

# PACKED FORUM HEARS DOCTORS, AIDS VICTIM

by Cindy Hubert  
TUCSON - About 200 people packed a church auditorium last Thursday, May 23 to gather and share information about AIDS.

Amid concern over a growing number of AIDS cases in the Tucson area, the Tucson Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee sponsored the forum at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

After health professionals offered information about the deadly syndrome, one of its victims hushed the mostly male audience with an emotional speech.

It feels like you are sitting on a time bomb," said Newton Skinner, 26. "Death is everywhere - and not only death but guilt, the terrible guilt."

Skinner who has been gay "since I saw Dorothy in 'The Wizard Of Oz,'" told the audience he was diagnosed with AIDS last year and has been trying everything from religion to holistic

medicine "to fight this monster."

"My life has changed immeasurably - in some instances for the better," he said. "For one thing, I know who my real friends are. My real friends have stood staunchly by my side."

Skinner implored the listeners to treat AIDS patients "like anyone else," and criticized the government for not devoting enough money to AIDS research and treatment.

He received rousing applause when he ended his speech by saying, "Someday we will be the victors. We will conquer AIDS." [ED NOTE: Newton Skinner's entire speech will be found elsewhere on page one of this issue of Observer].

AIDS has struck 12 Tucsonans so far this year. Last year two cases of AIDS were confirmed by the Pima County Health Department. In 1983 there were two. Thus far, four Tucson residents

have died from AIDS.

Nationwide, more than 10,000 cases of AIDS have been reported since 1979. Nearly half of its victims have died.

Medical professionals at the forum suggested there is a measure of hysteria in Tucson about AIDS, and cautioned against jumping to conclusions about the disease.

"It seems that in the last couple of weeks I've been seeing people who feel a little lymph node or have a fever or sore throat, and they think they have AIDS," said Dr. Monte Hetland. "Don't be paranoid. Take care of yourself...But don't feel like every time you get a sore throat you have to run to the doctor."

The medical participants in the discussion suggested ways of curbing the risk of contracting AIDS including limiting the number of sexual partners and avoiding the exchange of body

fluids - semen, saliva, urine or blood - during sex.

They advised the audience against taking the blood test under study by the American Red Cross that detects the virus believed to cause AIDS, HTLVIII. The test, which measures antibodies to the AIDS virus, is designed to keep the blood supply safe, they stressed. "We don't know what the results mean to the individual person," Hetland said. "You're better off not getting it than having a false sense of security or being paranoid about something that may never happen."

He pointed out that the presence of the antibody in the blood only signals exposure to the AIDS virus - not necessarily infection. Many of those who have the antibody will never develop symptom. On the other hand, the test may fail to pick up the antibody in some people who will eventually get AIDS. Daily Star.



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

## OBSERVER

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### Tucson AIDS victim tells his story

The following is a short address given by Newton John Skinner, a member of the Gay community, who asked to be on the program of the AIDS Forum held last Thursday, May 23 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, because he wanted to give a personal statement about AIDS.

"First of all, I want to thank Bob Henry because he's done a lot of work to get us all here, and also the Tucson AIDS Project for finally getting together. It's happening now.

"The Choice was mine, and mine completely. I could have any prize that I desired. I could burn with the



SPEAKER AT THE AIDS FORUM - Newton John Skinner, a Tucson AIDS victim.

splendor of the brightest fire. Or else, or else I could choose time.

"My name is Newton. With a name like Newton, I was marked as an oddball from the very beginning. I have been gay since I saw Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz. I am twenty-six years old and last year I was diagnosed with AIDS.

"From the bubonic plague to cancer, no epidemic has struck hysteria in the human heart like AIDS. They will talk of it years from now as an epidemic, syndrome, whatever you like, that wiped out thousands of homosexuals. A disease that made a clean

sweep through a society that worshipped only two things - physical beauty and our own sensuousness. And so I come to you here on my soapbox to tell you what it's like to have AIDS.

"It's like sitting on a time bomb, what do you think. I think the most difficult time for anyone who gets AIDS emotionally is when they first find out. Their first thoughts is that they have been given an automatic death sentence. Death is everywhere. Not only death, but guilt. And worst of all - fear. If the patient continues in this state of mind for too long a period, then he must surely die. But, if he has the courage and the stamina to make the decision that he will fight this monster, then maybe, there's no guarantee he won't die, but maybe miraculously he will live.

"There's a small handful of men who were diagnosed in 1979 who are still alive. They are the survivors, and it seems to me, that we must look to them if we are to survive. The first thing they possess is hope. But how do we find hope when we know that the medical profession can do only so much? I believe they can and will find a cure, but it will take time. To those people already affected, time is running out. So the hope I am referring to is not a cure for the masses immediately, but rather a cure for the individual.

"AIDS is an individual disease. It affects everyone differently. And if we are to be cured, then we must pay attention not only to the body, but to the mind and to the spirit as well. To deal with the spirit means to deal with whatever emotional turmoil we may be going through. The stress of everyday living is taxing enough. To be told you are a terminal case is enough to drive you a little batty. Some people will be overwhelmed by fear, some by guilt. I can feel only anger - anger at God. It was beyond me why I should get this thing. Why it should exist. I can't answer that, no one can.

"But I've been comparatively lucky. I've had only Kaposi's Sarcoma, a skin cancer that is not, in and of itself, a life threatening condition. But since about last June, my life has become a parade of doctor's offices, Kimo therapy, waiting rooms, and blood tests. My life has changed immeasurably. But in many instances, it has changed for the better. First of all, I know who my real friends are. There have been instances where I told some person or another that I have AIDS, and I can see their eyes kind of

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

### 12 AIDS cases in Tucson says Pima County epidemiologist



AT THE AIDS FORUM - On the podium were medical authorities (L to R) Dr. Monte Hetland, Bruce Porter [Pima County Health Department], Dr. Steve Kerrick and Dr. Bob Henry.

TUCSON - Pima County Health Department Epidemiologist, Bruce Porter, speaking at the AIDS forum held last Thursday, May 23, told the audience of around 200 that there are currently twelve cases of AIDS in Tucson that have been documented. Porter pointed out, however, that these cases reflect only those persons who were Tucson residents at the time they reported the onset of their symptoms. Mr. Porter likened the reporting of number of cases akin to the Vietnam "body counts". In a brief discussion with Mr. Porter following the forum, he related that of the total of 16 cases reported by Tucson residents since 1983, four have died. Porter also disclosed that Arizona is one of 14 states that does not require doctors to report the cases of AIDS that they are handling, thus making a total "body count" virtually impossible in our state.

Following is the complete report on the Tucson AIDS count as given by Bruce Porter to the AIDS Forum May 23:

"Whenever I'm asked, and I'm asked altogether too often, and probably respond too often to the question, 'How many cases do we have in Tucson?' I think it is something we've inherited from Vietnam, this idea that news is body count. But anyway, that's what people seem to want to know, it's a very difficult question to answer, frankly. I'm not sure about my surveillance. I'm not sure I know about all the cases, but what I can tell you is that in 1983 there were two

cases who were individuals, who were eventually diagnosed as AIDS, were residents of Tucson at the time of the onset of their symptoms. They were diagnosed in 1983. There were two individuals in 1984 who met that criteria, being residents of Tucson when they got sick and diagnosed in 1984, and thus far in 1985 there are twelve individuals who are residents of Tucson at the onset of their symptoms who have been diagnosed in 1985.

