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phoenix resource

Volume 6 Number 21
October 12 - October 25

SCUTTLEBUTT

Jana Williams'
New Novel
Glimpses Lesbians
in the Military

Yvonne Zipter
on Gay
Marriage

Don Slutes
on Ballot Props

Oscar Wilde
on Death
and Martyrdom



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- ❖ HIV: How the Virus Works (Viral Pathogenesis)
- ❖ Should I Get Tested?
- ❖ Medical Intervention
- ❖ Living with HIV Infection
- ❖ Medical Monitoring
- ❖ New Directions in Research

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phoenix resource

Volume 6 Number 21

ON THE COVER:

Jana Williams used to live in Phoenix, until she blew town for bootcamp and the military thing. Her new novel is excerpted in this edition of *Phoenix Resource*.

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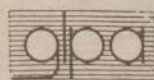
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Letters...

Queering the Question

I'm writing to agree with a letter printed in your last issue ("Letters," Vol. 6 No 20). I, too, object to the use of the word "queer" in your newspaper.

If we are to ever unite as a community, we must stop deluding ourselves into thinking that we are anything but the best creatures God placed on the earth. If we believe anything else, how will we ever get (non-gay people) to believe we're okay?

Cal Tjurdin
Phoenix

We could refuse to design another stitch of clothing for them until they concede,

—Ed.

What About Stefi Duna?!

Nobody I showed it to recognized Irene Dunne on the cover of your newspaper last week ("I Remember Dying," Vol. 6 No. 19). Here are some suggestions for future cover models: Constance Collier, Mary Wickes, Ann Sheridan, Dame May Whitty, Linda Darnell, Margaret Sullavan, Evelyn Keyes, and Carmen Miranda.

Bill Hammill
Video Stop I
Phoenix

Come Out or Else Don't. We Think.

Your coverage of Coming Out Day was nice, but not very gay ("Coming Out," Vol. 6 No. 20). The two articles you ran were both by people who don't profess to identify as gay. Meg Umans wrote about being straight in a gay community, and while Ellen Young wrote about Coming Out Day from a supposedly insider's point of view, she also wrote about being bisexual in a previous issue.

Nice try. But not very gay for Gay Coming Out Day.

Ellen A. Halvern
Phoenix

Okay. But you have to admit the layout was pretty swishy.

—Ed.

UH-OH.

Last time we told you that *leading* is the spacing between letters in typography. We meant to say *Kerning*. Sorry. *Phoenix Resource* t-shirts went to the six people who phoned to berate us for our stupidity. Moral: It pays to call and complain.

SCUTTLEBUTT



Former Arizonan
Jana Williams'
new novel reveals
the misogyny
in the military,
and glimpses
a younger
Phoenix town.

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Gay Politicos Organize to Defeat Helms

Requesting Donations for Gantt Campaign

In an unprecedented effort, a national gay organization is urging its members to donate money to a political candidate, in this case the Democratic nominee facing Jesse Helms in this November's North Carolina Senate race.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund is orchestrating a massive, nation-wide fundraising effort among its members to give urgently needed campaign funds to Harvey Gantt in his battle against Helms, whom members call "the Senate's most virulent homophobic."

In a letter sent to Campaign Fund members throughout the United States, executive director Tim McFeeley explained that the unprecedented opportunity to defeat Jesse Helms requires Campaign Fund members to

to make direct contributions to the Gantt Campaign. In addition, HRCF is offering members advice on how to hold "Defeat Helms" fundraising parties in homes throughout the country.

"Harvey Gantt can beat Jesse Helms in November," McFeeley states. And North Carolina polls back up that point. The race is now seen as neck and neck, with Gantt given a slight lead in recent surveys. "The next few weeks will be tough as Helms attacks Gantt for being an 'ultra-liberal' and 'un-American,'" McFeeley warned Campaign members in his letter.

"The Gantt campaign needs thousands of dollars in the coming months to fight back against the blitz of negative television and radio ads that have been launched by Jesse Helms," McFeeley says.

"This election is our last

This election is our last opportunity until 1996 to make sure that Jesse Helms will no longer have a platform in the U.S. Senate

take an aggressive approach to the campaign. "This race is so important that we are taking the unusual step of asking our members to write personal checks. Nothing is more important than defeating Jesse Helms and electing Harvey Gantt," McFeeley's letter states.

The political action committee, which according to a Federal Elections Commission report earlier this month soared in size to become the fourth largest independent political action committee in the United States, has already contributed the maximum legal amount of \$15,000 to the Gantt campaign.

"While we continue to help the Gantt campaign by working on a full roster of political activities to help insure victory on November 6, we cannot provide any additional financial support directly to the campaign," McFeeley explains. Instead, the Campaign Fund is asking its members

opportunity until 1996 to make sure that Jesse Helms will no longer have a platform in the U.S. Senate," McFeeley has told members of the Campaign Fund.

In another bold move to mobilize its members, HRCF has set up a "House Party Hotline" to provide information to members on how to multiply the financial support that can be set to the Gantt campaign by holding small fundraisers for him.

A lesbian and gay fundraiser for Gantt held in Los Angeles raised over \$25,000 for the Gantt campaign. The theme of the event was "Throw Jesse from the Train."

That is the kind of event the campaign Fund hopes its members can conduct throughout the country. "Jesse Helms is the most powerful enemy that lesbians and gay Americans have ever had," McFeeley insists. "But Helms has powerful opposition as well."

Court Upholds Conviction in Gay Slaying

The Portland State Supreme Court has upheld the murder conviction of an Old Orchard Beach man who said he killed a Brunswick man for being a homosexual.

Charles M. Martin pleaded guilty in March 1989 for murdering Vincent M. Irish, by shooting him in the head, beating him with a gun and then suffocating him.

Martin initially had pleaded innocent, but then changed his plea when Cumberland County Superior Court denied his motions to suppress all statements he made to police after the killing and all physical evidence obtained from him.

Martin was sentenced on May 26, 1989, to sixty years in prison for the killing, but then he appealed the Superior Court's order denying his motions to suppress evidence.

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court said it found no error in the lower court's rulings and upheld Martin's conviction.

In his videotaped confession, Martin told state police investigators that he killed Irish because he "was a queer."

"He handled other men," Martin said in his confession. "It's like, I would have had more trouble shooting

someone who hadn't done anything wrong."

Martin's defense attorney, Joseph Field of Brunswick, said at Martin's sentencing hearing that the defendant was "driven by a hatred of homosexuals" and had been sexually abused as a child.

In his confession, Martin told investigators he went to Portland's Deering Oaks Park on March 26, 1988, carrying a sawed-off shotgun under his coat. He said he got into a car driven by Irish, and the two drove to Windham.

"Did you intend to rob him?" one of the police investigators asked Martin on the videotape.

"Yes," he responded, "and I also intended to kill him."

Martin said he shot Irish twice and then beat him because Irish had struggled.

After driving down a deserted road, Martin said he sat in the front seat, smoking a cigarette, "listening to him wheeze."

He said he then put Irish into the trunk of the car and suffocated him with a jacket.

Martin was arrested later that night when he flagged down a police cruiser.

Charges May Be Dropped in Gay Bar Raid

LIMA, OH—A Municipal Court judge will decide within two weeks whether to dismiss charges against forty-one people who were arrested at a gay bar. The arrests triggered a wave of protest from gay rights groups and the American Civil Liberties Union, which questioned the constitutionality of a city ordinance.

At the late August hearing, Judge William Lauber took under advisement motions to dismiss all charges stemming from a June 10 raid on the Office Bar, saying he will make a decision next month.

The patrons were arrested—by officers wearing latex gloves—on charges of visiting a disorderly house. Police said the raid

was the culmination of an investigation of complaints involving illegal liquor sales and improper dancing in the bar.

ACLU lawyers filed a motion July 16 to dismiss the charges, contending that the city ordinances defining a disorderly house is unconstitutionally vague and violates the Fourteenth Amendment right of due process. Juergen Waldick, city prosecutor, said the ordinance in question was enacted in 1973 to combat afterhours drinking establishments, gambling and prostitution. Police Chief Frank Catlett said officers followed normal procedures in the raid. He said it was proper to wear gloves because "the officers were dealing with people who could have AIDS."

Queers Dance at Disneyland

ANAHEIM, CA—Lesbians and gay men danced with partners of the same sex on Saturday, September 15, ten years after two gay men were ejected from Disneyland for dancing together.

Andrew Exler of Palm Springs said the same-sex dancing was in commemoration of the ten-year anniversary of Disneyland ejecting him and a male dance partner from the Tomorrowland Terrace on September 13, 1980, after disco dancing together. The two men sued the park and in 1984 won a lawsuit which effectively reversed Disneyland's 1957 policy barring same-sex dancing.

On September 15, Exler said twelve male couples and two female couples danced for thirty minutes at the Tomorrowland Terrace to live music. The couples participated in both fast-and touch-dancing without any confrontation from guests or park security. However, while the couples were dancing, a Disneyland security officer ("Cheryl"—badge number 69) was overheard telling park guests, "There was a lawsuit ten years ago; I hope they all die from AIDS—they are going to die

from AIDS anyway..."

