

# HeatStroke

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## Ms. Cho must go on

America's proudest fag hag mines comic gold from celebrity pain

By Allen Kalchik, Editor

**S**ometimes the toughest breaks a comic faces are her audience's boon.

Such is the case with Margaret Cho, whose terrific new act is both personal catharsis and professional triumph.

It's shocked many of Cho's hardcore fans to learn that when the outrageously gifted Korean American performer's 1995 TV sitcom, *All American Girl*, was abruptly canceled, she spiraled deep into depression and substance abuse.

But last year Cho quit partying. She pulled herself together and penned *I'm the One That I Want*, a standup-routine/one-woman-show based on her entire Hollywood-hellish experience from the top to the bottom and back.

"It was just this gorgeous disaster that I really can't believe I lived through," the 30-year-old comedian says of her days of sitcom stardom, "and I can't believe it's all as funny as it is."

Criticized by producers and network goons for "not being Asian enough" and for weighing too much, Cho lost control of both her body and her career track. She suffered kidney failure after losing 30 pounds on a crash diet and then wasted time pandering to the slew of consultants

brought in to see that "her" show remained socially and politically correct.

Cho says she's learned in sobriety that the only standards that matter are her own, and that her strength lies in both humor and self acceptance.

Now she's taking her message to the masses as a way of thanking the diehard fans—particularly the gay boys she's always loved—whose support pulled her through the worst.

*I'm the One That I Want* was off Broadway's hottest ticket when it opened there last spring and the show is now touring widely, including a stop at the Celebrity Theatre in Phoenix on Oct. 22.

The San Francisco native and self-described fag hag spoke to *HeatStroke* by phone from her Hollywood Hills digs on Oct. 6—the same day a just-completed, tell-all *Celebrity Profiles* biography about her was scheduled to premiere on E!

**HeatStroke:** Tonight's a big night for you (the E! *Margaret Cho* episode is set for 10 pm).

Margaret Cho: Yes! And I'm scared.

**HS:** Scared? I thought you might have seen it already. Don't you have a copy on tape to preview?

MC: No, they don't give them to us. I think legally they have to air it first. But, I—I'm so embarrassed.

**HS:** Why?

MC: I don't know, I've always been embarrassed. I kind of can't deal with it. It's weird that I'm in the public eye, that's my job, because I'm really—not a private person, necessarily, but kind of shy. And I just get so embarrassed that they have gone to all this trouble. I have a really interesting story and I hope that people can benefit from it, 'cause I've made a lot of really fucked-up mistakes and done all this stuff. But it's still kind of embarrassing.

I also love *The Valley of the Dolls*. I have lots of Neely O' Hara moments, which are just priceless. So the drama is great, and I kind of live off the drama and it's really amazing and it's my life. But it's also pretty embarrassing. I guess we'll just have to see. I'm kind of freaked out by it but I think it'll be fine.

**HS:** Where are you planning to be when you watch the program?

MC: I'm just going to be home with my dog. That's it.

**HS:** Is there anything people tend to

get wrong about you that you hope the *Celebrity Profiles* episode will help correct?

MC: I think it's all pretty honest. I don't really find that there are a lot of misconceptions. I don't think that there's anything I intentionally try to hide, or have changed in any way. Everything feels to me—at least at this point in my career—very organic and very natural. So there's no sort of, "bottom-line truth" to it to lay out there.

**HS:** When you were growing up in San Francisco with Korean-born parents and your younger brother, who was the most serious person in your family?

MC: I think probably I was. Yes, very serious, very shy, very scared of everything. I was so introverted that kids picked on me a lot—but I was so incredibly self-involved that they could never get a reaction from me, which was frustrating. So I got beat up a lot. I'd get beaten up 'cause people would do anything to me and I would never react, and that just made people so mad.

**HS:** What did they pick on you for?

MC: Anything. Wearing the wrong thing, or breaking things. I had a tendency

See "Comic," page 12



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## Horowitz: Any day now, indeed

The Lifetime Network advertises its programming as "television for women." Since I'm the kind of man who loves a good Chick Flick, I checked out the offerings.

I discovered *Any Day Now* starring Annie Potts (of *Designing Women* fame) and thought the premise looked interesting. Potts plays Mary Elizabeth (M.E.), a middle aged, married-with-kids white woman born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama during the 60s. M.E.'s best friend growing up was Rene Jackson, a black girl her age.

While M.E. and a local boy married and raised children, Rene moved to Washington D.C. and became a powerhouse attorney at a big firm. At the show's beginning, Rene (Lorraine Toussaint) returns to Birmingham to attend her father's funeral. She and M.E. have not spoken in years due to a decades-old fight. The short story is that M.E. and Rene mend fences.

Rene decides to move back to Birmingham and take over her father's local law practice. In each episode, scenes alternate between the 60s and the 90s and demonstrate how far the civil rights movement has come and how far it still has to go.

I liked the show from the beginning because I identify with the African American struggle for equality that continues today. I believe racism and homophobia stem from the same innate fear of those who are different. I think the gay civil rights movement has much to learn from the successes and failures on the road to racial equality.

I remain perplexed that black leaders have not more consistently denounced antigay discrimination. While Coretta Scott King embraces equality for all people, General Colin Powell supports institutionalized discrimination against gay and lesbian military personnel. Thirty years ago, religious objections like those justifying hatred of gays and lesbians were publicly and commonly used to support racial segregation and even violence.

While I appreciate the show's take on the personal and political issues of being black and being white in the Deep South, the parallels from the storyline to my personal experiences remained indirect as the show had no openly gay characters—until this week's new episode.

Rene's mother collapsed and she called her estranged

older brother and asked him to come back to town. He arrived with his partner, a handsome doctor, and their two-year-old son. The episode's quality impressed me not because of its mere inclusion of a gay storyline, but because the writers didn't choose caricatures instead of gay characters.

In my last column, I extolled the virtues of coming out—as I do each October and every day throughout the year. I acknowledged that there could be negative coming out experiences, but that I had never heard anyone say they regretted coming out. I invited any reader in that category to contact me.

One reader did. He wrote that he found "zero benefits and nothing but immense pain and anguish from being out and exploring the community". Reading his remarks, I felt sad, hopeful and enlightened. I'm sad his experiences have not been better, but I hope that with time, he will find the joys of coming out that so many of us have found. More importantly, I recognize the value of the diversity of our stories.

The *Any Day Now* plot raised issues about an older black woman and civil rights activist who found herself unable to fully accept her gay son, his lover and her grandson. The episode presented the love story of two black men who struggled with a surrogate parenting arrangement and got to keep their son only after protracted legal battles.

Rene had trouble accepting her brother's lover because he was a controlling bitch, not because he was gay. Everyone rallied around the little boy, presenting hope for a future free from discrimination in all its forms. Bittersweet tales taste better than sickeningly sweet tales because they more accurately reflect our lives.

The *Any Day Now* gay characters represent the best portrayals I've seen on television. I'm going to write to Lifetime and the show's producers and encourage the continued development of these issues. I'm going to remember that not everyone's coming out story is as positive as mine, and I'm going to continue to fight for a world in which it will be.

David Horowitz is a Phoenix attorney and activist. He can be reached in care of HeatStroke, or by e-mail at [dashingdav@aol.com](mailto:dashingdav@aol.com). Join David in thanking the writers and producers of *Any Day Now* by writing in care of Roseanna DiCarlo, Audience Support, at Lifetime Television, 309 West 49th St., New York, NY, 10019. Or e-mail: [dicarlo@lifestimetv.com](mailto:dicarlo@lifestimetv.com).

#### Editors:

In reference to the letter you published in the Oct. 7 issue of *HeatStroke*, I need to clarify some inaccuracies.

Ms. Balmes claims the Phoenix Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America (PGLBVA) have "changed the rules and will keep me from" marching in the Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11. She also laments that "any community veterans" who want to join the parade this year will not be allowed. She sums up her allegations with the claim that transgender discrimination in March has changed to a "gay victory over the Parade committee."

As Ms. Balmes stated, she did "walk" in the Veterans Day Parade last year. Parade-goers did complain that she "looked like a guy in drag" and for that reason they tried to ban us from the parade this year. I spent a great deal of time educating people, through radio programs and newspaper articles, about the right of all veterans to march in the parade. The fact that Ms. Balmes is a transgendered person afforded her the opportunity to educate people about transgendered issues. She chose not to do that, and reported that she is recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the State of Arizona as female and was dressed as female for the parade.

Thanks to the fact that Rep. May interceded with the Veterans Day Planning Committee, I was allowed to participate in the planning for this year's parade. I have attended all of the meetings and worked on the Standards Committee, which was organized to bar our participation. Through the efforts of the Standards Committee, we have managed to set guidelines so that every veteran can participate in the parade and know what is expected of them. The Planning Committee decided that it is more appropriate for entries to "march" rather than "walk" in the parade. Members also decided that a uniform appearance should be required of all units. The Standards Committee agreed and set these as guidelines for all entries.

The PGLBVA accepted these guidelines, since they are being applied equally to all entries. We have a great deal more time to prepare for this parade than we did last year, and we have a West Point graduate willing to refresh our memories and tune our marching skills. We have even arranged for those who cannot march to be pushed in wheelchairs.

Our members have accomplished a great deal this year. We decided, as a group, to be

the best marching unit in the parade. That's our goal and we are working very hard to make every member of the community proud of its Veterans.

The fact that Ms. Balmes decided not to be involved is her choice, and I resent her implication that we have discriminated against her. She wants to continue her free ride at the expense of other members, and that may be why she feels isolated. We have waived her membership fees, welcomed her as part of our group, and fought for her right to march in the Veterans Day Parade. She has not attended meetings and refused to participate in any of our events. She has rejected the PGLBVA and refused to join the Vietnam Veterans of America, but still demands special treatment over dues-paying members.

If Ms. Balmes had attended meetings she would know of our attempts to include all the veterans in our community, whether they identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or straight. We will be encouraging all of the businesses, churches and bars to recognize the service of veterans on Veterans Day and to participate in the Veterans Day Parade if they chose. Those people, like Ms. Balmes, who decline to pay membership fees in other organizations can get together and march as a unit themselves. The parade entry is free.

Ms. Balmes' gender identification does not prevent her from marching with us, or from participating in the parade. Her demand for special treatment does.

**Wally Straughn**  
President, Phoenix Chapter  
Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of  
America

#### Mr. Horowitz:

Just read your latest *HeatStroke* column. While it was wonderfully written as usual, and I appreciated what you were trying to say, I felt compelled to send a quick note in reference to the paragraph containing, "If you or anyone you know regrets coming out of the closet, please contact me..." Well, I'm writing.

It was unclear whether you were just looking for a "head count" or detailed stories. I imagine you're interested in the latter though at present I'd much rather raise my hand as it were and contribute to the former since my experiences are quite involved and histrionic and I really don't care to waste time typing all the details other than just to say that yes, such

a creature does exist that completely and totally regrets ever coming out to himself or others. I've found zero benefits and nothing but immense pain and anguish from being out and exploring the community.

Actually, considering the subtext and context of the invitation, I'd gather it was really meant to be more rhetorical—a way of driving home the point that it's impossible for an out person to be regretful. Even if you weren't expecting any responses, I felt I should write anyway. I've followed your column from the beginning and have always found it to be very insightful and valuable; I have way too much respect for you to let you get away with such a glaring assumption without calling you on it.

We hear so much about how diverse our community is; that there's no stereotype or generalization that can be applied to all its members. (Indeed this is a recurring motif of your own column.) Well, it only follows that the same would hold in terms of those who are out not having a universal reaction; there will be (and are) those who've not had happy endings, who DO harbor much regret and would give anything if they could go back in time and never come out.

There's been so much focus in the gay and straight media on the high ratio of gay suicides; who's to say how many of these are not by individuals that were suffering from being IN the closet, but rather OUT of it? Certainly, most people who come out may be happier in the end than if they hadn't, but to give the impression that this is always the case 100% of the time is too misleadingly naive.

Of course, it makes a better "Coming Out Day" article to put the best examples forward; after all the purpose is to give someone that extra push to take part. However, I truly believe you'll gain much more respect from both those who've "been there" and those that are still struggling with their sexuality if you presented a truly honest portrait; one that's not a hypnotic mosaic of smiley faces. There are weeds among the flowers; the flowers themselves have thorns. If you're going to prepare someone for a trip, let them know what weather they should be dressing for. To do otherwise could potentially result in readers feeling you're little more than a salesman. You're too good to become a caricature of yourself.

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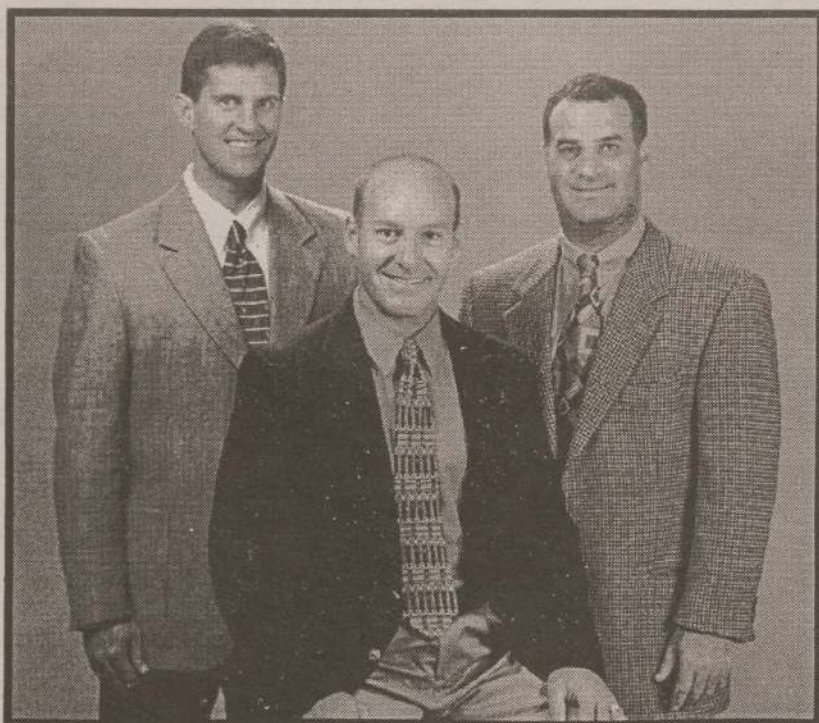
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Deb Price

## Hate is a crime problem that can be prevented; Janet Reno's working on it



James Byrd Jr., the black Texan dragged to his death because of his race, didn't have to die. Neither did Matthew Shepard, the gay college student whose broken body was left dangling on a Wyoming fence.

Hate crimes are preventable. But their prevention has never been a top national priority. Now, however, Attorney General Janet Reno is showing she's dedicated to making it one in every classroom and on every police force in the United States.

Reno, the nation's top law enforcement official, wants all the good, decent people sickened by the deaths of James Byrd and Matt Shepard to realize that, powerless as we sometimes feel in the face of such horror, we can help rid our society of hate violence.

Hate crimes are not inexplicable horrors that spring out of nowhere. They are a direct outgrowth of the intolerance that takes root in very young minds and slowly turns into hatred. To prevent hate crimes, we must prevent hate. It's that simple and that difficult. We must teach youngsters how to get along, how to play with others who are different.

That's the thoughtful, encouraging message Reno is spreading as we await the outcome of trial of the second of Shepard's confessed killers. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Aaron McKinney, 22.

"We must start early, teaching our children how to resolve conflicts and disagreements without knives and guns and fists and hate," Reno declared at an Oct. 9 Human Rights Campaign dinner in Washington, D.C., honoring the grieving Shepard and Byrd families.

"I have a dream," Reno told the largely gay crowd. She then shared her inspiring vision of an America in which every teacher and every police officer is trained to help children as young as kindergarten age not to bully or despise one another.

"Hate is learned. It can be unlearned. ... Educators can play a vital role in preventing the development of the prejudice and stereotyping that leads to hate and leads to crime," Reno stressed.

While tough, inclusive hate crimes laws alone won't stop every hateful thug, they're essential. Reno and President Clinton are pushing Congress to strengthen the federal hate crimes law and expand it to cover attacks based on sexual orientation, disability or gender. On Oct. 7, Clinton signed an executive order allowing military courts to stiffen sentences when a crime is motivated by

anti-gay hatred or other bias.

Unless hate crimes laws include sexual orientation, they send the message that gay people are fair game. In the year since Matt Shepard's murder, at least another 30 Americans have been killed simply because they were gay, bisexual or transgendered, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reports.

Speaking for the Byrd family, James Byrd's nephew Darrell Verrett told the HRC gathering, "We will not, I repeat, we will not support any law that does not include all who are singled out—whether it is due to their race, their religion or sexual orientation." The family had backed a Texas hate bill that failed after Gov. George W. Bush signaled he did not want it to protect gay people.

Reno heartily applauded Verrett's remarks. She wants the entire nation to be as comfortable as she is with gay people. In 1993 she barred anti-gay job bias in the Justice Department. The next year she signed a directive making foreigners persecuted for being gay eligible for asylum. Openly gay people, such as

**"Hate is learned. It can be unlearned. ... Educators can play a vital role in preventing the development of the prejudice and stereotyping that leads to hate and leads to crime."**

*U.S. Attorney General, Janet Reno*

Assistant Attorney General Robert Raben, are key players on her team.