There have been more people than that in the community who have AIDS but these are folks who either had onset of illness some other place or were diagnosed in some other community and just moved to Tucson for one reason or another. So if the body count is important, that's what we're looking at. We're looking at a change from 2 in 1983, two in '84 to through almost half of 1985, twelve cases, that meet the CDC case definition. As Dr. Monte Hetland pointed out, there may very well be a great many other individuals who are suffering from what we call Aids Related Complex (ARC) or some other less severe manifestation of the same infection. And a great many other people who actually may be biologic, that is they have the virus but have absolutely no symptoms at all."

# BRIEF

## SHOW BIZ SPECTACULAR RAISED

### \$1/2 MILLION FOR AIDS

NEW YORK, NY (BAR) - A sold-out Schubert Theatre crowd cheered and laughed as "Comic Relief," an AIDS fundraiser, unfolded. An estimated \$500,000 was raised as the evening brought together again the famed comedy team of Mike Nichols and Elaine May.

Lorne Michaels, who originated TV's "Saturday Night Live," produced the event. One of the MC's, Phil Donahue, told the philanthropic society crowd, "If the truth be told, this event should have happened sooner." Comedienne Joan Rivers said backstage, "I'm so glad to be doing this, because we all have friends who are dead or who are dying from this disease."

Dancer Gregory Hines brought the biggest ovation as he dedicated his dance solo to a friend he had lost to AIDS. Randy Newman accompanied himself on the piano and sang his hit, "Short People." The lineup waiting to get on stage included Steve Martin, Boy George, Claudette Colbert, Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy.

The evening was the brainchild of Bernard Jacobs of the Schubert Organization and his partner, Gerald Schoenfeld. They brought in producer Joseph Papp to assist.

Ticket holders paid \$250-\$500 to see the stars shine for AIDS. It was followed by a supper dance where actor Richard Gere, one of the performers, said, "This is a night to remember."

The Los Angeles Times said the audience was composed of "a cross section of New Yorkers representing business and industry, medicine, fashion and a perennial social set that turns out for a cause when it has become fashionable."

The evening's star-studded show ended with an emotional climax as the Sacred Heart Gospel Choir appeared on stage to sing "We Are The World."

## GAY FOSTER PARENTS BARRED

BOSTON, MA (AP) - The placement of two foster children with two homosexual men (OBSERVER May 15) has prompted the state House to pass an amendment barring putting children in the care of homosexuals who are not the natural parents.

In approving the measure 112-28, the House beat to the punch state agencies charged with the placement of foster children. Near the end of the debate on the bill, about 120 people gathered across the street from the State House to protest the state's removal of two boys from the foster home of a Boston homosexual couple.

## GAYS ATTACKED IN TWO PARADES

A float entered by a Gay student group in the University of Texas' annual Round-up Parade in Austin was pelted with bottles, beer cans and other debris and harassed by fraternity members who followed them in the march.

Meanwhile, Washington, DC's Gay marching band was branded "The AIDS Brigade" by an unidentified man riding on a float in the city's annual Gross National Parade, a spoof on parades inspired by Pasadena's Doo Dah Parade.

The Dallas Voice reported from Austin that more than 200 projectiles were hurled at members of the Gay and Lesbian Students Association riding an open-top float from openly hostile spectators and members of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity chanted, "Ram The Fags! Ram The Fags!"

The GLSA float, which carried a banner proclaiming "Gay Longhorns - Proud To Be Here," was passing in front of the Goodall-Wooten Buildings, a private men's dormitory, when the pelting began.

Parade officials, who knew of the problems that GLSA would face, warned Sigma Tau Gamma to keep its float "real far behind" the Gay float, because "they're gonna get pelted. A member of another UT fraternity tacked a sign on the hood of the GLSA float, reading "Deliveries in Rear."

In the DC incident, The Washington Blade reported that members of the Gay Marching Band, "Different Drummers", participating in the Gross National Parade sponsored by WMAL radio - spotted a man on a used-car dealership float holding up a sign that read, "Andy, why did you make us ride behind the AIDS Brigade?"

The "Andy" referred to in the placard was WMAL General Manager Andy Ockershausen, who said he was deeply offended by the placard and another displayed by the same dealership's float that read, "The Drummer dropped his dildo."

Station officials apologized to the band and barred the dealership from participating in next year's parade.

## GAY AGGIES

GALVESTON, TX - The Fifth Circuit Court Of Appeals has ruled that Texas A&M University must give recognition to the school's Gay Student Services organization. The ruling overturns a 1982 District Court ruling. Patrick Weisman, the attorney for the Gay students said that the court "basically saw it as a first amendment issue."

## STRAIGHT COUPLE

### GAY-BASHED IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, NY (BAR) - A gang of 20 youths attacked a heterosexual couple in an apparent anti-Gay incident in Brooklyn, with the male victim knocked unconscious and the female victim punched in the face. Tom and Jan Matarrese were walking toward their home when they were accosted by the youths.

According to the New York Native, Mrs. Matarrese, who wears her hair closely cropped and when seen in her leather bomber jacket is often mistaken as either a Gay man or a Lesbian, opened her jacket to the youths, "to show them I wasn't Gay."

The youths at first turned away, but came back, declaring, "We don't care if you're straight or not," Mrs. Matarrese said, adding that "they thought we had a lot of nerve walking around holding hands in the neighborhood, and look happy about it. They wanted to stop that."

The youths then attacked, punching Mrs. Matarrese in the face and beating her husband into unconsciousness. The couple said that they have been mistaken for a Gay couple ever since they met and married two years ago. "We wear the same clothes," Mrs. Matarrese said.

According to the couple, the police refused to investigate the incident after they were told the circumstances of it. They later joined a crime victim's self-help group, but anti-Gay attitudes there made it impossible for the Matarreses to obtain the support they needed.

## TENNIS ACE MARTINA

### FINALLY COMES OUT

NEW YORK, NY (BAR) - It is no great secret that tennis ace Martina Navratilova once had a relationship with Lesbian author Rita Mae Brown, but the two-time Wimbledon women's champ has always been reluctant to talk about her private life - until now.

In a soon-to-be-published autobiography, Navratilova has finally acknowledged that she is a Lesbian - and is quite happy about it.

In a preview of her book published by the London Sun, Navratilova writes that her first - and only - relationship with a man was disappointing, both sexually and emotionally, and that "Gay love felt so natural for me that I've found far greater fulfillment with women."

Martina's admission, however, could cause her problems with the Immigration and Naturalization Service - possibly costing Navratilova her American citizenship. The Czechoslovakian native, when asked about her sexual orientation in her application for citizenship, replied that she was bisexual. She was granted citizenship in 1981.

Federal law specifically forbids Gay aliens from entering the U.S., and the Supreme Court recently let stand a lower court ruling denying citizenship to a Gay Briton who had lived in the U.S. for 20 years.

## IN MEMORIAM



David Floyd

1959 - 1985

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## Troy Perry to visit Tucson June 8-9



TUCSON - The Reverend Troy Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, will be in Tucson on June 8 and 9 to help MCC-Tucson celebrate their fifteenth anniversary. A special banquet has been planned to honor this momentous occasion, which will take place at the Ramada Inn downtown on June 8. Rev. Perry will give the keynote address, which in itself is reason enough to attend.