Exler says that the comment from the on-duty officer was totally inexcusable and should not be tolerated by Disneyland officials. "Her comments were clearly homophobic and in very poor taste, especially since persons with AIDS were dancing that evening," he said. Exler has demanded in writing that Disneyland publicly apologize for the officer's offensive and derogatory comment, but Disney representatives refuse to return his phone calls.

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List of "Gay Names" Seized by Law Officials

BOONE, IA—A list of names seized at a gay men's gathering last month can be shared with other law enforcement agencies, according to an order by Boone County District Judge Carl D. Baker. But Baker ordered Boone County Sheriff Ronald Fehr to carefully control the use of the names seized at the Midwest Men's Festival until he makes a final ruling in the case.

Baker said earlier this month that he expected to rule soon on a request from the Iowa Civil Liberties Union to return the list to festival organizers.

"We're only trying to protect records and not impede law enforcement," said Randall Wilson, the ICLU's chief counsel, who added Baker's order was a "complete victory." But Assistant Iowa Attorney General Gary Hayward said "it is highly insulting" to suggest law enforcement agencies "were going to abuse the

information."

The ICLU asked the judge to order the sheriff's office to return the list and to ensure that the information gained from it be tightly controlled. During the two-hour hearing, authorities contended they needed the information to conduct continuing investigations. Fehr said other law enforcement officials have called to request information about the list.

Festival organizers claim about thirty investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, state and local law enforcement agencies raided the gathering August 26 in a secluded area four miles north of Boone and seized the list and other personal belongings. Gay groups and other supporters, including the ICLU, objected to the show of force and said the purpose of the raid appeared to violate the participants' rights of free speech and assembly.

Catholic Church Nixes Homophobia Seminar

BOISE, ID—Churches must learn to accept homosexuals in society and in their congregations, a Catholic priest and a nun told a small group at a Boise seminar.

At the August seminar, entitled "Homophobia in Religion and Society," the Rev. Father Robert Nugent and Sister Jeannine Gramick told an audience of ten that religious teachings sometimes are used to promote homophobia—the irrational fear or dislike of homosexuals.

"Religion is not the cause of homophobia," Nugent said afterward. "However, religion can be a channel for homophobic behavior. We've used the Bible to support our worst prejudices," including racism

and slavery, he said.

The one-day seminar was conducted at Cathedral of the Rockies, a Methodist church in Boise, because the Idaho Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church had declined to allow Nugent and Gramick to use church buildings, they said. "Fears get the best of very intelligent people on this issue," said Nugent, a member of a Catholic religious order. Although the two did not receive an explanation, "I am inclined to think homophobia is at work," Nugent said. Gramick said she was puzzled. "We are a Catholic priest and a Catholic nun in good standing."

ACT UP Phoenix Joins Philip Morris Boycott

ACT UP Phoenix, the local division of the activist group AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, has announced its intention to join chapters in several other cities in calling for a boycott of Miller beer and Marlboro cigarettes, both products of the Philip Morris company.

The action has been called in an effort to focus attention on Philip Morris Co. contributions to Senator Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina).

Last year, Philip Morris contributed \$20,000 to the Senator's re-election fund and \$175,000 to the Jesse Helms learning center and museum, now under con-

struction in North Carolina.

According to an official statement released by the group, "Senator Helms has proven himself unworthy of such support due to his bigoted, inflammatory and ultimately deadly actions; Helms has opposed all AIDS legislation and by doing so has sentenced tens of thousands of people to death."

According to ACT UP chair Bruce Kurtz, "Everyone should stop buying Miller beer and Marlboro cigarettes because their dollars are going to Jesse Helms. Instead of fighting a killer like AIDS, they're contributing to a killer like Jesse Helms."

Casa de Cristo Marks Twentieth Year

PHOENIX—Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church, organized in 1970 as the Chapel of the Nomads, observes its twentieth anniversary this month.

Shortly after its inception, the church affiliated with the United Federation of Metropolitan Community Churches, an organization founded by the Reverend Troy Perry, a gay minister. In 1977 the church adopted the name Casa de Cristo; eleven years later the congregation voted to leave the UFMCC denomination and become an independent church.

Casa de Cristo is allegedly the first gay-oriented church in the country to build its own sanctuary. The present structure, at 1029 East Indian School, was dedicated in October 1979.

Gay Games Names Host City

NEW YORK, NY—Before an estimated crowd of 20,000 including over 7,000 gay, lesbian and non-gay athletes and more than 3,000 cultural participants, The Federation of Gay Games named New York as the host city for Gay Games IV in 1994.

Rick Peterson, co-president of the Federation, made the announcement at the closing ceremonies of Gay Games III in Vancouver in August. Responding to the announcement, co-president Tom Cracovia said, "We are extremely happy to be given this great honor. We...promise to make the next Games the best ever."

Boy Scouts May Reverse Discriminatory Decision

Premier Challenge of Anti-Gay Policy

Months after the Boy Scouts awarded Timothy Curran its highest honor in 1980, the organization summoned the new Eagle Scout to a council office in Los Angeles, and told him to leave the organization.

Scout officials had learned Curran had taken a male date to his senior prom, a violation of the Scouts' ban on homosexuals as outlined in a national policy that calls gay men "poor role models."

Nearly ten years after that meeting, a trial has begun in Superior Court in Los Angeles over whether Curran, now a twenty-eight-year-old freelance journalist, may rejoin the Scouts as an adult leader.

The case is believed to be the first

in membership in the late Seventies, the Scouts have rebounded with a near record-high membership of 4.3 million.

Scout officials have attributed the organization's resilience to its firm hold on what the organization calls "traditional values."

"We believe that homosexuality is inconsistent with the family values that Scouting stresses, and that homosexuals do not make good role models for pre-adolescent and adolescent youth," said Scout spokesperson Caytie Daniell.

The trial before Superior Court Judge Sally G. Disco is now focusing on whether the Irving, Texas-based Boy Scouts is a business as defined by California's Civil Rights Act.

Curran's attorney, senior ACLU staff

A Scout official told Tim Curran, "Homosexuality and Boy Scouting are not compatible."

challenge of the Scouts' anti-gay policy.

Gay rights activists feel that the case is important. A victory, they say, would send a strong message that what they call discrimination by a non-profit group will not be tolerated.

"If at any time you can chip away at a brick in the wall of discrimination and it will lead to the crumbling of that wall, it eventually will be victory for everybody," said Ivy Young of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C.

The Curran case also comes at an important time in the eighty-year-old Boy Scouts of America. After suffering a drop

counsel Jon Davidson, portrayed the Scouts as a massive national enterprise with 2,000 retail shops and \$52.3 million in revenues.

The trial places in the same courtroom Curran and Quentin Alexander, the Scout official whom Curran claims told him to leave Scouting with the message: "Homosexuality and Boy Scouting are not compatible."

Curran, who was fourteen when he joined Troop 37 in Berkeley, California, was a relative late comer to Scouting, but he quickly impressed Scout officials by completing the rigorous program.

Names Quilt Vandalized

MIAMI, FL—Someone cut teddy bears from the handmade national AIDS quilt while it was on display in Florida, marking the first time in its three-year history the memorial to victims of the disease has been vandalized, organizers said.

"It's like going to a cemetery and kicking over tombstones," said Jerry Suarez, chairman of the South Florida Names Project, which set up the display at the Hotel Inter-Continental there.

Scott Lago, head of display marketing for the national Names Project, said that sections of the quilt have been displayed around the world, including 257 times this year, and had never been vandalized before.

Four twelve-foot-by-twelve-foot sections of the quilt, each made up of eight panels, were on display in the hotel mezzanine in conjunction with the national conference of the Council of Foundations.

They were to be taken down on the day that the organization ended its conference, but the day before another group meeting at the hotel, The Club Connection, asked that the quilt sections be removed.

The Club Connection, which bills itself as a "selective singles" group, considered the display "ugly," said the hotel's resident manager Jurgen Dinger.

A hotel employee obliged the group

without consulting management, Dinger said.

When Suarez went looking for the quilt, he found it wadded up in a closet with teddy bears cut from two different portions of the quilt.

Shelley Rappaport said she sewed one teddy bear on a portion of the quilt dedicated to her friend Mickey Bonavina.

"It's not just a teddy bear," Rappaport said. "It's the only memorial I have. That's why it hurts so much."

The other teddy bear, which was wearing surgical gloves, had been cut from a portion of the panel dedicated to Suarez's father, a doctor. Suarez said he had used fishing line to sew the stuffed animal, which was wearing surgical scrubs, onto the panel.

"It didn't just come off," he said. "You could tell someone took scissors to it."

The two teddy bears were eventually found in a box of papers that the hotel was about to throw out, Dinger said.

Ms. Rappaport said the bears will be sewn back on, but the activist called the incident a sign of insensitivity about AIDS.

