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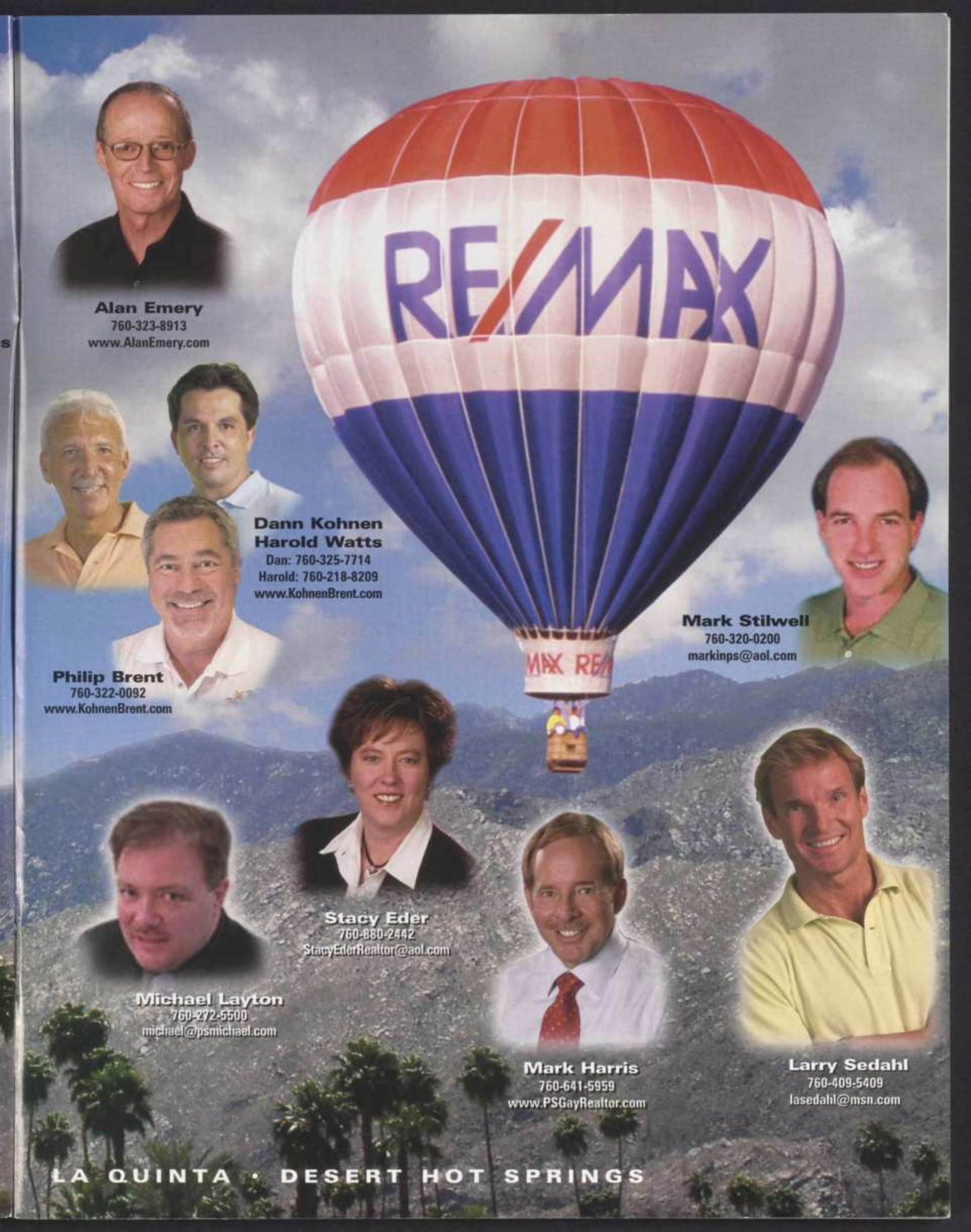
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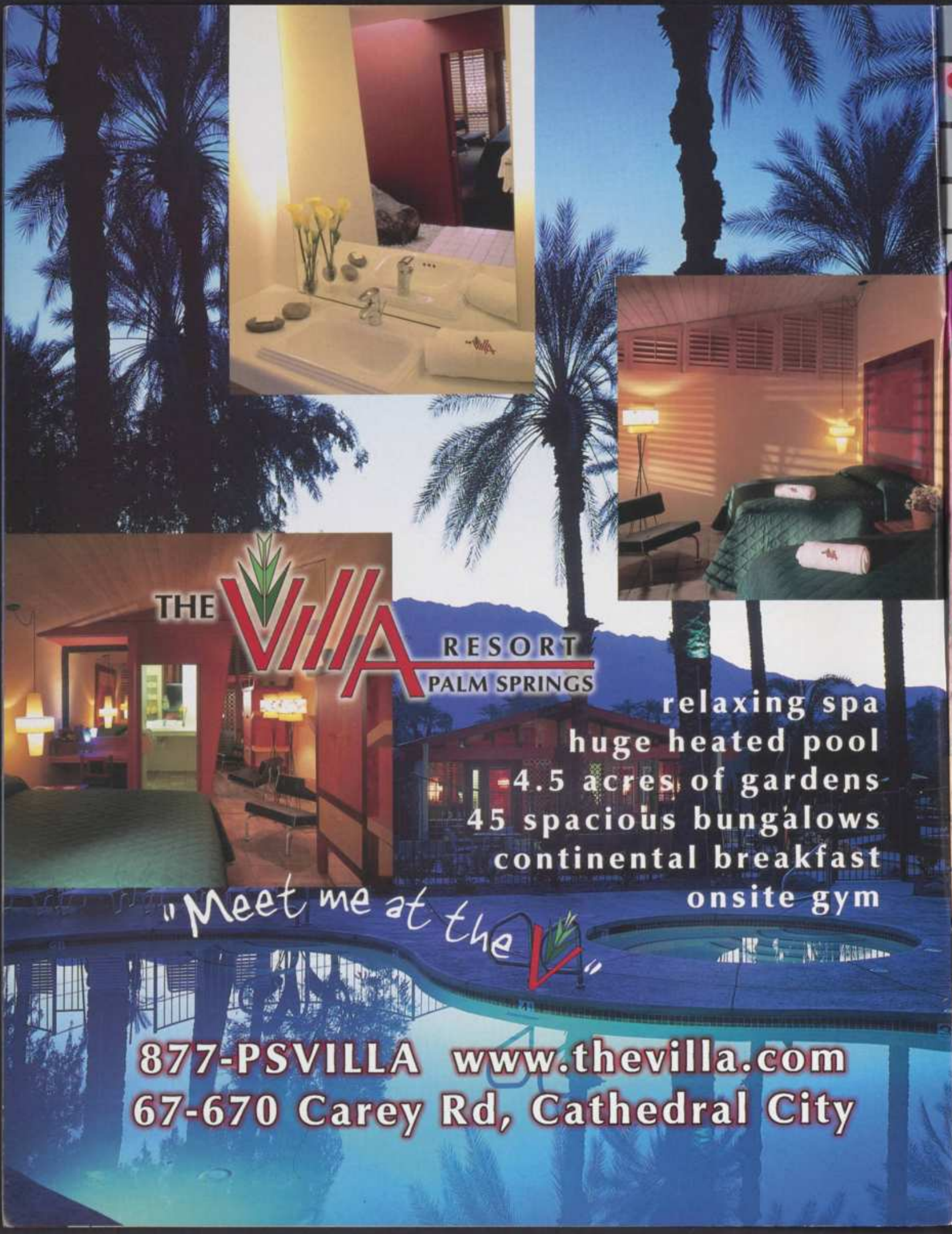
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GREATER PALM SPRINGS

PRIDE

NOVEMBER 6 & 7, 2004

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

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Welcome!



Welcome to Greater Palm Springs Pride 2004!

Happy Pride everyone! Our theme for this year's Pride celebration is *World Pride: It Starts With You.* And in keeping with this theme, we are celebrating those in our community who are helping us achieve important and visible advances in our struggle for full and equal rights – locally as well as nationally.

Joining Greater Palm Springs Pride in welcoming you to this year's festival is Ron Oden, the first openly gay Mayor of Palm Springs, and the first openly gay and African American mayor of any city in the U.S. He is joined by Steve Pougnet and Ginny Foat, our new openly gay city council members.

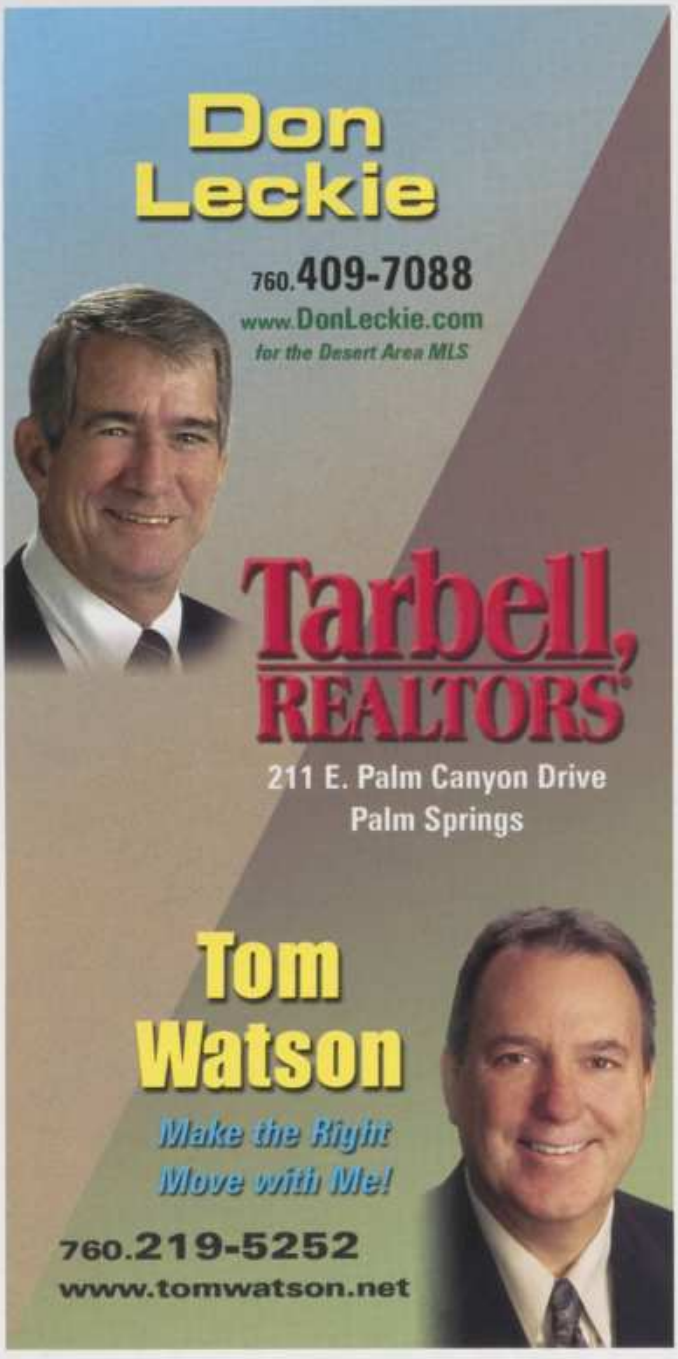
Our Grand Marshals for this year's parade are the 4,000 same-sex couples who were married in San Francisco this past spring. These couples stand as a powerful symbol of the enduring determination of our community to achieve equal rights for all Americans regardless of sexual orientation.

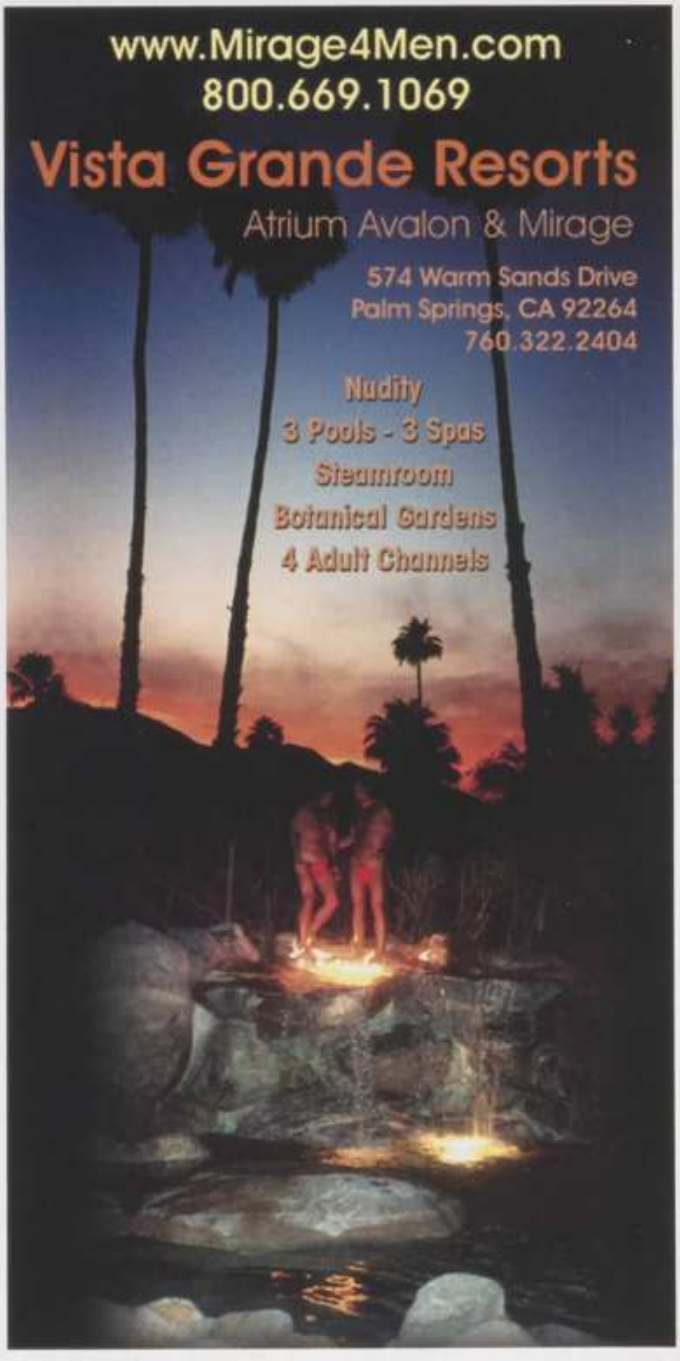
Our expanded Family Garden stands as a powerful symbol of the growing number of gay and lesbian families in Palm Springs and across the nation who are becoming an important and highly visible part of America's family landscape. The Family Garden also is a symbol for Pride as a truly family-friendly event. A special welcome to those of you who bring your families to Pride!

We have a wider range of entertainers this year for your family enjoyment. The Author's Village is larger and more diversified. Our *Best of Show* Art Show and Sale is bigger and better than ever. This year, we've stressed quality as well as diversity in the Festival's food court, and among our vendors and exhibitors. Our event this year truly offers something for everyone!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the City of Palm Springs and the entire Coachella Valley, welcome to Pride!

Jack Schloeder,
President
Greater Palm Springs Pride, Inc





Christian and Gay? Hey, You Bet!

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Desert Oasis Chapel meets at the Hanson House on the campus of Desert Regional Hospital. For directions, go to www.DesertOasisChapel.com or call 760-841-6525. We meet every Sunday at 10 am and we'd love to meet you.

City of Palm Springs

Ron Oden, Mayor
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Ron Oden, Mayor

Welcome to Palm Springs and Happy Palm Springs Pride Weekend to Everyone!

As Mayor of a premiere gay destination resort, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Palm springs Pride Weekend.

Palm Springs is a year-round destination for tourists worldwide. They come here to enjoy our wonderful weather, play golf and tennis, bask in the sun poolside and simply marvel at the beauty of this area.

As we continue the struggle for equality in an environment that is openly hostile and desirous of limiting our rights and freedom, the celebration of Pride becomes even more important.

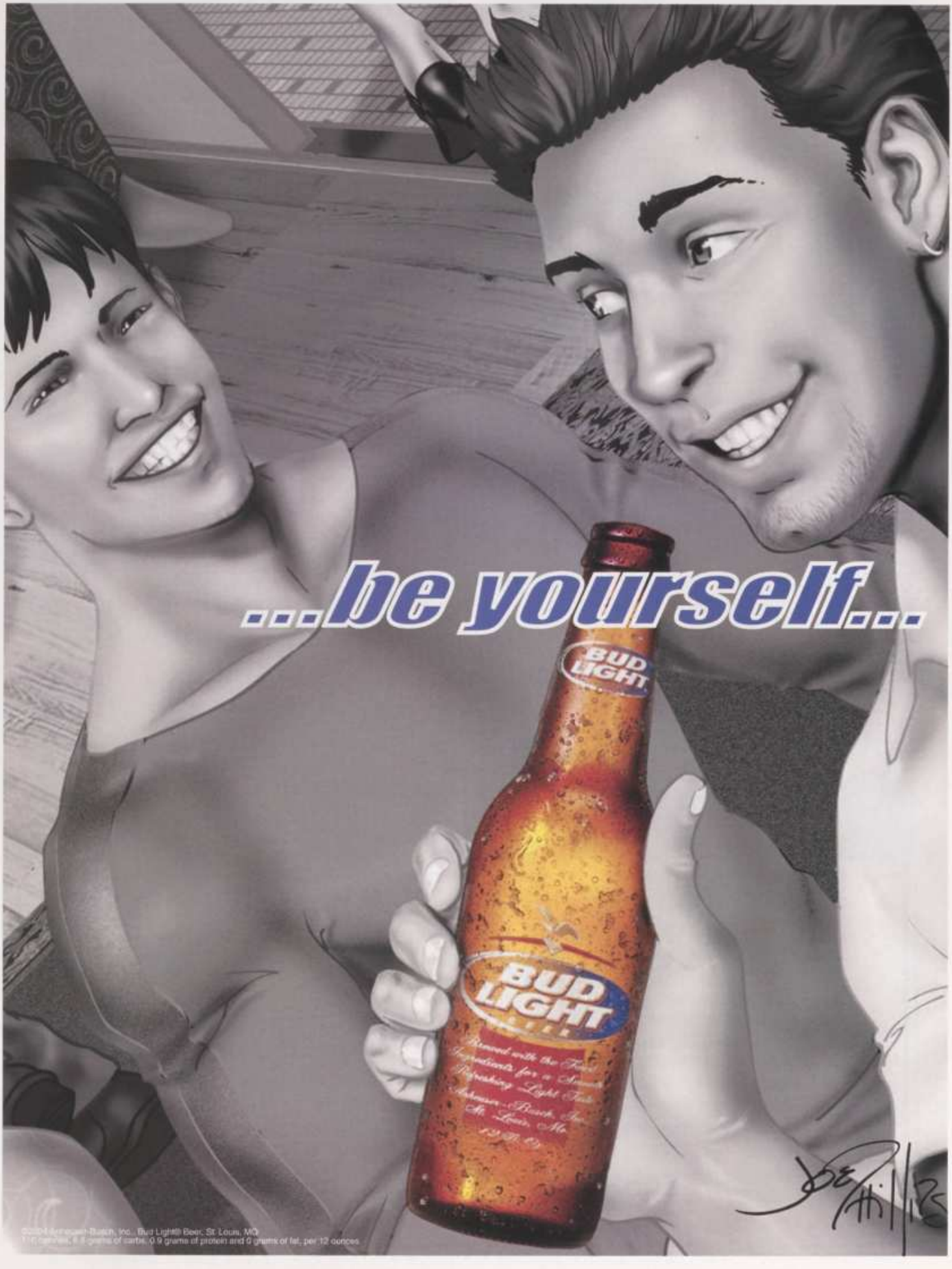
This year as we approach Pride, let's take a more sober approach and give thanks for the achievements attained, with a strengthened resolve to continue the fight for equality, because every young gay American is counting on us.

Thank you for coming to our city.

Sincerely,

Ron Oden
Mayor

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GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

November 6, 2004

Greater Palm Springs Pride

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all who have gathered for this year's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Celebrations.

The Golden State is honored to host events that celebrate diversity and promote active civic involvement. I applaud your efforts to foster ties within your community and to pay tribute to the cultural tolerance of our Golden State.

Over the past 35 years, California has made significant progress to combat discrimination and prejudice against the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. I salute your efforts to raise public awareness and to advocate civil rights for all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation.