An exciting lineup of local talent will also be on hand to entertain the guests in the Cabaret that follows the full course dinner, which features Coq-Au-Vin. [Vegetarian dinners available on request]. Tickets for this festive occasion are only \$15.00, and may be purchased by June 2 at MCC, 560 S. Stone.

Rev. Perry will also be ministering at both worship services on Sunday, June 9. Morning worship begins at 10:45 a.m. and the evening service begins at 8:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend these services and hear the message delivered by this most eloquent minister. A reception will follow the morning service at the church.

Troy Perry was ordained a Baptist minister at the tender age of 15, already realizing his sexuality was turning out to be a little different than was expected. Back then, Troy thought he was the 'only one' like that. Suppressing his true feelings, he went on to become the pastor of a church in Santa Ana, California. Eventually, however, Troy could no longer stay in the closet and came out to his congregation. The church excommunicated him; his wife and two sons left him; and Troy was left alone. At the encouragement of a friend, he began to realize that there was a need

in the Gay and Lesbian community for spiritual acceptance. Thus, Metropolitan Community Church was started in 1968. Twelve people attended the first service, held in Troy's living room.

Today there are over 32,000 members of MCC churches, missions and study groups, located in ten countries around the world. The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches [U.F.M.C.C.] is the largest organization in the world to touch the lives of thousands of Gay men and Lesbians in a positive and uplifting manner. Because of this, Troy has also become very active in the national civil rights movement, in an attempt to put an end to racism, sexism, and homophobia.

He has served on the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, and has received numerous awards for his humanitarian achievements. Troy also pushed very hard for the acceptance of U.F.M.C.C. into the National Council of Churches, which has tabbed their decision indefinitely. Troy has worked diligently to produce the one-hour television documentary "God, Gays, and The Gospel," which will air later this year. The show documents the progress of U.F.M.C.C. throughout the seventeen years of existence.

Troy has proven his ability to speak eloquently before large audiences and has been enthusiastically received by congregations and audiences throughout the country, and the world. His appearance in Tucson is a rare occasion and a very special opportunity for all to get to know Troy personally. The best way to find out more about this fantastic person is to attend the banquet on June 8, or worship service on June 9. Either way, you will be blessed.

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## COUNSELING CONCEPTS

RELATIONSHIPS: What It Takes To Make It

Depending on who one talks to there could be any number of suggestions as to just what it is that helps make a relationship survive. There is love, sex, money, friendship, trust, honesty, respect, communication, commitment, etc. and so the list goes on and on.

Personally, I don't believe that there is one single thing that attributes success or failure in any coupled relationship whether it be Gay or non-Gay. There are, however, some attitudes that people carry which makes it very difficult for any relationship to last. Such as, "Good enough til something better comes along," or "It'll only last five years." Both of these attitudes have something to do with commitment.

Commitment has seemed to be a dirty word in years past; I hope it's made a comeback. In the past it has seemed to imply a forced-into-it kind of atmosphere. A commitment made between two people cannot be one-sided. It has to be two-sided with the added authenticity of two independent decisions otherwise it lacks creditability. One of the hardest things to deal with is a partner who feels she or he's been dragged into it. This is the last thing anyone wants.

Why was the relationship brought into being? Couple relationships need a basis. Let's assume that love is that basis for being established as a couple. Many have learned that is not all it takes. There is an intertwining of sex, respect, honesty, commitment, etc. We've already talked about commitment. It is a necessary ingredient to working through the differences that arise in couple relationships.

Couples build trust between themselves. It is built bit by bit, not immediately, not with the snap of the fingers. We've all known too many disappointments to totally trust a partner overnight. The establishment of trust is built on two fronts. The first front is that of communication. Talk, talk, and more talk, knowing that

person, investigating, discussing every topic one can think of, it's a process of setting the rules so-to-speak. The second is one of experience. It's the living out of the trusts that are shared together; it's the test of time. Proving by thought, word and deed to that partner you can be trusted.

In the process the respect that one has for the other is enhanced. There's been honesty between two people who are very special to one another. It is risky. If anything is to be gained risk is almost assuredly a part of it.

In any relationship talk is not cheap. The process of talking and listening, of sharing back and forth keeps a couple up to date with each other and themselves. Communication has to be high on the list to keep a relationship alive and well.

Paul W. Reigle  
for Counseling Concepts  
Tucson, AZ.

## ILLINOIS GAY MAN REINSTATED

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL (CON) - A Gay man fired by the University of Illinois from his job at the library was ordered reinstated "with full salary and benefits" retroactive to the date of his firing, according to the Gay News-Telegraph.

Judge Harry Clem ruled that the charges against Harry Hendershot, including solicitation, sexual harassment, and immoral and indecent conduct were "so vague, imprecise and overly broad that they cannot serve as a basis for termination without violating his rights to due process guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the state constitution.

Hendershot maintains he was harassed on the job and finally dismissed because he is Gay.

Two men identified in the proceedings as having been approached by Hendershot said they had not felt harassed; one of the men said he had perhaps led Hendershot on.



## LUNCH SPECIALS

MONDAY: Cold meat plate \$3.00

TUESDAY: Hot roast beef sandwich  
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WEDNESDAY: Patty Melt \$2.75

THURSDAY: Fruit plate  
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FRIDAY: Grilled cheese and bacon \$2.50

SATURDAY: Hot turkey sandwich  
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## RITA'S RENDEZVOUS

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## South of Market shuffle

by Charles Linberger  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA (BAR) - The Folsom Street area used to be a neighborhood of warehouses and Gay leather bars. On a Friday or Saturday night, even on weekday nights, if you walked down Folsom between 5th and 11th Streets, you found a promenade of Gay men dressed in leather chaps, jackets, boots and hats cruising their way from bar to bar. Bars such as the Bolt (now called the Brig), the Arena, the Ramrod and the Stud were filled on weekend and some weekday nights with Gay men in leather, and out of it, socializing and looking for tricks. It was, though no one realized it at the time, the peak of the Gay leather scene in the South of Market. Many changes are underway there.

To do this story, BAR's reporter got on the phone and called some of the more well-known bars. There were some surprises. The Ramrod, that seemingly eternal bastion of macho leather attitude, had had its phone disconnected! When we called the Arena, which was once a musclemen lovers' paradise, the phone was answered by one of its new straight owners. The Arena was no more.

We called Chaps and were told that this most recent and most mixed of the once popular Folsom area bars was up for sale. "There isn't enough local clientele to keep it going," we were told. "But we still get a fair-size crowd on Saturday night."

And the Brig, which under the name "Bolt" was 10 years ago the "in" place on the street, with huge crowds of men, many of them beautiful, packed into the vaguely country and western-cum-leather dungeon bar, had just been sold. Sold, we were told mercifully, to Gay buyers.

To find out why the Gay bar scene in this once thriving area was in retreat, we talked to a number of local residents and workers.

"The South of Market appears to be going a bit straight for me," said Elmer Wilhelm, a neighborhood resident said recently. "I've lived here for years. And off on 1 worked at the End-Up [a popular bar on 6th Street and Harrison] for 12 years. The heavy leather scene is going out of style. The western scene is still here and has a clean image but with leather, people think you're into heavier sex and that's open to all kinds of interpretations with AIDS and all."