"It was very difficult to explain how much this meant," she said. "It's like, would someone walk up to the Vietnam War Memorial and start scratching names off?"

Breaking Up in the Middle Years

by Yvonne Zipter

Everyone has illusions of one sort or another—that men, as a gender, are good with mechanical things, that gay men and lesbians are more ethical than others, that Jesus was a blonde with blue eyes, that George Bush is a nice guy—whatever. The thing about illusions is that you don't know they're illusions until you no longer have them. It's a little like the "black ice" of the Midwest: You have no idea that the road before you is sheer ice until your best view ahead becomes the one through your passenger's window. It can get pretty scary.

One of the illusions I've carried around with me for years like a well-worn blanket is that once a relationship has passed a certain mark—maybe ten years or certainly by fifteen—that's a relationship for life, a relationship that has "made it," that is safe from a breakup. This delusion sprang from the belief that ten or fifteen years of commitment was proof enough that two people *belonged* together. And if two people had been together that long, clearly, if there had ever been any problem areas between them, these "obviously" must have been worked out.

Well, anyone with an ounce of life experience could see how flawed this thinking was—naïve at best. All I had to do was look at the endless heterosexual examples I had grown up with—both on TV and in real life—to know that people sometimes stay together for a lot of reasons that have little or nothing to do with love. And even people who do love each other change over time and not necessarily in the same direction. And although I've practically made a career out of telling people that gays and lesbians are "Just like everyone else," I guess I thought them somehow immune to the foibles that plagued heterosexual couples—albeit with problems uniquely their own in this homophobic world. Mostly, though, I believed the "safe after ten years" theory because I needed to believe it.

Through my late twenties and early thirties, as each six-month-old (or less) relationship messily disintegrated before my eyes, I needed to believe this wouldn't be an endless cycle in my life. As a self-confessed serial monogamist, it has always been important to have one special person in my life with whom I can share my triumphs, my secret fears, the minutia of my everyday life, my best and worst sides. I was, and still am, however, more interested in monogamy than in seriality. And I wanted to feel that, with everything else there is to worry about in life, at some point I could at least stop worrying about the "success" or "failure" of my relationship. Therefore, I relished meeting or hearing about couples that had been together ten, twelve, fourteen years: Proof that lesbian relationships are not condemned to a lifespan of two to five years.

So a couple of years ago, when two of my friends who had been together over ten years split up, I was very sad. But, I rationalized, this was a fluke. My illusion of permanence was shaken but still essentially intact. However, as a fifteen-year relationship, a fourteen-year one, an eleven-year one, and an eight-year one ended the last year or so, I had to admit that my illusion was only that and nothing

more. And so, not quite three years into my own relationship...okay, I admit it: I panicked.

I became obsessed with wanting to know about the early years of these long-term relationships: Did they think, like my lover and I do now, that they were an excellent match, destined for a lifetime of shared love and experience? Or were there signs, even at the beginning, that there were serious flaws in their ways of relating? And what, for heaven's sake, were those flaws? I was looking, basically, for some kind of relational Richter scale I could use to monitor our lives.

At the same time, I was hungry for knowledge of lesbian couples who had been together for a long, long time. I wanted to know not only that such relationships were possible, but I wanted to learn their "secrets" as well. For surely, they must know secrets that my friends had not. Unfortunately, the couples I knew that had been together longest had just split up. I was certain that there were, somewhere, women much older than myself who had been together for years and years. But I didn't know who or where these women were...

In the meantime, a friend of mine, the mother of six grown children, celebrated her forty-eighth anniversary with her husband. "What's the secret of your long life together?" I asked her. She thought about it for awhile and then said, "Keep your sense of humor and never go to bed angry—even if all you can manage, until morning, is a handshake." I poured out to her my fears about the short lives of lesbian relationships. She, in her turn, was convinced that the percentages of short-term relationships for gays really weren't all that different from those of heterosexual couples today.

I was somewhat comforted by our talk, but I still yearned for some lesbian role models. Then too, I had this habit of picturing myself in my friends' place, all of us in our middle years (not a wide-eyed baby dyke looking for new "experiences" among us), on their own again after so many years with one person. It frightened the hell out of me! But in all truth, at least half of these women appeared relieved to be out of the relationship; happy, in fact, to have a life of their own again.

Though I suspected I wouldn't be nearly so well-adjusted in similar circumstances, that such acceptance was even possible helped calm me—that and the fact that I realized if I didn't stop obsessing about the future I was going to totally screw up the present.

Our life together now is so wonderful—the lesbian Mertzes (with alternating Fred and Ethel days), leading a slightly shabby but ultimately happy life, going out with our friends, the lesbian Ricardos and their kid—that it is hard for me to believe that we might someday break up. Still, I know it's important for me to have some sense of reality while at the same time trying to find a balance between knowledge of that possible reality and fear of it.

I can't keep myself from wondering, though, where all those lifelong lesbian couples are. I yearn to hear their stories. I just know they're harboring some valuable secrets. Better yet, I hope someday to have my own to tell.

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BALLOT BUSTERS

We're being propositioned again.



The irony in this year's array of general-election ballot propositions is that their number and complexity—the two things that require studying them at length—is the factor that has prevented the Secretary of State's office from mailing the publicity pamphlet to voters.

You may have heard that the booklet describing this year's 14 propositions (including one that didn't make it onto the ballot) is a whopping 224 pages long—too big to mail cheaply. Most voters, then, are likely to rely on media coverage and commercials for their information.

The propositions include three dealing with auto insurance, two addressing the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, a perennial proposal to increase legislators' salaries, high-profile issues such as the so-called Victims' Bill of Rights, and the Arizona Classroom Improvement Program, and a few unsexy government-operations-type measures.

This year's overgrown list of ballot propositions is partly a result of the voter-initiative mania that swept Arizona this past year, when everybody seemed to be either toting or signing clipboard-bound petitions. A few months ago I complained about this phenomenon, and especially the rhetoric surrounding Evan Mecham's bid to put the King holiday back on the ballot after the legislature had derailed an earlier initiative. Mecham claimed to be "restoring" the public's right to vote on the issue (conveniently ignoring the fact that all the other state holidays had been created by the Legislature as part of its normal duties). I wrote that we elect a legislature for a reason—so that average citizens don't have to cast a vote on every issue that comes before the state. It would be ludicrous, I said back then, for citizens to expect to be consulted on everything, especially complex issues like, oh, revenue and budgets, for instance. I thought I had chosen an extreme example. I was wrong. You, ladies and gentlemen, came within a hair's breadth of having the improbable opportunity to vote on the Legislature's 1990 tax package. The official ballot language for this behemoth, which won't appear on the ballot until 1992 unless it is superseded by legislative action (which surely will happen), gives a clear indication why this sort of thing should never be on a general-election ballot. Still, if enough people are conned into signing a petition, anything is possible in Arizona.

Leaving aside the question of whether Arizonans should be able to cut their own taxes, here are a few ballot propositions about which you might want more information:

Proposition 104

This proposition's shorthand title, "Victims' Bill of Rights," brings to mind a huddling mass of burglarized families, battered women, and abused children who currently, we would believe, have no rights at all. Just what is a victim's right? The right to, um, free speech? No, we all have that right, even those of us who have yet to be victimized. The right to see a criminal prosecuted? No, perpetrators of crime will always face the criminal justice system, if they can be brought to it.

WHY GEORGE BUSH DOESN'T WANT DAVID SOUTER TO OVERTURN ROE V. WADE

The clamor went up last month about the *real* designs of Supreme Court nominee, and now Associate Justice, David Souter. During Senate hearings, abortion-rights groups testified against the confirmation of a man who refused to state plainly that, yes, he believed a woman's right to choose is a *fundamental* right.

Souter never said that, or much of anything else that gave a clue about his personal leanings. The assumption is, however, that President Bush, who claims to be a pro-lifer, would naturally choose a fellow pro-lifer for the Supreme Court, someone who could finally provide the deciding vote to overturn 1973's *Roe v. Wade* decision.

However, I subscribe to the theory that overturning *Roe v. Wade* is the last thing Bush wants.

Leaving aside his ill-fated support of a certain budget agreement, Bush is no dummy when it comes to politicking. He knows that taking away the Constitutional protection of reproductive choice would mean that the states would once again be free to pass all manner of anti-choice measures, and Bush has seen the polls that show a clear majority favoring choice. When Republican legislators across the country start passing anti-choice laws, these same Republicans are going to lose their jobs to Democrats—bad news for the Republican Party's titular leader.

Bush is a politician's politician, and as such, he would much rather abandon his stand on abortion rights, I believe, than lose political points. I'm willing to bet that he, along with the several women who assailed his nominee during those hearings, is praying that Justice Souter does nothing to change the status quo.

—Slutes

PERSPECTIVE

■■■
Don Slutes

What Proposition 104 really intends is for victims of crime to have more participation in the prosecution of the criminal(s) who victimized them, as if our criminal justice system is set up to pit victims against victimizers. But it's not: the state, not the victim, is the plaintiff in criminal cases. Criminal cases are tried on the basis of which laws were violated, not which victims. A victim of crime, therefore, is simply a piece of evidence.