Reno denounced anti-gay hate in the same hotel ballroom where, a week early, candidate Bush wooed the far-right Christian Coalition. That coincidence begs a question: What tone will the next president's attorney general set? Ronald Reagan's attorney general, Ed Meese, showed his disregard for gay Americans when he hailed a Supreme Court decision upholding sodomy laws as the biggest victory of 1985-'86.

It's much easier to envision a future without hate crimes when we have an attorney general who recognizes hate as a crime problem.

Deb Price of the *Detroit News'* Washington bureau writes this gay-issues column. Price is co-author of *And Say Hi to Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out* (Doubleday). Write to her in care of *HeatStroke*, or at GNS Features, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22229-0001.

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# GOP drops hate-crimes expansion from spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Republican decision to drop an expansion of federal hate crimes from a spending bill seems to leave little chance that Congress will broaden the statute's protections this year.

House-Senate bargainers—dominated by Congress' majority Republicans—on Oct. 18 completed a compromise measure financing the departments of Commerce, Justice and State. It omitted language approved by the Senate in July that would have widened the definition of federal hate crimes to include incidents motivated by a victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability.

"That was one elephant too much for this boa constrictor," Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said of the spending bill and its wide-ranging provisions.

President Clinton is likely to veto the overall measure because of disputes over hiring police officers and other issues. But the White House seems unlikely to demand a restoration of the hate-crimes language as a condition for signing the measure, said Democrats who spoke on condition of anonymity.

And with Congress hoping to adjourn for the year in a few weeks, that leaves little time or leverage for supporters to push the measure through the House and Senate.

"Today's action showed a callous disregard for hate crime victims and their families," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, a gay-rights political group.

The House version of the spending bill did not contain the hate-crimes expansion.

Critics of proposals to expand the scope of hate-crimes laws—including many conservatives—have said such legislation creates special classes of citizens who are already protected by state laws against violence.

Gregg said the issue was dropped

because it should be considered by Congress' Judiciary committees. He also said it had become "extremely complex" to resolve differences between two hate-crimes bills that were included in the spending measure: one by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and a second, stronger version supported by the Clinton administration.

Both were omitted.

The second version was sponsored by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and about three dozen other Democrats and moderate Republicans.

It would have added the new categories of victims to race, color, religion or national origin, which are already covered by hate-crimes law. It would also expand it to cover any incident related to interstate commerce, such as use of a gun made in another state.

Currently, the federal government can prosecute hate-motivated violence if the victim was on federal property or

isn't. It's a national problem, and it's an outrage that Congress has been missing in action for so long."

Momentum for the legislation had grown after the dragging death of a black man in Jasper, Texas, the fatal beating of a gay college student in Wyoming and the July shooting spree in Illinois and Indiana by a man police said was a member of a white

**"We must stop acting as if somehow this fundamental issue is just a state and local problem. It isn't. It's a national problem, and it's an outrage that Congress has been missing in action for so long."**

engaged in a federally protected activity such as going to school.

Citing a spate of highly publicized killings, Kennedy said, "We must stop acting as if somehow this fundamental issue is just a state and local problem. It

supremacist group.

Hatch's measure would have expanded federal jurisdiction to hate crimes committed after the crossing of state lines, and allow federal aid to state and local authorities prosecuting hate crimes.

## Ryan White Foundation to close

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Ryan White Foundation, crippled by dwindling donations and unable to continue its AIDS education programs, will shut down at the end of this month, its founder said Oct. 18.

Jeanne White-Ginder, the mother of the foundation's namesake, said she will move on to another advocacy group, AIDS Action, and keep working to reawaken Americans' concern about the deadly disease.

"It won't be up to me to bring in all the money now," she said.

White-Ginder will lead the Washington-based group's Ryan White Project, a new effort to bolster AIDS education among young people and to lobby for continued federal funding for AIDS programs. She will earn between \$25,000 and \$75,000 a year, said Daniel Zingale, AIDS Action's executive director.

"There's no question that this is a great boost to our cause today," Zingale said.

Dwindling donations forced the Indianapolis-based Ryan White Foundation to lay off its full-time staff this year. White-Ginder started the foundation in 1990, the year her 18-year-old son died from AIDS.

Foundation leaders attributed the drop in funds to a growing sense the AIDS epidemic is over.

"Today the AIDS epidemic is in the midst of one of its worst crises yet—the crisis of complacency," said Mark Maddox, chairman of the foundation's board.

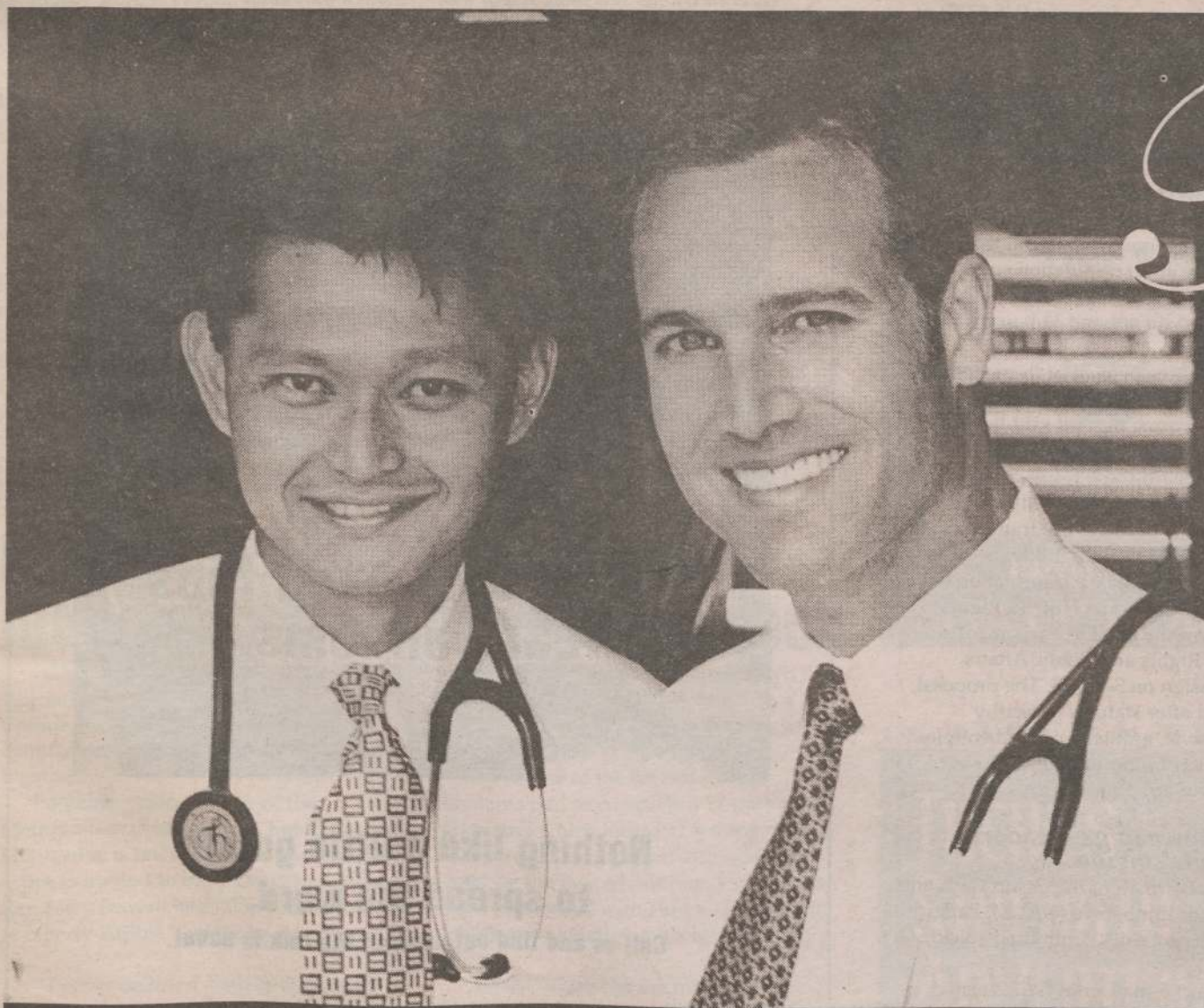
While the foundation could have continued as an independent organization, board members believed it would best meet its mission by joining forces with another group, Maddox said.

White-Ginder agreed, saying the combination would make her more visible nationwide and increase the number of young people she can reach with her message of AIDS prevention.

Despite the good news about wonder drugs that have blunted the deadly effects of AIDS, the rate of new infections has remained constant at about 40,000 a year for the past decade. About half of new infections are believed to be among Americans under 25, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"We are combining our efforts to make sure that Ryan's legacy continues," White-Ginder said.

Ryan White, a hemophiliac, contracted the AIDS virus through tainted blood-clotting products. He attracted national attention during his battle to attend school after being diagnosed.



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### France passes partnership law

France's National Assembly passed a partnership law Oct. 13 that grants registered couples—gay or straight, romantic or not—the many of the rights of matrimony.

The vote was 315 to 249. If there are no complications, the "Civil Solidarity Pact" law will take effect at the beginning of the year.

Justice Minister Elisabeth Guigou said the measure "offers a solution to five million people who live as couples without being married."

The law will apply in areas such as income tax, inheritance, housing, immigration, health benefits, job transfers, synchronized vacation time, responsibility for debts, and social welfare. It does not grant equality in the areas of parental rights, adoption or medically assisted procreation.

Unlike heterosexual couples who get married, registered partners will tie the knot before a court rather than at the town hall. They also will not be allowed to file a joint tax return until they've been together three years. Married people can do so immediately.

Opponents plan to challenge the law's constitutionality before the Constitutional Council.

The registration measure had passed the Assembly three times before (on June 15, 1999; April 7, 1999; and Dec. 9, 1998) but each time it was rejected by the Senate.

This time, the bill will become law without Senate consideration. Jean-Benoit Richard of the French Queer Resources Directory explained: "According to the French Constitution, to become a law, a project must be voted with the same words by both assemblies. Otherwise, our constitution says that if both assemblies cannot find an agreement, the National Assembly makes the final decision after several ... examinations by both assemblies."

### Spanish deputy comes out

Spain has its first openly gay member of parliament. Socialist deputy Miguel Iceta, 39, came out Oct. 12 during a campaign meeting in Barcelona.

"Acknowledging one's homosexuality is easier now than it was several years ago," Iceta said. "Other politicians are gay but I'm the first to admit it."

Iceta is running for a seat in the Catalan regional parliament. If he wins, he plans to resign his federal seat.

### Britain will lift military ban

Britain's new defense secretary, Geoff Hoon, said Oct. 14 he will lift the ban on gays in the military.

The decision follows a Sept. 27 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that the ban violates servicemembers' rights to privacy and family life.

"We will implement it [the ruling]," Hoon said.

Meanwhile, the *Daily Telegraph* reported Oct. 17 that the Ministry of Defense has set aside four million pounds (US \$6.7 million) to compensate 60 sacked gay service personnel who sued after the court issued its ruling.

### Russians cheer L.A. Gay Chorus

Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus performances in Moscow and St. Petersburg were a big success in mid-October, reported the *Los Angeles Times*.

The chorus sang at Tchaikovsky Hall and Glinka Choral Hall.

In Moscow, the chorus was joined for three songs by Russia's biggest pop superstar, Alla Pugachova.

Pugachova had stunned the nation one day earlier by telling the newspaper

Moskovsky Komsomolets that homosexuality "is a normal part of human existence which was created by nature and God."

"Maybe other people see this [concert] as a kind of manifesto," Pugachova said. "But for me, it's a normal human and professional act. I'm going to sing with a chorus I admire."

In an interview with a *Times* reporter, concert-goer Yevdokiya Grukova commented: "Of course, the idea of a gay chorus is strange. [I came to] see what gays look like. ... The world has all types so why not a gay chorus, if they have the talent?"

### Chinese author punished for outing

The author of the 1995 book *Homosexuals in China*, Fang Gang, was fined 7,000 yuan (US \$845) Sept. 30 for outing the manager of a dance hall where a gay party was held. Fang's publishing house was fined an additional 2,000 yuan (US \$241).

Although the book did not name plaintiff Xu Yanguang, it named the dance hall and said that its manager was gay.

In handing down the verdict, Beijing's Xuanwu District Court said homosexuality is "abnormal sexual behavior and is not acceptable to the public," and, as a result, Xu suffered "depression and psychological pain" as well as economic losses and damage to his reputation.

Xu further claimed that his fiancée refused to marry him and he couldn't find a job after the book was published.

Fang, 31, may appeal. "I feel the judgment is unfair," he told the *South China Morning Post*. "It is for doctors, not judges, to say if homosexuality is abnormal. The court says that it is considered abnormal, but by whom—all 1.2 billion Chinese? The most authoritative definition is by the World Health Organization which has removed it from its list of illnesses."

Fang and his publisher also were ordered to pay 1,800 yuan (US \$217) of the 2,390 yuan (US \$289) in legal expenses associated with the case—and to publish an apology in the Justice Ministry's *Legal Daily* newspaper.

### Latvians poll pro-gay

As Latvia considers a registered-partnership law for same-sex couples, a new Baltic Data House poll found that 53 percent of the adult population supports the proposal. Thirty-five percent of those questioned do not and 11 percent have no opinion.

Sixty-three percent of those polled said homosexuals "are an equal part of society." Thirty-one percent said they're not and six percent had no opinion.

"We regard these results as extremely positive and hope they will help us to progress the partnership draft law in the parliament," said Juris Ludvigs Lavrikovs of the Homosexuality Information Center.

Latvia's National Human Rights Office sent the draft to Parliament's Human Rights and Public Affairs Commission on Sept. 28. The proposal, modeled after statutes in nearby Scandinavia, grants registered couples nearly every right of matrimony except in the area of adoption.

### Zimbabwean gay leader commits suicide

The chairman of the group Gays and Lesbian of Zimbabwe (GALZ), Panghi Nyathi, reportedly committed suicide Oct. 10.

A short e-mail from GALZ stated, in full: "GALZ offers its deepest condolences to Herbert Mondhlani on the death of Panghi Nyathi, longtime member of this organisation, a fine counsellor and current chairperson. Panghi died on the morning of Sunday 10 October at his home in Harare just hours after the annual Jacaranda Queen drag pageant. Our hearts reach out to you Herbert. There are no words to describe what you must feel in the light of your tragic personal loss."

### Kenyan president bashes gays

Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi called homosexuality a "scourge" Sept. 28, saying, "It is not right that a man should go with another man or a woman with another woman. It is against African tradition and Biblical teachings."

Speaking at a Nairobi agriculture show, the 75-year-old Moi added, "Now we are seeing men wearing earrings to make it easy for them to be identified by other men."

His remarks followed by one day Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's announcement that he had ordered the arrest of all that nation's gays. He said they are guilty of "abominable acts."

"I have told the CID [Criminal Investigations Department] to look for homosexuals, lock them up and charge them," Museveni said in remarks to a meeting on reproductive health, reported the daily newspaper *New Vision*.

"Even the Holy Bible spells it out clearly that God created Adam and Eve as wife and husband, but not men to marry fellow men," he said.

Uganda's penal code considers gay sex "carnal knowledge of another against the order of nature." The punishment is up to life in prison.

### Gay Aussie company goes public

Australia's Satellite Group, which owns several gay bars and newspapers, believes it is the first gay company to be listed on a stock exchange.

The company went public on the Australian Stock Exchange Sept. 24.

The group has plans to expand into e-commerce and gay resorts and retirement homes, a spokeswoman said.

### Romanian people with AIDS face drug cutoff

Ten thousand Romanians with AIDS will see their drug treatment terminated this month after cuts in the nation's budget reduced funding to the Health Ministry by \$30 million.

About 8,700 of the patients are children who were infected in unsanitary health-care settings during Romania's Communist era.

"We have no funds," said Dr. Vladimir Strainu, head of Bucharest's infectious-diseases hospital. "Interrupting the treatment for a couple of days would ruin everything we achieved so far."

### Brazilian soccer stars pose nude for gay mag

Three of Brazil's top soccer stars have posed nude in recent issues of the gay magazine *G*. A report in the *Boston Globe* called it a "craze."

G spokeswoman Nanete Neves said the players "are not gay, [they just] have good bodies and are proud of themselves."

But some soccer honchos are not amused. Goalkeeper Roger Jose de Noronto Silva was banned from the next game of his Sao Paulo team by coach Paulo Carpegiani after the magazine appeared.

Silva said he didn't understand why. "I told the team about the photos beforehand," he said. "There's no way I would have done something like this without permission. I don't see what their problem is. ... My wife was quite happy for me to appear naked."

### BBC newscaster comes out

BBC Breakfast News TV co-anchor John Nicolson came out Oct. 3, reported the *Daily Mirror*.

The paper said Nicolson, 36, "revealed that his partner of six years is hunky Spanish landscape architect Luis Buitrago."

Speaking of their initial meeting at a dinner party, Nicolson said: "Luis was very dashing and very Castilian. During the evening all the women became more and more disappointed when they realized what was going on between us. What I remember about that evening is laughing and laughing. Luis was very droll and extremely funny."



