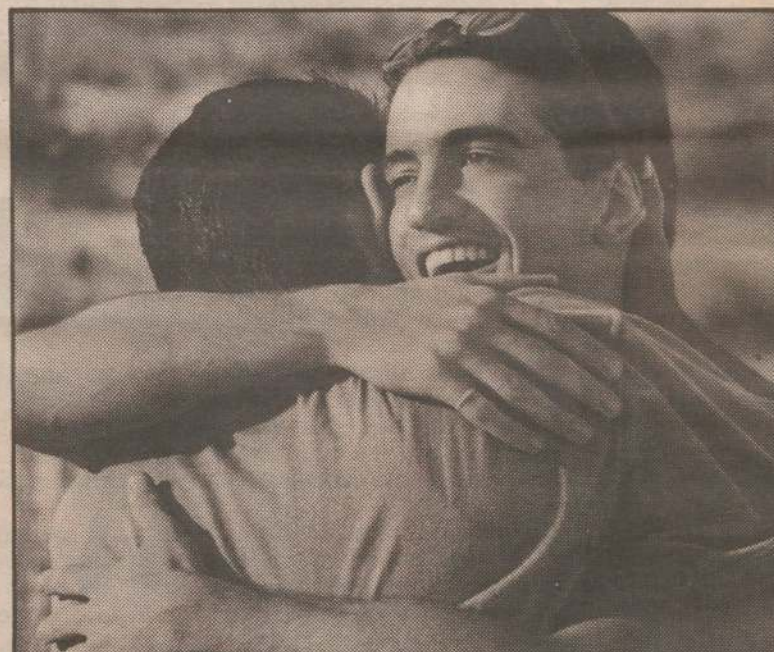
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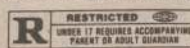
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