I realize this analysis is not compelling. "A piece of evidence"? It sounds inhuman. But "justice" isn't warm and fuzzy, it shouldn't be plied with emotional appeals. Justice must be rendered on the basis of facts, and with the established safeguards against unfair, unbalanced trials. In this country, even the most heinous alleged criminal deserves a fair trial. Otherwise, the word "justice" has no meaning. We might as well dispense prison sentences on the basis of opinion polls.

I believe the "Victims' Bill of Rights" represents an indefensible and unnecessary trampling of the rights of defendants to fair treatment.

Whether or not we've ever been victimized or whether we will be in the future, all of us have the same rights. We have the right *not* to be a victim of crime. When someone denies us that right, he or she is prosecuted according to well-established rules designed to fulfill the promise of due process—for all of us. Proposition 104 intends to put rules in the Arizona Constitution that would damage the ability of attorneys and judges to conduct trials on a level playing field.

Vote "no" on 104.

Propositions 203 and 105

Proposition 203 is a pretty insidious deal. Under the guise of reducing insurance rates and giving consumers a "choice," the measure would allow auto insurance purveyors to issue "personal protection" policies (a.k.a. "no-fault") as an alternative to traditional, fault-based coverage. The no-fault policies would cost less, but in the bargain, consumers would forfeit their right to file suit to recover damages in the event of an accident. The worst insult: policyholders' claims would be capped at \$15,000.

Auto accidents have been known to wreak terrible destruction. Let's say a driver who possessed one of these "no-fault" policies who was involved in an

Whether or not we've ever been victimized or whether we will be in the future, all of us have the same rights.

accident caused by another driver. The innocent driver's injuries are severe, costing many times more than \$15,000 to treat. Not only does his policy fail to cover his costs, but he no longer has the constitutional right to sue the other driver for damages. This is being promoted under the guise of consumer "choice."

Yes, consumers will still have the choice between no-fault and traditional coverage, but few insurance consumers are going to opt for the more expensive traditional coverage. This, of course, is just what the insurance companies want. With fewer customers purchasing fault-based coverage, the insurance companies won't have to pay huge claims or foot the bill for high damage awards assessed against their clients in court.

No-fault schemes have been tried in other states, most notably Massachusetts, which it credited for inventing the concept. Massachusetts currently boasts the highest insurance rates in the country.

The success of Proposition 203 depends upon the passage of Proposition 105, which would amend the Arizona Constitution to allow for the optional forfeiture of the right to sue for damages, a vital component of the no-fault proposal.

If voters are interested in controlling auto insurance rates in Arizona, I would invite them to investigate Proposition 201, which would provide for government oversight of insurance consumers' concerns. Don't let the insurance companies dictate the means for reducing rates.

Vote "no" on 105 and 203.

Proposition 202

When environmentalists began circulating petitions aimed at controlling the activities of ENSCO and its waste-disposal plant in Mobile, Arizona, the waste-disposal industry started a similar-sounding drive. The industry-sponsored petition was designed mainly to confuse voters.

In the end, the environmentalists' initiative drive failed to gather the necessary signatures, while the industry-sponsored petition was successful. *Proposition 202, therefore, represents a pro-ENSCO effort.* According to many environmental advocates, the ballot measure would actually weaken many environmental policies already in effect, while paving the way for the importation of solid wastes into Arizona.

In other words, don't vote for 202 thinking it's the answer to the environmental problems posed by the ENSCO plant. Vote "no" on 202.

Proposition 300

It's no secret that the popularity of politicians is at a low ebb across the country. In Arizona, after the legislative battles over King Day and the budget/tax package, many voters have moved beyond mild disgust to outright contempt.

This year, a proposed pay increase for Arizona's legislators is bound to meet its coolest reception yet. But there may well be a cause-and-effect relationship between the legislative salary (\$15,000) and the quality of governance in this state. Raising the annual pay for each legislator by \$9,000 is a small step to take toward better government. A salary of \$24,000 is still not necessarily going to attract the best and brightest to serve in the legislature, but it's a start.

Nobody is really expecting this kind of good-faith gesture on the part of Arizonans this year. Still, many citizens—those of us who follow politics and are sick of the rube who enjoy free rides each election year—yearn for the caliber of candidates a slightly larger salary might draw. For this reason, I encourage a "Yes" vote on Proposition 300.

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■■■ Pavlov's Calendar

Theater...

Cinderella: Ballet Arizona presents a classic performance October 19-28 at Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe. 252-8497.

Ten Percent Revue: Held over performances every Monday at 8pm. Actor's Lab Arizona, 2nd St. and Scottsdale Rd. 990-1731

Mouse Trap: Theater Works presents the Agatha Christie mystery October 12-28. 6615 W. Thunderbird Rd. 979-9003

Only Kidding: Phoenix Little Theater presents performances through October 28. PLT is located at 25 E. Coronado Rd. 254-2151.

Lizzie Borden: ASU Lyric Opera Theater presents a sordid tale of history and murder through October 21 in the ASU Music Theater. 965-6447.

Music...

October 13

Elaine Townsend and Rita Buglass: In concert at the Science of the Mind Center, 8pm. Tickets \$7 at the door. 438-1157.

Smokey Robinson: Celebrity Theatre, 8pm. 244-0404.

October 14

Peter Allen: Celebrity Theatre, 8pm. 244-0404.

Temptations and Four Tops: Arizona State Fair, 4pm and 7pm, Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

October 17

James Taylor: 7pm at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum.
October 20

Lucie Blue Tremblay and Dianne Davidson: In concert at Celebrity Theater, 8pm. Tickets are \$16 and are available through Ticketmaster outlets.



Lucie Blue Tremblay will present her own brand of lesbian/feminist/human being "moosh music" in concert at Celebrity Theater October 20.

October 23

Men of Chippendales: Celebrity Theater, 7pm. 244-0404.

Oak Ridge Boys: Arizona State Fair, 7pm.

October 24

Linda Ronstadt: Arizona State Fair, 7pm in Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

October 25

Anne Murray: Celebrity Theatre, 7:30pm. 244-0404.

INVERTED QUOTATIONS



"If a man gets drunk, whether he does so on white wine or red is of no importance. If a man has perverse passions, their particular mode of manifestation is of no importance either."

Oscar Wilde

"Oscar was not a man of bad character: You could have trusted him with a woman anywhere."

Willie Wilde, Oscar Wilde's brother

"Frightful bounder. It made me puke to look at him."

English aristocrat Colonel George Keppel, on Wilde

"I kissed each one of them in every part of their bodies; they were all dirty and appealed to me just for that reason."

Wilde, boasting to a friend of having had sexual relations with five young men—all of them messenger boys—in one night

"It is hateful to me now to speak or write of such things, but I must be explicit. Sodomy never took place between us, nor was it thought or dreamt of. Wilde treated me as an older boy treats a younger one at school, and he added what was new to me and was not (as far as I knew) known or practiced among my contemporaries: he 'sucked' me."

Lord Alfred Douglas, clarifying his sexual relationship with Wilde, in a letter to one of Wilde's biographers



Oscar Wilde: "The world is slowly growing more tolerant..."

"Oscar Wilde...the crime of which you have been convicted is so bad that one has to put stern restraint upon one's self to prevent one's self from describing, in language which I would rather not use, the sentiments that must rise to the breast of every man of honor who has heard the details of these two terrible trials...It is no use for me to address you. People who can do these things must be dead to all sense of shame...It is the worst case I have ever tried."

Sir Alfred Wills, presiding judge at Wilde's trial, in remarks before sentencing Wilde to two years' hard labor in prison

"My God, my God! And I? May I say nothing, my lord?"

Wilde, upon hearing the Court's sentence; according to witnesses, Wilde's face blanched with anguish when he heard the sentence, and despite his pleas to speak, the judge motioned for him to be removed from the courtroom

"If Oscar Wilde, instead of indulging in dirty tricks of indecent familiarity with boys and men, had ruined the lives of half a dozen innocent simpleton girls, or had broken up the home of his friend by corrupting his friend's wife, no one could have laid a finger upon him. The male is sacrosanct; the female is fair game. To have burdened society with a dozen bastards, to have destroyed a happy home by his lawless lust—of these things the criminal law takes no account. But let him act indecently to a young rascal who is very well able to take care of himself, and who can by no possibility bring a child into the world as the result of his corruption, then judges can hardly contain themselves from indignation when inflicting the maximum sentence the law allows."

London publisher and journalist W.T. Stead, in one of the few public defenses of Wilde

"His unhappy fate has done the world a signal service in defeating the blind obscurantists: He has made people think. Far more people think differently today because of Oscar Wilde."

English artist and writer Laurence Housman

"The public is wonderfully tolerant. It forgives everything except genius."