At the Ambush, Robert Neiger, who works in the leather shop, talked to us.

"The Ambush is definitely not for sale," said Neiger. "I've worked on Folsom for 15 years and seen two major changes...The first change was 15 years ago when everything started booming. That's when the Brig was called the Bolt, the Ramrod just opened and there was a bar called the Black and Blue. There were a lot of new bars. The Folsom became the new entertainment area for Gay men."

"The second change," continued Neiger, "began a couple of years ago. It began with the conservative backlash, money coming back into the city, and it's [also] time for a change. AIDS has something to do with it."

A less sanguine approach to the changes in the Folsom area was taken by an unnamed bartender at Chaps. "Yes, Chaps is on the market but so are most of the other bars in the area," said our anonymous Chaps bartender. "Every bar in the area wants to sell. Our bar

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE

## WHO SAYS TUCSON IS A SMALL TOWN?



by Loretta von Oystershucker



Well, for those who have perused these pages and were unable to find that column that we are so used to reading each week, we here at headquarters apologize. No, naughty Loretta did not submit one claiming extreme fatigue from the Memorial Day festivities. We do, however, offer you this chance to use Loretta as you wish. You can pin it up and use darts, or you can stick pins into the little devil. Personally, I am going to aim it right in the bottom of my bird cage. That will teach her not to miss an issue when it is her turn! Naughty Loretta.....

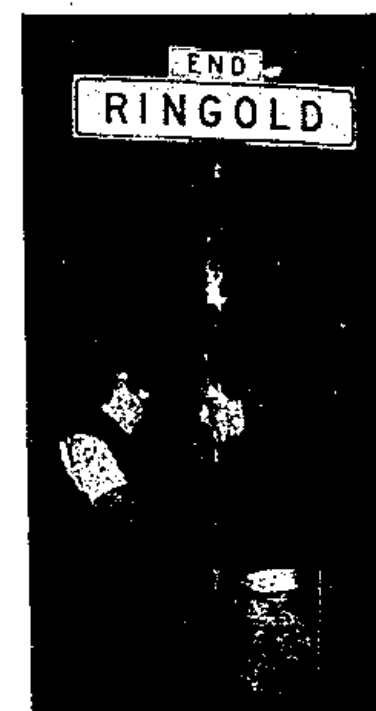
**SOUTH OF MARKET SHUFFLE**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR  
has been for sale for 6 months at least. Business has gone because people are afraid to go out, especially South of Market because of the connotation that leather has now."

Straight rock clubs are blossoming: Major Pond has just opened at 6th and Folsom where the Suro Baths used to cater to a mixed crowd. And perhaps most galling for the Gay men who have known and loved this area for the last two decades, the Oasis at 11th and Folsom has gone straight. Huge crowds of young straights looking for cheap rock thrills have begun to change the atmosphere of this heartland of the Folsom. And with the Arena's and the Ramrod's demise, both within a few blocks of the Oasis, the change can only become more noteworthy. "In the past a bar, once it went Gay, never reverted. But now that's no longer true," bemoaned Wilhelm.

Marshall Weber, one of the owners of "Nine," the new mixed bar which has replaced the Arena, talked about the metamorphosis of the community from a straight resident's point of view. "A lot of the Gay community feels threatened by what is going on in the South of Market," Weber said. "Especially the conservative element doesn't like to see the change." Weber has views about the reasons behind the changes that are shared by most of the people we talked to while doing this article.

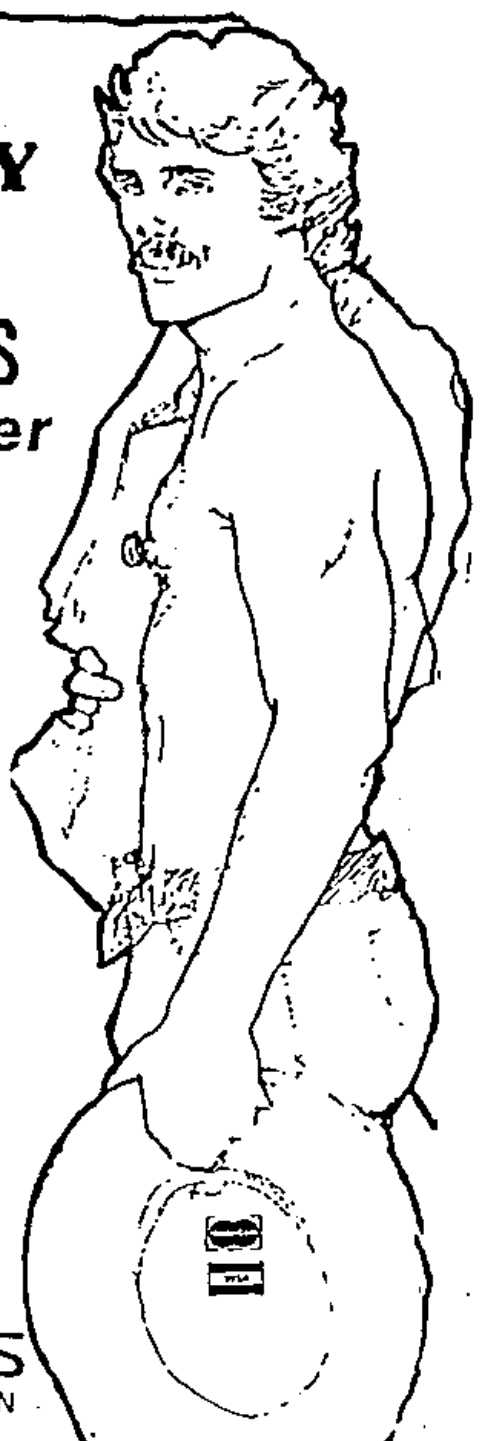
"It happened because AIDS became a big media issue. The political situation, the closing of the baths [Weber lives across the street from the old Club Baths], the bad publicity, the conservative wave in the country and the Moral Majority. Let's face it, there has been a lot of rough treatment of the Gay community in the press recently, particularly in the Hearst papers."

Doom for the Gay scene, even the leather scene, is not around the corner in the South of Market, however. Bars such as the Eagle have managed to draw the crowds with innovative thinking: beer busts and leather daddy contests. And the streets, particularly Ringold Alley and Shipley Street, are outdoor haunts for many who formerly frequented the baths. Gay men and Gay leather men have not deserted the South of Market but the area's Gay glory days may have passed.



A late night street scene in the South of Folsom area with a possibly prophetic message. [PHOTO: Rink]

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## AIDS Project organizes, seeks volunteers

TUCSON - TAP, Tucson AIDS Project, is just getting organized. The group will hold their fourth meeting this Thursday, May 30, at 7:30 P.M. at the University of Arizona Medical Center, Dining Room C (second floor). Anyone who is interested in attending the meeting or in assisting this important new organization in Tucson is urged to be at this meeting.

The organization plans to offer psychological counseling for Tucson AIDS patients, their family and spouses; to assist in support through religious and spiritual counseling; plan recreational and social activities; to be able to provide in-home assistance, personal grooming and transportation for Tucson people with AIDS. In addition, TAP will help patients get their public assistance, to provide financial counseling and, where necessary, financial assistance. In this latter regard, TAP will be handling funds from the Arizona AIDS Fund Trust (AAP-T). In the other endeavors, however, the group will rely on local contributors to carry out their program.