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# HRC blasts Congressional Republicans over hate crimes bill

WASHINGTON—The Republican leadership Oct. 18 allowed the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) to be removed from the Commerce, State, Justice appropriations bill, dimming chances that federal hate crimes legislation will be enacted this year.

"Today's action showed a callous disregard for hate crime victims and their families," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "Apparently, the GOP leadership learned nothing from the recent wave of hate crimes that have rocked our nation. This unconscionable action is a cynical betrayal of the American people who demand a safer society where they are not menaced by violent haters."

The GOP's thwarting of this legislation comes just as the FBI released new statistics yesterday showing a rise in hate crimes against gay and lesbian Americans. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports for 1998—the latest year for available statistics—hate crimes based on sexual orientation increased 12.5 percent from 1997 to 1998. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation have nearly tripled since the FBI began collecting statistics in 1991, comprising 16 percent of all hate crimes for 1998 at 1,260. This is particularly disturbing since the number of reporting agencies for 1998 decreased from 11,211 to 10,461, with two fewer states reporting, as well. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation continue to make up the third highest category of those reported to the FBI after race and religion.

In July, the Senate passed the Hate Crimes Prevention Act for the first time as part of the Commerce, State, Justice appropriations bill. The House version of the bill did not include HCPA. The GOP leadership omitted the HCPA legislation in conference, where a compromise between the House and Senate versions of the Commerce, State, Justice bill was crafted.

To support the HCPA, HRC launched a paid advertising campaign that first aired in Washington this week on Sunday's public affairs shows.

"White supremacists tie a black man to their truck and drag him to his death," the announcer reads in the ad. "A gay college student is savagely beaten and tied to a fence and left to die. Seven evangelical Christians, one of them a fourteen year old girl, are shot to death in a Fort Worth Baptist church. Republican leaders in Congress refuse to support hate crimes legislation that could help law enforce-

ment stop this violence. Why? Because they don't think gay people should be protected. Let's act with real compassion. Call Congress today and tell them to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act."

The GOP's move ignores overwhelming public support for hate crime legislation. A February 1999 Gallup poll showed that 70 percent of Americans are in favor of tougher hate crime laws.

Since 1998—when an African American, James Byrd Jr., was tied to the back of a truck and dragged to death by white supremacists in Jasper, Texas—several high-profile hate crimes have shocked

**"Apparently, the GOP leadership learned nothing from the recent wave of hate crimes that have rocked our nation. This unconscionable action is a cynical betrayal of the American people who demand a safer society where they are not menaced by violent haters."**

our country. Last week was the one-year anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard, the University of Wyoming student who was beaten and tied to a fence to die because he was gay. The HCPA would extend current federal hate crimes protection which covers race, religion, color and national origin—to gender, sexual orientation and disability. HCPA would serve as a tool to help law enforcement by allowing federal assistance, when necessary, in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. HCPA has broad support from notable law enforcement agencies and state and local leaders including 22 state attorneys general, the Police Foundation and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act has strong support from President who has made passage a priority.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

# Lesbian activist hopes Falwell meeting can reduce hate speech

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The Rev. Felicia Fontaine and her companion, Barb Collins, will have an improbable dinner companion when they mark two decades together.

Fontaine, retired pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in Huntsville, is one of 200 gay and lesbian activists invited to meet Oct. 23 with the Rev. Jerry Falwell and 200 of his followers at Liberty Baptist College in Lynchburg, Va.

"I never believed Barb and I would celebrate our 20th anniversary having dinner with Jerry Falwell," she said with a laugh.

But she believes the Saturday gathering, which was put together by Falwell and a gay minister after anti-gay remarks by Falwell drew protests, can be an important step toward better understanding.

"I believe God's hand is in this, and something good will come out of it—what it is, I don't know," she told the *Huntsville Times* in a story Oct. 18. "We have hope that we are building bridges of under-

standing. Our goals are to turn down the hate speech on both sides, establish a model for dialogue, and find a way of being respectful to each other."

To be one of the invited guests, Fontaine had to complete a 17-part questionnaire, which included writing a letter to Falwell. The questionnaire was developed by the Rev. Mel White, a gay minister who worked with Falwell for 25 years before acknowledging his homosexuality in 1993.

White suggested the meeting after heated reaction to remarks by Falwell, who says homosexuality is a sin.

"The goal of this meeting is to address issues of hate speech," said Fontaine. "I think he (Falwell) is beginning to realize words have enormous power."

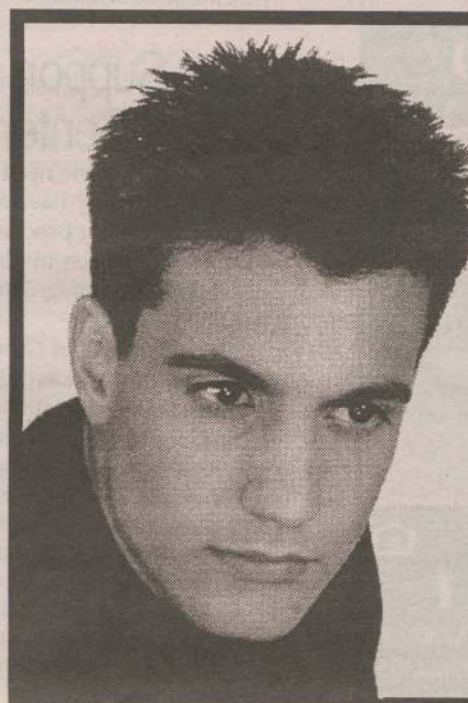
Fontaine, 45, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis six years ago and uses a motorized wheelchair, left the ministry to become an activist for lesbians and gays. She also is former president of the Alabama National Organization for Women.

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## Goings On

### PLUS Weekend Oct. 23-24

The Being Alive early intervention program of AIDS Project Arizona is presenting another popular PLUS (Positive Living for US) Weekend on Oct. 23 in the Quality Inn's Grand Ballroom, 3600 N. 2nd Ave. in Phoenix and continuing on Sunday, Oct. 24 with a group bus trip to Sedona.

Saturday programs will include such topics as Attitudinal & Spiritual Healing, Massage Techniques, and separate breakout sessions for men and women. The Sedona trip will feature a discussion on the benefits of art therapy.

Call APAZ at 602/253-2437 for times and information.

and coming out. Additionally, books and other resource materials will be available.

The first meeting of the Coming Out Group for Adults will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, Nov. 4. For more information contact Lyle Miller at 602/265-7283.

### Men's night out holds next gathering

One of the newest social groups for the Valley's gay community is Men's Night Out, held monthly at The Community Center in Phoenix. Men's Night Out is an opportunity for gay and bisexual men and their supporters to gather in a smoke free/drug free/alcohol free environment to socialize and participate in planned activities.

The next gathering of Men's Night Out will be Saturday, Oct. 23 at 7 pm. With a Halloween Theme, this month's event will include movies, costumes(not mandatory), Halloween games, and treats.

### Reiki Workshop Scheduled

The art of the healing touch is now available to experience through a series of certification workshops to be held at The Community Center, 24 West Camelback Rd. in Phoenix.

The workshops are open to anyone who is interested in learning the art of Reiki. Everyone is welcome to attend. Mark Newman, a certified Reiki Instructor, will be hosting classes at The Community Center on

various Saturdays beginning Oct. 30. Class size is limited and reservations must be made by contacting Mr. Newman at 602/789-6251.

### New Listening Sessions offered to gay Catholics

The Gay and Lesbian Ministry Committee of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix invites gay and lesbian Catholics, their families and friends to participate in a listening session on spirituality and life in the church.

The committee wants to hear from interested queers at 7 pm at the following locations: Nov. 8 at St. Matthews Parish, 320 n. 20th Dr. in Phoenix; Nov. 11 at Christ the King parish, 1551 E. Dana in Mesa; Nov. 15 at Franciscan Renewal Center, 5802 E. Lincoln in Scottsdale; and Nov. 18 at Our Lady of the Valley Parish, 3220 W. Greenway in north-east Phoenix. All sessions are from 7 to 8:30 pm.

The purpose of the sessions is to gather information to make recommendations to the Bishop regarding ministry with gay and lesbian Catholics. To register, call Margo at 602/257-5542.

### Fall softball under- way Oct. 24

The Cactus Cities Softball League will kick off a Fall League beginning Oct. 24 and continuing every Sunday through Nov. at Monterey

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Dec. 8th at 6:30 p.m., The Source, 2750 W. McDowell Rd.

**Lunch Bunch**  
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ASU University Club: Second Tuesday of each month  
Chomple's on Shea: Fourth Tuesday of each month  
All Lunch Bunches start at 11:30 am

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### News & Events of Interest to the Phoenix Queer Community

Park, on Oak between 7th and 3rd Streets in Phoenix from 10 am till noon.

The League will offer softball fun for all skill levels and men, women and competitive players are all welcome. Call 602/287-9573 for more information.

## Mass for HIV affected Catholics

The Phoenix Catholic Diocese has established an HIV/AIDS Resource Committee chaired by Rev. Christopher Carpenter, associate pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church in Mesa. The committee recently discerned that one of the needs for Catholics touched by HIV/AIDS is a regular mass.

Catholic Social Service has offered their Counseling Center, located near Phoenix College at 2911 N. 11th Ave. in Phoenix, as the site for mass and a dinner to follow. Mass will be celebrated the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 4 pm, beginning Oct. 9.

For more information about the mass and other HIV/AIDS services provided by Catholic Social Service, call Fr. Lou Bishop at 602/277-9551.

## Nutritional help at APAZ

AIDS Project Arizona is offering a new program in Nutritional Counseling that will help clients learn more about healthy eating and dieting. The program features the advice and knowledge of registered dietitians and offers BIA testing, follow up counseling and free diet structuring.

Nutritional Counseling is available from 10 am to 4 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Call 602/253-2437 for an

appointment. APAZ is located at 1427 N. 3rd St. in Phoenix.

## AGRA Rodeo Sponsorships wanted

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association has announced that Community and Business sponsorships are available now to anyone wishing to help underwrite the cost of producing the First IGRA Rodeo of the new millennium to be held in Phoenix in January 2000.

National sponsors of the IGRA rodeo include Bud Lite and Avis Car Rentals. Local business and individuals can also become sponsors of various aspects of the Rodeo production, in return for recognition in the rodeo program, print advertising, and announcements during the rodeo events. As a result of these national and local sponsorships, AGRA is able to donate thousands of dollars to local charity organizations each year.

Attendance at the annual Phoenix Road Runner Regional Rodeo (RRRR) regularly tops 3,500 over MLK weekend in January and attracts gays and lesbians from all over the state, country and Canada. Last year AGRA was able to donate \$6000 to four local charities, including Joshua Tree, PFLAG, VOIT and the Community Church of Hope.

Sponsorships include Stall Sponsors at \$50 each and contestant ribbon and Champion Buckle Sponsors at \$200 each. In addition to the sponsorships, advertising space is available in the souvenir program given to the attendees, and vendor space is available on the rodeo grounds for both Saturday and Sunday.

For more information visit [www.agra.com](http://www.agra.com) or call the RRRR hotline at 602/265-0618

## Organizers hope AIDS Quilt tour of black colleges raises awareness

ATLANTA (AP)—During the AIDS Quilt tour of historically black colleges and universities, Coretta Scott King told those viewing the memorial that homophobia has prolonged and worsened the epidemic within the black community.

"It is particularly sad to me when I hear black people, including some in leadership positions, making homophobic comments and attacking the human rights of gay and lesbian people," the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said Oct. 18 during the tour's opening ceremonies at Atlanta's Clark University.

Regardless of sexual orientation or gender, blacks have a significantly higher risk of becoming infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS.

Statistics show most new HIV infections occur among people 25 and younger. The black community has been hit particularly hard. According to the Centers for Disease Control, blacks account for about half the number of new HIV infections, AIDS cases and AIDS deaths, though they represent only 13 percent of the U.S. population.

"With the stigma on homosexual behavior in the African-American community, it's not surprising that this is the case," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention.

AIDS experts say injection drug use is commonly perceived as a major factor in the spread of AIDS among blacks, but sex is the primary method of transmission. They say bisexual behavior among gay black men who feel pressured to have sex with women accounts for a significant number of the infections among heterosexuals.

Black preachers and politicians have

been criticized for letting the problem go unaddressed.

"Black communities have been so overburdened that the idea of adopting another burden is not appealing," explained Cornelius Baker, executive director of the National Association of People with AIDS.

Slowly, leaders say, more attention is being focused on the issue.

Earlier this month, black churches in Atlanta gathered for the first National Black Church HIV/AIDS Institute. The gathering was an effort to help pastors learn how to deal with the disease.

Faith leaders, policy makers, community activists and AIDS researchers met in Atlanta Oct. 14 to discuss combating AIDS among blacks. On the same day, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, announced a series of educational films aimed at raising HIV awareness.

The CDC has also awarded \$39 million in federal funds to 100 national, state and local organizations to help prevent HIV infections in minority communities.

"We must mount prevention and treatment strategies that deal with people where they are now, not where we want them to be or where we imagine them to be," said Phill Wilson, director of the AIDS Social Policy Archive.

Nonetheless, the statistics continue to upset AIDS activist Denise Stokes, who has been HIV-positive for 17 years.

"One day, this is ultimately where I'm going to end up," she said pointing to the quilt. "I'm going to be a panel on some wall in some library."

"I just hope the library isn't full of people with AIDS."

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"Vulgar Vodka" Night  
Well Vodka \$2.00

#### Wednesday

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

#### Thursday

Happy Hour 8am-8pm,  
Beer Bust 8pm - 12am

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Happy Hour 8am - 8pm

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## Activists condemn Wyoming prosecutor after anti-gay attack

DOUGLAS, Wyo. (AP)—Gay activists said a prosecutor is not being tough enough on a Douglas man accused of beating another man with a baseball bat after a sexual encounter.

Jody Lee Hoving, 32, was released on his own recognizance last week on a charge of aggravated assault.

Hoving is accused of beating Les Shuler of Douglas, who is openly gay, on Oct. 9. Shuler needed 36 stitches in his head and suffered numerous bruises on his upper torso and arms.

Activists said they were upset Hoving was released and that what happened to Shuler is a common crime against gays, according to a copyrighted story in the Oct. 16 edition of the *Casper Star-Tribune*.

Jeff Montgomery of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs said he considers the attack a variation on the hate crime that killed gay University of Wyoming freshman Matthew Shepard.

Shepard, 21, was beaten, pistol-whipped and tied to a fence near Laramie on Oct. 7, 1998. He died five days later at a hospital, never having emerged from a coma.

One of the two men accused of killing Shepard, Russell Henderson, was sen-

tenced to life in prison. The second, Aaron McKinney, is on trial. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Montgomery said he thinks Shuler was a victim of a "pick-up crime" in which the attacker is motivated by guilt and shame after having had sex with the victim.

"It is not uncommon that after a sexual act is performed, guilt and shame by the perpetrator is so intense they act out against the victim for a combination of reasons ... and he may feel it is the victim's fault," he said.

"All over the world, people responded like Matthew Shepard was some sort of extraordinary victim," he said. "The fact is, crimes like these happen all the time all over the country, where (gay) people are beaten so severely."

John Little, executive director of United Gays and Lesbians of Wyoming, said the attack against Shuler perpetuates an image that Wyoming is a "redneck or a backward place."

"People were saying after (Shepard's murder) that it was an isolated incident," Little said. "Well, presto—it happened again."

Montgomery said he thinks Hoving

should be charged with attempted murder because of the brutality of the beating, as well as sexual assault.

Police said they do not believe the attack on Shuler was motivated by Shuler's homosexuality. They also said the sexual encounter was consensual between Hoving and Shuler, based on interviews with the men.

"This case wasn't handled any differently than if I was assaulted on the street," Douglas Police Sgt. George Meyer said. "It was treated as a crime."

But Shuler said the sex was not consensual because Hoving's aggressive demeanor intimidated him into having sex.

According to Shuler, they met at a local bar and Hoving was behaving belligerently, asking Shuler if he was gay and graphically inquiring about sexual acts.

Later that night, Shuler said, Hoving knocked at his door, barged in, sat on his

couch and said he wanted sex.

After a sexual encounter in the bedroom, Shuler said Hoving told him to turn around for a back massage. The beating started after that. Shuler said later he recalled the emergency room doctor telling him he would have died if the baseball bat had struck his head a quarter inch more to one side.

Shuler said he wants to make what happened to him public in hopes of changing the law.

"Maybe it will make Wyoming wake up and the Legislature will see that hate crimes do occur," he said.

Hoving could not be reached for comment. He was scheduled to appear in court Tuesday.

The prosecutor, Converse County Deputy Attorney John Robinson, declined to comment other than to say Shuler was charged "according to the statutes."

## Town Hall informs AIDS/HIV community

A community Town Hall meeting held in Phoenix on Oct. 14 offered a free buffet supper and the latest information on new treatments and therapies to people living with HIV and AIDS.

The meeting was sponsored by Phoenix Body Positive and featured Dr. Cal Cohen of Boston, local internal medicine specialist Dr. Thanes Vanig, and Dr. Jack Sipperly, a retinal specialist.



Dr. Cal Cohen (l) with Dr. Thanes Vanig at PBP's Town Hall.