Oscar Wilde

BOOK REVIEW



Meg Umans

When Someone You Know Has AIDS: A Practical Guide

Leonard J. Martelli, et al
Crown, 1987; 196 pages, \$9.95

I doubt that there are many of us who haven't been there: Living with, or living close to, or being close to, someone who's dying before he was finished living. (Martelli et al explain that they refer to the person with AIDS as "he" partly for convenience, and partly because most people with AIDS are male.) If you haven't been there, loving someone as you watch him fade, this will be as affirming of your experience as *The Screaming Room* (a mother's journal), and if you want to prepare for the possibility, this is the most useful of the currently available guides.

And the one that comes closest to being universally acceptable. All kinds of people have AIDS, and all kinds of people love them and help them. The person most directly involved is referred to throughout as the "carepartner," and equal respect is given to the love and dignity of spouses, lovers, friends, siblings and parents. In each situation, carepartners are guided through the medical, legal and emotional minefields with coaching that encourages everyone to speak up for his own and his partner's human rights.

Chapter headings show the extent of the ground covered...it's all here, including the unspoken responses we thought were ours alone. Consistent validation. "Everybody's Problem" explains AIDS and ARC, and alerts us to the symptoms. "Becoming a Carepartner or Caring Friend" moves us toward personal involvement: this isn't going to be easy. The next two chapters cover medical aspects and emotional changes, and then we move, as the disease ramifies, to discussions of opportunistic infections and legal and financial concerns.

Keep reading: You have to because this is your continuing choice. "Living With AIDS: Your Relationship Changes" and "Helping Two People to Cope: Dealing With Your Emotions" talk about what happens when your partner returns home, and you're doing a lot more, and your feelings are getting to both of you. They do, and Martelli reminds you firmly and frequently of your right and responsibility to take care of yourself. The following chapters home in on personal issues—reaching out to your own support system, and maintaining love and intimacy when your partner is very ill. The final chapter, "Resolution: Conquering Grief and Loss" shows a path through the following years, with our last encounters with the carepartners we've followed all the way.

Lucie Blue Tremblay & Dianne Davidson



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A Desert Oasis Production

☆☆☆☆ My Mother's Clothes

Jana Williams' first novel, *Scuttlebutt* (Firebrand Books, \$8.95), examines the world of women recruits at a U.S. Navy bootcamp outside of Baltimore in the early 1970s. Amid humorous stories of military indoctrination and lesbianism are glimpses of Sky Harbor Airport, Encanto Park, and a Phoenix of twenty years ago.

In this excerpt, Williams' heroine, Roberta Weston, dreams of her quirky childhood home in a more youthful Valley of the Sun.

Throughout her dream, Roberta Weston could hear voices raised in anger. It was as if there were a crowd gathered outside her bedroom window, arguing.

The voices evaporated and Weston was alone in her room at home. Her sisters were outside playing. She had decided to stay in and read. She heard the front door slam. A chair scudded across the living room floor. Whistling. Her dad was home. Drunk.



"Hello, I'm home. Any of my girls here?" Weston closed her book slowly and climbed off the bed. She opened her bedroom door and stood quietly listening. The whistling continued, loud and incoherent, from her parents' bedroom now. She could hear the clatter of closet doors, bureau drawers, other noise. What was he up to? This time.

She crossed the living room and stood in the doorway of their room, a frown creasing her brow as she watched her father sitting at her mother's small dressing table. He faced the mirror, leaning forward as she had often seen her mother do, and applied foundation to his cheeks and chin and nose. He caught sight of her in the mirror. A grin spread across her face.

"Hi, honey." His glee was infectious. Weston gritted her teeth against the smile that almost jumped to meet his. Invariably when he was drunk his pranks led to trouble. He waited a moment longer, then sighed and turned back to the mirror, reaching for the compact that her mother kept on the bureau. He added powder to his cheeks and nose with dainty strokes. Weston couldn't resist and crossed the room to stand behind him.

"What are you doing, daddy?"

He giggled. "Planning a surprise for mommy." She turned to face her. "How do I look?"

She frowned and studied her shoes. He looked ridiculous. There was a feeling she couldn't name. "It's not funny."

He searched her face. "Something's wrong." He

turned to check his image in the mirror. "I know. It needs lipstick." He reached for the tube and created a red slash across his upper lip. He stuck out his lower lip and dabbed color on it.

"Daddy, that's Mommy's favorite kind."

He winked. "Then she should like it even better on me." He rose from the bench and lumbered toward the closet. "Now, which dress do you think?" He glanced quickly at his watch. "Oops. We better hurry, the bus will be here any minute." He pulled a sleeveless summer dress from the hanger and yanked it roughly over his head. It fit him only because his hips were narrow and there were no sleeves to bind his shoulders. He stooped to roll up his work pants and shoved his feet into a pair of canvas mules. He tottered out of the bedroom and into the kitchen.

Weston had followed at a distance. He was busy shoving small drinking cups into the front of his dress. He modeled his new figure, hands on his hips provocatively. "Just like Jane Russell, huh?" He shuffled toward the front door. "C'mon. We want to beat the bus to the stop or it will ruin the surprise."

Once he left the house, neighborhood kids discovered him immediately. Like the piper they followed him down the narrow street. Weston had hung back, too interested in the outcome to stay home, but still struggling with her unnamed emotion. To the other kids this was an event, a happening, on a tediously dull street. But Weston couldn't forget the fact that this was her father, going to meet her mother, who would not find it funny.

She spotted her mother on the bus about to get off. Her father had arrived with his posse of laughing, squealing children just as the bus began to open its doors. Work-weary passengers flooded out of its portals. Her mother froze the moment she caught sight of the melee outside the bus. Her face said she only wanted to hide, to run as far away as possible. Seconds passed. Others pushed their way around her and continued to leave the bus. Weston's father kept up a running dialogue with the children outside, posing with one hand on his hip, fluffing his hair and applying more lipstick. Finally, when the bus driver could wait no longer, Weston's mother had squared her shoulders and exited the bus. The doors shushed behind her, and she was left alone with the havoc. She pushed through the throng, refusing to acknowledge it.

"Hey, good-looking. Buy a girl a drink?" He pouted his lips expressively.

Weston had watched as her mother had brushed roughly past him and marched toward the house. A sea of laughing, running children followed in her wake. She had wiped a tear brusquely off her cheek and kept walking.

"Jo-ie, Jo-ie, c'mon. Don't you have a sense of humor?" Her dad had hobbled after her.

Finally her mother exploded. "What was it exactly that you thought was so funny?" She kept walking, refusing to look at him. "...That you have ruined a perfectly good lipstick? Tore my dress? Things I've worked long and hard to be able to buy." Now it was her father's turn to be silent. "Or maybe the fact that you pulled such a stunt in front of the whole neighborhood." Her mother's voice had risen to a wail. "I'll never be able to get back on that bus again," she ended, sobbing.

The rest of the long evening, before Weston and her sisters had been put to bed, was spent immersed in stony silence. Her father had cajoled; her mother had ignored him. Lying in bed, listening, Weston had finally heard her mother laugh. But it had sounded funny, alone in the dark, almost like her mother might cry again. Like there was a sob underneath the laughing trying to get out.

Her father turned to check his image in the mirror. "I know. It needs lipstick." He reached for the tube and created a red slash across his upper lip.

"Daddy, that's Mommy's favorite kind," she said.

He winked. "Then she should like it even better on me."

Excerpted from *Scuttlebutt*, copyright 1990 Jana Williams. Reprinted with permission of Firebrand Books, Ithaca, New York.

Military Intelligence

Former Phoenician Jana Williams makes good with her first novel and expresses strong sentiments about the misogyny of the military.

by Ellen M. Young

Most of the stuff written about women in military service to this point in time has failed to talk at all about the lesbian experience." This is one reason why Jana Williams, a native of Arizona, chose to write a fictional account of her own experience in the United States Navy. "I think that it's really important for lesbians who have had military experience to speak up about it because we're the ones who can make lesbians in the military visible. It's very difficult for them to gain their rights within the U.S. military system. Because of job security, they have to remain invisible."

Williams, who grew up in Glendale, Arizona and attended the University of Arizona, entered the U.S. Navy bootcamp outside Baltimore, Maryland in the early 1970's. Her first novel, *Scuttlebutt*, is a fictional story about a group of women recruits in their first ten weeks of service. The word "scuttlebutt" is a military slang term for gossip or news.

According to Williams, the book is not an autobiography, but many aspects of the story reflect her own experiences. She points out, however, that one character's relationship with another woman recruit was based on fact.

"The only real incident in the book that actually happened was with Seaman Recruit Jones, where she stands up in the morality lecture and proclaims that she loves this woman and the military has no right to tell her who to love. And that's why the book is dedicated to her, because I do consider that an incredible act of bravery. The rest of the story was created around that incident."

The book describes the experience of bootcamp through the eyes of a recruit named Roberta Weston. The rigid structure of military life and relationships among her fellow recruits help her to learn more about herself. As the book ends, Weston is seated in an airport, having left bootcamp with orders for further training in another state. A sequel to the book will be called *The Waves*.