The group also hopes to be able to provide insurance information and advocacy, and also legal assistance to Tucson AIDS patients. The group will

provide a comprehensive educational program to both the Gay community and the community-at-large. TAP will produce information brochures and flyers and forms and hopefully will have an AIDS Hotline in the very near future.

The highly successful AIDS Forum held last Thursday, May 23, included speakers from the University of Arizona Medical Center, Pima County Health Department as well as an AIDS victim. Dr. Bob Henry, TAP Director acknowledged the speakers for a very informative evening at the forum. He also thanked several other persons who helped and were responsible for the success of the Forum. They included Jeff S., Bill K., Patrick G., Natalie P., Michael Heimbuch, and Jim Farlas, who got the building together for the Forum, who did all the work in getting the posters made and getting them out and a lot of other behind-the-scenes activities. In addition, Henry thanked Bob Ellis and the staff of Tucson Weekly for publishing TAP advertising at no cost and to Tramps Bar for donating the cost of the auditorium and the cost of the posters. The Tucson Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee was also singled out for their financial and moral support.

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# LETTERS

DEAR OBSERVER:

Once again you've done it. I don't mind being read to fifth, but could you please get my name right. Maybe you could do this for us. We are seeking volunteers from the Tucson area and would appreciate you putting this letter in your publication. Thank you.

As far as Christopher McPherson is still concerned he isn't getting any better. His story concerning Farrah's \$9000.00 contribution to the Fund was not well researched. If he had done his duty he would have found out that many other bars in the Phoenix and Tucson area contribute also. Bars such as Trax, Connection and the Ramrod have done the same as Farrah's. If Christopher could let his hair down and visit bars other than Hotbods and Farrah's he would see the mutual support that is given.

Keep up the good work! And thank you for helping us.  
Sincerely  
Craig S. Cox

ED NOTE: Okay Craig, your latest letter had your name typed out. Four different people could not decipher the signature on your first masterpiece. Here is your letter to our readers and the questionnaire [with all typos corrected]. Best wishes.

Dear Reader:

The A.A.F.T. is seeking volunteers who care about people and who want to help in this time of crisis. We have many areas of volunteer work available and the more help we have the better we can take care of others. We are looking for people in Tucson as well as Phoenix who have some free time and want to get involved with fund raising, counseling, support groups and other related areas. The time is now to get involved and to help one another. If you would like to help please answer the following questions on another piece of paper and send it to our office. If you have any questions please call Monday - Friday 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thank you  
Craig Steven Cox  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Arizona AIDS Fund Trust  
3150 N. 7th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85014

1. Name 2. Phone 3. Address 4. Occupation 5. Do you live alone? If not, should we be discreet in calling? 6. Have you previously done volunteer work? 7. Have you had any special training that would help you care for an AIDS person? i.e. nursing, counseling, etc. 8. Do you personally know any AIDS person? 9. Have you personally experienced death before? 10. What type of volunteer work do you wish to do? We do a number of things such as counseling, transporting AIDS people to the doctor's and to the store. We go to the movies and clean their homes. We have fundraisers and support groups. Just being a friend to an AIDS person is important. 11. Do you know what safe sex is? 12. What hours of the day are you available to volunteer? 13. What hours of the day may we call you? NOTE: Our records are kept confidential.

Dear Mr. Ellis,  
I've just finished reading issue 44 of the Observer and have decided not to put off writing you any longer.

In my life as a Gay man, I have come across countless Gay themed magazines and newspapers. Some have been poor, some excellent.

Your newspaper has never failed to impress me for so many different reasons. Lately you become even better. The quality of the articles has improved greatly.

I have especially enjoyed the last three issues and the "Counseling Concepts" column. Is this going to be a regular feature? I do hope so.

I am not familiar with Paul Reigle - Is he new in town? I myself and several of my friends would like to know more about him. Would it be possible for an article / interview?

Tucson, as all cities, is in need of competent counseling by understanding individuals. I offer my best wishes for success to Mr. Reigle.

Keep up the fantastic job you're doing. We're behind you 100%. Thanks for listening.

Sincerely  
Tom Wright - Tucson

ED NOTE: We contacted Mr. Reigle just to make sure that he didn't write the above letter. Seriously though, as are all of our contributors, Paul Reigle is writing Counseling Concepts column on a volunteer basis. We hope he will continue for we believe his column to be interesting, educational and informative to all members of our community. We will ask Paul for more information concerning his credentials as a counselor and pass them on to you.

## COUNSELING CONCEPTS

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TRANSEXUAL SEEKS TOP JOB - Bridgette Poi, 58, vice commander of an American Legion Post in New London, Conn., is running for the commander's job. Poi, a veteran of the Air Force, fought in the Korean War as a man, and earned four medals. After years of doubt and confusion, she had a sex-change operation in Mexico at the age of 38.

## SPECIAL CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MAY 31  
FINELINE - "IF" plays live music in the BFR. Produced by "R" Productions, music from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1  
FINELINE - "Over The Rainbow" starring Don Hinkle and Earvin Wagner. A repeat performance of a smash revue. Reservations suggested.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2  
TLCFC SOFTBALL GAME FUNDRAISER. HINDEL PARK NOON.

MONDAY, JUNE 3  
Tucson Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee meeting 6:30 p.m. at The Fineline. Join the committee as it finalizes plans for Pride Week 1985.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4  
TRAMPS - Dark Well drinks \$1.00 special...

THURSDAY, JUNE 6  
CACTUS DOWL - Summer Community Mixed Bowling League begins at 7:00 p.m. Organizational meeting at 6 p.m. Come out and join the fun. For more information call 293-3515

FRIDAY, JUNE 7  
FINELINE - Live music by "IF" in the BFR upstairs.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14  
FINELINE - "IF" in the BFR upstairs. Live music presented by "R" Productions.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15  
BACK POCKET - TLCFC MIX WRESTLING FUNDRAISER 2:00 P.M. PATRIOT'S PARK, PHOENIX - 1985 LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION. PARADE AND FESTIVAL. Floats, music, crafts, entertainment. Festival and entertainment begins at 4:00 p.m. 5:30 parade, 7:30 rally.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16  
TLCFC SOFTBALL GAME FUNDRAISER. HINDEL PARK NOON.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23 [GAY PRIDE WEEK IN TUCSON]  
PICNIC, HINDEL PARK, Northeast corner - noon to dusk. Free beer and soda. Food booths. Fun.

MONDAY, JUNE 24  
PRIDE WEEK - LAW AND GOVERNMENT FORUM, 7 to 9 p.m. Fineline, BFR.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25  
PRIDE WEEK - VIDEO DANCE. Rita's Rendezvous 9 p.m. to closing.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26  
PRIDE WEEK - Award winning movie "The Times Of Harvey Milk" 8 p.m. MCC Church building, 960 S. Stone.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27  
PRIDE WEEK - Live "The International Stud" 2 performances 6 and 8 p.m. Fineline BFR. Donation requested for performers. [8 p.m. show donations go to AIDS research].