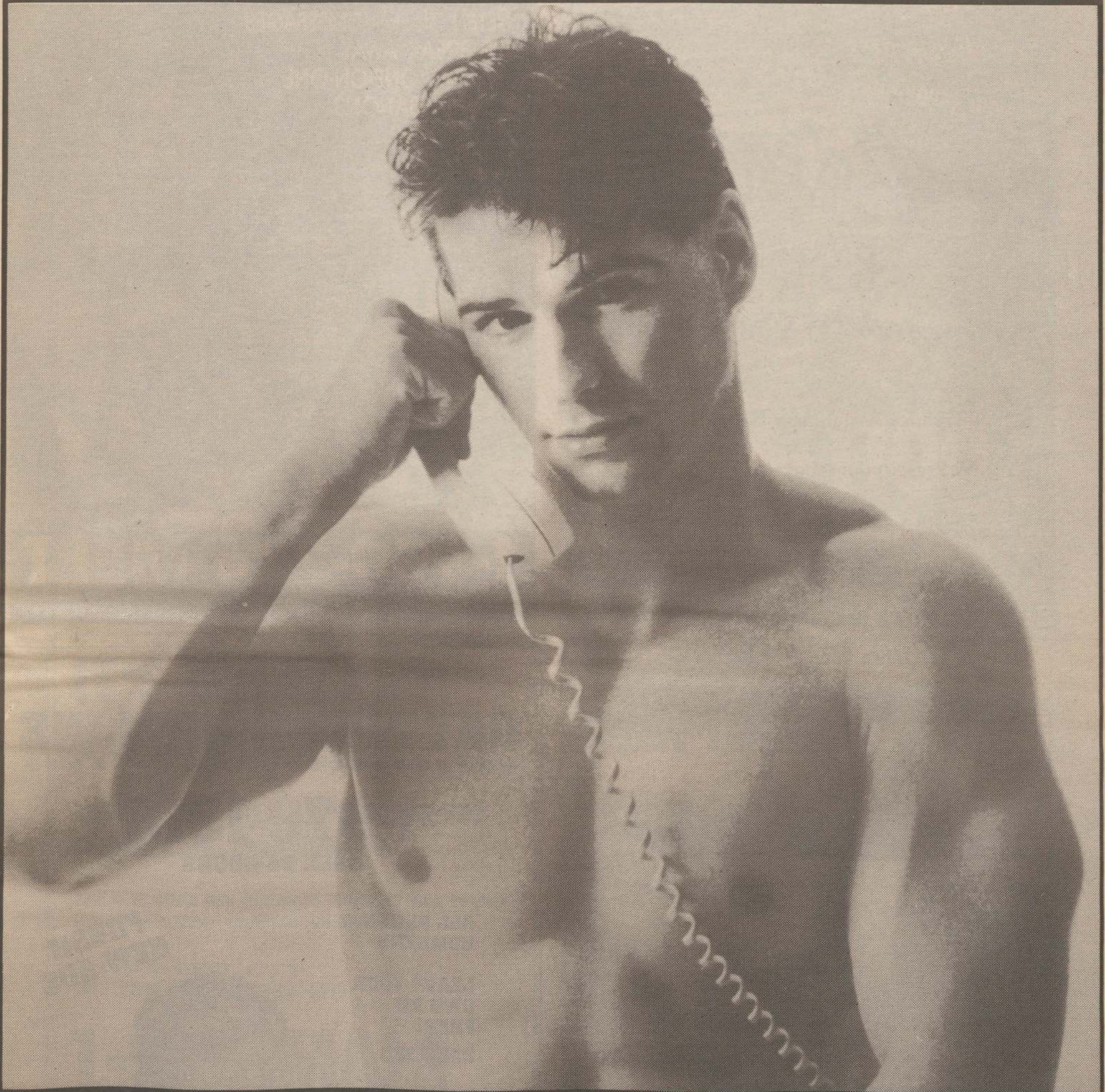
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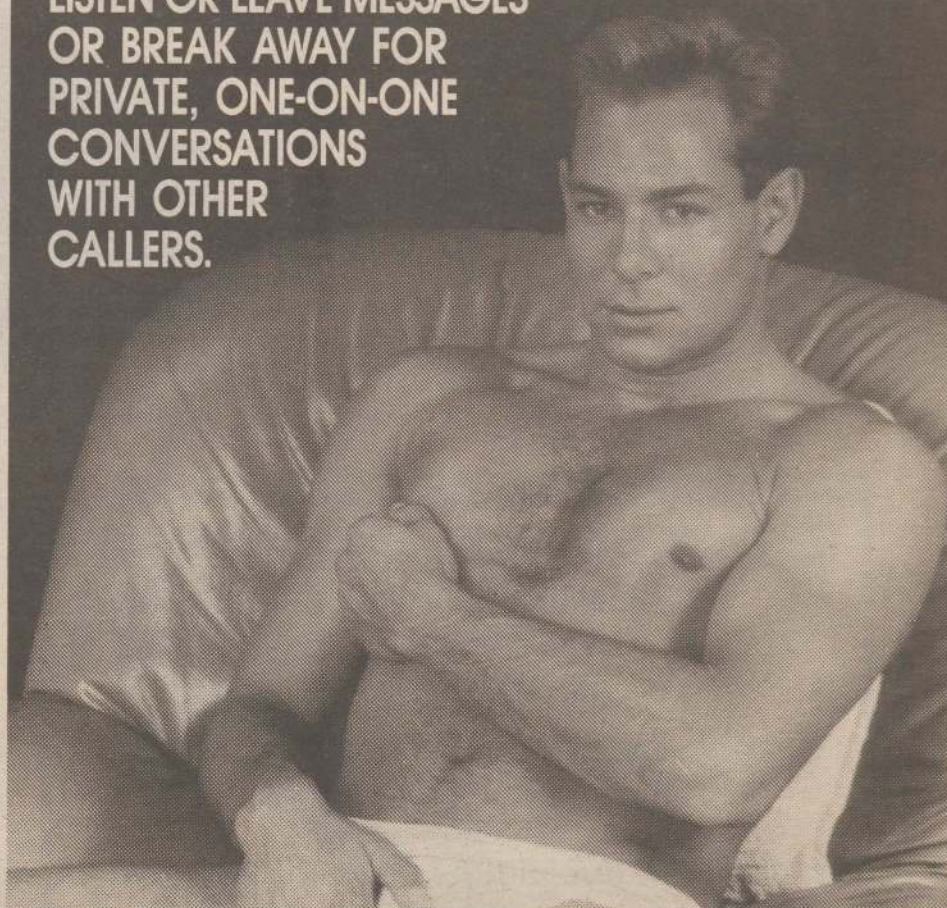
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