"If *Scuttlebutt* is a coming out novel or a novel that says, 'I'm a lesbian,' the sequel deals with the whole ramifications of lesbians in particular seeking to express themselves sexually," Williams explains. "The second novel, I think, explores that whole dilemma of how to become sexual in a society that basically says you can't do it." She hopes to have the second book out in the fall or winter of 1991. A third novel, not dealing with the military, is also in the planning stages.

Williams remained in the Navy for the minimum enlistment term of three years, finally settling in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1975. Her memories of the military lifestyle are not pleasant.

"They had really silly rules, like if you were a woman you couldn't smoke standing up; you had to sit down. And you couldn't smoke in public. They defined what being a woman was. It was mandatory to wear a brassiere. It was mandatory to wear lipstick." Williams adds that the military discouraged any sexuality in women, regardless of its direction. "One of the things that I really want to get across to all women is that the military sought to define heterosexual women's sexuality as well as lesbians'. You weren't any better off being a sexual woman if you were heterosexual. The military didn't like that any better than they liked the idea of lesbianism. I think that's really insidious—their attempts to define women's sexuality; to define women, period."

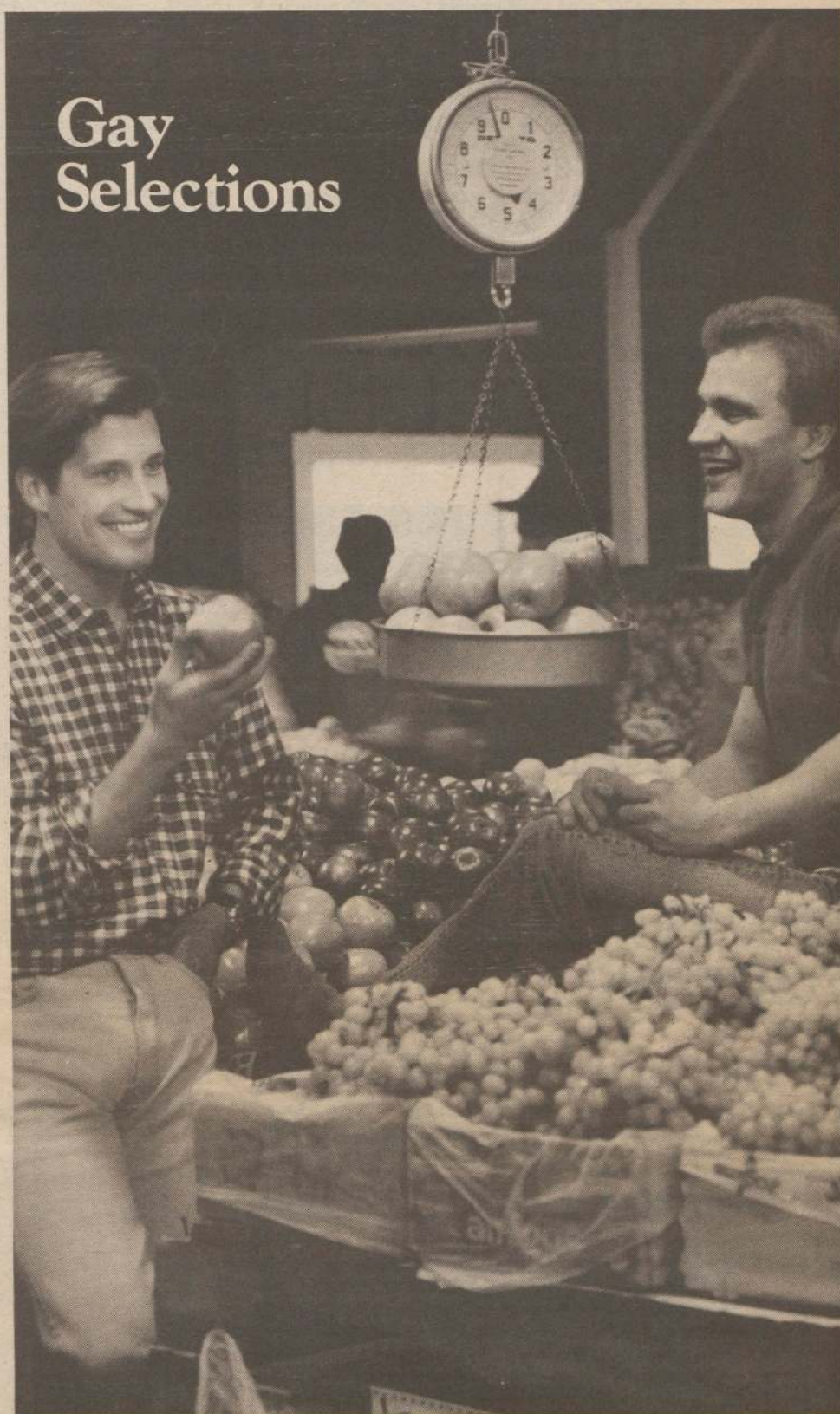
Williams' main concern seems to be the visibility of lesbians in all of society, not just in the military. "I'm really interested in telling lesbian stories and talking about who we are as a community. We really need to see ourselves reflected accurately in print. I think that we're going to see lesbian literature in the next ten years really integrate lesbians into the world as a whole, and I would like to think that that's what my work does."

William's mother and four sisters still live in the Phoenix area. "I visited my mom last winter and she helped me finish the last draft of the manuscript, so she's read it a couple of times. I'm out to all of my family. My mother is incredibly supportive. She's thrilled the novel's been published. She took it to church with her the first Sunday she got the novel and kind of showed it to all her friends. She's a real cool chick."



Williams and pal just before her exit from bootcamp

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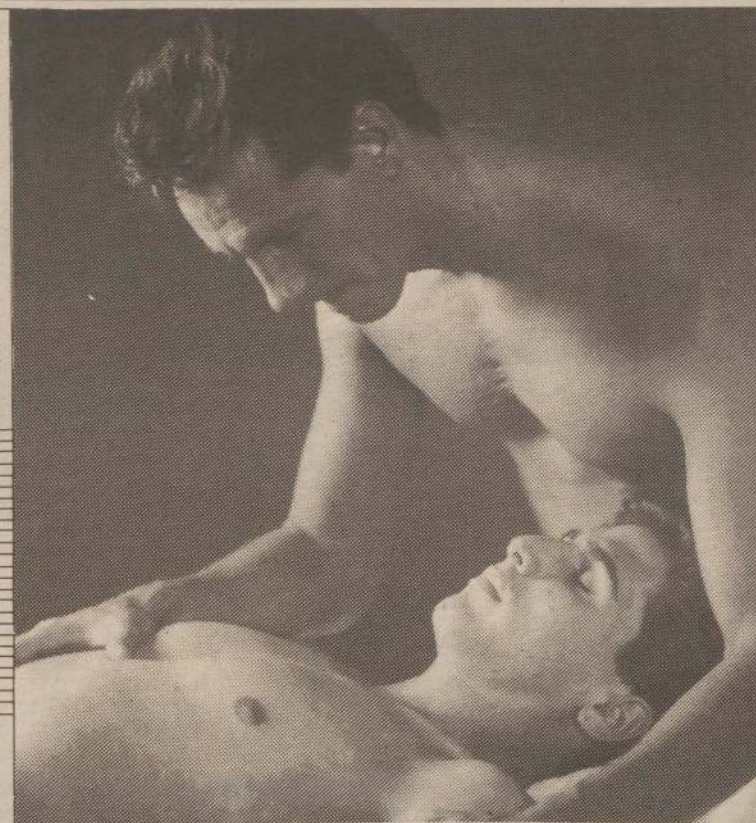
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**LEARN TO USE A CONDOM. AIDS DOESN'T GIVE YOU
A SECOND CHANCE.**