## IGRA contestant killed in chute accident

A gay rodeo contestant was fatally injured while competing in The Atlantic Stampede '99 in Gaithersburg, MD on Oct. 2. It was the second rodeo-related death in the 14-year history of the International Gay Rodeo Association.

Dean John Berkan, 36, of Sacramento, CA was killed preparing the rigging for his steer ride when the steer he was scheduled to mount became excited and bucked up in the chute.

An IGRA press statement released after the accident said Berkan hit his head against the wall of the inside of the chute and was knocked unconscious by the blow. The statement said he died in surgery at Suburban Hospital in Gaithersburg due to head injuries.

Berkan began competing in rodeos in April of 1999 in Los Angeles and competed again last June in San Jose. The

Atlantic Stampede was his third IGRA rodeo and his first attempt at steer riding.

The event is considered a "beginner" event at the rodeos, using castrated animals weighing 900-1200 pounds that are smaller and less aggressive than the bulls used for the more advanced sport of bull riding.

IGRA recommends the use of safety equipment that includes a mouthpiece, chest protector and protective headgear. IGRA also requires professional medical personnel and an ambulance to be present. Berkan received immediate attention from on site paramedics and was transported to the nearest trauma unit within 15 minutes of his injuries, according to IGRA officials.

In 1994, a contestant died from injuries received during the bull riding competition at an IGRA rodeo in Atlanta.



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AGRA Royalty Kickoff Show & Party

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# Comic Margaret Cho brings her one-woman show to Phoenix

Continued from page 1

to be very accident-prone, and break lots of things. I ended up breaking lots of objects. I really was so Vera from *Alice*—you know, that weird, mousy archetype. It was kind of spazzy and crazy.

And then when I was a teenager, I discovered a couple of things; I discovered performing and gay men. Those two things gave me such confidence and such love that I really thrived due to both of those communities.

**HS: You've said that gay men were a big part of your upbringing. Tell our readers about that.**

MC: My parents owned a book store on Polk Street which is like, the total gay part of the city. And it was so amazing then, because it was the seventies and this was right after Stonewall but before AIDS. So this was the greatest time to be gay and to be young.

To grow up there and witness all of this creativity and flamboyance—I was really lucky. I got to be around all of these wonderful drag queens during the day, because my father employed all of these gay men who made their living at night in the nightclubs. They would work during the day at the book store. A lot of those guys [were the people whom] I was left in the care of. That was a nice way to kind of bring me out of my shell gradually.

Then there were great people in my school. I went to a High School for Performing Arts. And when I discovered performing there was a lot of people who really encouraged me. Just the whole experience was really great.

**HS: Let's dissect this fag hag business a little. As a teenager, did you find yourself attracted to and/or hanging out with guys who always turned out to be gay?**

MC: I had good male friends who would later turn out to be gay, only they wouldn't know. We'd sit and talk and we'd go, "What girls do you like?" and they'd go, "Well, we like Madonna." And it's like, "oh, okay." But we didn't really know it was gay. We just knew they hung out [with girls] and it was a very natural thing.

Later, as you get older, you start to understand it. But when you're that young you don't know. You just hang out. I was hanging out with these guys and I knew later. You just realize. It becomes clear to you as it becomes clear to them.

**HS: Does having so many gay men for friends today affect your relationships with straight men?**

MC: I don't know, 'cause I have very good, intimate relationships with gay men, that are on the level of—practically marriage. I'm on my second gay husband. Maybe that's unusual, but I don't think it's that unusual. I have such beautiful, intense, close relationships with gay men.

My first gay marriage was with this comedian named Scott Silverman. He and I were so close.

**HS: Phoenixians will know him from a benefit he just did for our community center in August.**

MC: He's the greatest. We were together for seven years and we literally broke up. It really was like a divorce. We joked about it like it was a divorce. We both went home and cried to "I Will Survive." I never thought a fag/fag hag marriage dissipating would be so painful—more painful than anything I've ever been through. A lot of people that I know understand it. I know a lot of straight women that have these relationships with gay men that are so close, and it just gets so enmeshed that it's really weird.

**HS: What do you get from a gay man that you can't—or don't—get from a straight guy?**

MC: It's the idea of the beauty of longing, and what it means to be in that state of longing. And in the state of having to sup-

press your desire because it doesn't always match society's desire.

There is a closeness there that I cannot express in a really articulate way because it's so emotional. There's just something about my personality that hooks in so deeply with gay men and it has a lot to do with my childhood. It has to do with these wonderful men that I had known and lost and so it really is—it's a really great thing.

**HS: Have you ever expected a straight guy you were dating to act or say something differently because of your relationships with gay men?**

MC: No because it's weird—It's almost like I only have real relationships with gay men. The straight guys that I like are so super-straight they're almost like caricatures. They're like these Marlboro-Man cowboys that are ridiculously straight, they're almost in drag, they're so straight. It's crazy.

**HS: Have you ever analyzed this?**

MC: It's very unusual. But my life is



fulfilling. I don't feel, necessarily, a lack. Or like there's something wrong. In a sense—as it applies to my life—society's wrong. I prefer to define my own rules of intimacy and sexuality and love in the way that has worked for me. So it's really fine. Some people would think, you know, "that's a very lonely thing," but it's really not. I'm very satisfied.

**HS: Because you are always so lovingly critical of your mother in your stage act, I'm sure people wonder what kind of a mother you will make. Are you planning to have kids?**

MC: I do have a real strong maternal side, and yet I am really so locked into my life as it is now that I'm not—I can't really see it. I also feel like way too much of a child myself. Part of it is a selfishness, and this idea that it isn't possible. I'm not really sure where that is. But we'll see.

**HS: Speaking of kids, one of your designated charities is GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. What is it about that organization's work that appeals to you?**

MC: I just did a show for them on October 3rd. I was so emotional because it was a big event and they were giving an award to Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard's mother. I was there to perform comedy at this very somber event and I'd just gotten

onstage, and I was talking to the Shepards from stage.

I said, "Thank you so much for your love and your honesty, and your generosity of spirit and your strength and your courage." And then I just started bawling and crying! I was at a loss for a moment, because I'm really forgetting my job, here. I'm supposed to be alleviating all of this, and instead I just made it worse. I was just bawling. I had to pull out of it and say, "Okay, yeah. That's a good way to begin a comedy show, start crying. That's great." Fortunately, I was able to recover and it was a great performance.

I was crying because I think about the Shepards a lot, and I think about Matthew Shepard. I think about the incredible tragedy and the loss and how horrible that is. And how I live in such an isolated world where I don't think homophobia exists anymore, because I am—you know, I'm the opposite of homophobia. I am homophilia—I guess that's what it is. I love gay men. So much so that I can't believe homophobia is possible and that it exists.

So that really shatters my whole world, when something like that happens to Matthew Shepard. To be there and to be in the middle of it and to be with his parents, and to be performing. It was totally overwhelming and just crazy.

But that organization (GLSEN) is really important. It's important for me, to remind me that there is so much work to be done. And that it's never over and that it is a war and it's scary and it's awful. I love that organization because they are there for kids, and the kids who are not in the main cities, who are not in these protected environments. So that was my Sunday!

**HS: Your entire career has contributed to breaking down popularly held stereotypes regarding Asian American women. Do people still hold you up to those tired stereotypes, despite who you are and how you've worked to defeat them?**

MC: I think that I've lived by my own rules for so long that none of that applies. The people I have relationships with are so open and different. They don't really think

about roles like that.

But I guess it's something that I'm not conscious of. I don't really think too much about my ethnicity or my gender or any of those things when I perform. I think about, is this the message that I want to send out? Is this going to help people? Is this going to be funny? Is this valuable? Does this express my intention correctly? Is this the right sort of thing to do? And that's part of what I'm thinking of—not necessarily the source.

**HS: You quit school and left home at a fairly young age to try to make it in L.A. Was that hard on your family, or was it something they dealt with easily?**

MC: It was sort of shocking for them. My whole career is very shocking to my family because of the nature of what I do. In Korean culture, it is so anti-speaking your mind, and anti-sharing your pain with other people. That's considered a really selfish thing, to share your pain. Because your pain should be your own, not other people's.

But I think the opposite. I think you should share your pain because then it alleviates everybody's pain, you know? So what I do is very culturally against what I was brought up to believe. Although I don't really consciously make that effort. It's not a conscious thing that I want to do, it's just

how I want to be and how I believe. So my career has been very difficult for my family to accept. Although they love it and are so excited.

**HS: You're something of a regular on *Politically Incorrect*. How do you prepare for that show?**

MC: I wing it.

**HS: In your buddy Dennis Hensley's 1998 gay novel, *Misadventures in the* (213), the character of the sitcom actress, Dandy Rio, crams on current events for her appearances on *Politically Incorrect*.**

MC: That's what we were trying to do with that. 'Cause I am Dandy Rio. And I used to really study and cram. But now I just sort of wing it and that's the best way, because when you're locked into a certain thing—you never know what Bill Maher is going to say or what he's going to focus on, or who the other people are or what they will focus on.

So you have to be really fluid about how you're going to do things. And I'm always shocked by what the other people are saying. Because everybody always seems considered and unrealistic to me, and ridiculously rigid. Of course, I'm that way too—in a lot of ways. But I don't see myself like that.

That show is really challenging and scary because you don't have any control over anything. And a control freak like me really needs to be able to control things. So that's not my favorite show to do—although it is a great show to do. But it is always challenging.

**HS: Your new act, *I'm The One That I Want*, is quite different from the standup material you've been known for previously. What can our readers expect from your Phoenix appearance?**

MC: It's all different. What it focuses on is my experience of losing my television show and the resulting four-year depression and ultimate recovery from that.

It talks about alcoholism and it talks a lot about the horrid excess of fame. What Hollywood does, and how it is, and what it did to me and how I survived, and all of it. It's really about all the mistakes that I made along the way—all of it is my big mistake.

**HS: With all the lessons you've learned, what would you do today if a TV network came knocking with an idea for a new sitcom starring Margaret Cho?**

MC: I think that it would be great. I would love to do television again and I have been approached for that exact thing. Although I don't want to do anything unless I have complete control over it. So if I do go back to television it would certainly be on my own terms.

That is in my future; but I'm not really thinking about it too much—I have so many other things that I'm doing right now. There is this show, and there's a book that I'm writing that is also going to come out at the same time as the next show. And I'm filming a movie of this show that starts shooting next month.

And so there's a second stage that's going to happen in about a year, with the book coming out, the movie coming out and a tour to promote all of those things, [which is] another show that I'm writing as well. I don't really have space to entertain the idea of television, at least for the moment. So that's something I'd love to do but that will have to wait.

*I'm the One That I Want* is very different from anything I've ever done. Although it is standup comedy, it's not really a one-person show, per se.

It's also a way to pay back the audiences that were so great to me and always came to see me, even though I was literally dying inside and wanting to just kill myself and get out of this life. I was so destructive, and I always found safety onstage.

So this show is a testament to that audience—to pay them somehow for my life. And to help other people with similar problems. I wanted to offer this show as a real message of hope and of love. That's what it is—a big Thank You to the universe.

# When lesbian moms break up, heartbreak and legal limbo often follow

By David Crary, AP National Writer

With a mother's love, Kathleen Crandell writes every week to two girls she cannot visit. Whether they get the letters, she doesn't know.

Crandell helped raise the girls before splitting with her lesbian partner and considers them her daughters. Distraught when excluded from their lives, she sued for visitation rights—and lost. Under California law, she has no greater right to access than a stranger.

"I don't think, unless you've lost a kid, you can even fathom what it's like," Crandell says. "It's pretty much every moment. It's a constant level of missing them."

Similarly wrenching cases are surfacing across the nation as more lesbian partners raise children born after artificial insemination. When such couples separate, dissolving a union that no state recognizes as marriage, the partner who is not the biological parent finds herself in legal limbo.

In California, New York and Florida, state courts have ruled within the past 18 months that lesbian ex-partners are not entitled to visitation rights with children they helped nurture, regardless of how deep the emotional bond.

Massachusetts' highest court, in contrast, granted visitation rights in June to a lesbian who helped raise her ex-partner's son. The woman was a "de facto" parent, said the court, winning praise from gay-rights groups for asserting that nontraditional families deserve legal respect.

The Massachusetts judges were venturing into a legal vacuum; one dissenting justice condemned the ruling as an unwarranted step toward endorsing same-sex marriages.

Courts in many other states have sided categorically with the biological mother in such disputes, ruling that estranged lesbian partners have no more legal right to demand visitation than a long-term nanny or close family friend.

"The courts aren't used to looking at people without a biological relationship as being a child's parent," says Michael Adams, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union's lesbian and gay rights project. "We are forced to work within laws passed by legislatures that simply never considered these circumstances, and we can get some very unfortunate results."

Gay-rights activists don't contend that every ex-partner's demand should be granted. But they do want courts at least to consider whether requested visitation rights might be in a child's best interest.

"We want courts to force our families to play by the very same rules that heterosexual couples have been forced to play by for decades," says Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco. "We don't want anything special or different."

In Crandell's case, the California Supreme Court in July let stand an appeals court ruling against her. The lower court said no legal grounds exist for granting visitation rights to a nonparent over the biological mother's objection.

"It's the height of irony, given that California has perhaps more lesbian couples raising children than any other state," Kendell says.

"We're not talking about live-in girlfriends. We're not talking about a nanny. We all know a parent when we see one—someone who read a child stories at night, who changed their diapers, who was there day in, day out, nurturing and caring."

Crandell, now 43, and her partner started living together in 1985 when the partner's daughter was almost 3. Two years later, the partner gave birth to another daughter by artificial insemination.

The couple jointly raised the two girls

until separating in 1990. In 1994 the ex-partner demanded that Crandell cease her periodic visits.

The court ruling means Crandell cannot see the children until they turn 18. They are now 17 and 12.

Crandell hasn't ruled out trying to take her case to the U.S. Supreme Court, though she has modest hopes. "Nothing has been more important to me than asking for my children in every possible way," she said in a telephone interview.

The next major ruling on the issue may come in New Jersey. The state Supreme Court plans hearings this fall on an appeals court's split decision granting a lesbian visitation rights to her former partner's twin toddlers.

The twins, a boy and girl, were born two years after the women began living together, and the plaintiff shared child-rearing duties with the biological mother. Each took turns changing diapers, picking up the twins from day care, rocking them to sleep.

To date, virtually every high-profile court case regarding children of same-sex partners has involved lesbians, not gay men. That could change, however, as liberalized adoption policies expand the ranks of gay fathers.

Although many gay-rights groups have intervened in the court cases to espouse the validity of same-sex partnerships, they would prefer that couples avoid litigation.

This summer, an alliance of groups published guidelines for same-sex couples, urging those who want children to agree in advance on how to solve problems that might arise if they separate. Options vary from state to state, but it is often possible for a partner to become a legal parent through guardianship or adoption.

"There are ways to resolve these things outside of court," says Mary Bonauto, a Boston lawyer who drafted the guidelines. "We have a legal system that for the most part does not acknowledge the legal existence of our families. So it's important that we honor our own agreements."

Bonauto, civil rights director for Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, says children of same-sex couples, and the gay-rights movement, can be losers when a case goes to court.

"It is extremely damaging to our community and our families when we disavow as insignificant the very relationships for which we are seeking legal and societal respect," she wrote in the guidelines.

As a positive example, Bonauto cites Joyce Kauffman, a lesbian-rights lawyer in Boston who settled a child-custody dispute with her former partner without litigation.

Kauffman gave birth to her daughter, Becca, as a single mother 15 years ago, and soon afterward began a relationship that lasted four years.

When the partners broke up, and realized how distraught the child was, they decided to continue co-parenting. For the past 10 years, Becca has spent half of each week with each of the women, who live a few blocks apart.

"My daughter still calls both of us Mom," Kauffman says. "It was not my favorite thing to do, to deal with my ex-partner all the time. But I didn't feel I had any right to curtail my daughter's relationship with her. I felt morally it would have been wrong."

Kauffman is frustrated by the tactics some lesbian mothers use to oppose visitation rights.

"We've been working so hard for so many decades to gain respect," she says. "Then to have people within our own community use homophobic law against other gay and lesbian people—that really troubles me. If we don't respect our own relationships, how can we expect other people to respect them?"



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**Tuesday:** Dart leagues at the Cash.  
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**Wednesday:** Hump Day: remember Happy Hour starts at 4pm! Don't miss Karaoke with Denise & Dee, 7–?pm.

**Thursday:** Clogging lessons for beginners, 6:15–7:30. Country Western Dance Lessons with Geri 7:30–9:30pm. Our DJ, Molly, spins every Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

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**Saturday:** Country Western Music with DJ Molly

**Sunday:** Country Western Dancing with our DJ Molly, spinning from 7–11pm!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Attention Softball Fans!

During women's softball season, Cash Inn will open at 12 noon every Sunday, with Happy Hour from 1–4pm.