On behalf of all Californians, please accept my best wishes for a wonderful event and every future success.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger

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Proclamation

City of Palm Springs

CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, Palm Springs Pride is holding its 18th annual PALM SPRINGS PRIDE WEEKEND in Palm Springs November 5 thru 7, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Palm Springs Pride recognizes the following as Marshals for the Palm Springs Pride Parade:

Grand Marshals - The 4,000 Couples Who Were Married in San Francisco

Community Grand Marshals - Douglas Woodmansee and Marshall Pearcy

Woman of the Year - Evelyn Hernandez Valentino

Man of the Year - Dr. Paul Steier

WHEREAS, we commend Palm Springs Pride for their continuing efforts to educate members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community, as well as mainstream residents on their issues and concerns.

WHEREAS, Palm Springs Pride has also contributed over the years to a variety of organizations such as Desert AIDS Project, AIDS Assistance Fund, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and numerous other community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Springs has been an integral part of the celebration of the diversity within the community and has made a concerted effort to participate in the Pride celebrations and other year around activities to unify all of the residents of the City.

NOW THEREFORE, I, RON ODEN, Mayor of the City of Palm Springs, California, by the power vested in me, do hereby proclaim November 5 - 7, 2004 to be:

PALM SPRINGS PRIDE WEEKEND

in our fair city and ask all citizens to join with me in recognizing Palm Springs Pride as a viable, contributing member of our community.



Ron Oden

Mayor

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Marshall Pearcy & Douglas Woodmansee

Aka: Dottie DuBois and Maude Chapeau



PHOTO: LORETTA VLACH



PHOTO: COURTESY THE BOTTOM LINE

In the summer of 1975, Douglas saw Marshall for the first time. Marshall was performing with a comic drag troupe called "The Campers." Marshall was an original Campers, helping to form the troupe in the early 70's. It was on this summer's eve, however, that Douglas set his sights on Marshall.

After attending the Camper's show weekly and placing himself in Marshall's path, Douglas made his move one evening at the Lodge in North Hollywood. There, a chance encounter brought them together and a 28 year relationship began.

Following numerous vacations in Palm Springs over the next four years, the two finally moved to Palm Springs in November, 1980 and a new life began for them. Marshall was a hair stylist and Douglas an accountant. Over a period of years, they lived all over town, from the north end to central Palm Springs, the airport area, Ruth Hardy Park, and back to the north end, eventually buying and settling in to their home at Via Miraleste in 1995.

Meanwhile, in 1994, Marshall helped form another drag troupe called "Les Dames Du Soleil," inventing his character of "Dottie Du Bois." This group formed to help raise money for AIDS charities in the desert. The performers began to raise money for the DAP, AAP, Food Closet, PAWS and Desert Regional Hospital Special Care Unit.

For the 1996 Christmas benefit, Marshall asked Douglas to recreate his character,"Maude Chapeau," along with the "Fabulous Backup Girls," and voila, another "star" was born. Since that time, performers would retire, others would join, come and go, but Marshall and Douglas continued true to their cause, fundraising for the AIDS charities in the desert, trying to put a smile on the face of the AIDS/HIV epidemic.

In February 2001, the Desert AIDS Project honored and awarded Les Dames Du Soleil with the Werner Engdahl Community Service Award at the Steven Chase Humanitarian Awards. They also received a Letter of Commendation from Governor Gray Davis for their charitable works, on behalf of the People of California. In March 2001, Les Dames were honored with a Proclamation from the City of Palm Springs, declaring March 7, 2001 as "Les Dames Du Soleil Day."

In November 2002, the Palm Springs Chapter of the Gay Veterans bestowed their "Humanitarian of the Year" award upon Les Dames. Among their many citations and honors, Les Dames have also received the Certificate of Appreciation for their fundraising efforts from the Jeffrey Sandholm Memorial Community Crisis and Help Line, for who Les Dames annually do a summer benefit.

Les Dames Du Soleil have appeared in numerous Palm Springs Pride parades and provided a humorous photo op strolling the grounds of pride festivals. Through the years, they have attended and promoted Palm Springs at the city's world famous "White Party," and the fabulous "Zoo Party" in San Diego. It would be easy to say they are internationally known for their "stunning beauty," talent and for the over $500,000 they have raised for charity over the last ten years.

This summer of 2004 brings the most recent honor and recognition for Douglas and Marshall, Maude and Dottie, as Community Grand Marshals for the 2004 Greater Palm Springs Pride Parade and Festival. What an honor and thrill for them to participate in this wonderful event, representing their home town of 24 years. Thank you from our hearts.



Evelyn Hernandez Valentino

Founder and CEO of Working Wonders

by Wayne Fleisher, *Program Director*
AIDS Assistance Program

This year's Woman of the Year is an inspiring example of survival, compassion, commitment and success in spite of loss, a life threatening HIV/AIDS diagnosis and death predicted in her 20s.

Evelyn Hernandez Valentino grew up in the projects of New York City in the 60s and 70s—an experience that created a fiercely independent spirit, a high energy persona and a dream of someday doing something meaningful with her life. As a Legislative Analyst for the Speaker of the New York State Assembly for five years, Evelyn championed causes such as HIV/AIDS, alcoholism, substance abuse, mental health and aging.



PHOTO: TIM BRIDGES

In 1989, Evelyn met the love of her life, Greg Valentino. In 1993, they were married and planned a wonderful future together. Two weeks after their wedding day, Greg was diagnosed HIV positive. Eight months later, Greg died, leaving Evelyn a 29-year-old HIV positive widow. In those early days, an HIV diagnosis meant an early death and Evelyn knew she was next. In 1995 with a suppressed immune system and 45 T cells, Evelyn was still working full time for the NY State Assembly. She came down with PCP and after an arduous nine-month recovery including hospitalization, severe side effects to the medications she was taking, weight loss and physical body changes. Her body and spirit were broken, her life long faith challenged and her emotions depleted. She knew she was going to die.

Looking for an improved quality of life and wanting to get away from a lot of painful memories, Evelyn moved to the California coast in 1998. Having survived the initial attack of PCP, her health was renewed, her HIV under control and the cool ocean breezes continued to nurture and heal her spirit. It was here in California that Evelyn began a new journey. In an effort to garner support, Evelyn began reaching out to other women living with HIV/AIDS looking for connection, support and encouragement. Realizing how important and empowering these connections and sharing their stories was, gave Evelyn a renewed purpose and set her on her current path.

In 1999, Evelyn moved to the Coachella Valley to be with her newly found soul mate, beginning yet another phase of her lifelong journey. She quickly discovered that there were few if any support mechanisms in place for HIV + women and families. In a community with a large

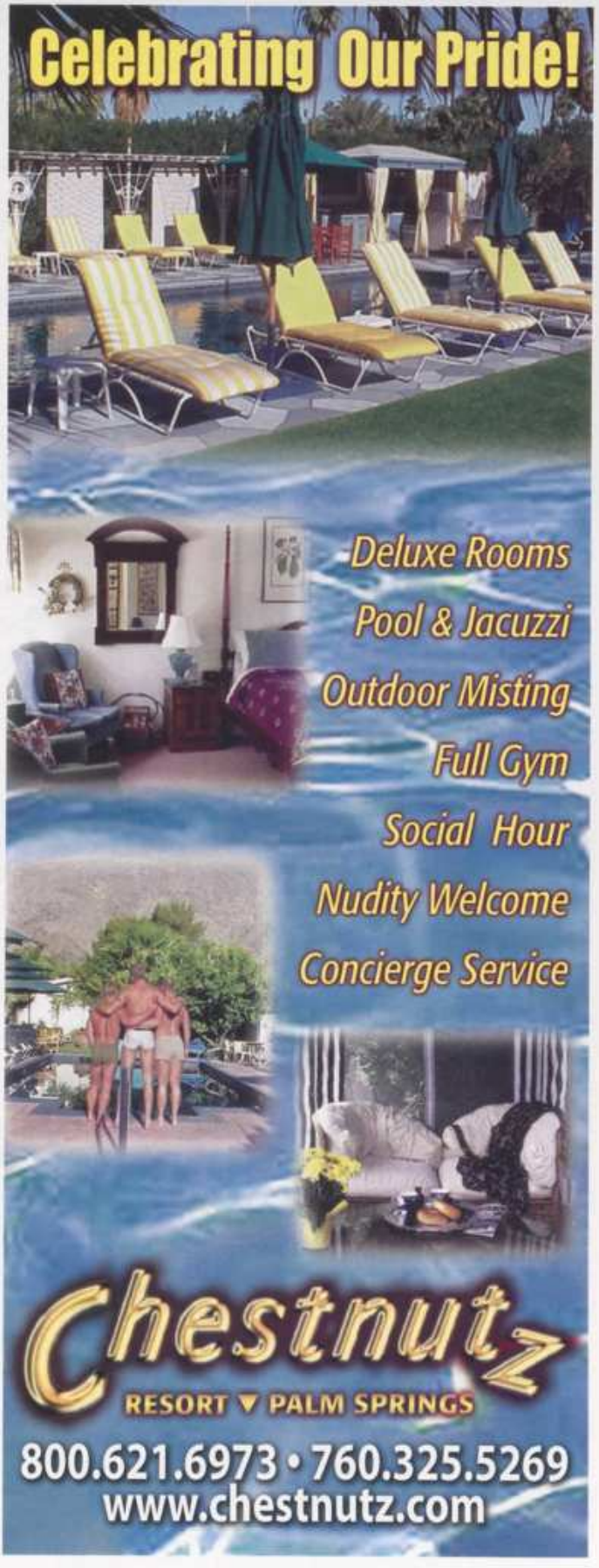
Hispanic population, a population at high risk for HIV/AIDS, Evelyn continued to explore options to rectify this unacceptable situation.

With HIV/AIDS among adolescent and adult women as high as 30% today, up from 7% in 1985, Evelyn held her first support group for women in June of 2000 in an effort to reach out and bring together this group of underserved and under-represented women and families in her community. With tears in her eyes, Evelyn watched in December of 2002 as a billboard was unveiled in Cathedral City, showing Evelyn holding her 16 month old goddaughter, Faith Hernandez, with the simple message that read "AIDS doesn't just affect men". Ms. Hernandez Valentino was well on her way to realizing her life's work.

Today, four years, later Evelyn is the founder and CEO of *Working Wonders* a 501(c)(3) charitable organization she established in November of 2000, dedicated to the support and advocacy of women, children and their families living with HIV/AIDS and other life threatening illnesses. With over a decade of combined public policy experience, Ms. Hernandez Valentino is currently an elected official of the Inland Empire's HIV Planning Council, has completed two terms on the Planning Council's Executive Committee and is a past board member of *Women at Risk*. In 2003 Evelyn Hernandez Valentino was named "El Sol Azteca" International Hispanic Award for her dedication and work.

Today, Evelyn continues to lecture in Valley schools on the dangers and risks of HIV/AIDS, using her personal story to inspire and motivate young minds in a community she has grown to love and call her own. In addition to serving as CEO of *Working Wonders*, Ms. Hernandez Valentino is heavily involved with Community Access, providing direct patient education. When asked what has kept her going all these years, Ms Hernandez Valentino refers to a quote from Norman Vincent Peale: "The secret in life isn't in what happens to you but what you do with what happens to you." Evelyn Hernandez Valentino's life is certainly testament to that statement and we congratulate her as this year's Woman of the Year.

For more information on Working Wonders and the services they offer women, children and their families please call 760-324-7586 or visit their website at www.workingwonders.ws



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Dr. Paul Steier

Desert Medical Group

by Josie Bearman

Dr. Paul Steier has been serving our community since 2001. Anyone who has met Dr. Steier knows they are in the presence of someone truly special. He has restored the faith of many lost in our healthcare system; neglected by physicians who lacked the knowledge, experience or compassion to help them.

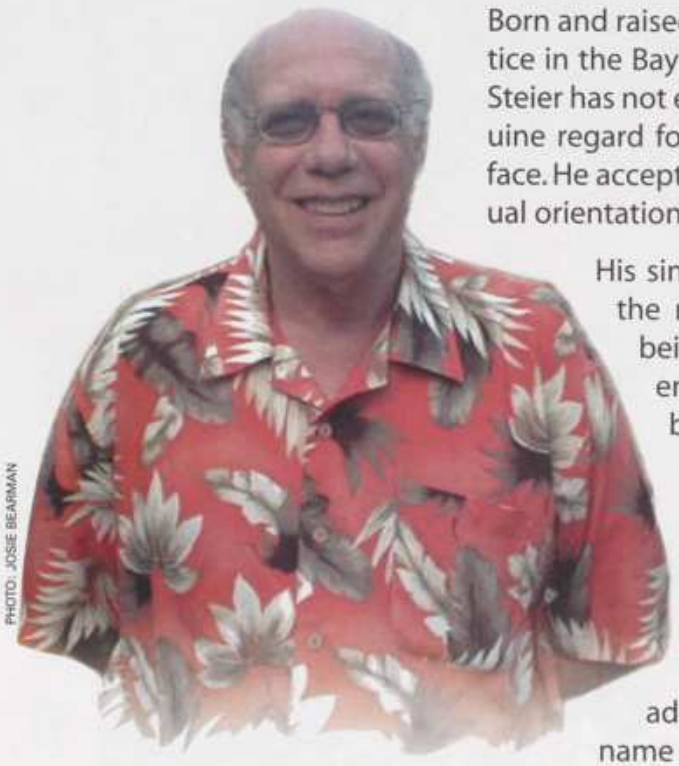


PHOTO: JOSIE BEARMAN

Born and raised in Hollywood, California and having a thriving practice in the Bay area for several years, there is not a lifestyle that Dr. Steier has not encountered. What really stands out is Dr. Steier's genuine regard for the challenges those in the gay community must face. He accepts people on the basis of their character, not their sexual orientation.

His sincerity and sense of humor makes it easy to discuss the most intimate of topics that can affect one's well-being. He is an advocate for his patients by, not only ensuring they receive the best care possible, but also by showing how they can take control over their own health, whether physical, emotional or mental.

Dr. Steier's philosophy is "I treat the whole person, not just the disease". He is able to do this because of his vast array of knowledge. In addition to traditional and osteopathic medicine, Dr. Steier has also excelled in fields such as cardiac electrophysiology, addiction medicine and pain management—just to name a few. And, Oh! In his spare time he serves as a Police Commissioner of Desert Hot Springs!

Simply put, he is "the real deal:" An exceptional human being that just wants to make a positive difference in our world. His wife and best friend, Tinika, is a very successful artist. It warms your heart to see how supportive they are of each other's interests.

We appreciate Dr. Steier. We know his job is not an easy one. The fact that he sincerely cares about his fellow man and has served the gay community so well makes us proud to know him and proud to name Dr. Paul Steier as Greater Palm Springs Pride's Man of the Year.

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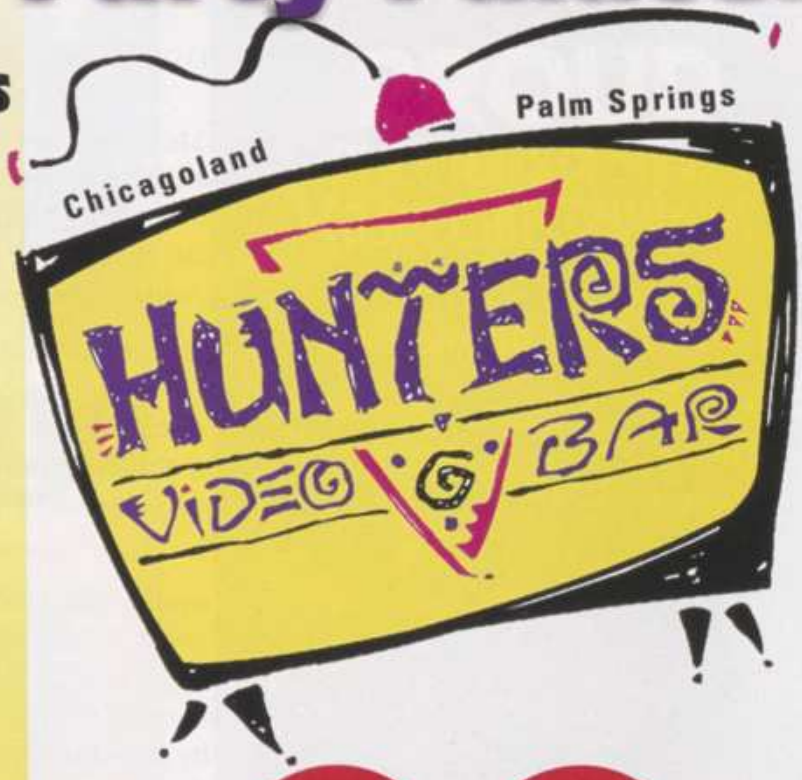
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Authors' Village

Pride Celebrates Five Years of Authors' Villages

by Craig Novak, *Q Trading*

In each of the past five Greater Palm Springs Pride celebrations, GLBT authors have played prominent roles highlighting the contributions writers have made to our culture and community. Past participants include Christopher Rice, Chastity Bono, David Leddick and Tom Bianchi. Genres represented have mirrored a diversity and breadth of styles from poetry to fiction, to art and photography, to history and cultural analysis. With the advent of print-on-demand books, the world of publishing has opened to even more aspiring writers.

Once again, we are proud of the commitment of the Board of Greater Palm Springs Pride to Author's Village. Throughout the two day celebration, we will again showcase the outstanding contributions of GLBT authors. Author events will include readings, book signings and panel discussions.

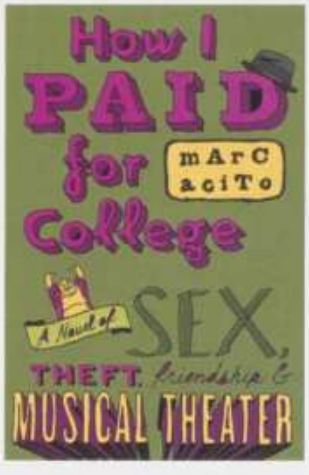
David Stukas will be reading from his newly released mystery *Biceps of Death*. This is the fourth book in his series featuring the antics of the most fabulously unlikely trio of gay sleuths this side of Provincetown.

How I Paid For College, has already become a bestseller for author Marc Acito. Noted for his essays and syndicated columns, his humor is nonstop. Subtitled 'A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship, and Musical Theater', Acito's reading on Sunday at 1:30 pm is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Anna Corman is a noted author and has released three terrific lesbian Romance novels including *Love Light, Bradley Bay* and *Tender Heart*. Powerful emotions, touching love and gripping writing combine to make this a must-have collection of



Marc Acito, author of
How I Paid For College





books for the romance novel aficionado. Corman will be available throughout the weekend.

Local author, Jim Tushinski will be reading from his new novel *Van Allen's Ecstasy*, the story of Michael Van Allen and his journey in search of his former self. It has been described as a passionate novel about the Passion of creativity. Tushinski will be appearing on Saturday at 2:15 pm.

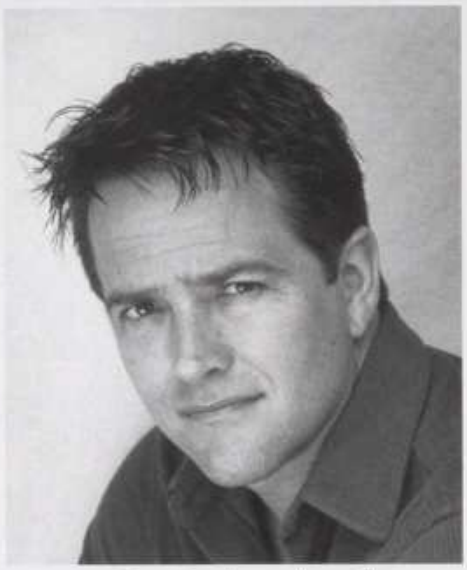
Hayworth Press has been at the forefront publishing terrific GLBT writers. This year they have also re-released a classic science fiction novel by noted author Felice Picano. *Dryland's End*, an outrageously irreverent look at humanity's future among the stars—a future with conflict spread across the galaxy. Picano will be appearing Saturday at 1:30 pm.

Also with books published by Hayworth Press, authors Dan Boyle and Trebor Healey will be appearing. Boyle's novel *Huddle* tells the story of nine gay men, their flag football team, and their quest for a championship. *Through It Came Bright Colors*, by Trebor Healey, is the story of Neill Cullane, a closeted and conflicted 21 year old, his loves and the lessons he learns along his journey. Both will be appearing Saturday afternoon.

These are just a few of the writers who will be at the Author's Village throughout the Pride celebration. A full schedule will be posted at the venue.

As satisfying as it is for an author to have a book published, the true measure of success is found in their readers. Don't miss this opportunity to support GLBT writers. Come hear them read, buy their books and let them know that you appreciate their efforts.