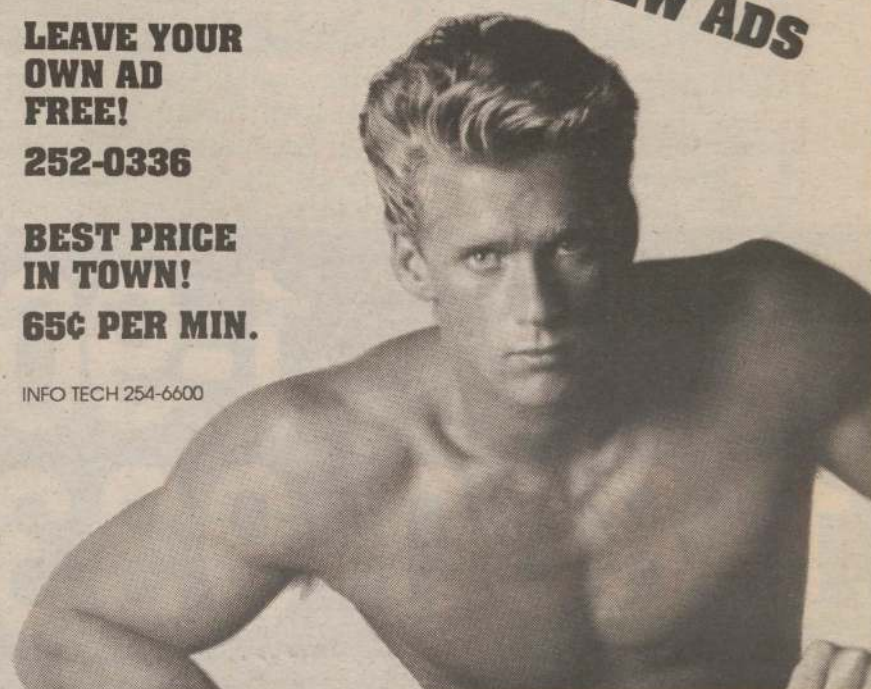
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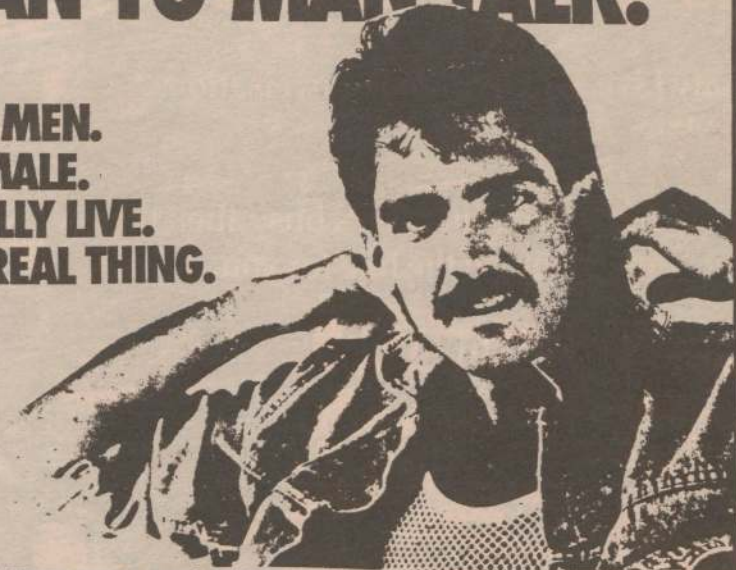