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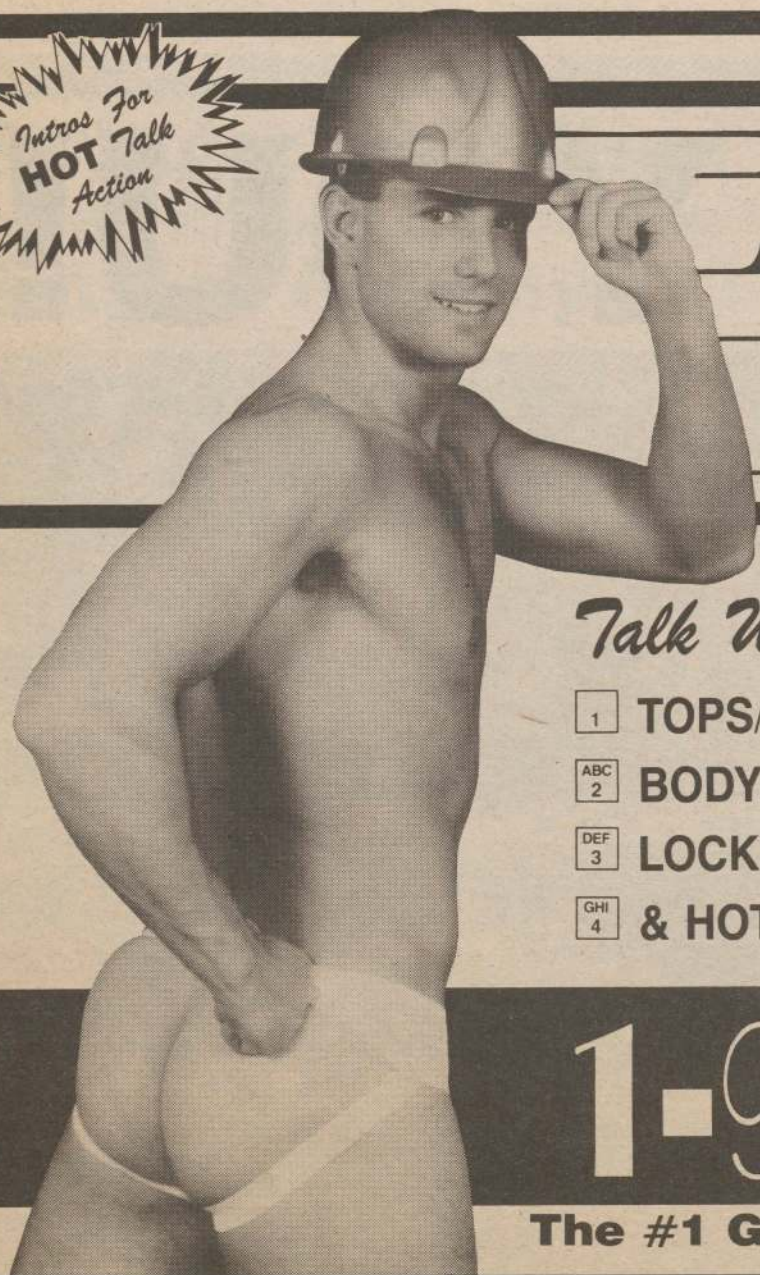
I WANT YOU!



1-900-LOVE-MEN

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*Intros For
HOT Talk
Action*



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Talk With:

- ☐ 1 TOPS/BOTTOMS
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The #1 Gay Bulletin Board For HOT Connections!

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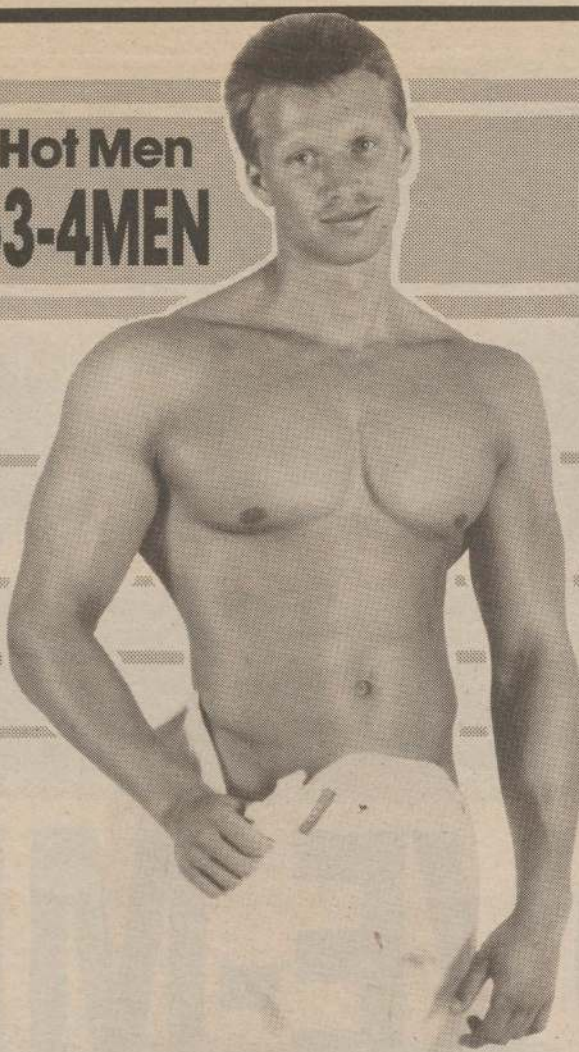
**Get It On With Hot Men
call 1-900-463-4MEN**

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Or Leave A
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**No Up Front Charge
Talk As Long As You Like**

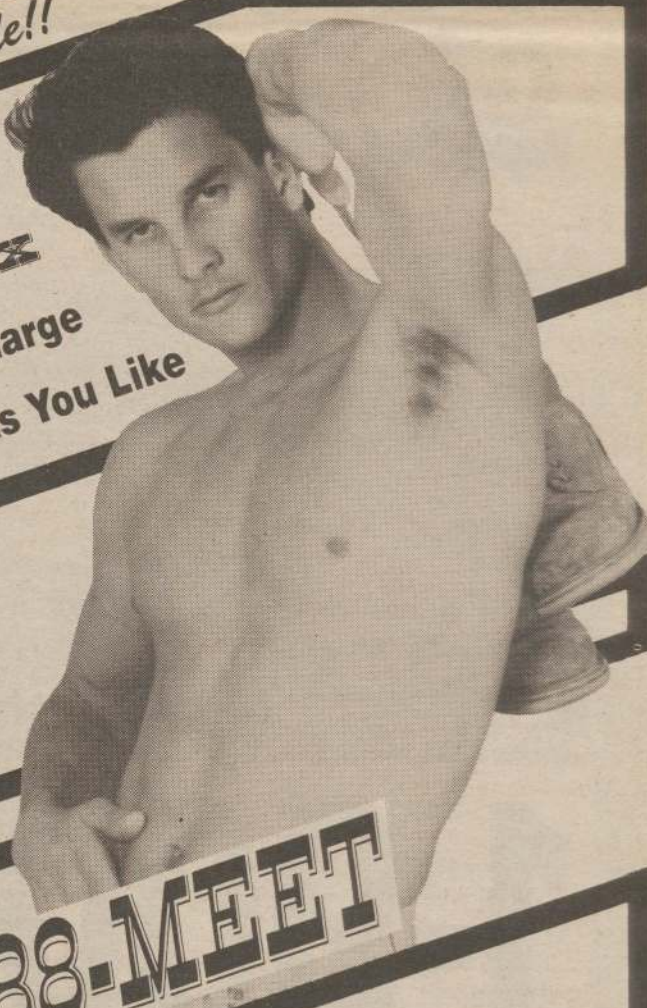
**LIVE TALK
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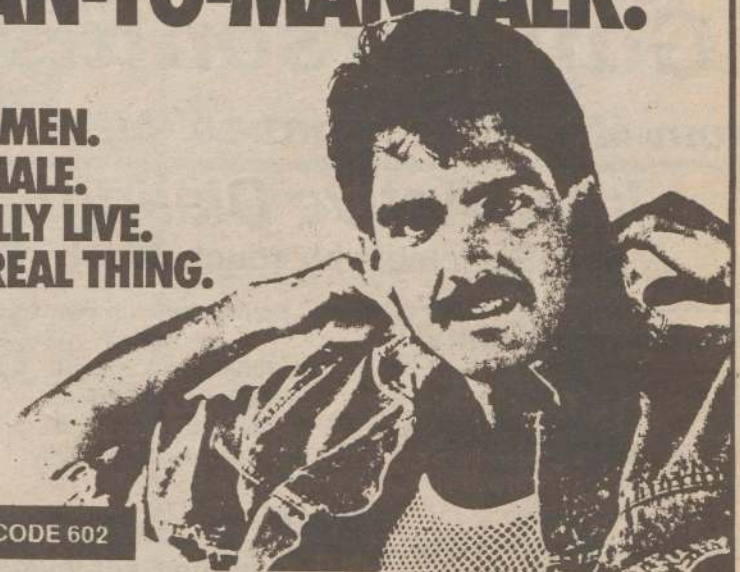
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**REAL MEN.
ALL-MALE.
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GAY NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

LETS YOU FIND WHAT OR WHO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

A Totally New Concept in Gay Introductions. Here's How it Works...

GNI is a FREE service to those advertising in *Phoenix Resource's* personals section. GNI allows you to record a personal introduction for free, using your own voice, corresponding to the classified ad you have placed. Others then call your personal ad when they read it and leave a private voice message just for you. You can then listen to your messages in total privacy.

Placing An Ad... ...It's Absolutely Free!

Simply call 1-800-359-8610 to place your free introduction. You must have a touch-tone phone to place your ad and to listen to messages. To get your ad printed in the paper, simply follow the normal procedure to place a personals' classified.

To Respond to An Ad...