It's a matter of pride!

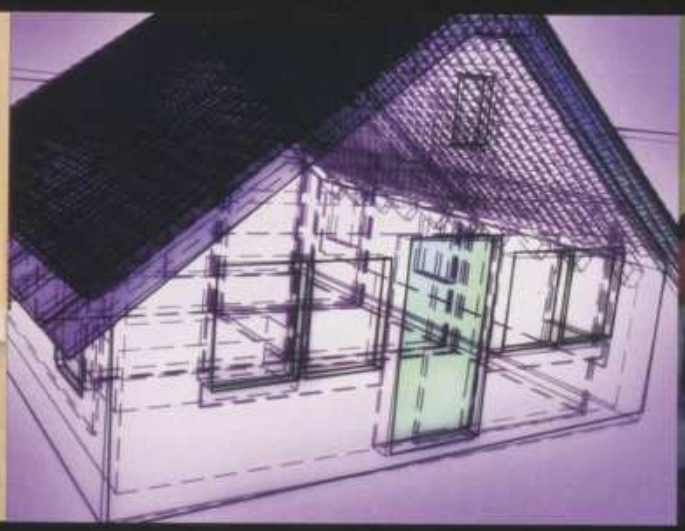
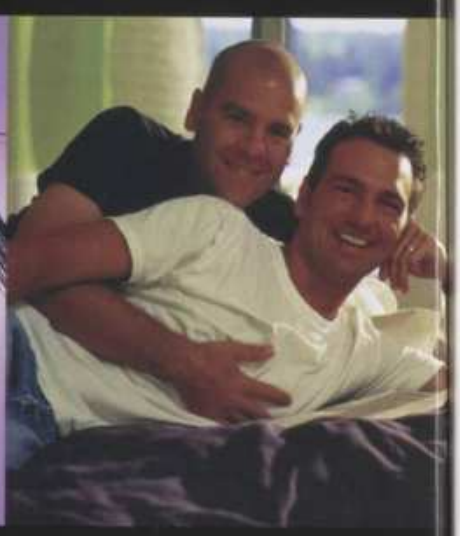


Dan Boyle, author of HUDDLE



Trebor Healey, author of THROUGH IT CAME BRIGHT COLORS

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Family Garden



Greater Palm Springs Pride launched its first Family Garden at the 2002 Festival so the increasing number of gay and lesbian couples with children visiting the two-day Festival would have access to a safe, child-friendly place where they can rest, relax, and allow their children to play and be with other children. Since that festival, both the Garden and the number of families taking advantage of the resource have grown significantly.

This year, under the direction of Andi and Josie Bearman, Pride Board members and proud parents of 17-month old Erik, the Family Garden is coming into its own as a full-fledged member of the Greater Palm Springs Pride family. And as gay and lesbian couples with children become a more important part of the American family landscape, the Family Garden will be a valued resource and important symbol at every Pride festival in Palm Springs as well as at Pride festivals across the nation.

The Family Garden is a totally enclosed, secured area just off the festival grounds. Supervisors and volunteers are on duty at all times. Snacks, beverages, games, crafts and a jumper are provided. A privacy tent is also available for rest, diaper changing and breastfeeding. The Garden is open on Saturday, November 6 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday November 7 from 1 to 5 p.m.

While the Family Garden is closely supervised, parents must remain with their children at all times while they are in the Garden.

Andi and Josie (and Erik) are always looking for ideas on how to improve the Family Garden and make it more parent- and child-friendly. They're also looking for organizations interested in sponsoring activities and events at the Garden. So stop by, visit the Garden and say hello. And thanks for your support!



PHOTO: TIM BRIDGES

Andi and Josie Bearman, and Erik, look forward to seeing you at the Family Garden.

Yes, it's true...Dorothy has gotten older...and wiser. Some years ago, she decided to start "flipping" houses (an idea that came to her once in a dream), and finally made her fortune. She'd like to thank the "little people" (as she refers to them now), her great contractors, and of course, her Fabulous Mortgage Broker!



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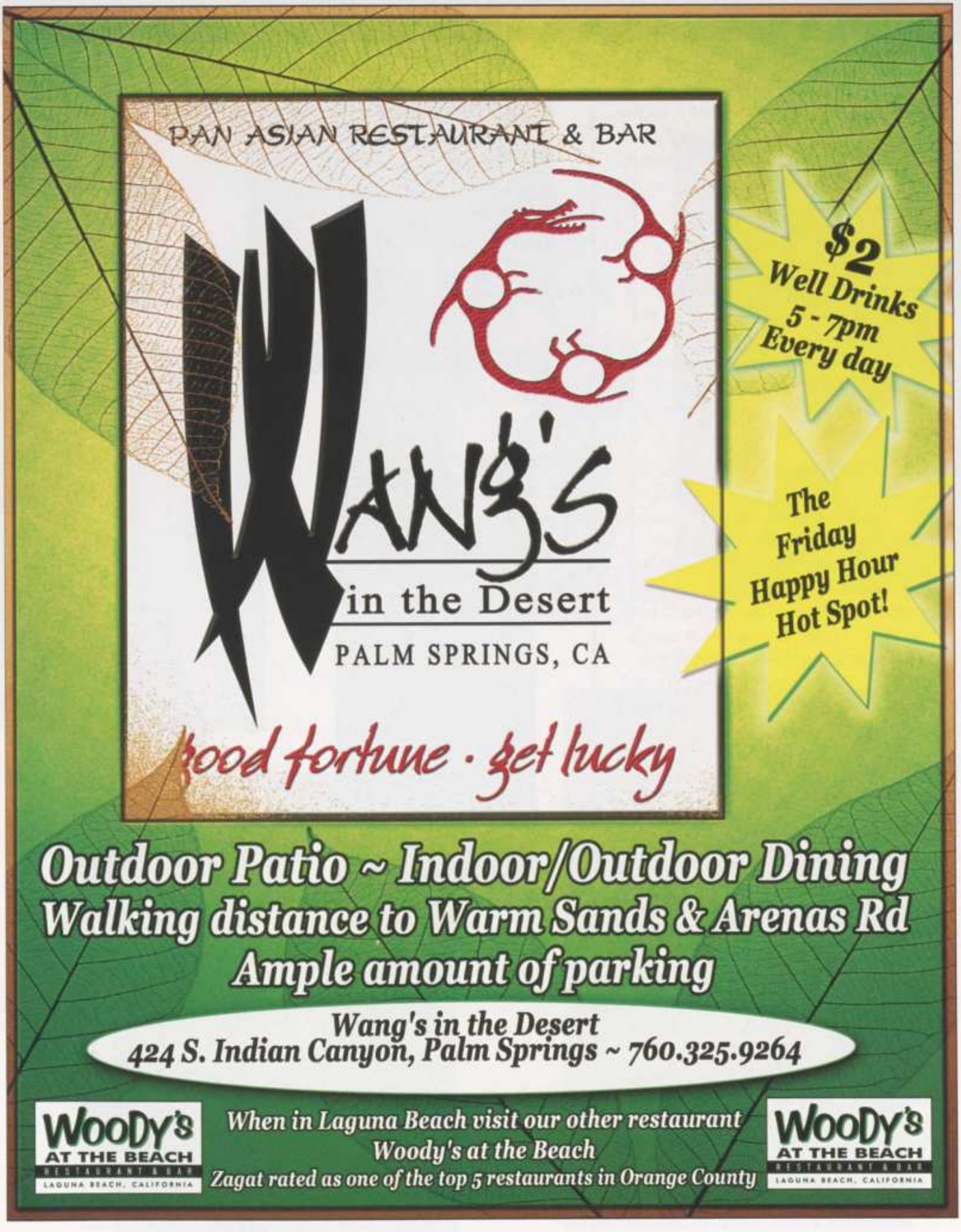
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Entertainment

The schedule as listed here is for the main stage area ONLY. Specific schedules for the Country Western and the Disco Tents venus will be posted on the Pride website at www.pspride.org.

This year's festival will include Palm Springs favorite local performers as well as talented musicians from around the country. The main stage will be booming from dawn to dusk with a variety of talent, including special quest appearances, that will keep you entertained throughout the day.

Our entertainment lineup is diverse, and includes singers, dancers and bands, We have two dance tents this year: a Country Dance tent with guest D.Js and sexy dancers, and the Disco Tent, sponsored by Hunters, and designed to keep you dancing all night. We are excited to have D.J.s from Las Vegas who spin at Studio 54, Rain, and the Hard Rock. We're also featuring Palm Springs' hottest D.J.s and a few slamming D.J.s from Los Angeles as well.

Before and during the Pride event itself, there will be other events taking place within the community. Two of these are of special note, and are advertised in the program. The first is the *Boots In Squares* dance on Saturday evening at the Pavilion, which is located on the Festival Campus. The second is a performance by *The Caballeros*, the Gay Men's Chorus of Palm Springs, which is being held on Thursday November 4. Also taking place on that Thursday evening is the city's Village Fest on Palm Canyon Drive in downtown Palm Springs. Finally, our local Desert Business Association (DBA) will be hosting a Business Expo on Arenas Road, Thursday, November 4.

All Entertainment Schedules are subject to change without notice.



San Diego Drag Kings



Jennifer Moore



Miss Fern



Sasha Sackett

Entertainment



Dana Atkins

Alyson



White Light



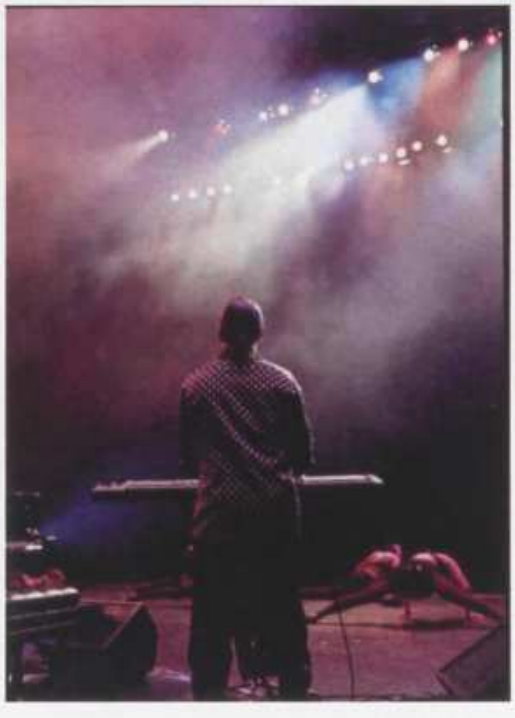


Mona Caywood

Kenny Kerr



Sebastian Sidi



Entertainment

Entertainment Schedule
Main Stage

Saturday, November 6th

12pm S.S.B.	Mona Caywood
12:05-12:30	Cheer Lite
12:30-12:45	John Baylock
12:45-1pm	Dana Atkins
1pm-1:30	TBA
1:30-1:45	Bill Ramirez
1:45-2pm	TBA
2pm-2:30	Sebastian Sidi
2:30-3pm	Kickers & Cloggers
3pm-3:30	Abigails Attic
3:30-4pm	San Diego Drag Kings
4pm-4:30	Sasha Sackett
4:30-5pm	Jennifer Moore
5pm-5:30	TBA
5:30-6pm	White Light
6pm-6:30	Mona Caywood
6:30-7pm	Pleasure (Rock Band)
7pm-7:30	Kenny Kerr
7:30-8pm	Alyson
8pm	TBA

Sunday, November 7th

12:30-12:45	Welcome - Cheer Lite
12:45-1pm	Sasha Sacket
1pm-1:30	Pleasure (Rock Band)
1:30-2pm	San Diego Drag Kings
2pm-2:30	Miss Fern
2:30-3pm	Kickers & Cloggers
3pm-3:30	White Light
3:30-4pm	Alyson
4pm-4:30	Jennifer Moore
4:30-5pm	Dana Atkins
5pm-5:30	Abigails Attic
5:30-6pm	TBA
6pm-6:30	TBA

Abigails Attic

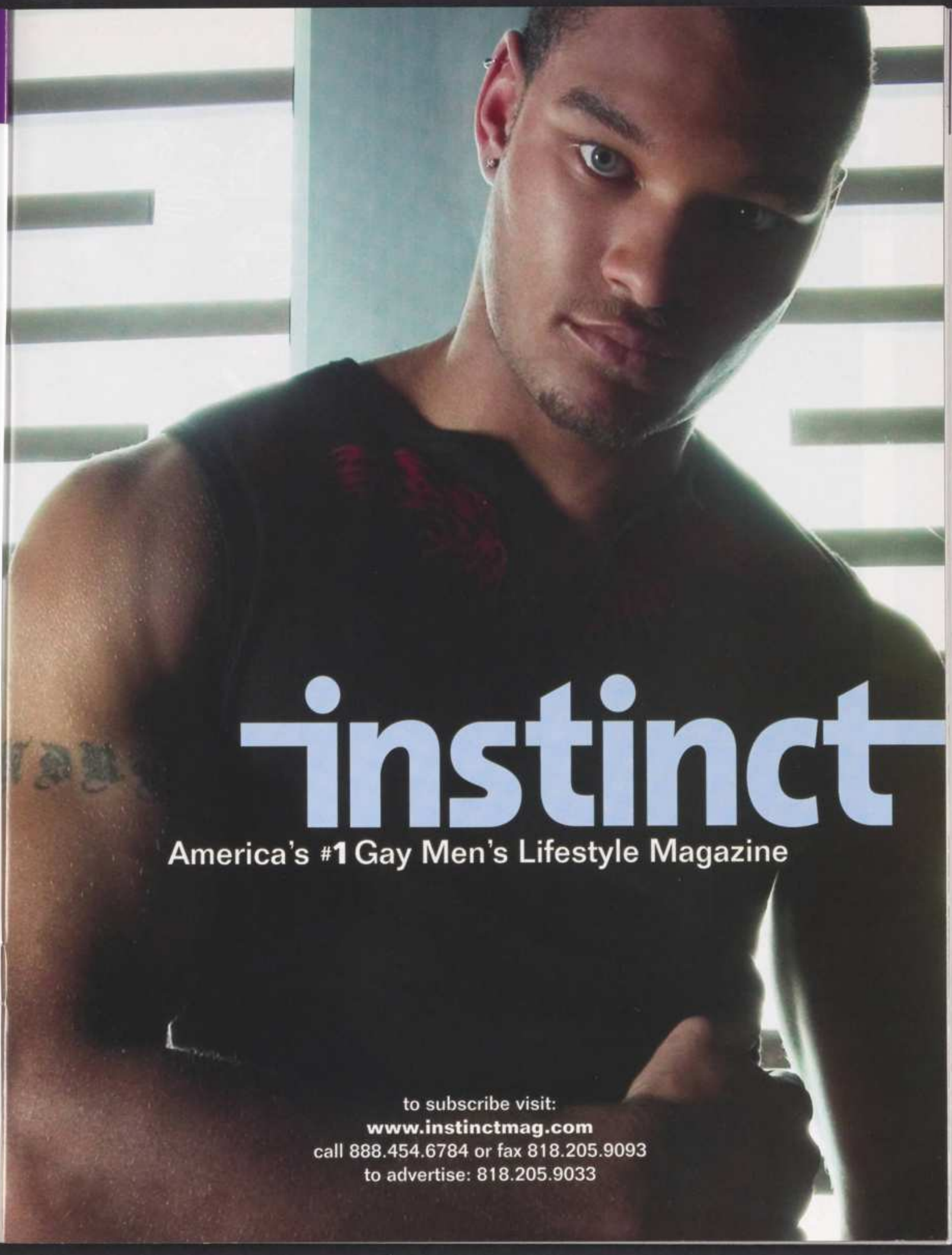


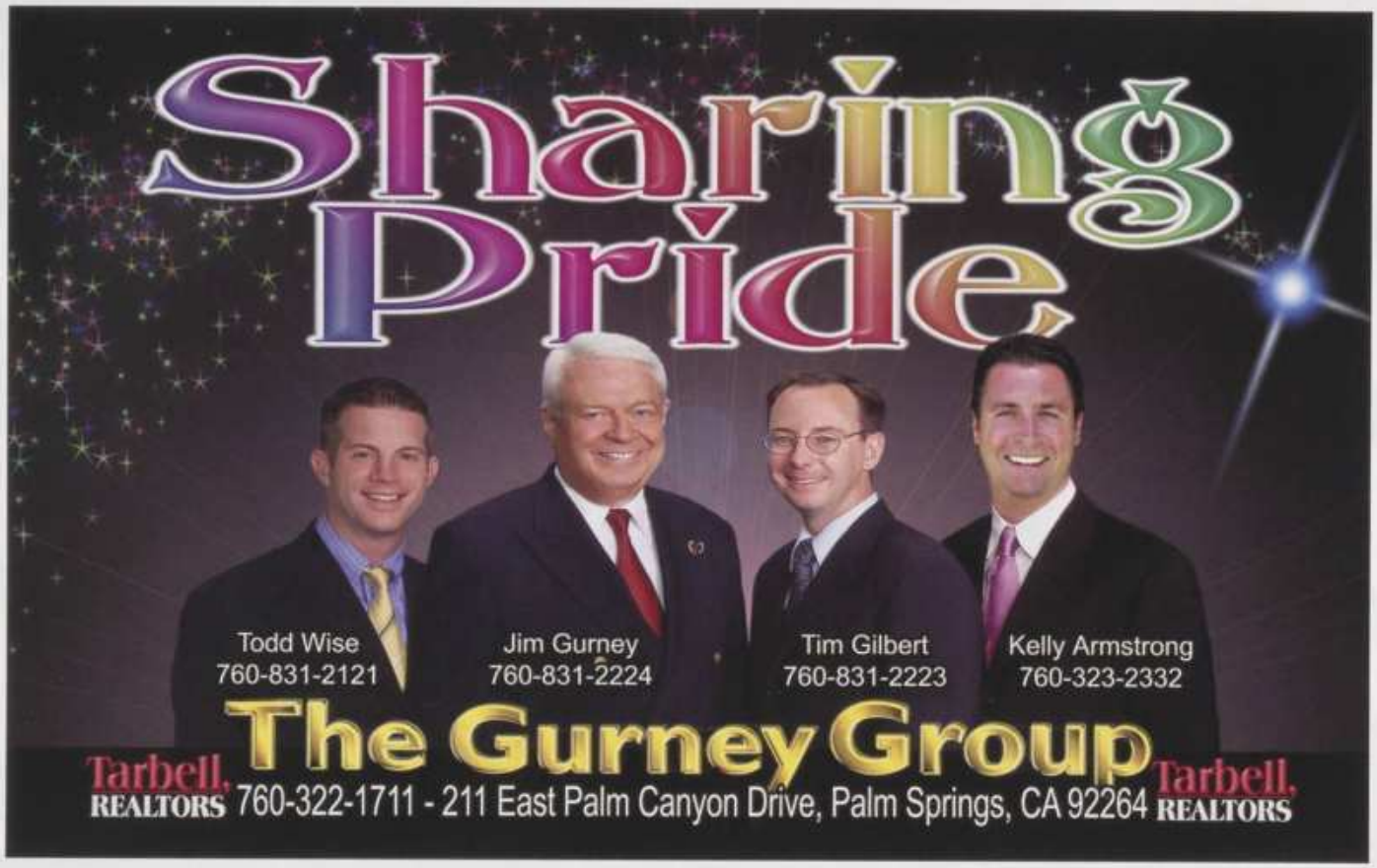


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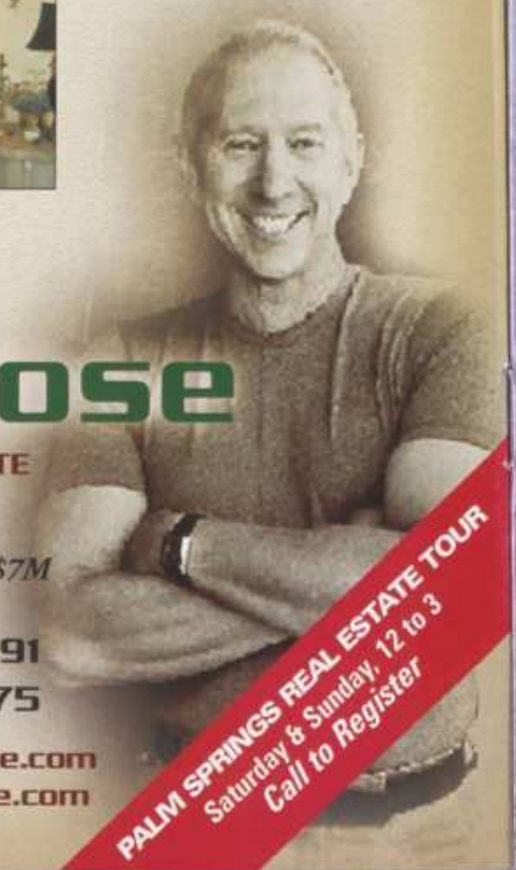
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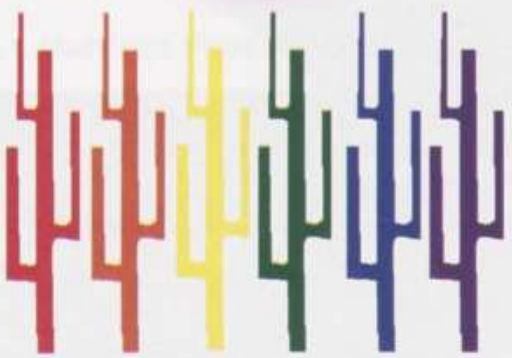
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MEGA-Scene publisher/editor Bob Hoven, founder of Palm Springs Pride in 1986, salutes 2004 Palm Springs Pride Festival and Parade. It just keeps getting better!