**Wednesday, Oct. 27:** Show up for Karaoke & get a free pass to the critically acclaimed film *Boys Don't Cry*.

**Saturday, Oct. 30:** Don't miss Cash Inn's Halloween Bash! Door prizes & scary monsters galore! The fun starts at 8pm.

**Sunday, Oct. 31:** Drop in for a Bloody Mary—our Halloween special.

**Thursday, Nov. 25:** Cash Inn is closed for Thanksgiving.

**Friday, Dec. 3:** Live music by Diamond Fire starts at 9pm; cover.



## My Queer Life

## DO YOU HAVE ANY THAT ARE ALREADY TRAINED?

By Michael Thomas Ford

Everyone is getting babies. I mean everyone.

Some of them are actually having them the old-fashioned way, some of them are adopting, and some of them are apparently finding them at tag sales, but they're all getting them one way or another.

Every time I turn around, another one of my friends is waving a baby picture in my face and telling me about the latest addition to the family.

"Sorry I haven't called you in three weeks," said my friend Craig when he finally phoned after I left a string of messages. "I was in Cambodia picking up Matt."

"I thought you were dating some waiter named John," I said.

Craig chuckled. "No, Matt is my new son. I adopted him from an orphanage there."

Craig is a man who once put a cat to sleep for using the new issue of *Vanity Fair* as a scratching post. His condo is a museum to all things expensive and breakable. He has white wall-to-wall carpeting. Him with a child is like Jesse Helms with a soul. The two just don't go together.

"What are you going to do with a baby?" I asked, curious.

"It's really great," he said. "I feel like my life is complete now."

This is the same thing Craig said when he found a pair of Kenneth Cole dress shoes at half off, and when he located the last place setting of his discontinued china pattern, and when he had liposuction to remove the final seven pounds that pre-

vented him from wearing a Speedo in public.

You can see why I was less than enthusiastic about his news.

But the really scary thing is that Craig is far from alone. My friend Susie travels all over the country giving lectures to college students about sexuality. Mostly her audiences are filled with queer kids, since the straight ones are afraid she's going to ask them to get in touch with their anuses or something.

A while back, Susie started asking her audiences if any of them planned on having children. To her surprise, she finds that almost every gay man in the groups raises his hand.

Far be it from me to be pessimistic, but I can't help being the tiniest bit suspicious about this whole baby thing, especially when it comes to all the gay men I know suddenly popping up with toddlers in tow.

These are the same people who rushed out to buy Dalmatian puppies a few years ago when Disney released that movie about the spotted canines. Now the shelters are brimming with yelping three-year-old dogs because the poor things had the nerve to shed copiously on their owners' black sweaters.

I'm not saying that gay men don't make great fathers. I know lots of fantastic gay men who have raised or are raising children.

I just find it disconcerting that it's happening in such large numbers, kind of like

when gay boys everywhere simultaneously started wearing Calvin Klein boxer briefs in 1989. Now, instead of sporting the same underwear or hairstyle, gay men recognize each other on the street by the fact that they are all walking along pushing similarly-outfitted strollers.

"Where did you get yours?" has become the new pick-up line as men coo and smile at one another's babies.

"China," comes the answer. "I went there because there was a better selection. In Russia you get what they bring you."

"I made mine myself," another father might say, "with a little help from a lesbian friend and the October issue of *Honcho*."



This is all well and good while the children are young and cute. But, like puppies, babies grow into gangly children with bad attitudes and nasty habits. What happens then?

Sure, that bundle of joy looks adorable all dressed up in a smart outfit from Donna Karan Jr., but what about when she announces that she wants to wear ripped jeans and (gasp) polyester blouses? Even worse, suppose he shows a penchant for corduroy and sandals with

socks. By that point it's too late, and gay nerves everywhere will be shot beyond repair.

If someone were smart, they'd start selling shares in babies like they do in houses on Fire Island and Key West. That way gay men could experience the thrill of fatherhood without all of that pesky commitment that usually goes along with it. For a couple of thousand dollars, you could get two weeks with little Mei-Lin or baby Torsten, delivered right to your door with all of the necessary accouterments.

Why, several friends could even go in together, making it even more affordable. At the end of the share, those interested in going all the way could make arrangements for more permanent situations, while those who found parenthood too demanding would return to their lives with no regrets.

Even better, the next year they could order a totally different kid, thereby always remaining on the cutting edge of childrearing and avoiding the stigma of being seen walking the same infant twice.

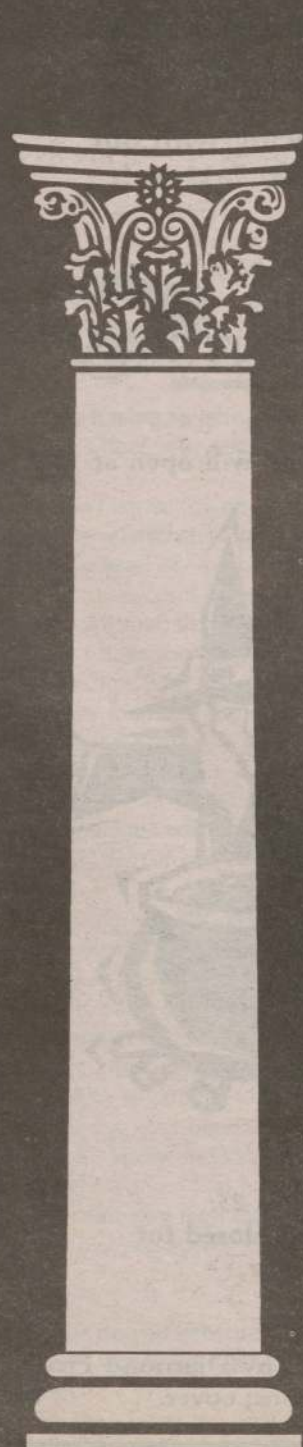
As I say, I'm all for having options, and I'm pleased that so many queers are realizing that they can do the kiddie thing if they want to.

There's no reason why anyone should be deprived of the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so" to a 13-year-old who has just found out the hard way that daddy wasn't kidding when he said that Ecstasy and beer really don't mix.

I myself, however, will stick to having a dog. It's much easier to retain control over someone entirely motivated by food, and since he probably won't live much beyond the age of twelve, I never have to worry about him wanting to borrow the car.

Michael Thomas Ford is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of the essay collections *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me* and *That's Mr. Faggot to You*. He can be reached at Shopiltee@aol.com.

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# Chicago Dance Co. to heat things up in Phoenix

By John Lotardo, Contributor

River North Dance Company, Chicago's jazz-hot dance troupe, is coming back to the Valley in November to heat up the Arizona Dance world.

Last seen here in 1998 as part of the World Jazz Congress, River North returns with more of its special mix of exciting, foot-stomping, heart-pumping eclectic dance repertoire. Their performances range from dreamy to jazzy and back again.

The company expects to show its audiences the very best of a "grown-up" company this time, says Artistic Director Sherry Zucker Dow. Dow, who is co-director with Frank Chavez, is referring to River North's recent ten-year anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, they have decided to open the current performance with their "first BIG hit", *Reality of a Dreamer*. As part of the celebration Dow and Chavez have created a new piece, *Mission*, to finish the performance.

*Mission* is special for several reasons, Dow says. "It is the first collaborative work between Frank and myself." Dow discloses that they are completing the piece at the same time the mission statement for River North is being redone. "Our mission statement from ten years ago no longer fits with who we are today. We used to endeavor to be a world class jazz company that preserves the jazz dance tradition. We are more than that now."

Accessibility is a major theme behind their works. River North productions not only "reflect humanity in a truly positive way," they also transcend typical gender roles. Although it's not a conscious choice to do so, Dow says the choreography

reflects artistic freedom rather than political agenda. Dow considers men dancing with other men and women dancing with other women as an expression of the natural human condition.

Several pieces in the show illustrate this broader concept of human relationships. For example, Dow's new rhythm and blues piece, *Vent*, features two female dancers dealing with the emotions encountered in relationships. Many have told Dow they believed the piece to be about a lesbian relationship, though she admits the piece is intended to have broader appeal.

Another piece, *Captain Tenacity*, is a humorous comic strip spoof where the lead role is alternated between a male and female dancer, depending upon the evening. When you watch it, see if you can tell which is playing the superhero that night.



Southwest Dance will present River North on Nov. 5 at 8 pm at Chandler Center for the Arts, and Nov. 6 at 8 pm and Nov. 7 at 2 pm at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Phoenix. Tickets are available for the Chandler performance at

Ticketmaster or by calling 480/786-2680. Tickets for the Orpheum shows are available at Dillard's, 480/503-5555.



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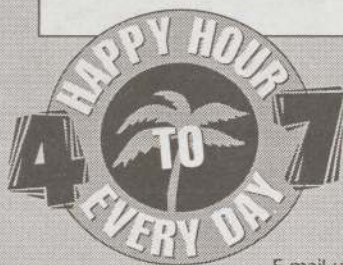
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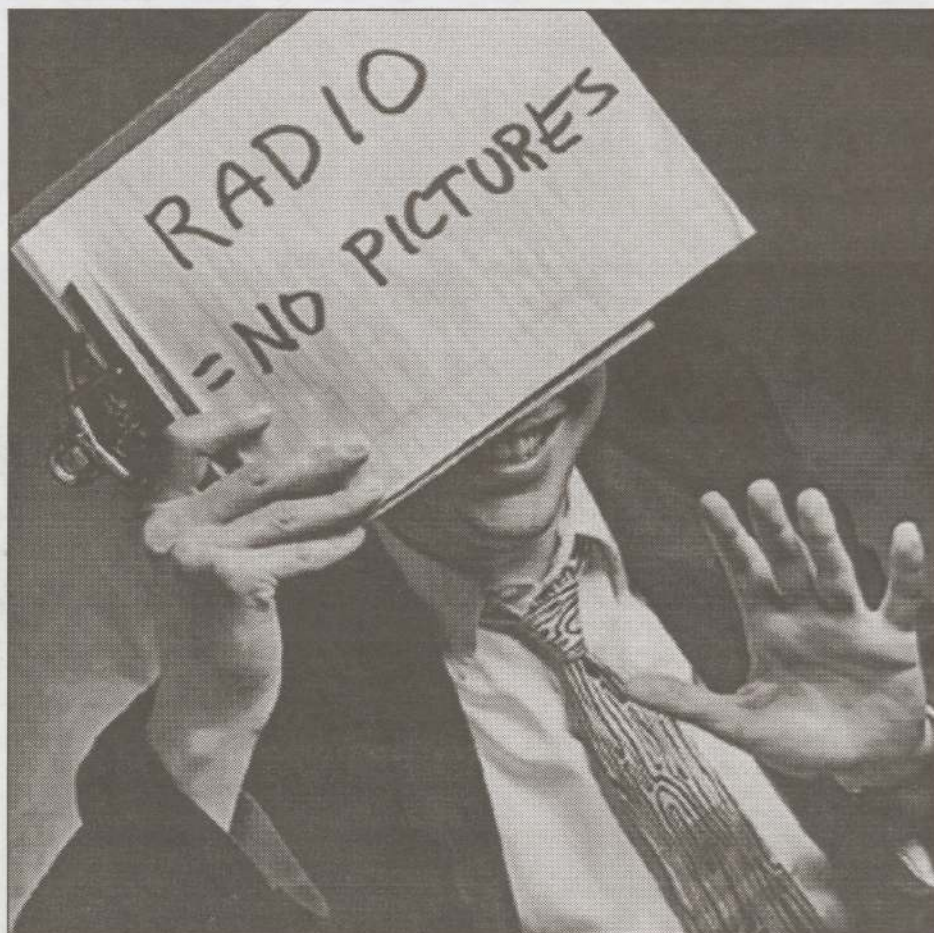
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## Radio man Glass to take the stage in Scottsdale

Catch a behind the scenes evening with Ira Glass, host and producer of public radio's *This American Life*, when he appears in the Valley in *Live Sissies and Fiascoes: Notes on Making a New Kind of Radio* on Thursday, Oct. 28 at 8 pm at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts.

Glass calls his mission "goony and idealistic". He gives voice to those outside the mainstream with narrative epics that pinpoint the unusual in the every day. Tickets to the show are \$20 and available through Ticketmaster or by calling 480/994-ARTS.



## Black comedy gets rave reviews for IMCO

In *Mixed Company* opened its sixth season Oct. 7 with *The Vampires* by Harry Kondoleon, and the witty ensemble comedy is earning glowing reviews for this cutting edge company.

The play explores the dark underside of America's well being and cleverly comes just in time for Halloween, also

known as the Gay National Holiday.

The show is directed by db Bailey and will be performed through Oct. 30 at PlayWright's Theatre, 1121 N. 1st. St. in downtown Phoenix. Tickets are \$17.50 and are available through the Herberger box office at 602/252-8497.



Miller Brands staff and Rainbows for Relief organizers celebrated this year's record-breaking campaign at the wrap party held at Charlie's.

## Rainbow fundraiser sets new record

The 1999 Rainbows for Relief program, a Valley-wide fund-raiser sponsored by Aunt Rita's Foundation and Miller Brands in cooperation with all the area's gay and lesbian bars, wrapped the annual September promotion with a party at Charlie's on Oct. 12.

More than \$16,000 was raised from Sept. 1 through Sept. 30, which organizers said was well above the \$15,000 goal. The amount marked a new record for the fund-raiser, which started in 1993.

Each year a contest is held between the bars for the most rainbows sold by an individual and the most sold by each of the participating establishments. Wink's was the winning venue this year with the most rainbows sold, and Ron Neal of Wink's was the high selling individual among bar employees.

Miller Brands participated in the pro-

gram by sponsoring parties at each bar and by providing promotional prizes, advertising, and offering specials on Miller products to promote the parties and the rainbow sales.

The local beer distributor and Miller Brewing Co. also kicked in a share of the profits from all Miller products sold in participating bars throughout the run of the program. It was the addition of the corporate monies to the rainbows sold that pushed the total above the \$15,000 mark, according to program director Lisa Harville.

Aunt Rita's Foundation is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that provides assistance to individuals affected by AIDS. The Rainbows for Relief event began in 1993, and Aunt Rita's has been the sole recipient of its funds since 1994.



Wink's Ron Neal was Phoenix's top seller of Rainbows for Relief among bar employees. Ron is pictured with Lisa Harville, coordinator of the campaign for Aunt Rita's foundation, a local AIDS charity.

## IMPROMPTU HALLOWEEN DOINGS IN MESA

An imaginative and spontaneous series of improvisational acting, dancing and musical performances take place the first and third Friday of each month at Coffee Talk, a popular and eclectic East Valley coffeehouse.

The free shows run from 8 to 10 pm and are put together in cooperation with the Mesa Arts Center under the co-direct-

tion of local actor Sean Kapera and Marlina Kessler.

Kessler is a new dance instructor at Mesa Arts Center. Her newly formed troupe, the Step to This Dance Company, will perform with Impromptu at Coffee Talk on Oct. 29 for a special Halloween party and show. Coffee Talk is located at 48 N. Robson in downtown Mesa.



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## BOYS DON'T CRY

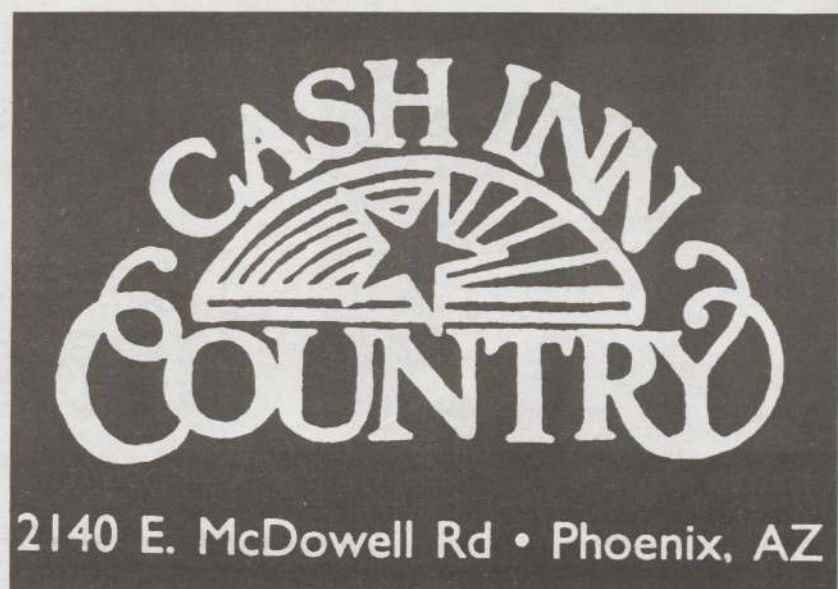


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# Notable Quotes

## Newsmakers, Celebrities & Others Speak Out

Compiled by Rex Wockner



"[In Los Angeles] the younger guys are looking for sugar daddies, and the older guys are looking for the spectacular beauties. I think if I lived in Cleveland I would have a lover."

—Comedy writer and *Hollywood Squares* star Bruce Vilanch to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Sept. 18.

"I now discovered I'm a big celebrity bear. Bears love me. I get letters that start, 'I don't usually date guys as small as you...' And I think to myself, 'Who do you usually date? The Queen Mary?'"

—Comedy writer and *Hollywood Squares* star Bruce Vilanch to *Chicago's Outlines*, Sept. 15.

"The bad part of gay rights is that it can be so humorless. The joke that we had when I was in college was the only problem with the revolution is that it may bore us to death. Everybody was so frank and so serious about what they were doing, it was very hard to get them to crack a smile. It's the same thing with the gay rights movement. If you make a joke, you're invariably stepping on somebody's toes. You're ruffling somebody's drag feathers. It's never easy."