FRIDAY, JUNE 28  
PRIDE WEEK - Dance Contest at Tramps. 9 p.m. to close \$5 entry fee. Cash prizes.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29  
PRIDE WEEK - Summer Carnival 2 p.m. until dusk at Colette's West and Back Pocket. "The Times of Harvey Milk" will be shown at 4 p.m. in the Joshua Tree.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30  
PRIDE WEEK - "Swamp Meet" at Tramps 3:00 p.m. "Casino Nite" at 8 p.m. at Graduate.

## SPORTS

### TUCSON VOLLEYBALL TEAM RETURNS FROM CHICAGO TOURNAMENT

by Joel D. Mesik

Tucson Shades of Brown Volleyball team has just returned from competing at the NAGYA III (North American Gay Volleyball Association) tournament held in Chicago over Memorial Day Weekend.

49 teams representing 33 different cities competed in both "A" level and "B" level divisions. Although the Tucson team did not place among the top teams in the "B" tournament, it represented Tucson well in this, its second competition since forming last fall. Tucson SOB lost to the Philadelphia team - the eventual third place winner - and the team from Houston in the double elimination tournament while posting victories over the teams from Louisville and New Orleans.

Tucson SOB is made up of members of the Sunday Volleyball League held at JT/BP. New members are always welcome and encouraged (contact Joel at 623-4897). SOB is currently making plans to participate in future tournaments, both regional as well as national. Now is an excellent time to find out just how good and how exciting competitive volleyball can be. One probable future tournament will be in San Diego over Thanksgiving weekend in November.

The organizers of the Chicago tournament received co-sponsorship and support from the regional distributor of Miller "Lite" beer. This corporate sponsor provided approximately \$10,000 in financial support.

Tucson SOB could not and cannot do it without financial support from the Tucson community, either. Special thanks are extended to JT/BP and Mr. Bob Bishop. Without their financial involvement, Tucson SOB could not have been successful in Chicago.

Keep your eyes and ears open for the next tournament plans. Your assistance will help keep quality volleyball alive and well in Tucson.

## THE TUCSON CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Draft Beer Bust 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. .40 per glass. Bobby Jr., DJ in J/T 9 to 1  
COLETTE'S WEST - Well Liquor \$1.00 - 9 to Midnight.  
FINELINE - Upstairs bar opens 3 p.m. Tall Neck Bottle Beer Night .75 from 7 p.m. - Hourly drink specials.  
GRADUATE - Watermelon Shots .75 - 9 p.m. - Midnight.  
RITA'S - Kitchen open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
TRAMPS - Top 40 Nite... Ian is DJing. Draft Beer .25

### THURSDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Bottle Beer Night \$1.00 domestic 9:00 - 1:00 a.m. Dave Pierson, DJ in J/T 9 to 1  
COLETTE'S WEST - Draft Beer Bust 9 p.m. - Midnight \$2.50.  
FINELINE - 12 oz. canned beer .75 from 7 p.m. to closing. Hourly drink specials daily.  
GRADUATE - Country & Western music from 9 to closing.  
RITA'S - "Party Nite" - Well Shots and Domestic Beer \$1.00. Well Drinks \$1.25 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Kitchen open 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
TRAMPS - Leather Night. 1/2 price well and .30 draft if dressed in leather. Sleaze & cruise music by Linda.

### FRIDAY

FINELINE - Upstairs bar opens at 3 p.m. Disco at 9:00 p.m.  
GRADUATE - Watermelon Shots .75 - 9 p.m. - Midnight.  
JOSHUA TREE - Bobby Jr. disc jockey 9 to 1  
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen open 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
TRAMPS - Disco music by Curtis 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

### SATURDAY

COLETTE'S WEST - Free Pool from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
FINELINE - Upstairs bar opens at 3 p.m. Disco at 9:00 p.m.  
JOSHUA TREE - Bobby Jr. disc jockey from 9 to 1  
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen open 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
TRAMPS - All afternoon country and western music by Art. Disco music by Linda 8 p.m. 1 a.m.

### SUNDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Beer Bust 4 to 6 p.m. .40 per glass. 6 to 9 p.m. Beer, wine and well \$1.00. Steak Dinner 7:30 to 7:30 \$3.50. Dave Pierson DJ's in J/T 9 to 1  
COLETTE'S WEST - Sunday Sick Call - All Juice Drinks \$1.35 Happy Hour Prices 4 - 9 p.m.  
FINELINE - Long Island Ice Tea .75 from 7 p.m. to close. Hourly drink specials daily.  
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen open Noon to 9:00 p.m. Brunch 11:11 3:30: Special Bar-B-Que Dinner 5:30 to 9 p.m.  
TRAMPS - Sunday Beer Bust Noon to 7:00 PM. .30 per glass of draft. "Church" with DJ Linda 3-8 p.m. Disco 9-1 Terry.

### MONDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Bowlers Special Night. 1/2 price drinks to Monday night bowlers. Schnapps .75. Dave Pierson DJ's in J/T 9 to 1.  
COLETTE'S WEST - Monday Night Madness - \$1.35 Mergers 9:00 to Midnight.  
FINELINE - Dick's choice Well \$1.00 from 7 p.m. Hourly drink specials daily.  
GRADUATE - Watermelon Shots .75 - 9 p.m. to Midnight.  
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.  
TRAMPS - Salsa Night with Linda Pizdale 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

### TUESDAY

BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - 12 oz. cans of Miller or Miller Lite 75 cents Bobby Jr. DJ's in J/T 9 to 1  
COLETTE'S WEST - Pool Tournament from 8:00 p.m. to Midnight on second Tuesday of the month. \$25 (first prize. Long Neck Beer Bust \$1.00 begins at 9:00 p.m.  
FINELINE - Kamikaze's .75 from 7pm. Hourly Drink Specials.  
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen open 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
TRAMPS - "PROMOTION NIGHT" check for special schedule each week. Spin-off dance night with Linda and Curtis.

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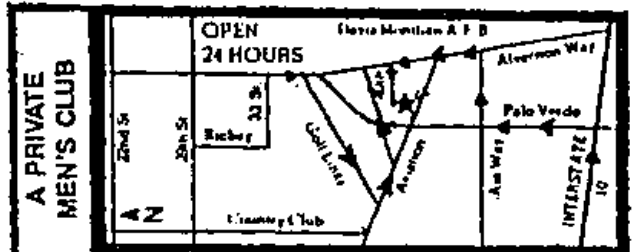


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**NOTICES**

**TUCSON ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE HEALTH ASSOCIATION (TALHA)** Gay men's clinic. Located at 101 W. Irvington is open from 6 to 8 p.m. every Friday. A \$5.00 donation is requested. TALHA is in need of doctors and nurses to volunteer their services.

**GAY AND LESBIAN SOCIAL RAP GROUP** TUCSON meets every Tuesday evening at 8 P.M. at MCC, 560 S. Stone. For more information call 792-3772

**TUCSON YOUTH GROUP** meets every Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. at 560 S. Stone. All Lesbians and Gays under 22 invited 792-3772

**TUCSON LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE (TLGPC)** meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Fineline until Lesbian/Gay Pride Week activities are over. They will then return to the second Monday of each month. Everyone welcome.

**ROOMMATE REFERRAL OF TUCSON.** Men and women both welcome. NO FEE. Call Bill James 622-3806.

**T-SQUARES** square dancing group meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday at Tramps.

**VOLUNTEERS** are currently being sought for Gay Information and Referral. You must have your own phone and be willing to commit one night a week. Training will be provided. Call 792-3772 and leave your name and number with the volunteer. The coordinator will return your call.