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About Equality California

Equality California and its sister organizations, Equality California Institute, Marriage Equality California, Equality California PAC, and Equality For California Families PAC share a common mission to ensure and promote dignity, safety and equality for all of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Californians. Founded in 1998, Equality California is the statewide LGBT civil rights organization in the nation with offices in Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego and San Francisco. For more information go to www.eqcaorg.

Equality California

EQCA is California's LGBT civil rights and advocacy organization. Equality California leads efforts for LGBT civil rights at the state level through an array of strategies including sponsoring legislation and leading efforts to ensure their passage, lobbying legislators and other government officials, building coalitions, and empowering other organizations and individuals to engage in the political process.

Equality California Institute - Marriage Equality California

Marriage Equality California (MECA) is the Institute's project devoted to securing civil marriage access for same-sex couples through public education. **California Equality Voter Project**, is its state-wide voter education, registration, and identification outreach focused on securing support for marriage equality for same-sex couples. EQCA/MECA is partnering with Greater Palm Springs Pride to expand its **Family Media Project** - collecting stories and pictures from LGBT families that will be used to increase visibility and education about our lives.



Equal Protection - Equal Marriage of Coachella Valley is proud to announce that it has joined forces with EQCA/MECA to serve as the Riverside County Chapter working to secure marriage for same-sex couples locally.

Please attend the 7PM monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at the Desert Pride Center, 611 South Palm Canyon Drive, 2nd floor and meet Chapter leaders Loren Berthelsen & Alex Lindsay or go to www.marriageequalityca.org and select the Riverside/Desert Chapter page.

DESERT'S GLBT PUBLICATION

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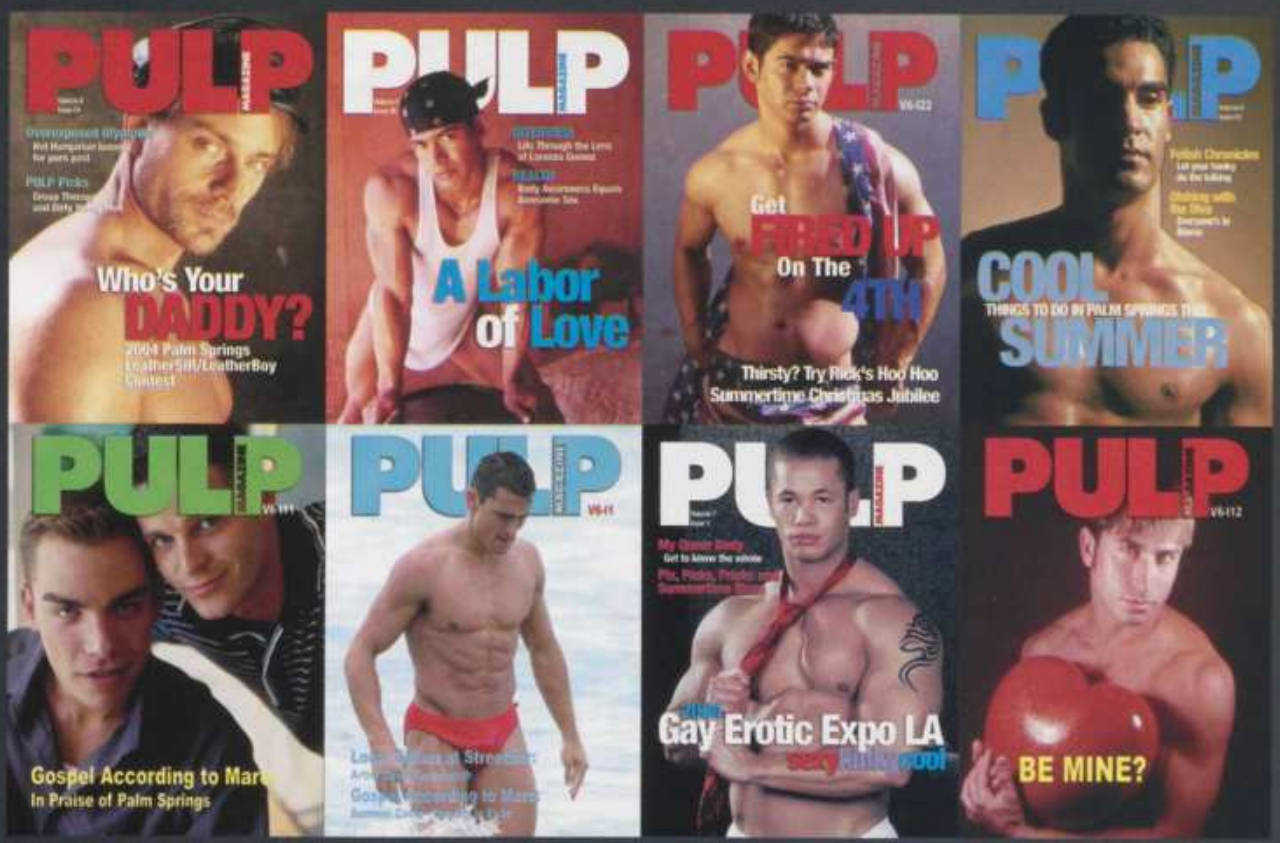


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FESTIVAL GROUNDS

Angel Stadium/Sunrise Park, Palm Springs

- SATURDAY, November 6: 10am - 8pm
- SUNDAY, November 7: 10am - 6pm

Admission: $10.00 per day.
Tickets available at the Festival entrance only.
Entertainment schedule on Page 36.

The following rules will be in force during the Festival & Parade:

- No pets of any kind at Festival; service dogs excepted.
- No bottles, coolers, or back packs at Festival. All bags or other containers will be subject to a security check.
- ALL persons over 21 will be banded, according to ABC regulations, upon entrance to the Festival.
- No tossing or throwing of items from Parade entries into the crowd, in accordance with Palm Springs City Ordinance.
- The Palm Springs city ordinance (11.10.040) prohibiting public nudity on public or private property open to view from any public area will be strictly enforced.



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PHOTOS: LORETTA VLACH

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Palm Springs Pride

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South Palm Canyon from Alejo to Ramon.

Sunday, Nov 7

Steps off at Alejo

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Greater Palm Springs Pride Festival

Angel Stadium

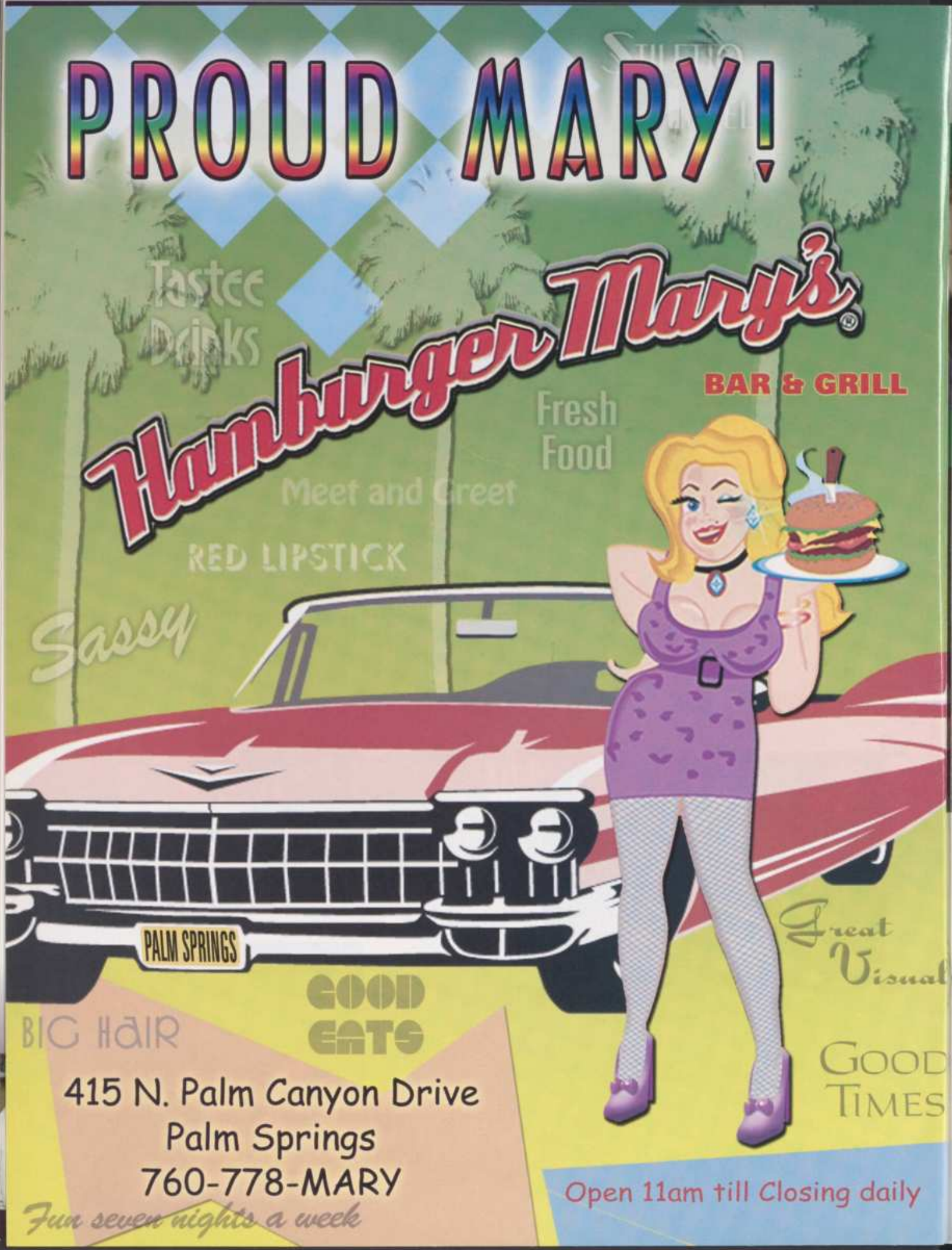
Sunrise Park

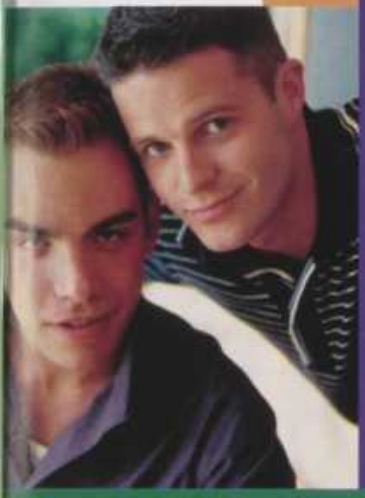
Sunrise Park





PHOTOS: MAILE KLEIN

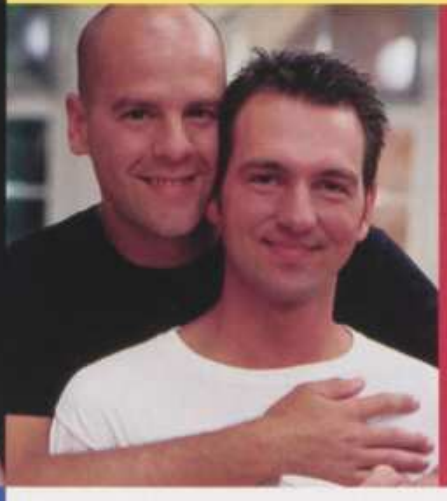

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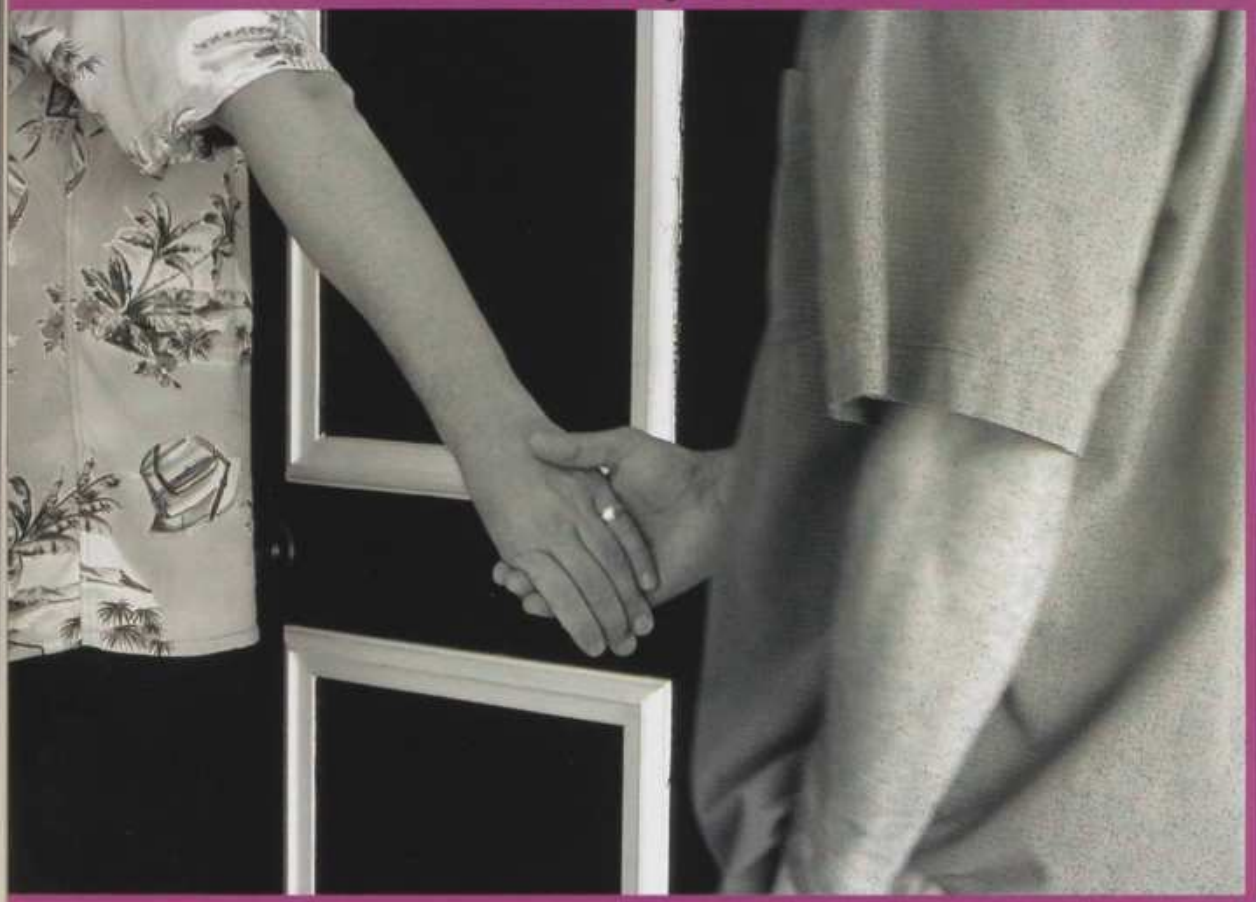
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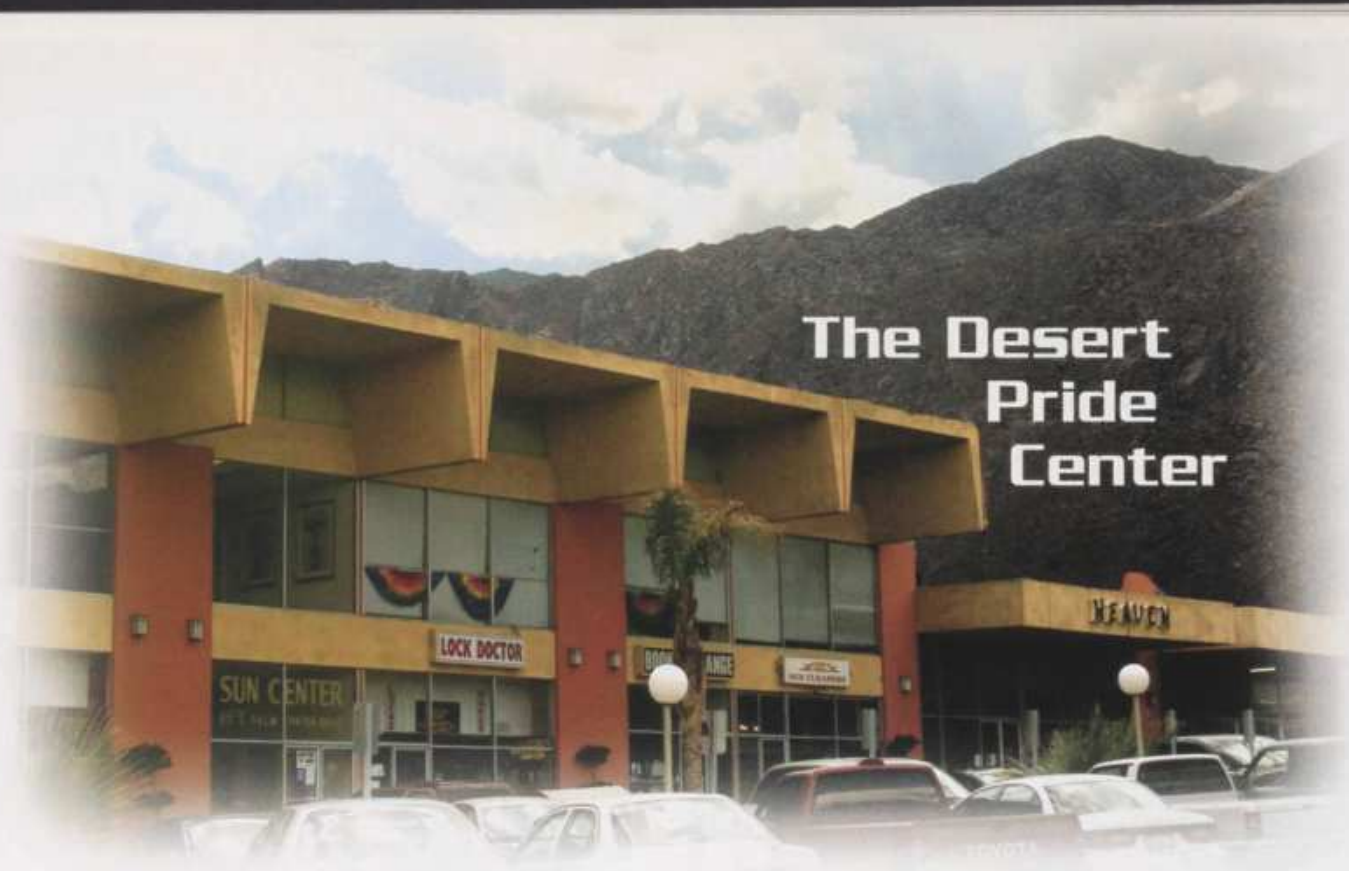
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The Desert Pride Center

When the Desert Pride Center opened its doors two years ago in its original location on North Palm Canyon Drive, it was a small, loosely organized resource for the LGBT community. In fact, its founders say that the original idea was to just open the doors to the new center and see what happened. They intended to provide a facility and let the community's needs dictate the Center's growth and development.

Today, the Desert Pride Center occupies a 3,000 sq. ft. facility at 611 S. South Palm Canyon Drive (on the second floor), and it's quickly become a dynamic and thriving resource offering a wide array of services and programs. It serves as a meeting place for individuals and organizations, and as a central location for a growing number of social, education and cultural activities.