—Comedy writer and *Hollywood Squares* star Bruce Vilanch to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Sept. 16.

"I'd like to bed Tom [Cruise] and Nicole."

—Gay singer George Michael to *London's Mirror*, Sept. 18.

"George Michael: He says he'd like to have sex with Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. His bathroom or theirs?"

—*Entertainment Weekly* magazine, Oct. 1

"Because I was so excited about having fallen in love, I wasn't aware of the struggle and pain that people go through to come out. ... What I learned more over the last two years is how difficult it is to be gay, which is so different for me than when I first fell in love with Ellen, because it was the greatest thing in my life."

—Actress Anne Heche to *Curve* magazine, November issue.

"We have wild peacocks that come to our door every day. I think NBC is sending them, that's what I'm getting from it anyway."

—Ellen DeGeneres on life at her and Anne Heche's Ventura County, Calif., farm, to *Curve* magazine, November issue.

"The biggest problem was the complete ignorance on the part of the mainstream journalists as to our very existence. You'd think people would be at least aware of their own local gay newspaper, but often the attitude toward the gay press was one of condescension. ... What I really want from this organization is not to get that look when I'm introduced to someone from mainstream journalism."

—Jim Baxter of North Carolina's *The Front Page* on the attitudes of mainstream journalists attending the eighth annual conference of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association in Atlanta, to *Press Pass Q*, Sept. 24.

"Before the film I had never seen a vibrator and now I'm an expert."

—*Better Than Chocolate* star Karyn Dwyer (Maggie) to *Chicago's Outlines*, Sept. 22.

"The other day after buying groceries, a woman asked me, 'Were you queer before you did this movie, or did you become queer for the part?' Nobody believes I'm straight anymore, and I can't say I really mind. People can't seem to believe that two straight girls could have pulled off such a realistic lesbian sex scene."

—*Better Than Chocolate* star Karyn Dwyer (Maggie) to *Chicago's Outlines*, Sept. 22.

"In a recent lengthy interview in *Chicago's Outlines*, Elizabeth Birch, executive director for the Human Rights Campaign, commented that she was likened to Margaret Thatcher by her critics. I am probably Birch's most vehement critic, but I would never do such a thing. Mrs. Thatcher had better taste in clothing."

The person to whom I feel most comfortable comparing Elizabeth Birch is Joseph Goebbels. Prior to the Nazi ascendancy in Germany, Goebbels said: 'We are entering the Reichstag, in order that we may arm ourselves with the weapons of democracy from its arsenal. We shall become Reichstag deputies in order that the Weimar ideology should itself help us to destroy it.' Likewise, the HRC has become willing to utter a few words ostensibly in support of transgendered people, even though objective analysis shows that they are anything but supportive."

ive."

—Columnist Katrina C. Rose, writing in *Austin's Texas Triangle*, Sept. 24.

"Do I have gay friends? Yes. Do I have gay family? No. Has it contributed to my understanding? Only to the extent that my relationships with them have been totally unrelated to the fact that they are gay. It happens to be an attribute about as meaningful as having blond hair."

—Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Bradley to the *Advocate*, Oct. 12.

"Gays have always been in the military. They've just had to hide. We've, since 1993, had a policy that doesn't work. It's called 'don't ask, don't tell.' And what I can't understand is how is it possible that gays can serve openly and with distinction in the Department of Justice, in the State Department, in the Treasury Department, in the federal courts, in the Congress, in the White House and not in the military. Why can gays be policemen, brick layers, football players, lawyers, nuclear scientists, but can't be staff sergeants or lieutenants? I believe that we have to reach out to everybody. I think that, you know, you do it [lift the ban], as I said. The method and timing of this would be my own. Of course, I would be in consultation with many different people in this process. But what I've stated is my belief."

—Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Bradley on CNN's *Larry King Live*, Sept. 29.

"I will not call gay union marriage, but I will respect them and I will work to see that same-sex couples receive the property, insurance, immigration [and] tax rights enjoyed by various others."

—Democratic Presidential candidate Bill Bradley speaking to a Human Rights Campaign dinner Oct. 2 in Dearborn, Mich.

"I have spent some time getting to know some of the organizations and individuals involved with the gay movement. They are a dynamic and committed group. However, I can't help but feel that, as with all people, there is an element of competition. As a novice new to the fight,

I am sure I have naive expectations. I just feel that so much more could be accomplished if everyone worked together. Aren't we all working toward the same goal? Time and effort are wasted if some work to undermine the accomplishments of others."

—Matthew Shepard's mother, Judy, to the *Advocate*, Oct. 12.

"I think about it [running for governor of California] many times. The possibility is there, because I feel it inside. I feel there are a lot of people in politics that are standing still and not doing enough. ... You're going to lose until you become a party of inclusion, [until you show] that you love the foreigner that comes in with no money as much as a gay person, as a lesbian ... someone who's from the inner city."

—Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger to *Talk* magazine, November issue.

"These three bills send a message across this country and around the world that we are determined to unleash the full potential of the human spirit here in California. They will help us to beat back the forces of hatred and discrimination that strike at the very heart of what it means to be a Californian."

—Gov. Gray Davis Oct. 2 as he signed bills banning discrimination against gays in employment and housing, banning anti-gay discrimination in schools, and creating a statewide domestic-partnership registry for same-sex couples.

"Straights are always saying to me, 'Are you trying to recruit us?' What would be the selling point? We have no rights. People hate us. Come join us."

—Comedian Jason Stuart performing Oct. 2 at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

"When we went to a two-day seminar at the agency, they brought birth mothers to talk to the couples considering adoption about their decision-making process, who they picked and why. They both said they were looking for Christian homes. We're both sitting there going hupta-hupta-huh. We believe in a lot of things — we believe in Stephen Sondheim's inherent genius, we believe in Bette Midler's world tour, but we don't believe in the second coming of anything except ourselves."

—Gay syndicated sex-advice columnist Dan Savage to *Salon.com*, Oct. 1.

"Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers. It tells people to go out and stick their noses in other people's business. The religious right wants to tell people how to live."

—Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura to *Playboy* magazine, current issue.

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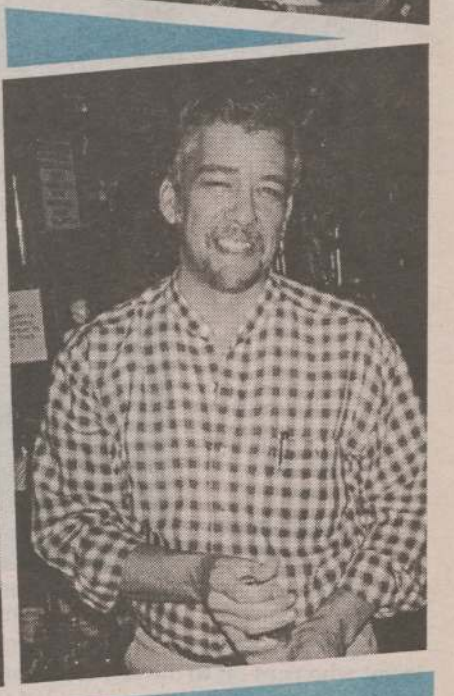
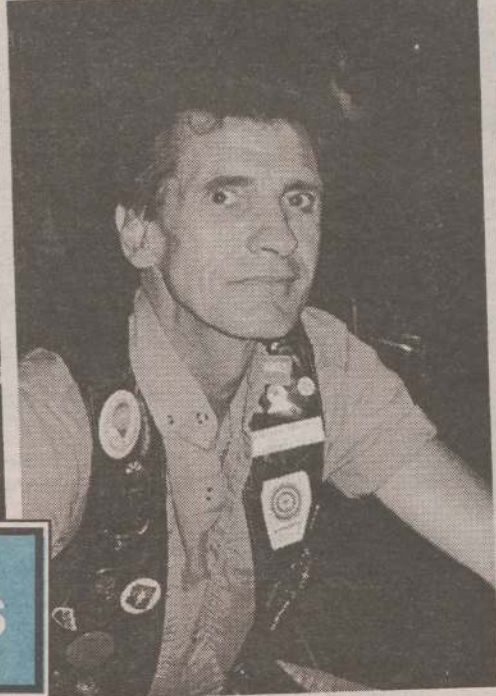
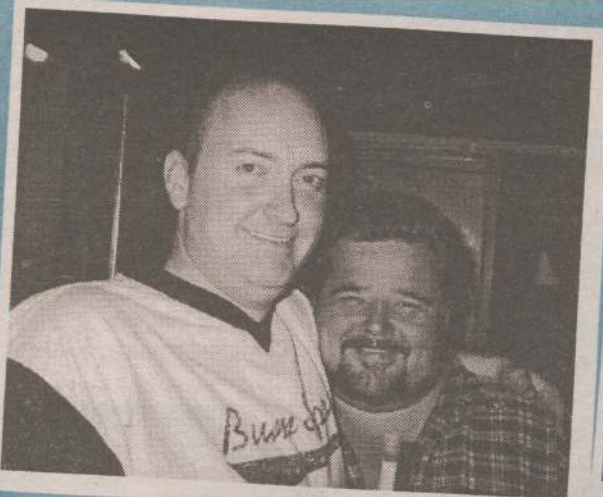
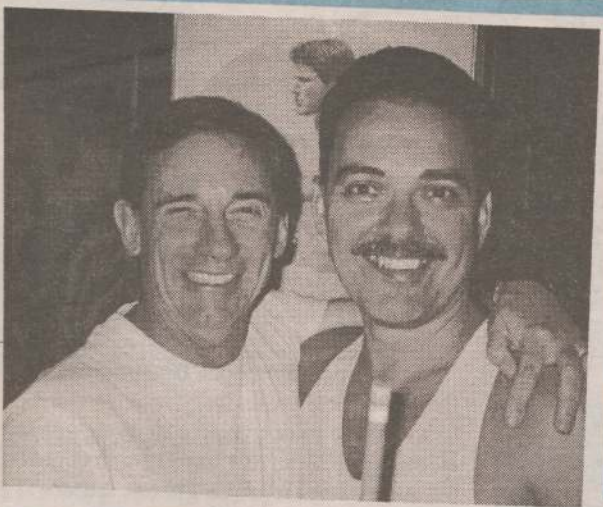
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# Apollo's



# Hollywood

## Deep Inside

By Romeo San Vicente, HeatStroke Contributor

### Crazy About Coward

The hottest gay writer in Hollywood these days ain't Kevin Williamson; it's the late, great British playwright Noel Coward.

A master wit whose work is often compared to that of Oscar Wilde, Coward is the inspiration for a couple of high-profile projects in the works—including one that should make good use of Madonna's much-mocked newly acquired British accent.

The Material Girl has committed to star in a feature film version of Coward's play *Quadrille* directed by Gavin Millar, best-known for 1985's *Dreamchild*. Set in London and France in the 1920s, Madonna will play the wife of a philanthropic English aristocrat who runs off to the south of France with another woman, who is married to a wealthy American industrialist. Madonna and the spurned American husband team up to avoid a scandal, but fall passionately for each other along the way. The lovely Andie McDowell is set to co-star when the film goes before cameras in April 2000.

Already in production is a film based on Coward's 1951 "light comedy" *Relative Values*, in which *Victor/Victoria*'s Julie Andrews plays a widowed English countess. She's worried about her son's upcoming marriage to a Hollywood starlet (Jeanne Tripplehorn), who is still pining for a hunky actor played by William Baldwin (now there's a stretch).

Andrews is an old hand in Coward country; in 1968, she starred in *Star*, a much-underrated biopic about Gertrude Lawrence, the playwright's favorite leading lady. No release date has yet been set for *Relative Values*.

### The Names Have Not Been Changed...

The former girlfriend of Brandon Teena, the transgendered teenager who was murdered in Nebraska a few years ago in a hideous hate crime, is unhappy that her name is being used in a feature film about the slaying.

Lana Tisdell has retained an attorney, who sent a cease-and-desist letter to Fox Searchlight, which is releasing Kimberly

Pierce's biopic *Boys Don't Cry*, asking the company to change the name or pull the film. Born female, Brandon Teena was killed in 1993 after successfully passing as male; Tisdell was Brandon's high school sweetheart.

Kids cutie Chloe Sevigny portrays Tisdell in the just-released film, and, in a breakthrough performance, Hilary Swank plays Teena. Fox Searchlight contends it has a signed agreement with the real-life Tisdell, but she says she never intended to give away any rights to her story.

The film, a fictionalized account, places Tisdell at the scene of the crime when Brandon was murdered, a scenario that she claims has both caused her to lose her job and provoked death

threats from Brandon's family. Fox Searchlight says it is investigating the situation.

### Queer-Acting Talk-Show Host

Los Angeles radio sensation Phil Hendrie recently expanded to more than 30 cities through a syndication deal with Premier Radio Networks, the same company that distributes Rush Limbaugh and "I'm not homophobic" self-help hag Dr. Laura.

Hendrie's one-of-a-kind style is to pretend to be his own outrageous guests, interview himself, and encourage unsuspecting callers to call in and argue. He's portrayed a veterinarian who euthanizes puppies for fun, an elderly black woman who promotes the singing of "Dixie," and a high school sophomore with testicular cancer who doesn't understand why the "Make A Wish Society" won't grant him his wish of joining the Mile High Club.

One of Hendrie's regular "guests" is "Doug Dangar," "a gay man and a gay journalist," who writes movie reviews from a queer perspective and believes anyone who slights him is exhibiting homophobia. Oh please, Mary!

### Barkin Up the Bisexual Tree

Blonde bombshell Ellen Barkin has signed on to play a bisexual go-go dancer in the feature film version of David

Rabe's 1974 play *In the Boom Boom Room*.

Technically, this won't be Barkin's first sexually ambivalent role. In 1991, she starred in Blake Edwards's disastrous comedy *Switch* as a male chauvinist pig reincarnated as a beautiful woman.

*Boom Boom* will be directed by documentary filmmaker Barbara Kopple, whose last film was the interesting "day in the life of Woody Allen and Soon Yi" piece, *Wild Man Blues*. Barkin will play an exotic dancer from Philadelphia who was raped in the late '60s.

Patricia Arquette, Vincent D'Onofrio



Ellen Barkin plays a bisexual go-go dancer in the upcoming movie *In the Boom Boom Room*.

and Jon Lovitz will also be involved in the project, which is scheduled to start shooting in the City of Brotherly Love in January. Barkin's latest role off-screen is as arm candy for billionaire Ronald Perelman—she's in the process of divorcing Irish hunk Gabriel Byrne.

### Pee Wee Does Know "Jack"

Look for comedian Paul Reubens to return to the small screen in a new incarnation: game-show host. Reubens, whose one-handed big adventure got his *Pee Wee Herman's Playhouse* bumped off TV a few years ago, has signed on to *You Don't Know Jack*, a television show based on the überpopular CD-ROM pop-culture trivia game.

The irreverent computer game, released in 1995, has proved to be massively successful, and the television version of *Jack* seems a perfect vehicle for Reubens's wackiness, double-entendres aside.

Don't expect this quiz show to be a lame

Jeopardy clone: executive producer Robert Morton told *The Hollywood Reporter*, "This is a comedy first, and that is how we are developing it. It has edge, attitude, and a point of view which we love and hope to re-create for network television, with Paul being the comedy force behind it all."

### Doherty in Drag

Former *Beverly Hills 90210* bad girl Shannen Doherty, who currently stars as a witch on the WB series *Charmed*, is scheduled to have a sex change later this month... sort of.

In an upcoming episode of the series, the aesthetically pleasing Doherty transforms into a man to trap a demon. Ashley Hamilton will have a hard time recognizing his ex: she'll sport a goatee, super-short hair, and a large nose.

### Scream in the New Year

Fans of gay writer Kevin Williamson's *Scream* movies will have to wait until Valentine's Day for their next fix. The release date of *Scream 3* has been pushed back from December, 1999 to next February.

While the scheduling change could be no reason to worry (December is a notoriously crowded month for releases), it may add to the rumors that the sequel has been trouble from the get-go.

Williamson did only minimal work on the script (he was busy with his new ABC series *Wasteland*), and the production was plagued with delays and rumors of poor writing. The casting lineup of Parker Posey, Mr. & Mrs. David Arquette, Jenny McCarthy, and Felicity cutie Scott Foley looks promising. For the record, Romeo hasn't heard any word that there will be a *Scream 4*.

Romeo San Vicente is willing to be Kevin Williamson's date for the premiere of *Scream 3*, even if it sucks. Kevin (or you) can reach Romeo in care of HeatStroke or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com.



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# Out of Town

By  
Andrew Collins



## Exploring the East Bay: Berkeley and Oakland

A short drive or train ride from downtown San Francisco and anchored by the compact and hilly cities of Berkeley and Oakland, the East Bay area is at once cosmopolitan and accessible.

For lesbians and gays, this is a tolerant and exciting place to call home. Opportunities for sightseeing, while more limited than in San Francisco itself, present a couple days' exploring, and the region is rich with dining, nightlife, and cultural opportunities.