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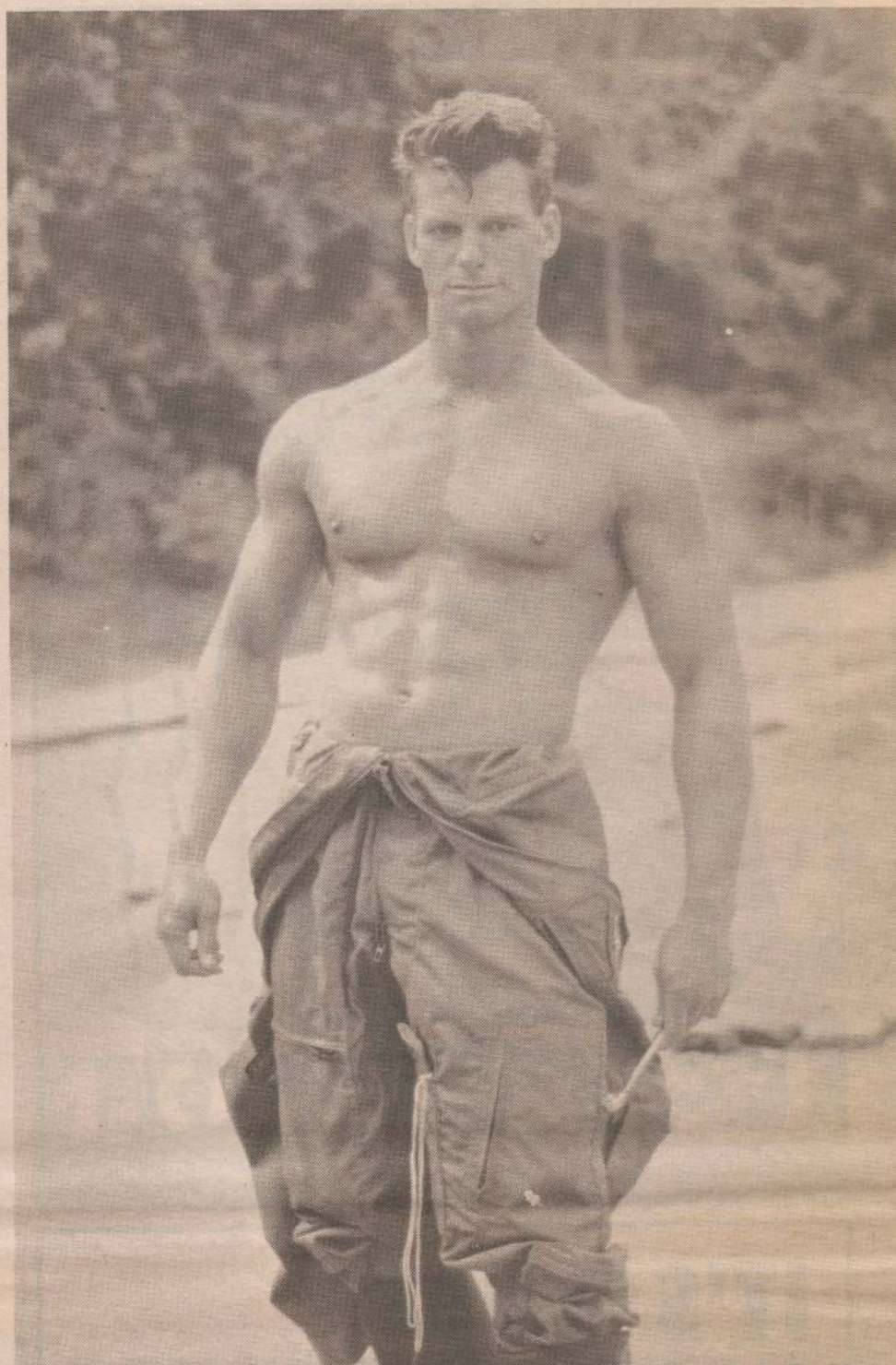
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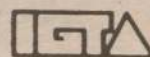