An important function of the Center is to be a place where people can connect to others outside of the bars and other social outlets. It's also host to numerous organizations and groups that use it for their meetings and functions. The Center is home to educational classes and workshops as well as cultural and social activities. It offers general information on the Valley, acts as a referral service to local social, health and medical resources, and provides tourist information. The Center also houses a growing library and archive. Information on the Center's programs and services can be found at www.desertpridecenter.org.

While the Center serves all LGBT individuals across the Valley, between 60% and 70% of those coming to the Center are seniors. Many say that they prefer to mingle with mixed ages rather than just with their age peers, and that the Center offers the opportunity to do that.

The Center's Board reflects the composition of the community: six men, four women and one transgender. The Center itself is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization, and offers memberships to individual and businesses, although membership is not required to use the Center. About 50% of the Center's income derives from donations, 25% from user fees, and 25% from memberships. Two part-time employees manage the Center's daily operations.

The Desert Pride Center is open Monday through Friday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center is closed on Sundays.

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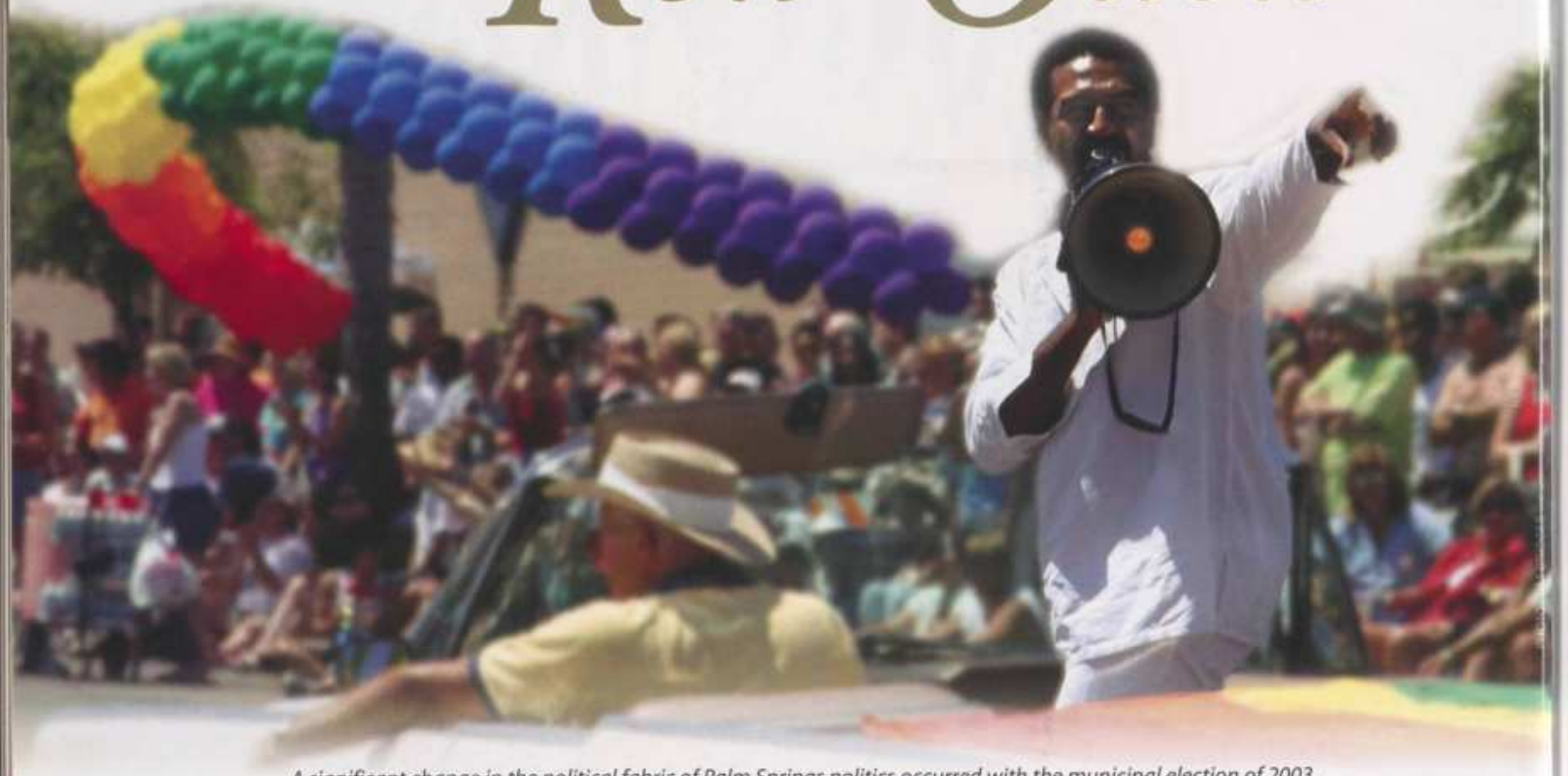
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PALM SPRINGS MAYOR

Ron Oden



A significant change in the political fabric of Palm Springs politics occurred with the municipal election of 2003, when openly gay Ron Oden was elected Mayor and openly gay candidates Ginny Foat and Steve Pougnet were elected to the City Council. GPSP President Jack Schloeder; GPSP Secretary Michael Carbine and GPSP Pride Program Editor Tim Bridges recently interviewed Mayor Oden and Councilmembers Foat and Pougnet to obtain their observations on the election and views on major issues facing the city.

PRIDE: When you ran for Mayor, you certainly had some idea of what the job would be like. But what did you find, after you were elected, that was different from what you expected?

ODEN: Having spent eight years on City Council, one develops key constituencies—people accustomed to working with you—and they tend to think that you're "their guy" or "their person." But when you become mayor, you become "everyone's person," so the response to this office has been unprecedented and there was no way to calculate that. People who live outside of the city of Palm Springs, who didn't vote in this election, were emotionally involved in this election. People would come up and congratulate me and start talking about things, while saying "but you know I don't live in Palm Springs." People throughout the Valley now want to interact with this office and with the city.

I didn't know until after the election that I was the first openly gay African American elected mayor of an American city. So there was no way to anticipate the national and international response to my election. It's been overwhelming. And I will tell you that there is no way I could begin to manage the response it weren't for the kind of support I have in City Hall, including from Martha Edgmon, my executive secretary. She's worth her weight in gold!

PRIDE: You've been a resident of Palm Springs for quite a while. What brought you to the Desert?

ODEN: A little over 14 years ago I was at Loma Linda University working on my third master's degree. I had just gone through my divorce and was depressed. My brother said, "I'm getting you out of the house, we're going to Palm Springs." We were driving into Palm Springs and passed the Tramway gas station, and I said, "Pull over, pull over!" I literally jumped out of the car and started running up toward the Tram with tears streaming down my face. I knew I was home. I told my brother, "This is where I'm supposed to be. Whatever I do in life, this will be my departure point from now on." I knew that positive things would happen in my life as the result of being here. So it was a kind of epiphany for me, and all of those things that I told my brother would happen here have come to pass. It's been a very interesting journey.

PRIDE: What do you consider to be the most pressing issues facing Palm Springs over the next three to five years?

ODEN: When I initially got involved with Palm Springs, there was much discussion about whether we were going to be a village or a city. And I thought we had resolved that issue, because the fact is, we are incorporated as the City of Palm Springs. An inscription in City Hall says, "The People are the City." It doesn't say "the village." But that doesn't mean that we are a city at the exclusion of having many village-like aspects. Now we're engaged in a growth versus no-growth discussion, which we've been over before. But the consequences are more serious today than they've ever been. Over the past decade, it seemed that all the development was taking place in the rest of the Valley but not in Palm Springs. And there was a sense that Palm Springs wasn't doing what it needed to do to actualize its potential. Well, now we are. Palm Springs is a hot topic again. People all over the world are writing about us. And it's not just because of the election. But I think the election at least reminded us that Palm Springs is now a different city than we used to be. That, coupled with new identifiable characteristics of the city, such as our mid-century architecture, is helping us reinvent the city as a successful tourist destination and as a welcoming place for business. All the things we have watched bypass us for a number of years are finally coming to our city.

Now, some people are worried that too much is happening too soon. But the reality is that the city started planning for this growth long before I came on the council. Part of my campaign platform was to make the city business friendly, and we're working hard to achieve this at City Hall. But our citizens play a role in this as well. One thing that concerns me as we work to achieve sustainable growth is the use of special ballot initiatives to second-guess our elected officials. That can be very counter-productive. The whole idea of an election is to elect people you trust and in whom you have confidence. But if you use a ballot initiative to second-guess every decision that is made, it will become very difficult—and costly—for the City to operate. These are among the challenges I think the city is facing.

PRIDE: The election was really an upset. Do you think it gave the citizens of Palm Springs a new sense of empowerment?

ODEN: There's no doubt it did. But I don't think that that happened overnight. The first time I saw that feeling of empowerment was the night of Deyna Hodges' election. There was a special feeling of energy that night, especially in the gay and lesbian community, because in spite of our numbers, we were never a real voting block. We were all over the map on every issue. So the refusal to reappoint Deyna became the impetus for coalition building and for uniting the community, and that was a good thing. Now, it wasn't just the gay and lesbian community. There was broad-based community support for Deyna. And it brought people together, and that was the first time I felt that growing sense of community empowerment. And I think that sense of empowerment is a good thing if it's harnessed and moved in the right direction. That's one of things that I think is unique about this city. Palm Springs has always had the most active and involved constituency in this valley. Not too long ago I read an editorial complaining about how long our City Council meetings last. But what the editorial didn't mentioned was the percentage of time spent on public comments, which is very high. We allow this because we run an open and inclusive government.

PRIDE: Both Ginny Foat and Steve Pougnet commented that during the campaign, there was a certain amount of fear among the straight community that the "gays would take over" and there would be all kinds of dire consequences. Did you encounter these same fears?

ODEN: Not really. I was a known entity in the community and I think that people decided fairly early on how they were going to vote for mayor. What concerned people, I think, was that they didn't really know that much about Steve and Ginny. There were people who were part of the establishment who, I think, feared that "we" would treat them the way they had treated "us." Now, that's an interesting concept, because then you have to ask yourself, "Well, how have we treated everyone?" Have we been fair and have we been equitable?" So I think the challenge we face as leaders is to make the community feel comfortable in our leadership. We must make sure everyone understands that we are here to serve all members of the community, not just the gay and lesbian community. This is important, because if we don't do that, then there won't be any continuity in our *continued on page 77*

PALM SPRINGS CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Ginny Foat



PRIDE: When you ran for City Council, you certainly had some idea of what the job would be like. But what did you find, after you were elected, that was different from what you expected?

FOAT: There's an incredible amount of work. Every Friday afternoon, a 10-inch packet of documents arrives, and it all has to be read and researched by the following Wednesday. So I dread the 5 p.m. arrival of that messenger! Another example is the background work for specific projects coming before the City Council. We recently addressed the Palm Hills development, and there were four loose-leaf binders filled with information that pertained to the proposal. But this project in particular is really important, because it has a lot to do with the future of our city. I think that's one of the reasons I decided to run for City Council, because if I'm going to live here, I need to do what I can to make it as good as it can be.

PRIDE: What is the Palm Hills Project and why it is so important?

FOAT: The Palm Hills Project represents the first proposed development to be built in our mountains. In a way, it represents what I think is the critical juncture we're at in terms of changing the nature of our city, especially in terms of citizen empowerment. Neighborhood groups are forming, much to the dismay of a couple of my fellow council members. These groups are becoming stronger, and some are addressing the Palm Hills Project and are launching an effort to save our hillsides from development. There's far more citizen activism now.

PRIDE: Would you attribute this activism to the recent influx of gays and lesbians?

FOAT: Absolutely. Gays and lesbians have moved here from places like San Francisco, Seattle and Los Angeles. There was a time when people came here to die, but peo-

ple aren't moving here to die any more, although some of us know that this is probably our last stop. Many people are moving here from communities with activist traditions. They come here and see that there's room for change and they're becoming involved.

PRIDE: Just a few years ago, businesses were prohibited from flying a rainbow flag. In a more activist city, the gay community would have reacted strongly and city government would have been more responsive than it was here. What's your take on this?

FOAT: A lot of those things are not happening now because we've become so visible. I bought a home here 13 years ago, and for the most part, this was a place to come and play and I didn't care what was happening with city politics or whatever. But now people are moving here and staying here and becoming involved. I think that's going to change the nature of the city. Now, I don't think the City Council is there yet. It's probably going to take the next election and one more progressive – and not necessarily a gay or lesbian person – on the city council to really dig us out from under the past. Right now when you suggest doing something in a new way, the response from some of my fellow council members and even some city staff is "that's not the way we've done it."

PRIDE: Are you ever targeted solely because you're a lesbian?

FOAT: Yes. I find it in my e-mail on a daily basis. I receive hate mail from people. I don't know which "D" they hate about me: dyke or Democrat, but we do get hate mail. We get mail from white supremacist groups. But at the same time, we're being welcomed into the homes of many in the straight community who are ready to embrace all of this. They feel this vibrancy coming back into the city, and they're ready, willing and able to join with our community. That's the great part about it.

PRIDE: You mentioned owing a home here for 13 years. When did you move to Palm Springs permanently?

FOAT: My partner and I moved here permanently in 1999. Before that, we were spending every weekend here. I spent all of 1998 in New York because I was working on a special project. When I returned, my partner and I were remodeling a duplex that we owned in West Hollywood and were considering moving to New York after we finished. We went to New York and realized that what we could buy there for $600,000 would be a closet, and we had three dogs at the time. So we decided to move to Palm Springs because we had our house there. Originally we were going to live here on a temporary basis, but then we started staying for longer and longer periods, and finally opened a business here. We bought a commercial building on Palm Canyon Drive, I opened a store, she started a mortgage company, and here we are.

PRIDE: You have a background in politics and activism. So it seems that you've brought this with you to Palm Springs.

FOAT: I've always been involved in politics. For nine years, I was Executive Director of Caring for Babies with AIDS, the largest children's AIDS organization in California and probably in the western U.S. I started with the founding board after I had lost a couple of good friends. At the time, my partner, another person and I owned the Rose Tattoo in West Hollywood, and once a month we would do a benefit for an AIDS organization. We did one for Caring for Babies with AIDS, which was just starting as a concept and they were so disorganized. So I said to Pam, "I've got to help them get organized," and nine years later when I left, they had a $4 million dollar budget, several houses for children and a program for families with children with AIDS.

Before that, I was the state president of the National Organization for Women, so I've been involved in politics for a long time. But I've always worked for somebody else and never wanted to be the "up front" person because there's so much involved. But last year I decided that I needed to do that. Also, I have a somewhat colorful background, and that was another reason why I thought that being "up front" was going to be a problem for me. But it didn't turn out to be a problem.

PRIDE: When you were running for office, you had a lot of support from the gay community. Did you find that people outside of the gay and lesbian community were expressing their concerns about that?

FOAT: I didn't get elected by the gay and lesbian community. It was a sizeable part of my vote, but I got a lot of other votes in the city, and when we did the analysis, we found that if Deyna Hodges hadn't run, I would have received far more votes, because we shared support from a lot of the same people. When I began putting my campaign team together, I realized that I needed to get some people on this team who were straight and I didn't really know any! But when you stop and think about that, it makes you realize that you can become insulated within the community. In my neighborhood, eight out of the 10 houses on my block are owned by gays. So it was hard to find some straight people to work in my campaign. But they came forward and I met some really neat people who helped. But most of my campaign team were gays and lesbians. Next time, I don't think that will be the case, and I'll have a much broader basis of support.

PRIDE: We know, to a large extent, about the concerns of the gay community. What are the concerns of the straight community?

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PALM SPRINGS CITY COUNCILMEMBER

Steve Pougnet

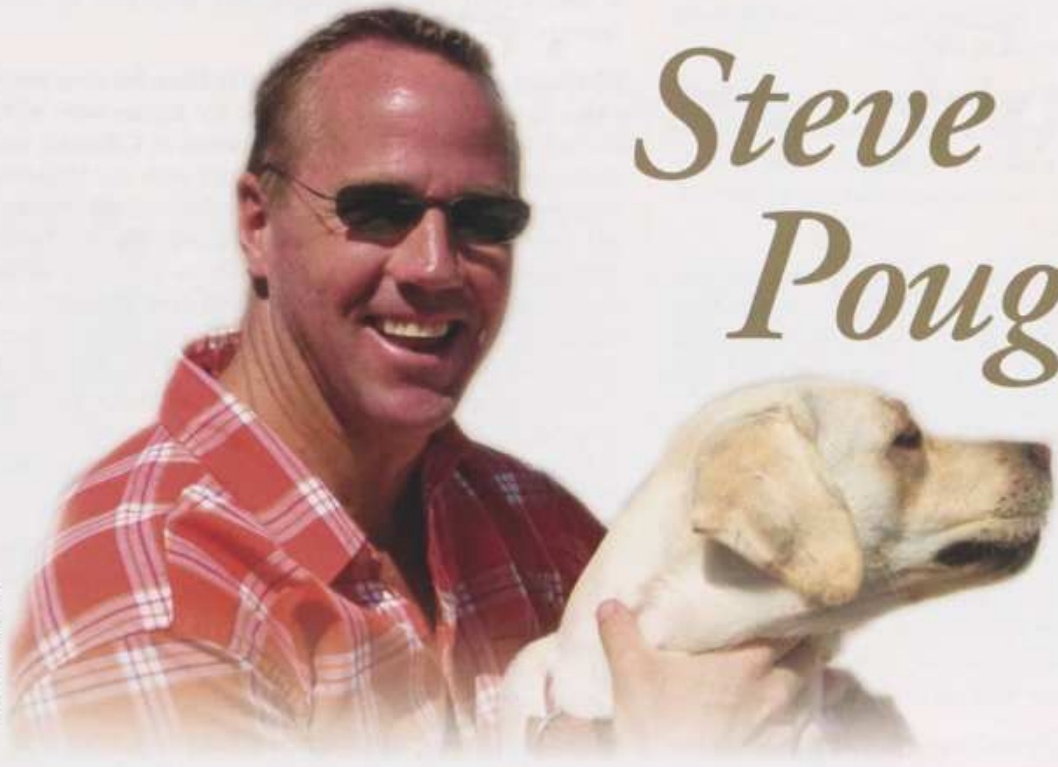


PHOTO: TIM BRIDGES

PRIDE: One of the most significant events in the last year, at least in terms of the gay and lesbian community, has been the election of you, Ginny Foat and Ron Oden. Do you agree with this statement?

POUGNET: Definitely. When taken as a percentage of the population, Palm Springs has more gays and lesbians than any other city in the country. And if you look back at the election, there were four or five openly gay candidates out of nine, which really wasn't unusual statistically given the number of gays and lesbians who live here. During the campaign, the newspapers were pushing for a story about the "gay agenda" and when the newspapers would call, I'd tell them to please fax me a copy because I'd like to see it. I'd also tell them that the story really wasn't about a gay agenda but about the nine people who want to serve on our city council, and that we all care about seniors, affordable housing, our roads and our sewers. And as you look back on the campaign, it really was decently run in the sense that we were able to talk about issues that concern everyone, and that it didn't get personal. There was the potential for that given the special election that was held not long before the regular election. While the election of a gay mayor and gay city council members was a victory for the community, people over the past months have seen that our votes do go different places, that's it's not always a three-to- two vote on every issue. I think that's very healthy for this community, especially as it continues to change.

PRIDE: Do you think the people felt empowered by the election?

POUGNET: Yes, I think so. This council is pushing for more community involvement, more openness. We go around to neighborhoods and ask for input. For example, on the planned Wal-Mart issue, I visited the Mizell Senior Center and asked seniors how they felt, because I know pricing is important to them. The comments I received reflected the surprise of some people that I had actually come to them and asked for their opinion. So I do think people now feel that they are a part of the process. I remind people wherever I speak that whether you voted for me or not, I represent 44,000 people and I want to listen. What we have to remember is that it is still an evolving process and a dramatic change from the previous administration. We've just elected an African-American gay mayor in what has been a predominately white male city. That's a significant shift. I think people will look back at this as an important turning point. Change has come to Palm Springs, and despite some of the downsides of change and resistance to it, overall things will flourish in the long-run.

PRIDE: Do you think that city government has changed as a result of the election?