**NOTICES**

**THE ARIZONA LESBIAN AND GAY TASK FORCE**, your organization aimed at furthering human rights, education and networking with other national and local organizations, invites you to participate. Come and attend our meetings and input your ideas. Visitors and new members always welcome. Meetings: Every Monday. Membership: \$10 per year. Contact: Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard (7 p.m. - 11 p.m.) 234-2752 or write P.O. Box 1405, Tempe, AZ 85281.

**GAY OR LESBIAN??? AND HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM???** Call A.A. 624-4183. 24-Hour Hotline, for information on Gay and Lesbian meetings.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to join a discreet group of Gay men and women ages 24-40 who meet at each others homes in a relaxed, social environment for the purpose of sharing good conversation, pot licks, outings, etc., as an alternative to the bars. If interested, please write with means of contact to P.O. Box 11102, Tucson, AZ 85734.

**GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL** has over 80 resources for Gay men and Lesbians in Tucson. Call 792-3772

**A LOCAL PRIVATE GROUP OF MEN** is forming that are interested in exploring the wider area of sensual awareness. We are part of a national organization. Serious only. Call Marc at 881-4582 in Tucson.

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Lambda introduction service is intended for sincere persons wishing to explore another avenue for meeting. **THIS IS IN NO WAY AN ESCORT SERVICE.** Call Dan, 323-7740 44

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**ROOMMATE / FRIEND / PARTNER** Want stable, challenging, intelligent, resourceful male to share nice two bedroom townhouse with unique male. Call Marc at 881-4582 before 9 p.m. in Tucson. 46

**FOR SALE**

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**PERSONALS**

**NEEDED - COMPANION, HELPER** (18-30) on trip back East. Will return to Tucson by September. Write Tom, 2509 N. Campbell, #268, Tucson, AZ 85719 or call 326-0371. 44

**CASA GRANDE PROF. GWM** seeks contacts for friendship, sex, share mutual interests, love, possible relationship. Write Rt. 1, Box 854, Casa Grande, AZ 85222. 42



## Q. &amp; A at the Tucson AIDS Forum

Q. I've donated blood every two months for the past ten years. I have stopped because of the test. I would like to continue donating blood. Would you recommend taking the blood test?

A. [Dr. Henry]: If the person is high risk... [a sexually active Gay male], I would probably recommend not donating blood, and also not taking the test... You also ask if the test will be given in Tucson on an anonymous basis. It is my understanding that it probably will be but it is not clear who will be doing it. One of the things that has to come, if they are going to offer the test outside of the blood bank, is a tremendous amount of counseling, both pre and post taking of the test to help the person deal with the meaning of the test. This is part of the problem, since physicians and scientists really aren't sure what to tell people - what the negative test means or what the positive test means. Remember that you can be infectious and have a negative test. So even if the test is negative, it is not wise for high-risk people to donate blood.

A. [Dr. Holland]: I just really want to emphasize don't get the test. We don't know what the results mean. The test is only a screening device that the blood banks are using to discard blood that shows positive and they will not transfuse to other people. We have no idea, really, what positive or negative tests mean... You're better off not knowing, than either having a false sense of security or being paranoid about something that you may not have or have not been exposed to. Don't get the test.

Q. Does the Red Cross or other blood donation stations that have a screening test, if you come out positive, do they notify you, is that part of their protocol?

A. [Bruce Porter]: This is a very complicated area. There are five places in Tucson that collect either donated whole blood or paid-donor plasma. The plasma centers are doing notification now, today. I get on the average of one person a day in my office who's received a letter telling them they are positive on the AIDS test. One of the reasons I am whole heartedly saying don't take the test, is my body can't take it - two hours at a time trying to explain what this test means when I don't know what it means. The Red Cross is not currently notifying. They have 24 individuals who have been reliably tested to be reactive on the test. They will not notify until there is an alternative site available in the community. The County Health Department will not sponsor an alternate site in the community and we hope that will keep notification from occurring. We basically don't believe notification is useful, and if there's no notification then there is no impetus to take the test because you are not going to get the results back. But the plasma centers are notifying and the United blood services (UBS) are really up in the air. Their corporate headquarters hasn't decided whether there's going to be notification or not, so it is left with the street plasma centers notifying two whole blood stations up in the air - basically collecting lists but not doing any notification.

Q. Has the potential of insect vectors such as mosquitos, been assessed?

A. [Bruce Porter]: I guess everyone has heard about Belle Glade, Florida, and that's where that comes up. Belle Glade has the highest attack rate of AIDS as anywhere in the world. A community of 25,000, a lot of whom are migrant farm workers, has over 40 AIDS cases. 30% of all the cases don't fall into any recognized group as increased risk for AIDS, there are a lot of mosquitos in this area of Florida, and the folks there feel fairly confident that we are talking about mosquito-borne transmission of AIDS, at least in a small set of that population of cases existing in Florida. I might point out 80's Egypt is a fairly common mosquito throughout the southeast and the southwest. We certainly have our fair share of them here in Tucson. I think what it takes is a pool of infected individuals of sufficient number to get the ball rolling in terms of mosquito transmission. There is some evidence in Zaire, Uganda, and central equatorial Africa of mosquito-borne transmission as well.

Q. Is there any association between the Hepatitis B vaccination and getting AIDS?

A. [Dr. Kerrick]: That's a question that comes up very frequently. The

reason is, in case the rest of you don't know, the Hepatitis B vaccine is made from human donors. That virus does not grow well from culture media. So, instead of using duck eggs, like we could for swine flu, we have to use human carriers. About 5 to 10 percent of people who get hepatitis B, manufacture the virus in fairly large quantities for a long period of time. Those are usually Gay men. So the same group that would be good donors for supplying the virus for a vaccine also would be at high risk to be carrying the virus for AIDS. That's something our people have been aware of all along. The important part about the Hepatitis B vaccine is that it is a killed vaccine. There's two kinds of virus vaccines. One is a live attenuated (a good example is measles and polio) you get a mild case of the illness. It's a living virus you get that has been weakened. The other type is a killed vaccine in which there is no living virus present. This vaccine is killed three different ways. Each of the ways kills all known viruses, and should a new virus come along the second or third kill would surely eliminate all known viruses. Theoretically it is almost impossible, in my mind, that you could get a living virus through that vaccine. The other thing we look at is the epidemiology. What has happened to the people who have gotten the vaccine back in 1979. It has been several years since the first trials were started in Gay men. It has been found statistically that in the group studied there are less AIDS in those that got the vaccine than in the group that did not. Not enough less that in any way we would boost Hepatitis B vaccine as an anti-AIDS vaccine. For all I know it just delays the symptoms for a little bit. But it certainly is reassuring to tell people who are getting the Hepatitis B vaccine that there is no evidence that that can occur.

Q. What kinds of substances and activities are immuno-suppressant. Does alcohol lower resistance to disease. Does caffeine?

A. [Dr. Holland]: I would not consider alcohol or caffeine to be immuno-suppressive. In terms of medicines, basically immuno-suppressive drugs are drugs that we give to cancer patients; that depress their immune system and hopefully are killing off some of the cells that are cancer-producing. And some other prescription drugs.