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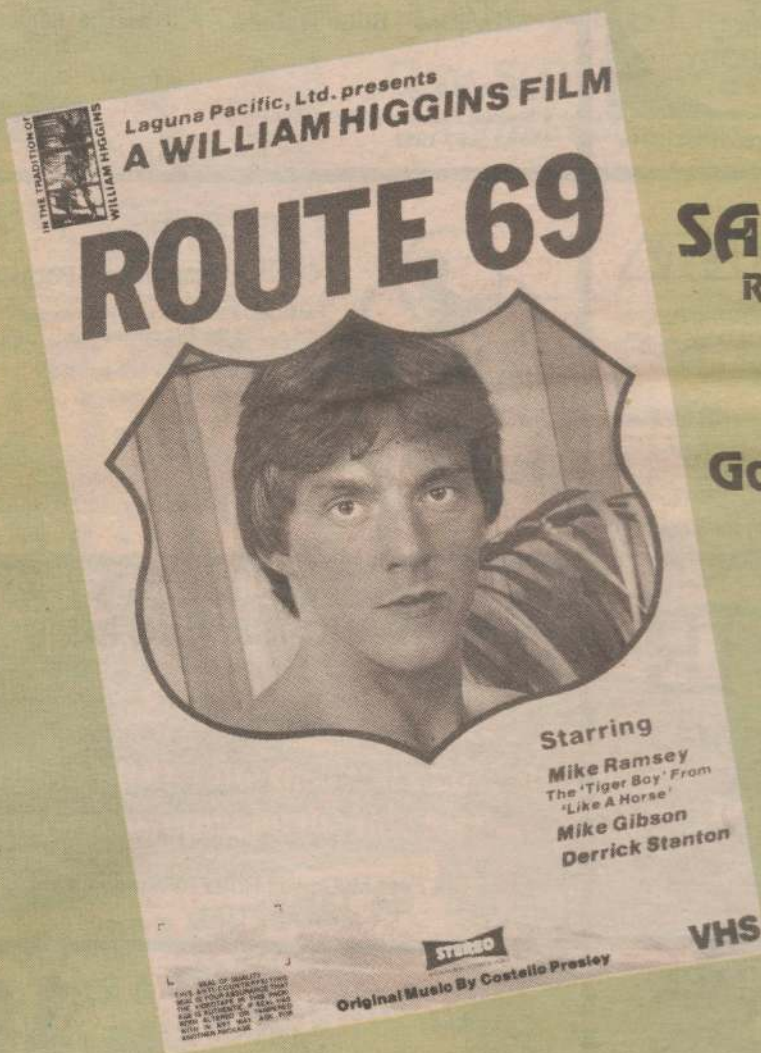
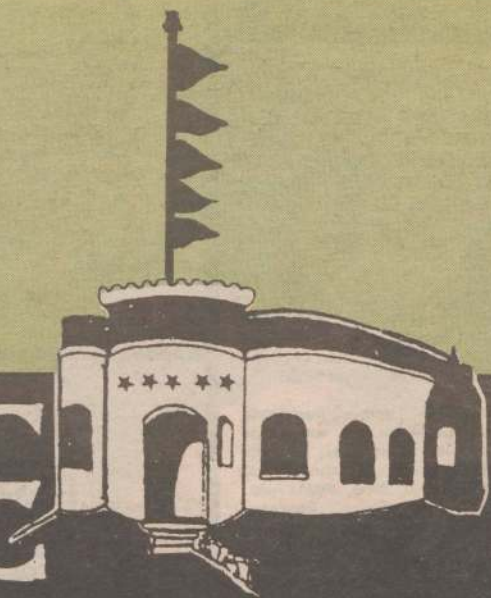
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