POUGNET: I think so. All three of us ran on the issue of letting the City Manager do his job, and we have gone out of our way to let him be the CEO of the city. It's pretty apparent that prior to the election, the City Manager was restrained in what he could do and what he had to watch out for. Now we're seeing him grow because he's been empowered to be the CEO. He can interact with and react to the city's various department heads in a new, empowered way. So, from that perspective, there's been a major shift in city government. The accountability issue also has come into play. Prior to the election, there were no established performance measures and reviews. The City Manager hadn't been reviewed in two years. We audited the Tourism Bureau and found the same thing. We then looked at the city attorney. So I think it really has changed because we are asking more questions and we're telling people to measure their performance and be more accountable, including changing the way they do their jobs. The City Council now is asking questions it never asked before.

PRIDE: When you ran for City Council, you certainly had some idea of what the job would be like. But what did you find, after you were elected, that was different from what you expected?

POUGNET: It is so different from what I imagined. I never expected the demands that people place on me, which I thoroughly enjoy, but for which I was totally unprepared. Sometimes I think everybody in town has my cell phone number, and everyone in town calls! And they send emails, and that has been a difficult transition since I sell real estate as well. Now, I somewhat expected that people would operate with a lot of self-interest, which is unfortunate, but it's there. And there are some people who still don't understand that the community has changed with the election. But my previous career as vice president of a university has helped me because part of what I was expected to do in that job was to act locally while thinking globally, and the City Council is getting to that same operating point. People will be unhappy with what you do no matter what decision you make, whether it's concerning a gay or lesbian issue or not. You just learn how to roll with the punches on that. But I thrive on it. People want to be heard. They want to be a part of the process and it really shouldn't be too much to listen to what they have to say.

PRIDE: It seems that things are changing pretty fast in Palm Springs. How would you describe the changes that are taking place?

POUGNET: I was on the panel interviewing candidates for the Human Rights Commission, for the Parks and Recreation Commission, and for VillageFest, and we had more names of potential candidates – gays, lesbians and straights – who wanted to serve on these commissions than we ever had before. These were people who wanted to be a part of the system because they knew that now their voices would be heard. A member of the Parks and Recreation Commission sat on the interviewing panel with me, a woman who grew up here, she's a PTA president and her son is a quarterback at the high school. At one point she said to me "I've got to be honest with you. Being a PTA mom and all this stuff, we were really nervous after the election and I've got to tell you, now that I've met you and watched you at some of the meetings, and you're just you and all those fears I had were ridiculous." Now, that's a big transformation that's occurred, and it's happening more and more in the city to the extent that I don't foresee a gay/straight divide emerging in the next election. Also, the *Desert Sun* has always been considered to be extremely conservative, but it reacted very positively to the election. All this happened so quickly, and I think people are starting to say, "A new day has dawned in Palm Springs."

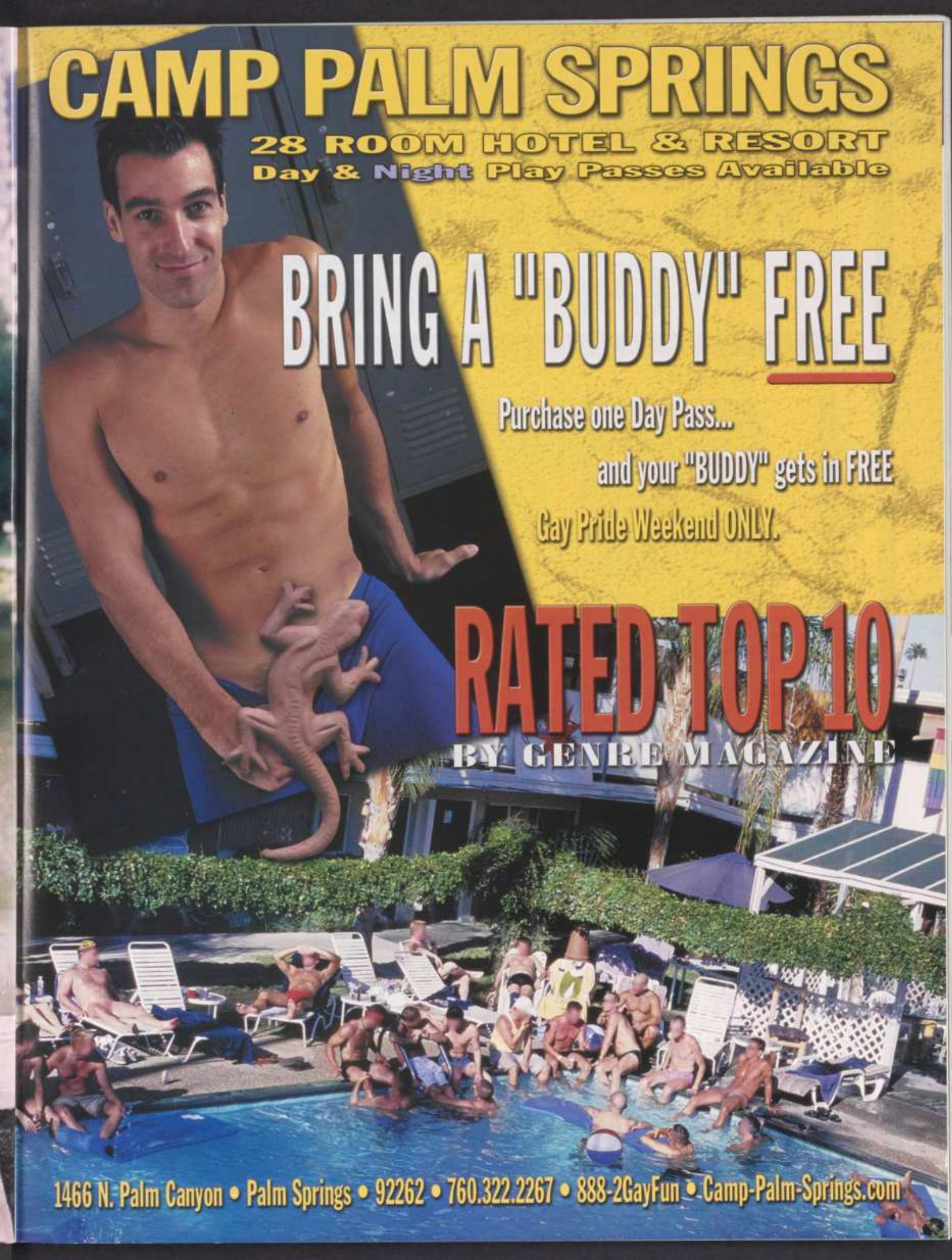
PRIDE: Do you think that the influx of people from more urban areas has helped bring about this change?

POUGNET: Yes. You've got people placing several initiatives on the ballot – Section 14 is going to come up; the hillside initiative – and that's because people are coming into the community who really care, and whether it's a majority opinion or not, they've got something that they want to express. These are people that may have lived somewhere else and now they live here and they feel they can make a difference just like people did in the last election did. They're here and they're asking questions, and I think this is a positive thing. When you see that many people becoming involved, you know you're going to start seeing more initiatives on the ballot, and when the majority of the city determines that's the way they wanted it to be, no matter what the council thinks, that's the way it will be. The council shouldn't fight that. It should react and have its own thoughts on the issue. It's like this past election, where the voters spoke and a major change took place. And we're going to see more changes.

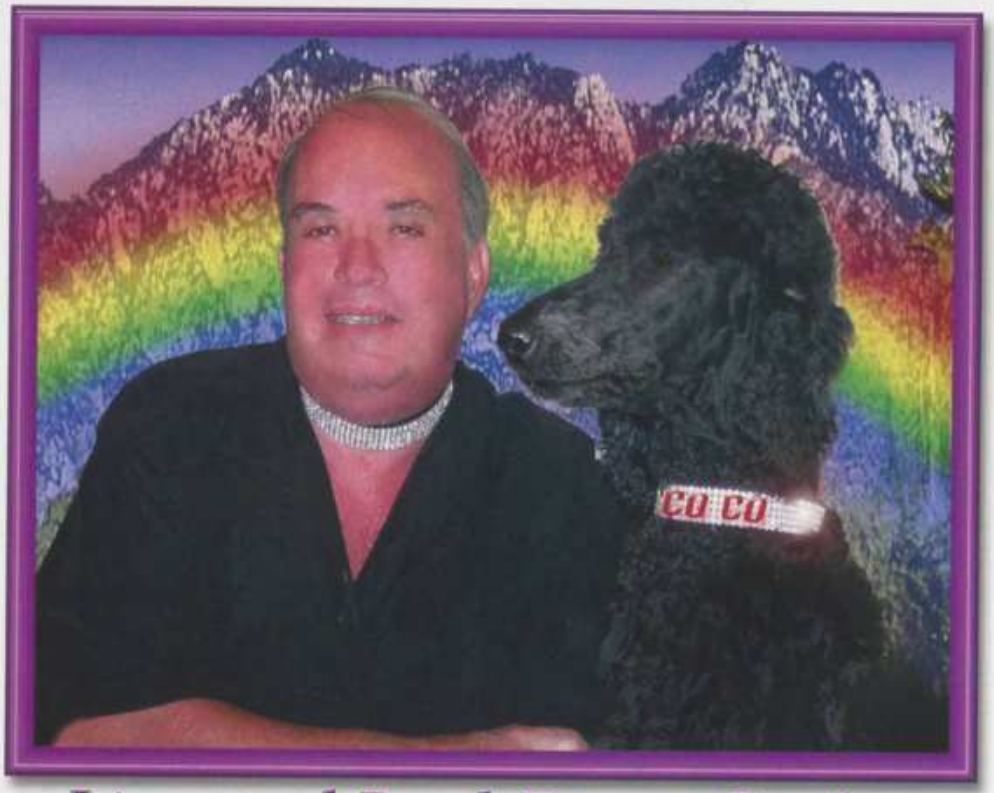
People are going to continue to recognize the importance of the gay and lesbian community here in Palm Springs. Tourism is a perfect example of this. A few months ago, Christopher, my partner, stopped at the new Visitors Center and couldn't find any gay and lesbian information. Eventually he found it on the back wall, hidden like pornography, so he wrote a letter to his councilman! At the recent tourism summit, it became apparent that gays and lesbians must be a serious component of our tourism marketing initiatives. It was at the center of the discussion and we were able to all work together on the issue. Ft. Lauderdale is spending millions on gay tourism, and Philadelphia is doing the same thing. Palm Springs can get there as well.

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American Veterans for Equal Rights
Local chapter of the national organization of GLBT active duty, reserve and veteran service members formed to challenge the DOD's policy of discrimination with regard to sexual orientation. Contact: (760) 320-5646, email averps@msn.com, or write P.O. Box 5012, Palm Springs CA 92263-5012.

Bloom in the Desert Ministries
Progressive inclusive Christian mainline Protestant (Methodist) ministry. Contact: (760) 333-1221 or visit www.bloominthedesert.org.

Boots in Squares
LGBT Square Dancing open to all. Contact: (760) 327-8684 or visit www.bootsinsquares.com

Caballeros
Gay Men's Chorus of Palm Springs; always seeking new singers and supporters. Contact: (760) 318-7044, email info@pscaballeros.org, or visit www.pscaballeros.org.

Canyon Classics Chamber Ensemble
Coachella Valley chamber ensemble, playing music from classical to pops. Contact: Don at (760) 770-6562

Club 300
Social club for senior gay men and younger gay men who enjoy their company. Contact: (760) 346-7447 or write P.O. Box 5442, Palm Springs, CA 92263-5442.

Coachella Valley Couples
Social organization for gay and lesbian couples. One of 11 affiliates throughout the country. Contact: (760) 328-1773, email CVCchair@aol.com, or visit www.hometown.aol.com/waldo9055/pscouples.html.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Men and Their Friends
Monthly potluck dinners at 6 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of every month., Contact: (760) 770-4714, TDD: 324-8942; or write c/o Desert Daily Guide, 541 E. Industrial Place, Palm Springs 92264.

Desert AIDS Project
Comprehensive medical care, educational and support services for people living with HIV and AIDS Contact: (760) 323-2118 or visit www.desertaidsproject.org.

Desert Business Association
Promotes and supports gay, lesbian and gay-friendly businesses and individuals through networking, social events and educational activities. Contact: (760) 416-5193, email info@dbaps.org, or visit www.dbaps.org

Desert Dyners
Monthly recreation and social events for lesbians, including golf, bowling, billiards, mixers and dinner dances. Contact: (760) 202-6645, email info@desertdyners.com, write Desert Dyners at P.O. Box 5072, Palm Springs, CA 92263-5072, or visit www.desertdyners.com.

Desert Gay Tourism Guild
Association of LGBT business people, owners and travel professionals who promote Palm Springs and the Greater Coachella Valley as a premier international LGBT tourist destination. Contact: call (760) 322-7993, email psgaytourism@earthlink.net, write P.O. Box 2881, Palm Springs, CA 92263, or visit www.dgtg.org..

Desert Night Hawks
Palm Springs men's softball team. Games are held on Wednesdays. Contact: (760) 320-4379 or email desertnighthawks@aol.com.

Desert Pride Center
Community center serving the LGBT community in the Coachella Valley. Located at 611 S. Palm Canyon Drive, 2nd Floor, in Palm Springs. Contact: (760) 327-2313, email DPCCinPS@aol.com, or visit www.desertpridecenter.org

Desert Rainbow Foundation
Organization of gay, lesbian and gay-friendly individuals sponsoring education scholarships, community healthcare and public recognition events. Contact: (760) 778-1976, write PMB 139 – Airport Park, 255 El Cielo Rd., #140, Palm Springs, CA 92262, email info@desertrainbowfoundation.net, or visit www.desertrainbowfoundation.net.

Desert Renegades Motorcycle Club
Motorcycle club. Contact (760) 251-7825, email boy.biker@verizon.net, or write DRMC, P.O. Box 490, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240-0490.

Desert Stonewall Democrats
Club founded to educate voters, lobby elected officials and elect Democrats. Contact: (760) 320-5787, or visit www.desertstonewall.org.

Desert Winds Freedom Band
Diverse group of gay and gay-friendly musicians coming together to play concert band music. Contact: (760) 776-2700, email desertwindsfb@yahoo.com, write DWFB at P.O. Box 4732, Palm Springs, CA 92263-4732, or visit www.home.earthlink.net/~psband.

Different Spokes Bicycle Club of PS
Non-competitive Sunday and holiday bicycle outings for adult riders of all interest levels. Contact: (760) 318-1229 or email bike.club@verizon.net.

Dignity Palm Springs
Catholic liturgy every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul in the Desert Church, 125 W. Alameda, Palm Springs., Contact: (760) 321-9511 or visit www.dignityps.org.

Executive Women's Golf Association
Golfing club for working women. Contact: (760) 776-6262 , email denisep@ewgadesert.com, or visit www.ewgadesert.com.

Gay Associated Youth
Provides support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth and their allies through guidance, education and advocacy programs and other resources. Meetings and events are held in the organization's drop-in center in Palm Desert. Contact: (760) 776-1744, email info@gayassociatedyouth.org, or visit www.gayassociatedyouth.org.

Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network
Group dedicated to eliminating homophobia in public schools. Meets 2nd Tuesday of every month at the PFF Community Room, 35-950 Date Palm, Cathedral City. Contact: P.O. Box 5538, Palm Sprigs, CA 92263.

Gay Men's Book Discussion Club
Reads and discusses a different gay-themed book every month. Contact: (760) 322-5325 or email byronbrent@aol.com

Gay Softball
Local Palm Springs gay softball team, always seeking to recruit additional players. All levels welcome. Contact: (760) 409-8983 (IS THIS DESERT NIGHT HAWKS??)

Golden State Gay Rodeo Assn. / PS Chapter
Local chapter of the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association. Contact: (760) 862-5546, write GPSC, 4741 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Suite C147, Palm Springs, CA 92264, or visit www.igra.com.

Great Autos of Yesteryear
A gay and lesbian oriented car club promoting the admiration, ownership and knowledge of classic, special interest, milestone and exotic motorcars. Monthly Coachella Valley events. Contact: P.O. Box 19018, Long Beach, CA 90807-9018, call (562) 522-5225, or visit www.GreatAutos.org.

Great Outdoors of Palm Springs
Gay outdoor recreational organization sponsoring camping and hiking, river rafting, canoeing, skiing and social activities. Contact: Roger at (760) 416-2673 or Doug at (760) 202-4936, email gpsgocraig@aol.com, or visit www.greatoutdoors.org/ps.

Greater Palm Springs Inter-Bar Pool League
Organized pool tournaments at various bars in the Desert to improve quality of play. Contact: Kevin at (760) 324-3015 or email khewitt546@aol.com

Greater Palm Springs Pride
A non-profit public benefit corporation engaged in promoting the public education and awareness of the personal rights and civil liberties of the LGTB community. Contact: (760) 416-8711, write GPSP, 611 S. Palm Canyon Drive, PMB 7436, Palm Springs, CA 92264, email PSPride@dc.rr.com, or visit www.PSPride.org.

HIV+ Dinner Social
Meets at 7 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every month. Contact: (760) 774-4673.

Integrity of the Desert
Potluck dinner at 6:30 on the fourth Friday of each month at St. Paul of the Desert Episcopal church, 125 W. El Alameda, Palm Springs. Contact: (760) 320-7488.

Jeffrey Sandholm Memorial Community Crisis & Help Line
Crisis intervention service for the Coachella Valley and High Desert areas. Offers crisis intervention and referral services to everyone. Help Line: (760) 323-1875; to support and/or volunteer, call (760) 323-3656.

Log Cabin Republicans
For information on meetings and activities, contact (760) 328-9581

Long Yang of the Desert
Asian cultural and dining society focusing on authentic Asian cuisine, festivals and entertainment. Open to all gay male enthusiasts of Asian and Pacific Islander culture. Contact: www.longyangclub.org/palmsprings.

Maximus
Quarterly cigar and pipe social. Contact: (760) 864-6291 or email N2MAXIMUS@aol.com

Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)
One of over 350 congregations worldwide created to serve the needs of the GLBT community. Sponsors weekly Sunday worship, Tuesday evening Bible Study, and Thursday choir practice. Sunday services at 10 a.m. at 32150 Candlewood Drive, Cathedral City. Contact: (760) 328-3591 or visit www.mcccv.org.

National Organization for Women
The Palm Springs Area Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) is committed to protecting the rights of women. Contact: (760) 320-6355, email mail@psnow.org, or visit www.psnow.org.

Nekkidance
Alternative nude gathering with spiritual intent for men; includes music and dance. Contact: Roy at (760) 218-1503

Palm Springs Bears
Social network for "hairsute" men and their admirers. Sponsors social events and raises funds for charitable causes in the community. Contact: write to PSB, Box 8157, Palm Springs, CA 92263 or visit www.palmspringsbears.org



Palm Springs Church for Today
Teaching principles that affirm a life of happiness and prosperity for all. Weddings, Holy Unions and counseling. Church stresses spirituality, not organized religion. Sunday services at 11 a.m. at the Palm Springs Hilton. Contact: (760) 320-2129 or email revfd@usa.net.

Palm Springs Frontrunners & Walkers
Running, walking and social club for gays, lesbians and friends. Meets Monday through Saturday at 7:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Mizell Senior Center on Ramon Road (at Sunrise). Call first to verify times and dates. Contact: (760) 318-8809, email PSFRinfo@aol.com, or visit www.psfr.org.

Palm Springs Leather Order of the Desert
Social club for LGBT men and women pursuing an interest in the leather/SM/fetish lifestyle. Contact: (760) 272-5553, write PSLOD at P.O. Box 5506, Palm Springs, CA 92263, or visit www.pslod.com.

Palm Springs Mermen
All-male synchronized swim team being formed in Palm Springs. Contact: Jamie at (310) 770-3547

Palm Springs Social Sun Tanners
Nudist social club for gay men. Contact: (760) 325-5815 or write P.O. Box 767, Palm Springs, CA 92263..

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
Provides support and peer-group assistance for parents, families and friends of lesbians and gays. Contact: (760) 202-4430 or write P.O. Box 402, Cathedral City, CA 92235

Prime Timers of the Desert
Social group for mature men and those who admire them. Includes luncheons, dinners and special events on a monthly basis. Contact: (760) 318-9798, write P.O. Box 5326, Palm Springs, CA 92263, or visit www.ptod-ps.org.

Prime Timers of the Desert Foundation
Nonprofit public charity founded to establish a center for gay and lesbian seniors. Contact: (760) 322-2569, or write PTOD Foundation at P.O. Box 4061, Palm Springs, CA 92263 -4061.

PS Pozabilities
Peer-led group for HIV+ men. Contact: email pspozabilities@yahoo.com or visit www.pspozabilities.org

Quest
Organization for queer men, artists, writers and outsiders to discuss art, culture and gay life. Contact: (760) 325-1647 or email leeban@juno.com.