When you see a ☎ next to a personal ad in the paper, it means you can contact that person using the GNI system. Simply call our special "900" number: 1-900-860-0008. When the system answers, you'll have the option of listening to a variety of local or national introductions or simply the ad you're interested in responding to. If you wish to directly access the ads in *Phoenix Resource*, the access code is 14. You'll then have an opportunity to leave a private and personal message for the person you wish to reach. When the system answers, simply follow the instructions. Responding to ads is simple. Again, the number to call to respond to an ad is 1-900-860-0008.

How to Check Messages....

To see if anyone has responded to your introduction, call 1-900-860-0008, and enter your personal voice mailbox number. The instructions are explained when you call.

It's a great new way to find exactly what or who you may be looking for. It's simple and it's private. You'll never have to leave your own home telephone if you don't want to, so you don't need to worry about annoying nuisance calls. Why not give it a try today? You'll see why men and women across the country are calling GNI.

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To hear responses or to respond to an ad, call...

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\$1 per min., \$2 minimum

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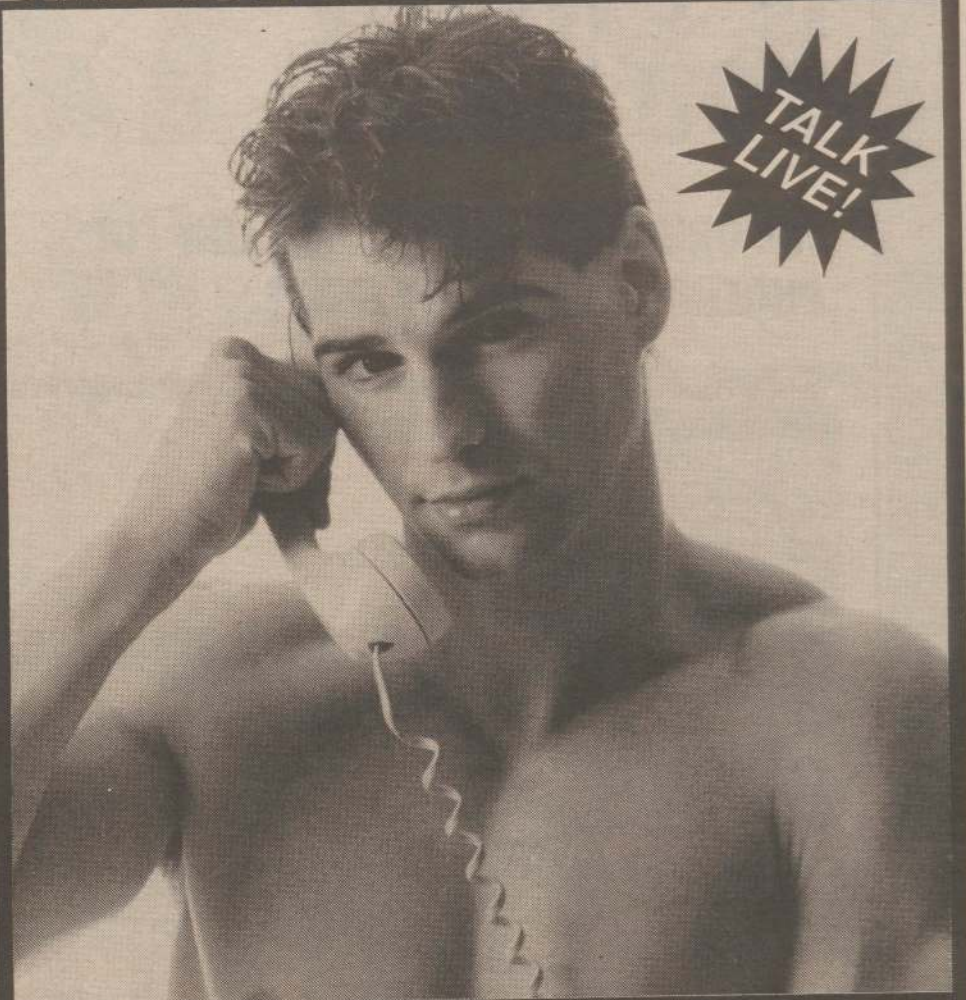
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24 HOURS DAILY!

CALL NOW!

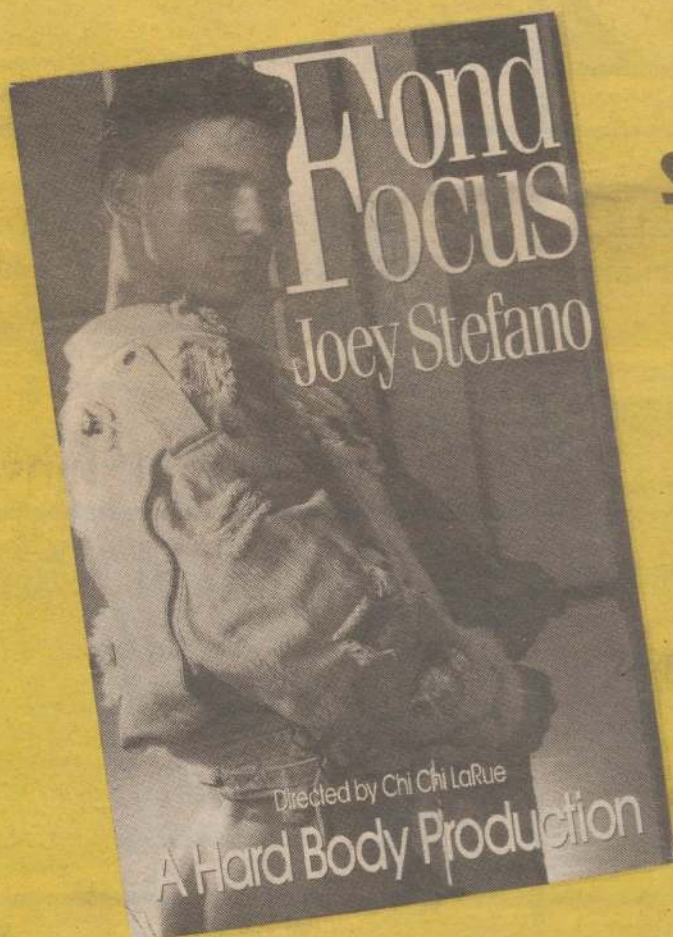
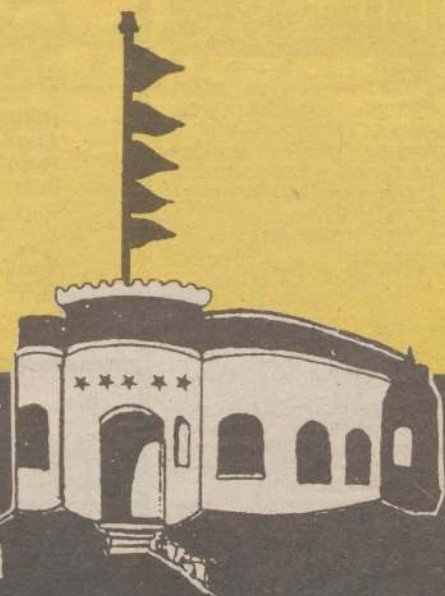
1-900-468-5328



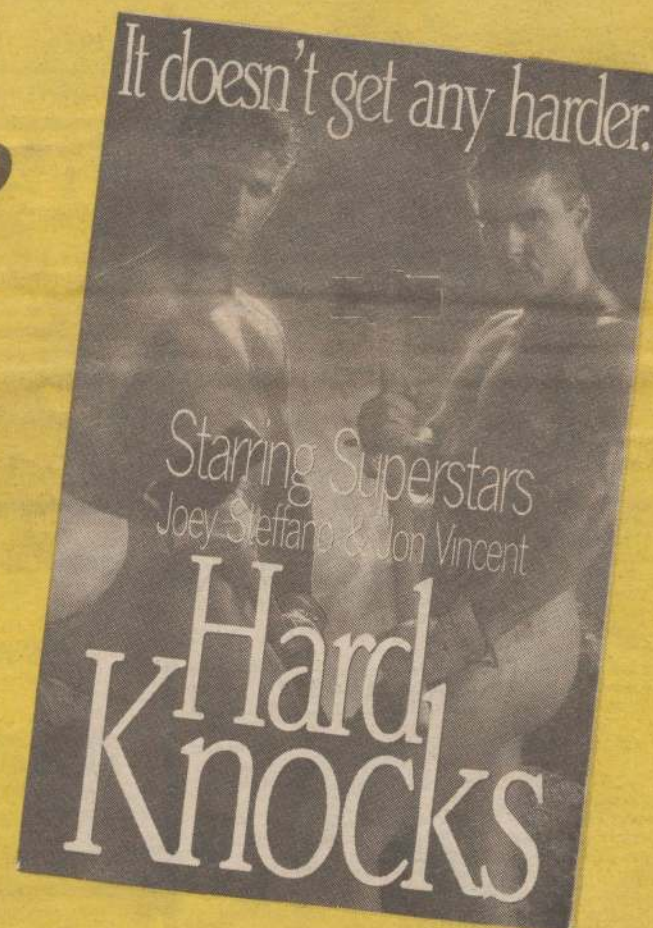
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