A. [Dr. Kerrick]: The other thing that comes up, of course, is every day living, in fact, it's pretty easy to associate all known diseases and all known injuries and accidents, emotional problems and everything is associated with stress. Including mild immuno-suppression. People who have sleep deprivation have been shown to be much more susceptible to colds in a few studies I recall reading a while back. Mild malnutrition. When you say alcohol, as soon as I think of alcoholics, I say yes. These people are simply not getting the proper nutrition, and in fact, the type of people who can get Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, who haven't been on any new cancer treatments are malnourished children. So, if you're malnourished, sure you can beat your immune system down. I think it's reasonable advice as far as preventing colds, preventing automobile accidents, and as far as preventing emotional stress to get reasonable sleep and to get reasonable diet. What that does, how that would show in the numbers we're talking about, I don't know, but it certainly wouldn't hurt to do that. I think it is a very safe and reasonable solution to living.

## DIGNITY SUES FOR ST. PATRICK'S RALLY

NEW YORK, NY (BAR) - Claiming that the police were denying them their First Amendment rights to freedom of assembly, members of Dignity filed suit in federal court to be permitted to hold a rally in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral during the annual Gay Pride Day Parade June 30 in New York.

Attorneys representing the Gay Catholic group sought a court order permitting "a peaceful ceremony of prayer and hymns" on the public sidewalk in front of the cathedral.

New York police have barred Dignity from holding such a rally in front of St. Patrick's ostensibly to avoid a confrontation with a group of militantly anti-Gay Catholics who have staged a counterdemonstration in front of the cathedral for the past three years.

## A View From Within

by Christopher Geoffrey McPherson

## "THE WORLD MAY DISAPPROVE, BUT I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE WORLD: JUST ABOUT US."

It was with those words that the fate of Steven Carrington and Luke Fuller's relationship was sealed on the May 15, fifth season finale of DYNASTY. And, with the assistance of several hundred terrorist bullets, the fate of Steven, Luke and the other members of the Carrington clan was put into limbo until next fall. Who will live, who will die? Who knows....

Who cares? Of course, there are many people who feel that this whole subject may have little if any bearing on Gay life in America, or Arizona.

Television has been called many things since its introduction at the 1939 New York World's Fair: "The Mirror of Culture" is only one, but the most appropriate. Although not perfect, the medium of television has reflected attitudes, moods, and ideals of the American culture since the early kinescope days.

DYNASTY is, of course, not the first series to have a Gay or Lesbian character, but it has portrayed a Gay man [Steven] in what can only be called a realistic light. Although he has had many mood swings, going from Gay to straight, from hostile to accepting, et cetera, he has been the most realistic Gay on television.

When the Gay character of Luke Fuller was first introduced on the November 21 episode, it began a series of speculations about just how far this relationship would go. Early in one script, there was a scene with Luke and Steven actually kissing on the screen. This was, unfortunately, a bit too much for the censors, who said no.

In my column GAY LIFE AS PORTRAYED ON DYNASTY [Observer, 12 December 1984], I questioned whether or not this affair would be handled in a manner so as to help non-Gays understand homosexuality. [It was very clear from the early characterization of Steven that even Gay and Lesbian people would have trouble following his eccentric actions]. Now that the season is over, one can look back at the treatment given to Luke and Steven and generally

applaud the producers Richard and Esther Shapiro for their attempt to bring true-to-life Gays to the American viewer. It is still unclear to Mr. and Mrs. America that homosexuality is not a "choice". [In a recent episode, Claudia -- separated from her husband Steven -- told her father-in-law Blake Carrington that Steven -- who is facing conflicting emotions about himself due to Luke -- that he "Must be allowed the time to make his own choice." What she meant was the choice as to whether or not he wanted to hide his homosexuality and continue living a straight life. What came across was whether or not he wanted to be Gay or straight, which most of us believe is not germane: one does not choose to be homosexual, one just is].

After watching the season finale of DYNASTY, I wrote in my journal those people I thought would be snuffed out by one or two bullets. I chose Ashley, played by Ali McGraw; Prince Michael; and Luke Fuller. I found out, about three days later, that I was 66% right: the prince doesn't die, but rather, his father, the King. Yes, it looks as if it is true: Luke, and the possibilities of further examining a Gay relationship on prime-time TV, have been snuffed.

[It really doesn't come as a surprise, though. Just before those lines he spoke which are quoted at the beginning of this column, Steven told Luke that he and his son, Blake Daniel Carrington would be moving in with Luke. One could just assume that this was Luke's death kiss. How could the censors handle this? Two men living together was okay, probably. But living with a child in the house? Verboten!]

Although Luke's death [unless he doesn't die, which is always a possibility] means the end of Steven's current Gay love, we should consider ourselves lucky that it even came this far. DYNASTY has ventured where few prime time series have ever gone before, but where many daytime soaps have been for years.

## AIDS Victim

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

glaze over, and I know that because of their fear, they have shut me out of their lives. That is understandable, fear is everywhere. But my real friends have stood staunchly beside my side. They have given me not sympathy and pity but rather respect and love, and I am grateful. They have not treated me like a sick person, and I think there is a lot of truth in the old adage, 'If you're treated like a sick person, you're apt to act like one.'

"Don't think, however, that everyone is as lucky as I am. Thousands of men, women and children are dying, and I am young. They need our care. They need our prayers, they need our money. And they need to feel they are not lepers. How do you deal with an AIDS patient? If you have any intelligence at all, you'll treat him like anyone else.

"I'd like to take a few moments to talk about politics. For me, this is a very dangerous subject as I believe that actors should stay out of politics. Ronald Reagan is clear proof of that. But, like our dear sainted Katherine Hepburn, I cannot bear to keep my mouth shut.

"The government's handling of the AIDS situation has been, up to this point, abominable. I am ashamed to live in a country that has so idiotically ignored the largest public health problem, not only of the decade, but of the century. The government is only too glad to ignore the homosexuals. We are considered an eyesore. But AIDS is no longer just a homosexual problem. It is affecting women and children, and still the government will not wake up. How many people will we have to bury? Money is needed not only for research but for support groups, and financial assistance for those people who are too sick to work.

"We can no longer sit placidly by and be ignored. Make no mistake, I am raising a battle cry. And having moved in Gay society for quite some time now, I know a lot of cats, and no one fights better than a cat. I call upon you to use whatever wiles you possess to put an end to this ridiculous prejudice that goes not just with having AIDS, but with being Gay.

"In closing, I would like to point out that from the beginning of this crisis, we have been barraged with only negative information. If we are to survive, then we must look to the positive aspects, no matter how slim they seem to be. We must reach out to whatever source that will contribute to our own individual well-being. There are many alternate methods of healing that we are just beginning to become aware of.

"In my own experience, I have found that the idea of Holistic Medicine, healing the whole person, is an important idea that will unleash the body's vital healing force that we all possess. My friend, Fay McCoy, has been treating me with Homeopathy, which bases its philosophy on the body's natural ability to heal itself. I have experimented with nutrition, exercise, meditation, and religion, and have found that they are all helpful in making me feel better when I have been ill.

"Reach out to your friends, forgive your enemies, and you can begin to find peace, and courage, and happiness. And some day, we will be the victors. We will conquer AIDS.

"Thank you."