Shakespeare Reading Club
Desert chapter of the national organizaton. Contact: David Koslow, (760) 324-0348.

Shalom
Shalom - The Gay and Lesbian Jewish Group of the Desert is a Jewish social and cultural club. Contact: Dr. Burton Fogelman at (760) 328-1003

Stonewall Golfers
Organization for gay and lesbian golfers at all levels of play, from beginners to experienced. Schedules golf dates for members and guests at golf courses throughout the greater Palm Springs area. Contact: (760) 318-1328, write P.O. Box 2891, Palm Springs, CA 92263, email infor@stonewallgolfers.com, or visit www.stonewallgolfers.com.

Team Palm Springs
Local sports organization that fields teams for the Game Games; currently fielding teams in cycling, golf, tennis, swimming and other athletic activities for the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. Contact: Sam at (760) 864-1114, write P.O. Box 4538, Palm Springs, CA 92263, email teamps@att.net, or visit www.teampalmsprings.org.

Twice Blessed
Gay and Lesbian Committee of Temple Sinai. Contact: (760) 568-9699, or write Temple Sinai, 73251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

Working Wonders
Provides services, support and advocacy for women, children and their families living with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses. Contact: (760) 324-7586, email AIDSadvocate@aol.com, or visit www.workingwonders.ws.

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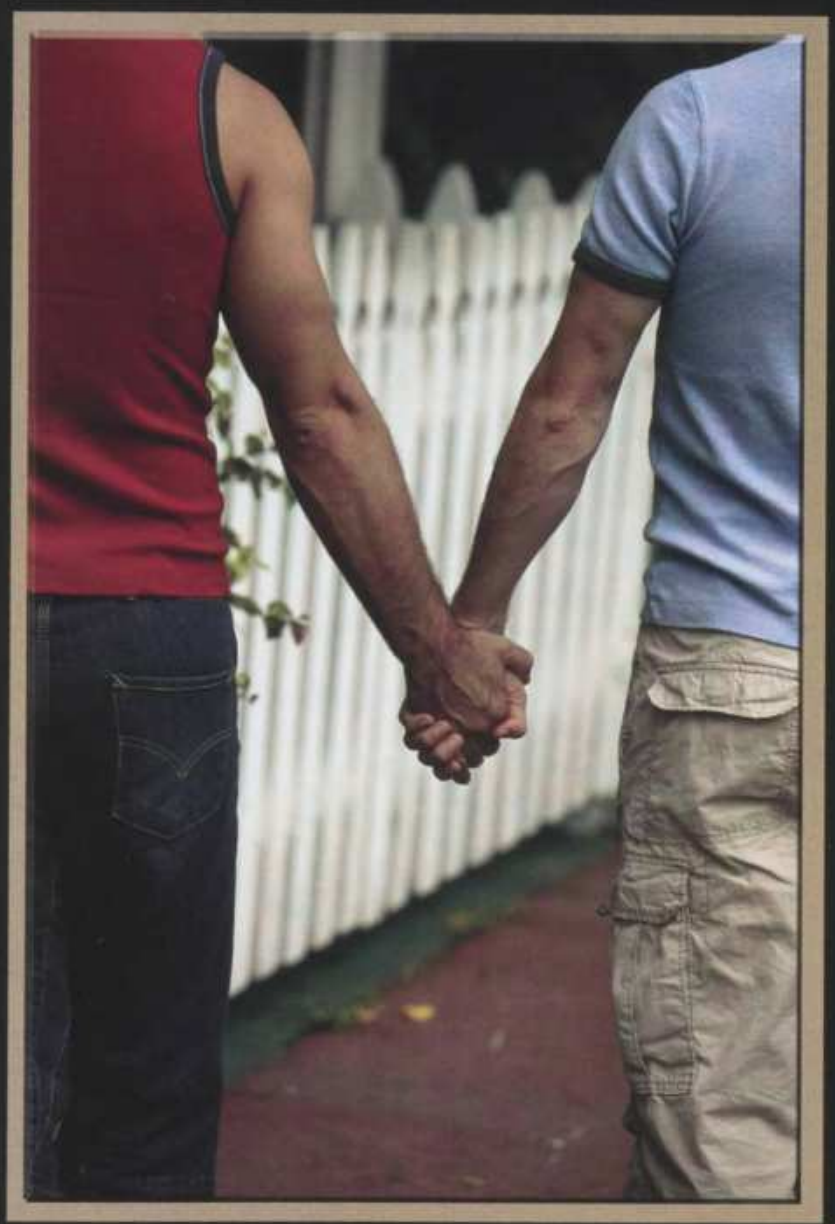
Kit Smythe of the Follies Legendary Line of Long-legged Lovelies. *Below:* Her birth certificate.



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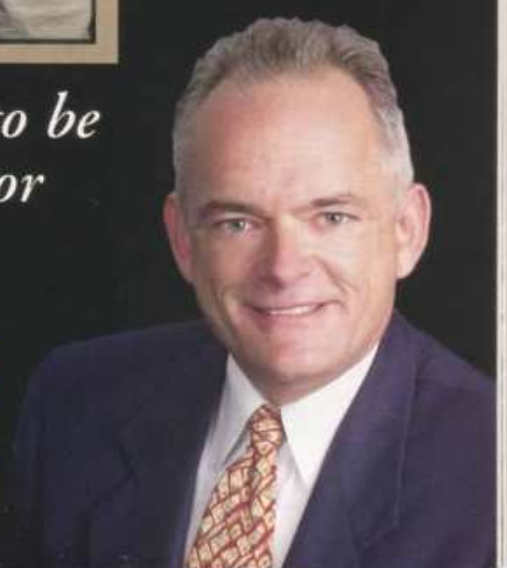


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Greater Palm Springs Pride

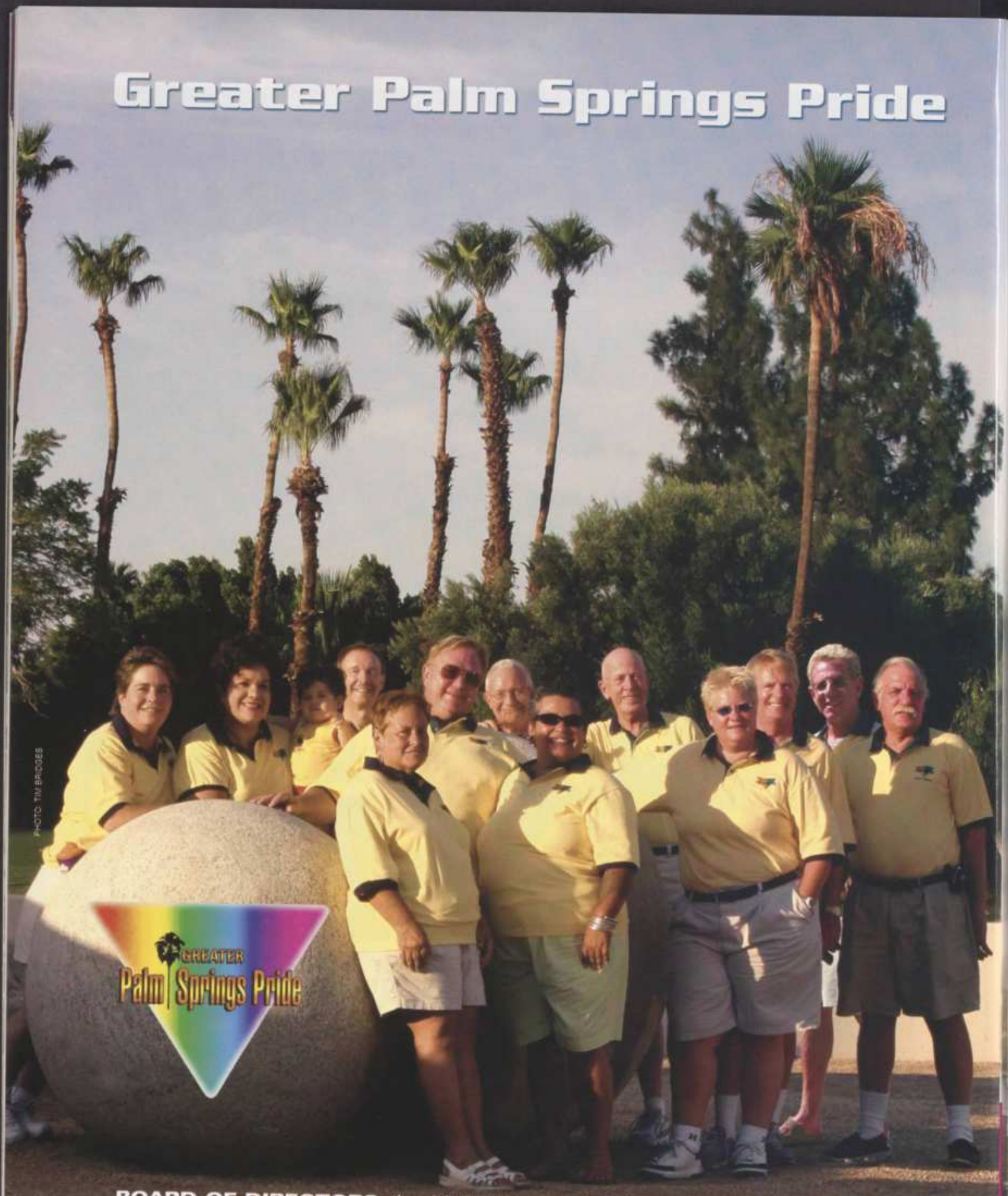


PHOTO: TIM BRIDGES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: *from left*, Andi Bearman; Josie Bearman; Eric Bearman; Gary Moline; Ruth Debra; Jack Schloeder, President; Lynn Morrow; Ricki Garcia-Coleman; Michael Carbine, Secretary; Strutt Hurley, Entertainment Chair; John Willows; Alan Spano and Leo Czaszynski.
Not pictured: Vince Mascaro, Vice President and Rae Novak

Not Just Once a Year. . .

Some might think that the Board of Greater Palm Springs Pride, Inc. gets together a few weeks before our event, or is only involved in the community once a year. Nothing could be further from the truth!

In January of each year, the Board gathers for a one-day retreat. At this time, the voting Board members review and vote on applicants for new associate Board members, who serve for two years before being voted on the Board as voting members. At this retreat, the Board also addresses a range of issues for Board approval. The Board critiques recent events, and begins working on the coming year's Pride festival as well as the many other events in which it participates.

Throughout the year, as members of the Consolidated Association of Prides, Inc., (CAPI), Greater Palm Springs Pride board members travel to other Pride events in the Southwest region to help, to mentor smaller organizations as they work to accomplish their goals, and to promote Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. We have worked with and visited Pride organizations in Phoenix, San Diego, Los Angeles, Tucson, Las Vegas and Ventura, to name a few. In turn, many members of these organizations come to Palm Springs to help us with our festival and other events. Jack Schloeder, President OF Greater Palm Springs Pride, Inc., is the current President of CAPI, Inc

In addition to making itself available to other Pride organizations, Greater Palm Springs Pride assists local Coachella Valley organizations in whatever ways it can. We also work to promote the City of Palm Springs and the entire Coachella Valley. Our telephone lines and email are open year-around, and Pride is ready to help other organizations in any way it can at any time of the year.

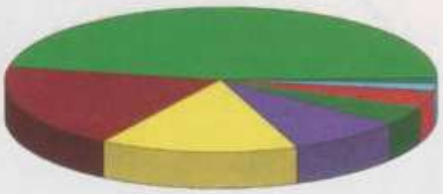
As a nonprofit public benefit corporation, Greater Palm Springs Pride's mission is to promote the public education and public awareness of the personal rights and civil liberties of the Lesbian, Gay, Trans-gendered, and Bisexual Community, and to engage in activities that foster that mission.

The Board of Greater Palm Springs Pride, Inc., is committed to celebrating the many talents and gifts our community has to offer through both the Pride Festival and Parade, which are family friendly events held each year on the first full weekend (Saturday and Sunday) of November, and through other events and programs. Our all-volunteer Board is pleased to be an active and contributing participant in a community that has so much to offer.

INCOME & EXPENSES

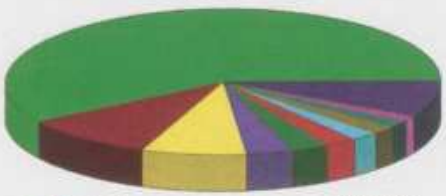
January - December, 2003

INCOME



Donations	%47.59
Booth Sales	19.50
Sponsor Income	15.19
Program Advertising	8.76
Booth Deposits	4.52
Parade Fees	3.86
Booth Deposit Refunds	$-4,205.00
4999 · Uncategorized Income	0.30
Other Income	0.28
Sub-Total	$249,174.25

EXPENSES



Festival	%59.03
Program Expense	10.15
Administration	7.84
Entertainment	3.52
Donation Disbursements	2.72
City Of PS Services	2.41
Telephone	2.09
Travel	2.00
Storage Fees	1.59
office Equipment	1.22
Other	7.44
Total	$221,912.47

Each year, Greater Palm Springs Pride works hard to produce a quality, family friendly festival and parade. We are also active in a range of community and regional events throughout the year. Pride is proud to give back to our community so much in the way of direct donations, and to provide discounts and/or assistance to those who otherwise might not be able to join us at the festival. Last year, the amount we returned to the community was greater than ever. We are pleased to be able to achieve our goals for the year, and to set aside funds for future Pride events.


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Ron Oden Interview

continued from page 57

leadership. If we can make people feel safe, then sexual orientation will no longer be an issue in our elections. The issue will be whether the person running for office is the best person for the job.

PRIDE: In the past few years, have you seen more activism on the part of the gay and lesbian community than existed in the past? And if you have, is that because so many gays and lesbians have moved here in the past few years?

ODEN: There's no question that there's more activism. Some of the people who have moved here were active in communities where there wasn't a sizeable gay population. These people tend to be activists. This is a place where gays and lesbians feel safe, or at least safer, to be actively involved. I think that the environment itself creates energy, and that's a good thing. It's not just that people oppose an idea, issue, concept, program or project. There's an energy and the willingness to be out there, to become involved, to make our voices heard, and to become part of the process.

PRIDE: You ran on a "pro-business" platform. Have you noticed any changes in the administration at City Hall, and with the running of the city?

ODEN: Definitely. I think that the City Council now is more pro-business, and I think City Hall is. What I hear from people who are conducting business with the city is overwhelmingly positive, not all, but mostly. When you drive through the city, you see a city bustling with activity. That tells you something, because this wasn't happening last year.

PRIDE: With that kind of growth, is there a concern about pollution, congestion, affordable housing, water and all the issues that go with it?

ODEN: There are concerns about all of those issues. When I moved here, one of the first meetings I attended was at the College of the Desert. It was a summit addressing projected growth in the Valley over the coming 15 years. Ironically, we've hit in eight years what they expected to take 15. And we'll experience in 15 years what they were projecting for 25 years out. So we know that the growth is coming, and in many respects, growth is a good thing. The advantage we have is that we knew that the growth was coming and previous administrations planned for it. So we don't have to worry about whether or not we can accommodate growth, because it's been planned for. Palm Springs has more land dedicated to open space than all of the other cities in this valley combined. And what we've planned for now is only about one-fourth of what people were planning for a number of years ago.

PRIDE: This will be the first time in the history of Palm Springs that an openly gay mayor will be riding in the Pride parade. What are your thoughts about Pride celebrations? Do you think they serve a valuable function?

ODEN: Over the past couple of years, I've had an opportunity to attend several Pride festivals, and I've listened to people argue about whether Pride has outlived its usefulness. I'll tell you that I am very proud of our Pride celebration here, of our parade and of all of our activities, because taken together, it's a class act. And when people come to Palm Springs, they expect that. I don't think that Pride has outlived its usefulness—we are just beginning as a group to understand and value the things that we have to be proud of. And while Pride parades in and of themselves may not truly represent all gays and lesbians, I think that what they do is inspire more gays and lesbians to come out and say, "this is really what we are all like."

Ginny Foat Interview

continued from page 59

FOAT: Their concerns aren't really much different from ours. What are we paying in taxes? What's the city going to look like in five or 10 years? Are we getting the biggest bang for our buck from City Hall? All of those are concerns

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that transcend sexual orientation. Now there have been a few issues in the past that ran along different line, such as the White Party and support for our annual Pride festival. But we've eliminated that, and the real nuts and bolts issues are not gay or straight. I think most of the concern I heard from the straight community during and right after the election had to do with what would happen given a gay majority on our City Council, and much of this came from conservative straights. That's why I felt that it was important from the beginning to sponsor the resolution opposing the anti-gay marriage amendment to the Constitution. In a way it was a feeler to see how that would be taken, because if you look back on the history of our city government, there have been very few national issues that this city has taken a stand on. Remember that I've come from West Hollywood where they deal with everything, including creating "hate free zones" and "nuclear free zones." But the resolution was accepted with only a few nasty comments and a couple of nasty letters and e-mails. I also feel it's important for us to take a more global view because what happens outside of Palm Springs does effect us.

PRIDE: What do you think are some of the most serious issues facing the city in the next three to five years?

FOAT: For one thing, we're facing a very serious problem with the budget. I think our resistance to change is a very serious issue. Both Steve Pougnet and I were extremely disturbed about the budget process. We were not able to make the kinds of meaningful changes, or even make any in-roads to making changes on a budgetary level. Structurally, our budget is terrible: 53% of our budget now pays for police and fire services. Now, police and fire services are extremely important, but the benefit packages for our police and fire personnel are very expensive. We pay almost 70% of their salaries plus 100% of their health benefits at retirement. We can no longer afford to do this.

PRIDE: As you talk about entrenchment and resistance to change, it sounds like it permeates City Hall as well as the police and fire departments. What will it take to change this?

FOAT: I think it *is* changing. Consider the fact that City Council members now have offices at City Hall, something we didn't have in the past. We had to meet with people in our own homes or places of business. Of course, we were criticized initially for these offices. But it was necessary, and it became a symbol of the kinds of changes taking place. I would note that the Mayor took a strong leadership role there and took some heat because of the budget crunch, but we raised much of the money ourselves, while some came from individual donations and other sources. It's these kinds of changes that collectively are making a difference. And we're also asking questions as a City Council that haven't been asked before. In the past, we could get a lot of paperwork from city staff, and it was obvious they thought we wouldn't read it. But now we do.

PRIDE: Back to the issue of development and growth, what benefits and problems do you think are associated with our current growth rate?

FOAT: We're at a critical point in the development of Palm Springs because very soon we won't have any more undeveloped land. We're now building out to the northern limits. Another development has been proposed for the Tramway Road. And developments are in the pipeline for Araby and Andreas Hills, as well as Gene Autry Trail. We're getting built-out very fast. Now, I think it's important that we do have growth, especially because we didn't have any for so long. But I also think it's important that we focus on



growth that will benefit, not harm, our quality of life or the community. I voted against the Palm Springs Village development which, on first blush, is a nice complex. But they're putting in 1,232 homes, plus a golf course, on 200 acres, and given the size of the houses and the lots, it's very dense. I don't think that's the kind of development we want in Palm Springs. And no one is really working on the infrastructure issues associated with this kind of density.

On a more positive note, one of the things we're working on is the development of the Fashion Plaza downtown. We created a sub-committee to work on this, and that committee has visited similar developments in Orange County, Los Angeles and Pasadena to see just what Fashion Plaza could be.

PRIDE: Are you finding that a lot of people who are moving here right now are full- time residents as opposed to snowbirds? And is the city looking at the issue of affordable housing for our new residents?

FOAT: Yes to both. It won't be long before people can't afford to live here. In some cities, developers are required to build a certain number of affordable housing units, but we don't do that in Palm Springs. We don't provide financial assistance to developments because we don't have any redevelopment money, which would enable the city to impose restrictions. But we do have more affordable housing than we think we have. We have a number of tracts with covenants imposed by the city stating that they were built as affordable housing and can't be sold for any more than certain amounts. And we have quite a few mobile home parks in the city. We also have some senior housing, but not enough. It's hard to build affordable housing when you have a strong "NIMBY" (not in my backyard) attitude.

PRIDE: Are you seeing more activism from environmental organizations like the Sierra Club?

FOAT: The previous administration really did a hatchet job on the Sierra Club. I've always thought of that organization as watching out for my trees and my hills. But here the Sierra Club is almost a dirty word. But the good news is that at a recent City Council meeting, two different groups spoke out on environment issues. I think people are feeling more empowered now, especially when it comes to growth and the environment. There are all kinds of groups that are meeting all over the city that I don't even know about. There's the "No on Section 14 Group," and some others that are looking at ballot initiatives. These groups represent really solid, concerned citizens who want to be heard.