An ideal way to sample the East Bay's pleasures is to arrive for lunch at one of Berkeley's so-called Gourmet Ghetto restaurants. Spend the afternoon checking out the University of California-Berkeley and downtown Oakland, grab a bite at one of either city's ethnic dining spots, drop by an Oakland blues or Berkeley folk-music venue, and complete the day perhaps with a wander through the White Horse Tavern, the Bay Area's longest-running gay bar.

Another option is to spend the night on this side of the bay, or even use it as a base from which to visit San Francisco—you can save a lot of money this way.

Berkeley's most famous address is the elegant 1928 Hotel Durant, whose upper floors offer unparalleled views toward San Francisco. Nearby, the gay-friendly, turn-of-the-century Elmwood House inn is notable for its beautiful interior of hardwood floors and paneling, and fine antiques. In Oakland, go with the Clarion Suites Lake Merritt, a splendidly restored art deco beauty in a safe and pretty neighborhood on the edge of downtown.

About a third of the 100,000 residents of Berkeley work for or attend U.C. Berkeley, whose reputation for liberal politics and radical activism dates back many years. This largely accounts for the heavy presence here of lesbians (many of whom were among the pioneers of West Coast feminism) and gay men. Life is more mainstream than it was during the '60s, but Berkeley remains a bastion of free spirits.

Most of Berkeley's attractions revolve around the beautiful U.C. Berkeley campus. Its visitor center offers guided and self-guided tours.

The social hub is Sproul Plaza, where pamphleteers distribute fliers on the cause du jour and motley buskers bang bongos and strum guitars. A cultural

highlight is the collection of the University Art Museum, which consists of predominantly 20th-century modern works. Up on U.C. Berkeley's eastern slope, the 34-acre Botanical Garden has nearly 14,000 plants from all over the world.

Berkeley's "Gourmet Ghetto" is just north of campus. Chez Panisse, where the legendary Alice Waters pioneered New American cooking, is worth the trip from anywhere in the Bay Area—that is, assuming you've made a reservation.

Nearby Saul's is an old-fashioned New York-style deli, serving up pastrami, smoked turkey breast, potato latkes with sour cream, and other filling fare.

To get to Oakland, drive south along College Avenue, where you'll first pass through the Elmwood District, which buzzes with lively shops and inexpensive restaurants, and then through Oakland's trendy Rockridge neighborhood.

Keep an eye out for Rockridge Market Hall, by the BART station, which has fabulous (and cruisy!) gourmet produce and pasta shops and a trendy Northern Italian restaurant, Oliveto. Amazingly delicious Burmese fare is had just up the street at Nan Yang—try the ginger salad and the garlic noodles.

Farther south, Mama's Royal Cafe is a wonderful oasis of funkdom and good cooking—it's Oakland's premier queer cafe. The sauteed-Dungeness-crab-and-jack-cheese sandwich is to die for.

Lesbian literary icon Gertrude Stein was born and spent her early years in Oakland, though the region's feminist movement didn't take hold until the 1960s, when women's bookstores, coffeehouses, and bars began to thrive.

Academically, U.C. Berkeley remains a hotbed of feminist thinking, and the small but prestigious all-women Mills College in Oakland is sometimes affectionately called the East Bay's "own little dyke farm."

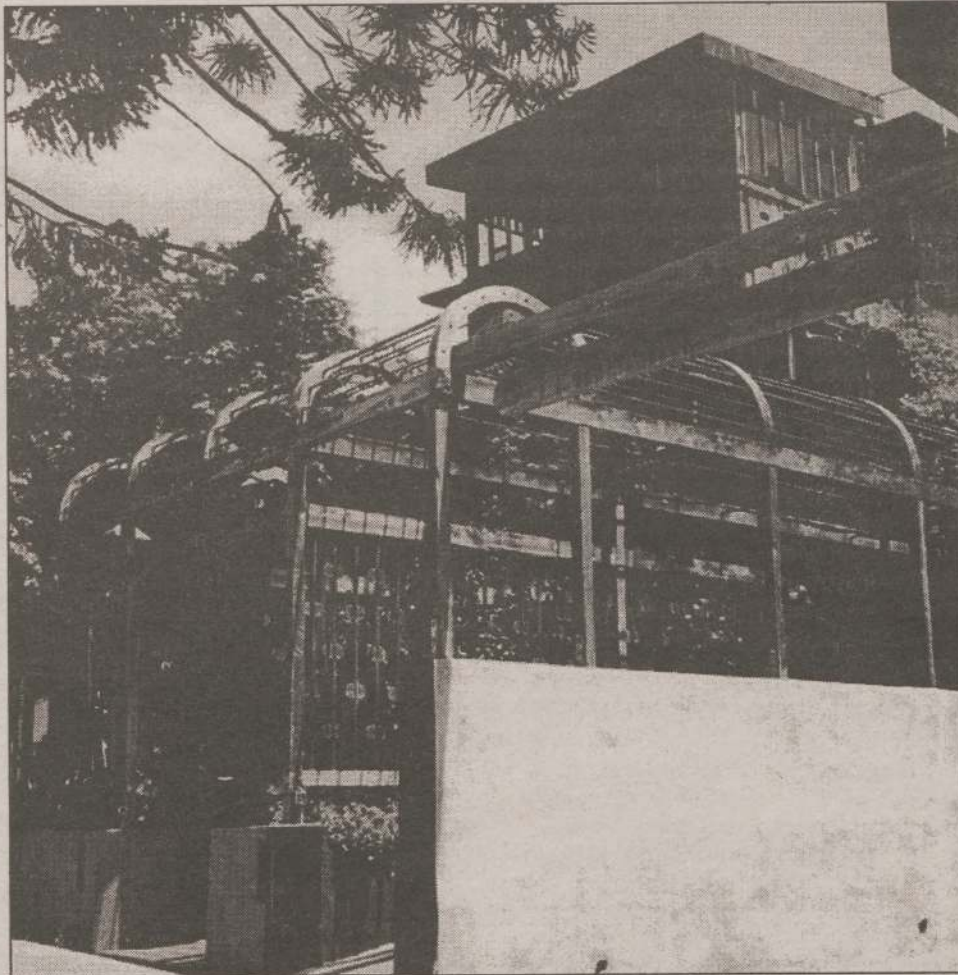
Mama Bears in Oakland is one of the nation's premiere lesbian-feminist bookstores, and the city's Olivia Records, the women's music label, has diversified into a world-renowned tour and cruise operator.

Oakland itself began as a major 19th-century agricultural center, grew into a densely settled metropolis by the early 1900s, and then lost much luster following World War II as the suburbs expanded and industry shifted elsewhere.

Downtown growth in this blue-collar city has been stunted by several regressive stabs at urban renewal. However, things are looking up. The blocks around downtown's Lake Merritt remain cheerful and increasingly popular with queer folks tired of the high cost of living in San Francisco.

It's hard to say what's behind the improvement (could it be former governor and current mayor Jerry Brown, as some locals claim?), but Oakland looks better than it has in years.

A narrow band of grassy lawn surrounds most of Oakland's 155-acre Lake Merritt, which makes for a pretty jog or



Foodies from all over the world come to Alice Waters's venerable Berkeley restaurant, Chez Panisse, which many consider to be the temple of contemporary American cuisine.

stroll, with the city's growing skyline forming the backdrop. Some new eateries and shops have sprung up around the Grand Street side of the lake.

Along the north shore is Lakeside Park, the site of the Natural Science Center and Waterfowl Refuge. A couple blocks south of the lake, the outstanding (and enormous) Oakland Museum of California contains art, documents, and exhibits tracing the state's history.

As evening approaches, check out the East Bay's best gay nightlife possibilities. Remember that bars in the greater Bay Area are actually the most fun on weekdays. Come Friday and Saturday, many regulars venture into San Francisco.

Most nights at the friendly White Horse there's a decent-size crowd, many of them students from nearby U.C. Berkeley. Another festive option is JR's, a suburban lesbian and gay disco up in the hills of Walnut Creek, a short drive away. Legendary for its 18-and-over nights, this longtime favorite left its original location in August 1999 and plans to reopen elsewhere in Walnut Creek by early 2000.

Oakland has a few neighborhood hangouts and one truly popular—and awfully fun—queer disco, the Bench & Bar,

which hosts weekend Latin and African-American dance parties (when it's called Club Rimshot) and draws a young outgoing crowd almost daily.

Full-fledged bathhouses are still illegal in San Francisco, so the closest option (one that many S.F. residents take) is Berkeley Steamworks. The crowd gets younger—mostly horny U.C. Berkeley types—as weekend evenings get toward midnight.

Andrew Collins authored the second edition of *Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA*. He can be reached in care of *HeatStroke* or at [GayFodors@aol.com](mailto:GayFodors@aol.com).

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Each Classified Ad is printed in 10-point type and includes a bold headline of up to five words. Additional formatting (all caps, all bold, centered headline) is available at \$1 for each format upgrade. 15-point bold headlines are available for \$5. This is 10-point type. **This is 15-point bold.**

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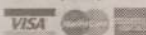
Mail your ads to *HeatStroke Classifieds*, PO Box 33430, Phoenix, AZ 85067. Fax your ad to 602/294-9695. E-mail your ad to either [alkalpx@aol.com](mailto:alkalpx@aol.com) or [reidhead@idt.net](mailto:reidhead@idt.net). (Please type "Classified Ad" in the subject line.)

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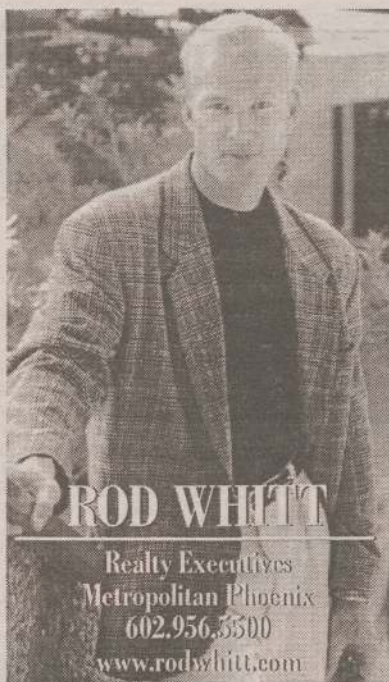


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Dear Cowboy,

About nine months ago, I met a great guy who I thought wanted a relationship. After a few weeks of almost daily dating and almost nightly sex, he said he wasn't ready for an ongoing thing and he wanted us to just be friends. So we still get together for movies and dinner, but not as often as we did before. We also both date other guys and are pretty open about telling each other how the dates go, etc.

My problem is this: every couple of weeks, particularly after we are out partying late at night, he suggests that we have sex again. I'd kind of like to, but so far I keep saying no because he was the one who didn't want us to be boyfriends, and I think sex will complicate our friendship. He says it will keep us close

and there's no reason to make sex seem more important than it is. Do you think I should go for it, or continue to put him off the next time he asks?

Signed, Just a Friend

Dear Friend,

Quit worrying what he thinks. If having sex with your friend will complicate things in your mind, then that's reason enough not to do it. Some people deal just fine with having casual sex added to a good friendship. But you are the only cowboy who can set the rules for your own arena, and it sounds to me like you've already made up your mind about what works for you in this case.

Your "friend" simply wants all the advantages of a boyfriend-type partner-

ship without the disadvantage of committing to one partner—in this case, you. Tell him you're not the sex buddy he's looking for, and steer away from late night situations that find you two alone together and questioning a trail you have already traveled.

Dear Cowboy,

I am a 37 year old, HIV-negative, GWM and I will be moving to Phoenix in a few weeks. I will be attending Phoenix College in January.

My question is:

How do I find a good, honest, trustful gay man in Phoenix for friendship and/or a roommate? I hope you and your readers can help me before I arrive in November.

Signed, Single in Denver

Dear Denver,

I've passed along several ideas over the past few years as far as places and ways to meet other gay folks around these parts. In my mind, the same suggestions apply for both the friendship- and relationship- minded in our homo herd.

But maybe there are some good ways to meet that I haven't yet come up with. It would be interesting to hear from our readers on this one, so if any of you folks have a suggestion for our new Valley resident, send them to

my attention at the HeatStroke PO Box, or use the e-mail address above, and let me know where to send this newcomer. And thanks for your help, partners.

**My question is: How do I find a good, honest, trustful gay man in Phoenix for friendship and/or a roommate?**

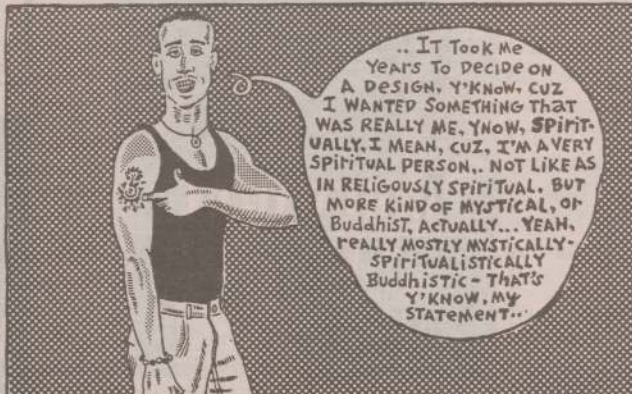
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# HeatStroke's Funny Page

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Orner

### GAY GUYS TALK TATTOOS



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## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



## Directory of Nonprofit Services for the Phoenix Metro Gay & Lesbian Community

### HIV Services

AGAPE Network  
P.O. Box 32778  
Phoenix 85064 602/234-6143

AIDS Project Arizona  
1427 N. 3rd Street, Suite 125  
Phoenix 85004 602/253-2437

A Place Called Home  
3431 W. Thunderbird #13-403  
Phoenix 85023 602/942-1572

Arizona AIDS Information Line  
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C  
Phoenix 85013 602/234-2752

Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance  
6523 N. 14th St., #112  
Phoenix 85014 602/279-4805

AZ AIDS Services for the Deaf  
111 E. Camelback  
Phoenix 85012 602/265-9953

Aunt Rita's Foundation  
5501 N. 7th Ave #215  
Phoenix 85013 602/279-0716

Coalition of Meal Providers  
992-6593

HIV Care Directions  
1366 E. Thomas #105  
Phoenix 85014 602/264-2273

Native American Community  
Health Center  
3008 N. 3rd Street, Suite 302  
Phoenix 85012 602/279-5262

Joshua Tree Feeding Program  
P.O. Box 7056  
Phoenix 85011 602/264-0223

Maricopa County Health Dept.  
1825 E. Roosevelt  
Phoenix 85006 602/506-6900

Planned Parenthood  
5651 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 85016 602/277-7526

Phx. Body Positive  
4021 N. 30th St. #2  
Phoenix 85016 602/955-4673

Phx. Shanti Group  
2020 W. Indian School Rd. #53  
Phoenix 85015 602/279-0008

Terros, Inc.  
320 E. Virginia Ave.  
Phoenix 85004 602/234-8900

Volunteers in Direct Aid  
P.O. Box 40476  
Phoenix 85067 602/279-8432

Wellness Center  
1840 W. Maryland, Suite E  
Phoenix 85016 602/864-0710

### Political Action & Education

American Civil Liberties Union  
P.O. Box 17148  
Phoenix 85011 602/650-1967

Arizona Central Pride  
P.O. Box 16847  
Phoenix 85011 602/279-1771

Arizona Human Rights Fund  
P.O. Box 25044  
Phoenix 85002 602/650-0900

Arizonans for Fairness  
P.O. Box 34766  
Phoenix 85067 602/265-7283

AZ Democratic Party  
Gay & Lesbian Caucus  
2005 N. Central #180  
Phoenix 85004 602/257-9136

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness  
Project  
P.O. Box 60881  
Phoenix 85082 602/351-3080

Log Cabin Republicans  
P.O. Box 60994  
Phoenix 85082 602/428-3596

Maricopa Cty. Libertarian Party  
P.O. Box 501  
Phoenix 85001 602/248-8425

### Social & Support Groups

Alpha Zeta—Crossdressers Supp.  
A Rose—Transgender Support  
P.O. Box 1738  
Tempe 85280 480/488-0959

APEX-AZ. Power Exchange  
apex@xroads.com  
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Arizona 2-somes 602/277-8796

Arizona Nude Dudes  
www.aznudeclub.org  
andes@swlink.net

Bears of the Arizona Desert  
PO Box 25951  
Tempe 85285 480/345-8755  
www.bearsazdesert.com

Copperstate Leathermen  
P.O. Box 40472  
Phoenix, AZ 85067

Delta Lambda Phi - Phoenix  
903 S. Rural Rd., Suite 101-317  
Tempe 85281 602/248-5270

Desert Adventures  
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Phoenix, 85001 602/266-2267

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Phoenix 85012 602/285-0970

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Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual  
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pglbva@aol.com

Gay Lesbian Yavapai Alliance  
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Prescott, AZ 86302-6558  
520/541-6558

Girth and Mirth of AZ  
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Phoenix 85011 480/655-8229

The Leatherlords 602/254-9651

Lesbian & Gay Alanon  
2622 N. 16th Street  
Phoenix 85006 602/548-0936

Lesbian & Gay Overeaters Anon.  
480/607-7640;  
cave4bear@hotmail.com

Los Amigos del Sol (LADS)  
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Phoenix 85061 602/997-2411

Parents & Friends of Lesbians  
and Gays  
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Phoenix 85011 602/843-1404