PRIDE: Are there any important human rights issues that you feel need to be addressed?

FOAT: Absolutely. One that I'm working on now is the city's benefit package. If you're a gay man with a partner working for the city of Palm Springs, you get, say $500 in health insurance, dental insurance, etc. If you're a married man with a family, you get $1,500 in benefits because we're covering his wife and children. But as a single gay man with a partner, you're doing the same job as a married man but you're not getting "equal work for equal pay." I also think that we have a lot of work to do with our police and fire departments when it comes to recruiting gays and lesbians. And we still have hate crimes to deal with. I will say that the police department is more sensitive to the needs of our community. But we don't have the same kind of cooperation from the city for our public events, including the Gay Pride parade. No elected official in Los Angeles would refuse to ride in the Pride parade there, because it would be the end of their careers. I haven't been able to get the City Council to let the gay veterans do the flag salute at City Council meetings, although we have had several gay ministers do our invocation. I don't think we have a gay friendly atmosphere in our high school, including for our gay and lesbian teachers. Those kinds of issues exist, and while they may not be blatant civil rights violations, they need to be addressed.

This is a critical time in our city and also an exciting time. I think that over the coming five years, we're going to see a

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city that is totally different. I don't necessarily want to see us as a "gay city" or anything like that. I want to see us as a progressive city, a city that embraces change, a city that takes a serious look at what we want to be. When we were campaigning, Steve Pougnet and I asked "What is the vision of this city? Where is the city going and where will it be in five years?" And no one could answer those questions. So we've begun a "visioning" process to start addressing the question of where Palm Springs should be in five years, and what must we do to get us there. This reflects a new leadership role for the City Council. Instead of leading the train, we've been riding the train and we've got to change that. But the gay and lesbian community has to help with this. We are a big part of this city, but unfortunately many of us moved here with the attitude that, "I'm retired now and don't need to get involved," or "I don't need to walk down Main Street holding hands. I did that in San Francisco but really don't need to do it here in Palm Springs." Well, you need to do both!

Steve Pougnet Interview

continued from page 61

PRIDE: How long have you been in the Desert and what brought you here?

POUGNET: Christopher and I bought our first condo here in 1996. We were living in Colorado at that point and visiting two friends of ours who had retired here. We had never been to Palm Springs and had no idea how beautiful it was, especially the mountains. We had flown in at night and when we woke up the next morning, we looked out and said, "Wow!" Within two weeks, we bought our condo. In 1997, we decided to buy another house. Then, Christopher was transferred to his company's headquarters in Thousand Oaks. I stayed in Denver and he rented an apartment in Thousand Oaks and I commuted for a year and a half. I finally resigned from the university and we launched a business in Palm Springs, buying and remodeling properties. We moved here permanently in 1999. And I knew it was just a matter of time until I became involved in the community, since it's in my nature. I'd go to council meetings and come out feeling frustrated, so I decided to put up or shut up.

PRIDE: What do you think are some of the major issues facing Palm Springs in the coming three to five years?

POUGNET: Our operating budget is immense. We're experiencing runaway health insurance and retirement benefit costs for our police and fire personnel. As a result, our budget is a runaway train and we have not addressed the real structural issues, and that means



getting down to some tough negotiations. In this past budget cycle, we completely ignored the recommendations submitted by the Budget Task Force, which the previous administration had appointed. Now, this is a group of citizens that worked for a year on developing their recommendations. The budget also completely ignored the City Manager's initial recommendations. The Finance Director graded the budget a "C" at best. So we must address this issue. We can build the Wal-Mart, construct more houses, realize the potential of the downtown mall and benefit from 20% of the resulting property taxes. But no matter how much revenue we generate, we're not going to catch up if we don't make real changes to the budget. We've given away too much, and starting now, we've got to stop giving it away. We can't keep going to our citizens and raising taxes because as far as I'm concerned, that's taxing seniors, and our community is made up largely of seniors on fixed incomes.

I mentioned the downtown mall because in many respects it's an issue and a challenge that represents our future. We have had some intense and productive meetings, and everyone involved knows that it's in the best economic interest of our city to do something with that property. So I expect some progress on that issue.

A huge issue is growth, because with it comes tough decisions about water, air quality, congestion, and a quality of life that we don't want to lose. Projects are approved in this city without doing full environmental impact reports. I mean, how can you approve a 1,200-unit development off Indian Canyon without doing a water study? It's ludicrous! I'm for development, but it's got to be the right mix. It's a matter of great concern because while people may say, "Oh, nothing will ever be built on the north end," the fact is that it will because we have so little undeveloped land left and developers are always going to want whatever we have left. It's disturbing to see property carved up into smaller, denser residential lots with a golf course that nobody's going to want to play on. It's a serious issue and one I spent much time on. Much of this is still controlled by the old guard, and the real challenge is getting through to them. But I'm convinced that we'll work it out.

PRIDE: Many of us who have been here awhile wonder "how did all of this development happen so fast?" In other areas, such as northern California, development is under more public scrutiny.

POUGNET: There is more controversy over growth here now and it is because of folks coming in from the Bay Area and other urban areas – and the controversy is a healthy controversy. The Sierra Club is actively challenging some proposed developments, and people are saying, "Ah, the Sierra Club's here now." But the Sierra Club's been here a long time. That's the checks and balances on the projects, whether you like them or not. That's what's supposed to happen. And there will be proposed developments in the future that will come under far more scrutiny. Also, we have a new Planning Director joining us from Laguna Beach. The Planning Department has always been a source of frustration for many people, and getting the department split into two entities was a major challenge. It took a 3-2 vote of the City Council to achieve that. But it was a healthy breakthrough for the city and it will result in some very beneficial changes. We don't want a moratorium on all growth. We need growth, but we need to do it very smartly.

What's positive in all of this is that people are concerned. They're asking questions and they're becoming involved. And the City Council is becoming involved in new ways as well. We had an all-day session recently to step back and look to the future and act as policymakers rather than a body that reacts on a day-by-day basis. Now, we always have to react to what is happening, but in reality we should be providing a blue print of what we want this city to look like 20 or 30 years from now, one that new council members can tweak as they see fit. The future should be extremely bright. At the same time, we shouldn't be facing the threats of tight budgets and bankruptcy. We've got to turn this around.



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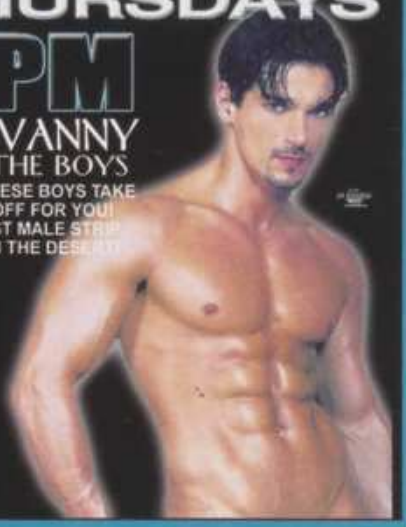
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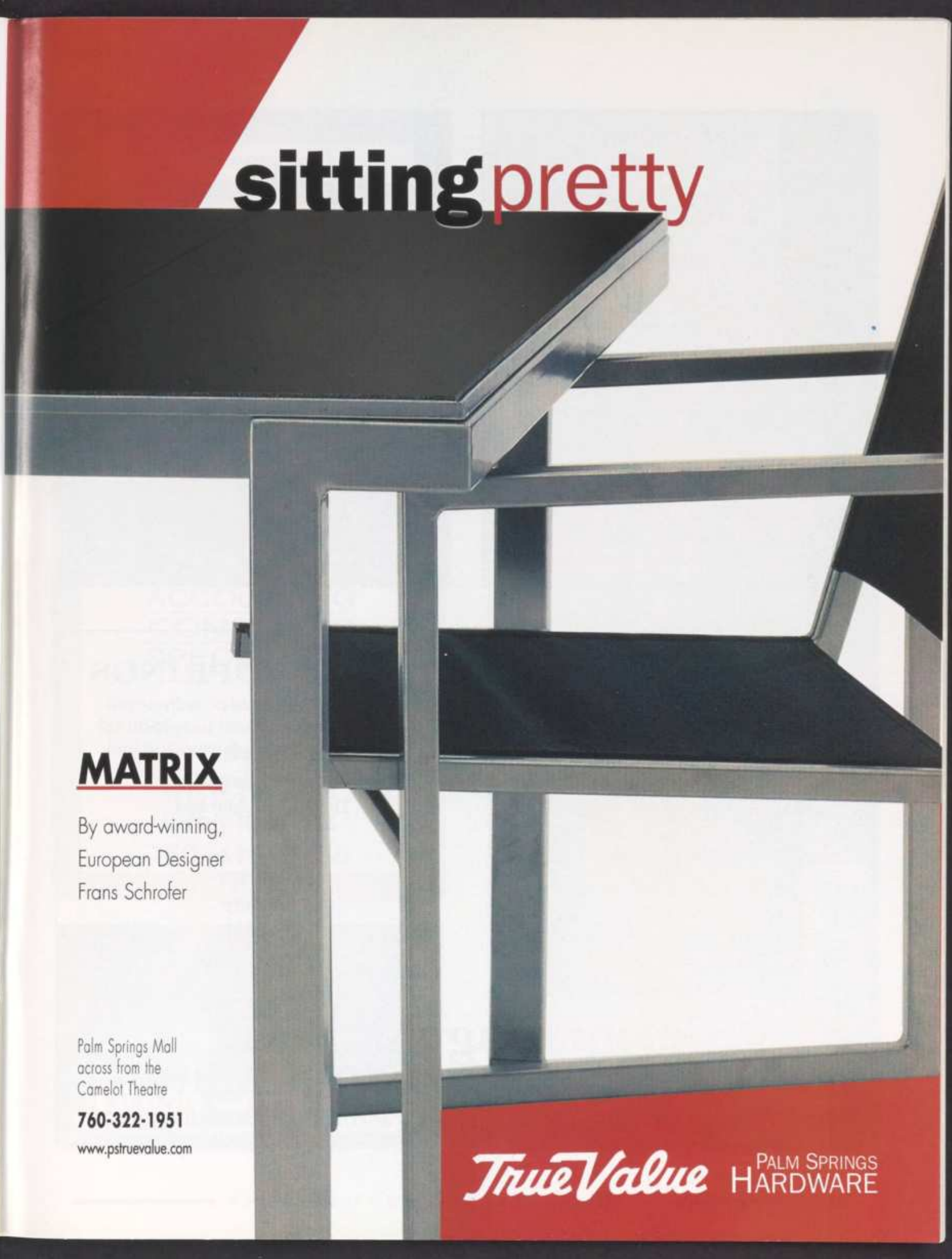



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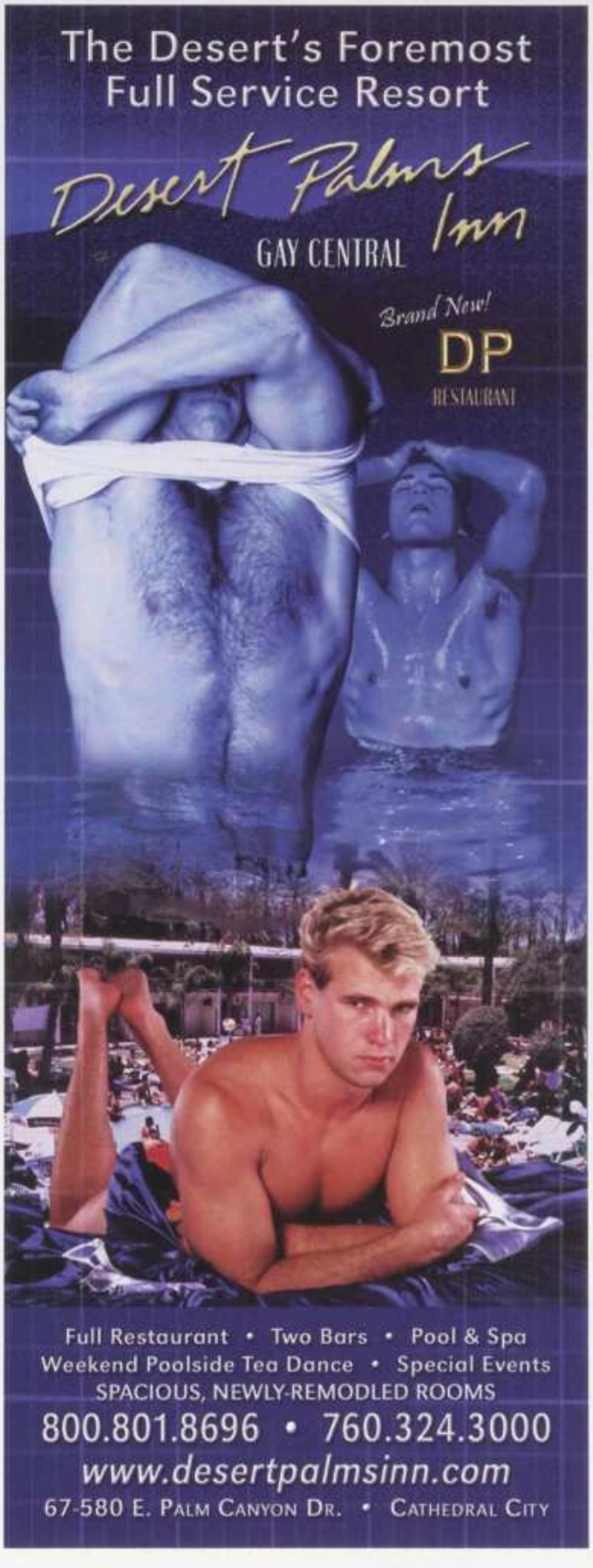
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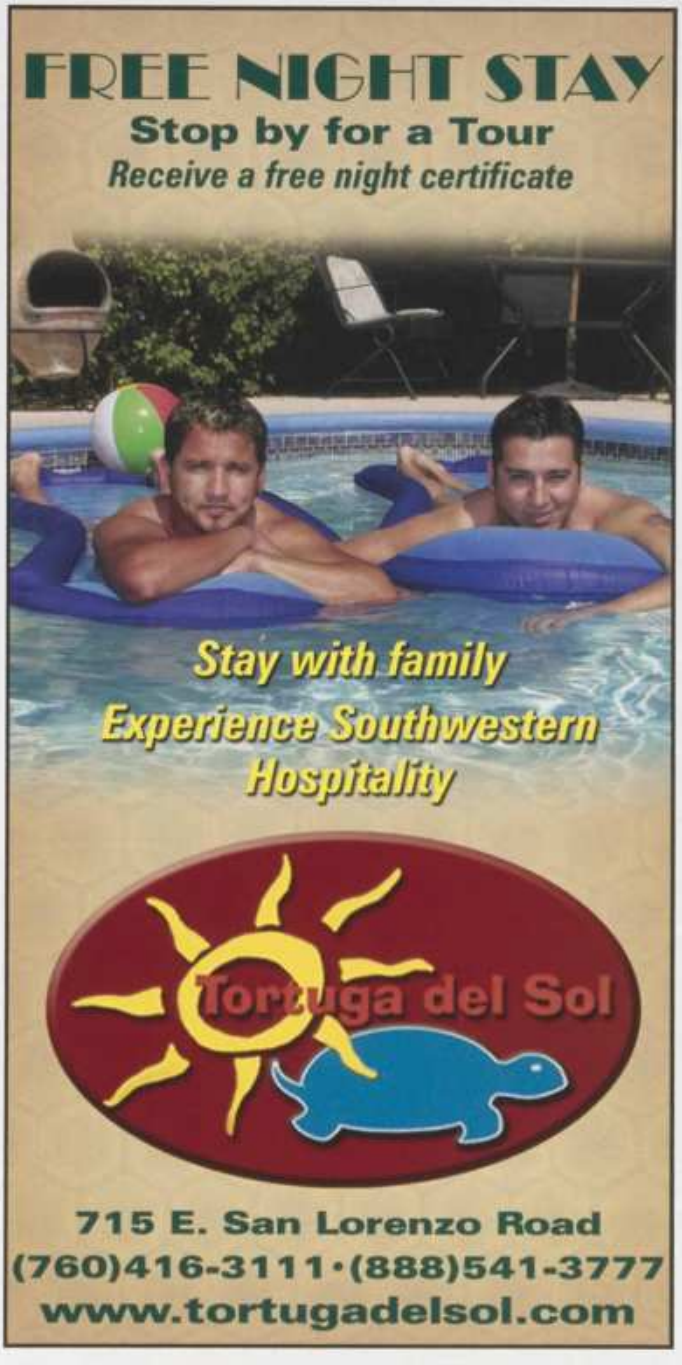
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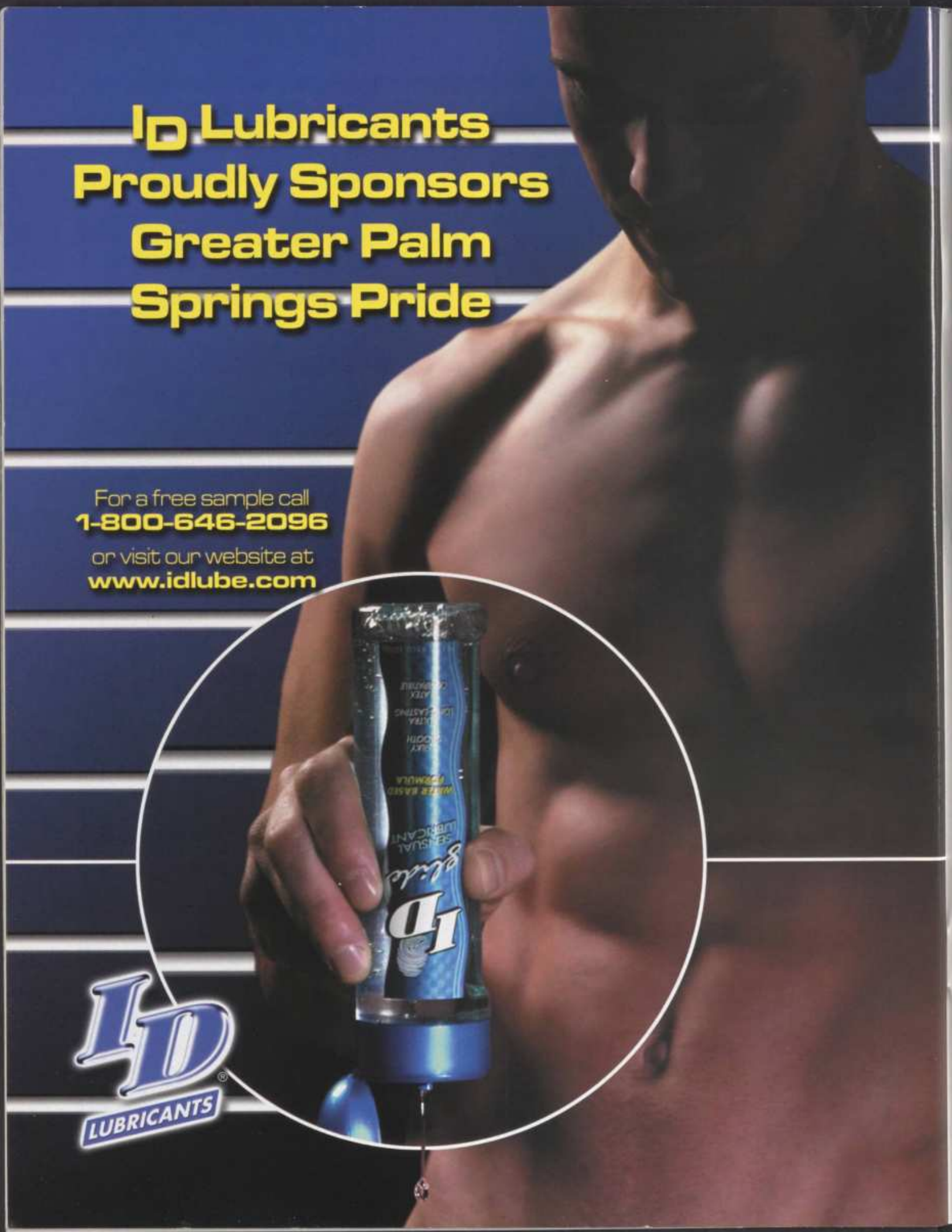

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Finally, a big thanks to each and every one of you for coming to Palm Springs for our annual festival and parade. Pride starts with you, and the festival and parade are in every sense of the term "all about you!"

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