Prime Timers of Phoenix  
602/993-8337  
www.primetimers.org/phoenix

Project LifeGuard  
Project Q  
TRIBE  
1427 M/ 3rd Street, Suite 120  
Phoenix 85004 602/254-3233

The Community Center and  
Youth Services 602/265-7283  
Lesbian & Gay Community  
Switchboard 602/234-2752  
24 W. Camelback Rd., Suite C  
PO Box 33367  
Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367

### Professional Enrichment & Networking

Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian  
Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 2097  
Phoenix 85001 602/225-8444

### Religious & Spiritual Organizations

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

Asbury United Methodist Church  
1601W Indian School  
Phoenix 85015 602/279-2369

AVIV of Arizona (Jewish Group)  
PO Box 66904  
Phoenix 85082 602/952-1612

Casa De Cristo  
1029 E. Turney  
Phoenix 85014 602/265-2831

Community Church of Hope  
4400 N. Central  
Phoenix 85014 602/234-2180

Dignity and Integrity  
P.O. Box 60953  
Phoenix 85082 602/222-8664

Gentle Shepherd MCC  
7810 N. 27th Ave.  
Phoenix 85051 602/864-6040

Goddess Womyn's Network  
480/610-8061 ext. 3

Healing Waters Ministries  
225 W. University, 105  
Tempe 85281 480/894-8681

Lutherans Concerned  
P.O. Box 7519  
Phoenix 85011 602/870-3611

Presbyterians for Lesbians & Gays  
P.O. Box 61162  
Phoenix 85082 602/275-0506

Unitarian Universalist Congreg.  
4027 E. Lincoln Dr.  
Paradise Valley 85283  
602/840-8400

Valley Unitarian Universalist Ch.  
1700 W. Warner Rd.  
Chandler 85224 480/899-4249

### Music, Sports & Hobby Groups

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association  
P.O. Box 16363  
Phoenix 85011 602/265-0618

AZ Women in Tune  
PO Box 37855  
Phoenix 85069 623/878-5430

Cactus Cities Softball League  
PO Box 45101  
Phoenix 85064 602/287-9573

Charlie's Renegades  
P.O. Box 17602  
Phoenix 85011 602/277-9142

Desert Adventures  
PO Box 2008  
Phoenix 85001 602/266-CAMP

Desert Valley Squares  
P.O. Box 34615  
Phoenix, AZ 85067 480/990-2562

Gay League Association of Darts  
P.O. Box 63251  
Phoenix, AZ 85082

Grand Canyon Men's Choral  
P.O. Box 16462  
Phoenix 85011 602/340-7640

Lambda Car Club  
P.O. Box 36211  
Phoenix 85067 602/409-3160

Phoenix Tennis Alliance  
602/359-0936

Phoenix Unified Gay Bowling  
Alliance (PUGBA)  
PO Box 4422  
Phoenix 85064 602/246-9643

Spartan Wrestling Club  
602/340-8070  
mattblims@aol.com

Team Arizona  
P.O. Box 36431  
Phoenix 85067 602/408-4311  
teamarizona.org

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Jayne: 480/947-0907;  
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## MARKETPLACE

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### Auto Sales

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### Counselors

Diane E. D'Angelo, MC, CPC 602/997-8199

Conrad Egge, PhD 602/230-2025

Bob Fernie, PhD 602/230-2025

Jean Parsons, PhD 602/230-2025

ManPower (Keith Thompson) 602-506-6857

### Florists

Community Florist 602/266-6648

### Graphic Design

Steve Anderson 602/263-7803

Jack A. Komnick 602/240-5210

### Hair Design

Arcadia Cuts 602/952-2624

Salon Exodus (Eric or Robert) 602/955-2121

### Health Care

Chad Schroer, NMD 480/368-0808

Thanes Vanig, MD 480/368-0808

Sherry Tackett, MSN 602/266-4670

### Home Services

Colt Heating & Cooling 602/712-1244

Don Williams Builders, Inc. 602/246-8591

Facilities Maintenance Co. 602/956-8515

Palm Springs Development 602/295-3883

Rainbow Home Repair 602/440-5367

### Insurance

Murray Sullivan (Farmers) 480/860-0920

### Instruction

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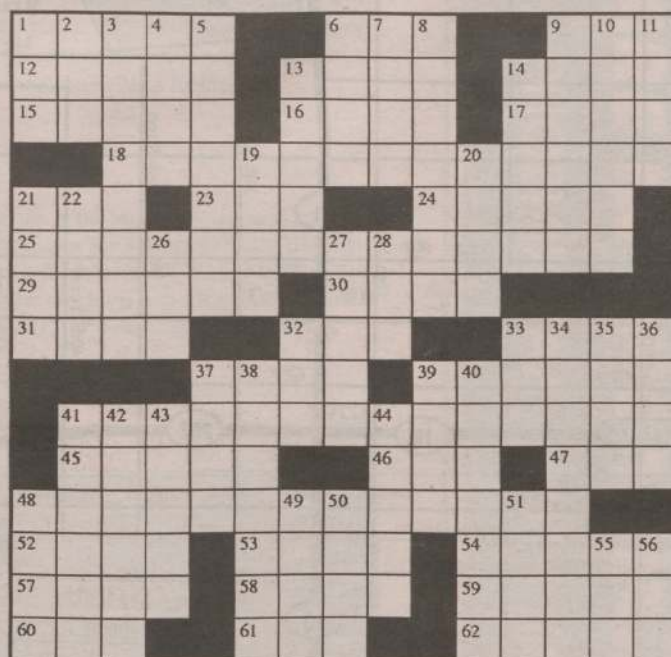
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## Q Puzzle

### "The Reeves Tale"



#### ACROSS

- 1 Suit
- 6 "\_\_\_ Me, Feel Me" (song from Tommy)
- 9 Submissions to an editor: Abbr.
- 12 Bouillon cubes, after dissolving
- 13 Get off the breast
- 14 Thin strip of wood for lattice-work
- 15 "You Don't Mess Around With Jim" singer 16 The Bridge poet Crane
- 17 Length and width are factors of it
- 18 Start of a Keanu Reeves quote

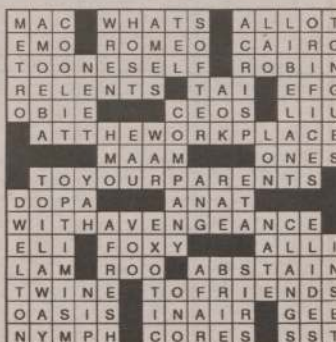
- 21 Mineo of Rebel Without a Cause
- 23 Ho from Hawaii
- 24 Copycat's phrase
- 25 Quote, part 2
- 29 Some bellybuttons
- 30 Soap actor Ted
- 31 Prefix with byte or hertz
- 32 Quote, part 3
- 33 Tenement units: Abbr.
- 37 Words of denial
- 39 Where chaps wearing chaps might pick up chaps
- 41 Quote, part 4
- 45 Vogue
- 46 Granola bar tidbit
- 47 Ending for sex
- 48 End of the quote

- 52 Cumming on the stage
- 53 R.E.M.'s "The \_\_\_ Love"
- 54 Some people make it in bed
- 57 It might zoom toward a nude model
- 58 Prejudice
- 59 Thelma & Louise costar
- 60 Playwright Albee and poet Field, for short
- 61 Possible result of unsafe sex, briefly
- 62 Hite of sexuality

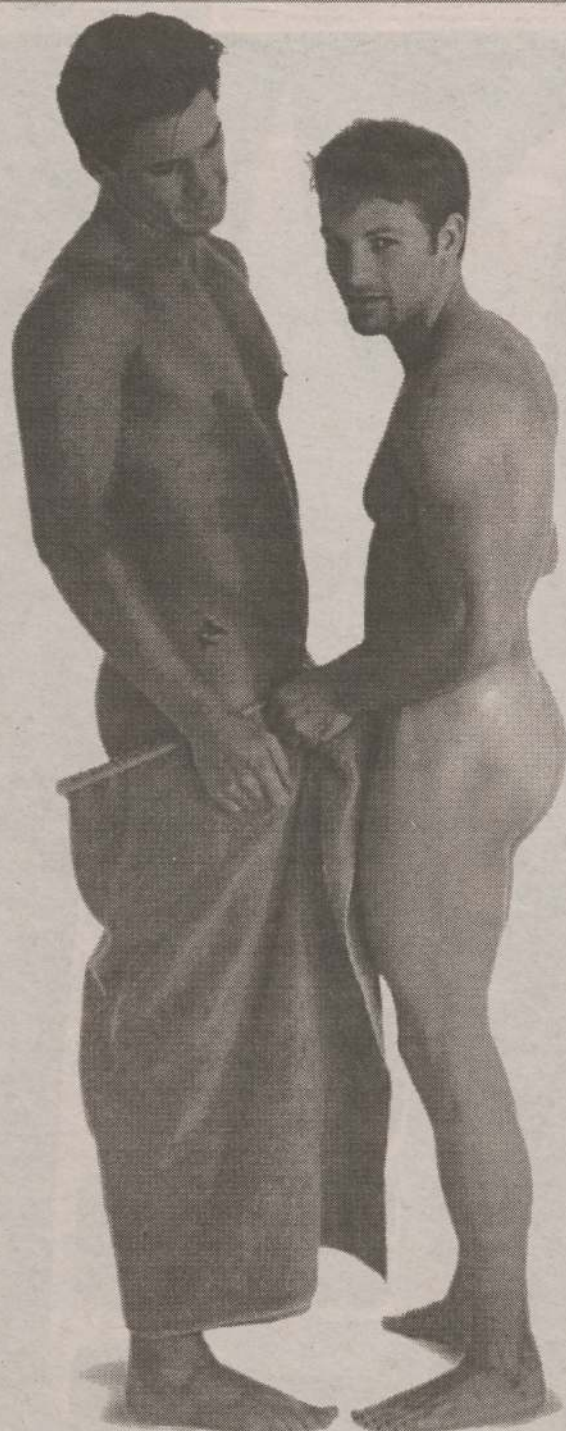
#### DOWN

- 1 AbFab network
- 2 Blow it
- 3 Large wiener between two buns
- 4 Tingly sensation
- 5 He plays with Bono
- 6 Sailors cruise on them
- 7 Bring home the bacon
- 8 Buries
- 9 Mom of Richie and Joanie Cunningham
- 10 Shorthand expert, for short
- 11 Have sex with (according to Austin Powers)
- 13 "\_\_\_ Was a Lad" (song from H.M.S. Pinafore)
- 14 Gross Anatomy actress Christine
- 19 Obeys the cox
- 20 Shirts that say "Hate is not a family value," e.g.
- 21 Engage in some watersports
- 22 Minnesota ex-Governor Carlson
- 26 Peoples of MTV
- 27 "Any Man of Mine" singer Shania
- 28 Harry who founded the modern gay-rights movement

- 32 Big name in the telephone industry
- 33 He knocked out many men
- 34 What the "+" in "HIV+" means
- 35 They're into diapers
- 36 Bratty kid
- 37 Octa- plus one
- 38 Unrelated bits of work
- 39 Thailand, formerly
- 40 Comes
- 41 Lost freshness
- 42 Residents of Mork's home planet
- 43 Most readers of XY magazine
- 44 They may be found in awkward positions
- 48 Part of GWM
- 49 Part of CPU or BTU
- 50 Six feet under
- 51 He cruised for forty days straight
- 55 What one becomes after kneeling before a queen
- 56 Suffix with 39-Down



Solution to last issue's Q Puzzle  
"Leaving the Closet Behind"



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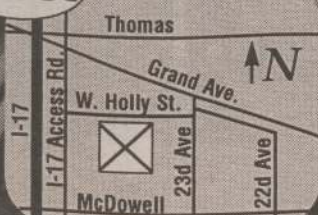
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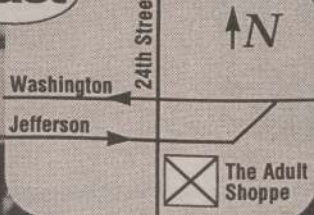


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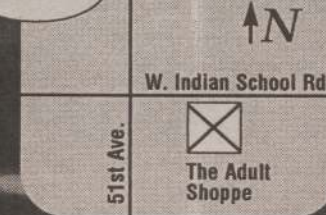


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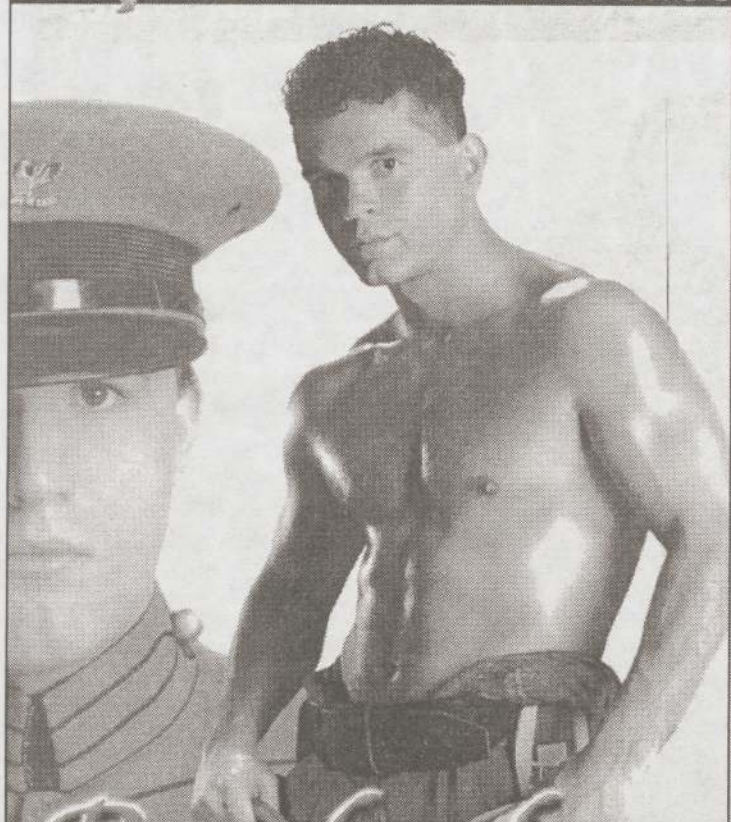
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*and* **ERIC  
WRIGHT**

**TRENT  
BLACK,  
JACKSON  
KING,  
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**non-smoking theatres:**

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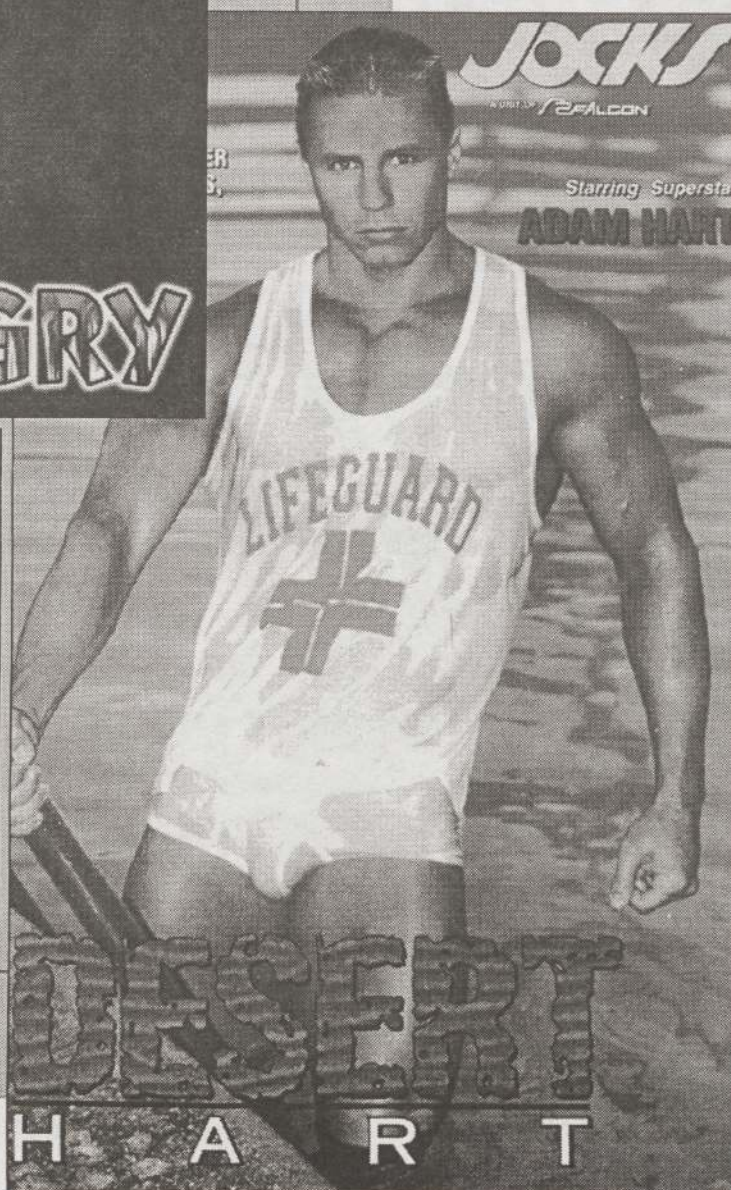
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- 1838 Grand Avenue

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