



More Gays Seeking Asylum

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Mohammed is so tormented by the dangers facing Gays in his native Iran he talks of nightmares in which his family joins the secret police to hunt him down.

"If I went back to Iran, I'd be dead in a day," said Mohammed.

The 32 year old designer is one of a growing number of applicants seeking asylum in the United States citing persecution in their native countries for their sexual orientation. In Iran, the penalty for sodomy is death by hanging or stoning.

Mohammed, who agreed to discuss his case only on the condition that his name not be used, applied for asylum in April 1993 to avoid returning to the Islamic republic.

His is one of three test cases being pursued by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a Gay rights group, in an effort to ease federal asylum rules for homosexuals. But the Immigration and Naturalization Service says homosexuality does not give anyone an automatic right to asylum.

Lawyers handling such cases estimate that since 1990 repealed a law that excluded all homosexuals from immigration, about 20 homosexuals have applied for sanctuary based on claims of anti-Gay persecution abroad.

So far, only one person has received asylum based on sexual orientation. In July, an immigration judge in San Francisco granted refuge to Brazilian Marcelo Tenorio, who according to lawyers, said he had been hunted down anti-Gay commando groups.

That case does not necessarily set a precedent for other cases.

Mohammed came to this country in 1984 on a work visa. That expired, and he stayed on illegally. In April, he went to Lambda attorney Noemi Masliah and agreed to become a test case for the Gay asylum issue.

Mohammed said that because he is a member of HOMAN, an international Persian Gay and human rights group, Iran's zealous clerics may know he is homosexual.

"I have nightmares about going back to Iran. Often I dream of my parents becoming government agents and turning me in," he said.

In addition to Mohammed, Lambda's test cases involve a Russian Lesbian in San Francisco and a Nicaraguan Gay with AIDS in Texas.

"Sexuality can't be changed. That notion is gaining increased acceptance," said Masliah, who is on Lambda's board.

If asylum is granted, the individuals would be able to seek permanent residency. At that time, the Nicaraguan also would have to seek a waiver of federal rules barring AIDS patients.

"We brought these cases to reflect the full reality of the persecution against Lesbians and Gay men," said Lambda attorney Suzanne Goldberg.

In Russia, where homosexuality was decriminalized three months ago, activists in Moscow announced the formation of their first nationwide advocacy group to promote equality for Gays. They said discrimination is rampant.

According to U.S. law, applicants

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SF Project Inform Director To Speak In Tucson

TUCSON - Martin Delaney, Executive Director of Project Inform in San Francisco will speak at a special meeting sponsored by PACT for Life on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind Auditorium, 1200 West Speedway (near Grande). The subject of Delaney's talk is "The Range of Treatment Options" and will be given from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Delaney is probably one of the most knowledgeable persons in this country on the subjects of HIV and AIDS treatments. Everyone in the HIV community should plan to attend this informative meeting. Subjects covered will be alternative anti-retrovirus treatments such as compound Q, bittermelon and TAT inhibi-

tors and immune rebuilding treatments such as cell-line expansion, thymic hormones, interleukins, passive immunization, therapeutic vaccines, autologous stem cell transplants and gene therapy.

In addition, accessibility for clinical trials for individuals not in epicenters and those with low CD-4 cells will be discussed.

The auditorium will hold a large crowd and it is expected that there will be 200-300 persons attending this important meeting. There is no charge and everyone who is interested in getting first hand information from one of the best sources in the country is urged to attend this once-in-a-lifetime meeting.

Gay Political Movement Taking Shape In Russia

MOSCOW - Three months after homosexuality in Russia was decriminalized, Gays are organizing to fight rampant discrimination.

They announced the formation of their first nationwide advocacy group, Triangle, to promote equality for Gays and Lesbians and combat the spread of "AIDS."

The activists' fear of discrimination was starkly illustrated by the group's new chairwoman, who goes by a pseudonym, Valya Ivanova, and wore a brown paper bag over her head at a Moscow new conference.

"I can't show my face because of society's attitude toward homosexuals," the writing on the bag said.

About 150 Gay and Lesbians activists from around the country met in the capital and agreed to create Triangle.

Leaders said at the news conference that organizing supporters is especially important now because Russia's political upheaval creates more opportunities for newcomers than exist in other countries.

"This very dynamic period could end soon, and we don't want history to have walked by us," said Masha Gessen, a human rights monitor for the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, based in San Francisco.

"It's time to stake out a place for ourselves, to be ready to get a Gay or Lesbian candidate elected in the next elections, whenever they may be," she said.

Russian lawmakers formally lifted a Soviet-era law in late April that had made male homosexuality a crime punishable by up to five years in prison. The decree took effect in late May.

But Gay and Lesbians activists

said that while things have gotten better for them since the law was repealed, there is along way to go.

There are estimated to be hundreds of small Gay and Lesbians groups across Russia, but the organized "Gay" movement, Gays here use the English word since there is no such impartial word in Russian, is still in its infancy.

Now there are openly Gay bars and cafes, the activists noted, but Gays are sometimes beaten up as they leave. Gays also try to conceal their sexual identity in the workplace for fear of being fired.

More people are willing to get tested for AIDS, the leaders said, because they are no longer fearful of being arrested for male homosexuality. But many homosexuals still are afraid of censure if friends or family find out.

And despite the law's repeal, Gessen said, there are an estimated 35 to 50 people still imprisoned for homosexuality. She said many people don't know the law has changed, and that releasing the prisoners has been left "to the whim of prison directors, some of whom don't want to comply."

In addition to political activities, Triangle will be an information center about homosexuality and AIDS. The activists said it would be funded by contributions, and they hoped to rent a space soon.

Although official statistics for the number of "AIDS" cases in Russia is 600 to 700, Gay activists say it is much higher. Dmitri Lychev, editor of the Moscow Gay newspaper One-Tenth estimated the number of Russians with HIV infection at around 35,000. He didn't know what percentage is Gay.

Share Bears Monthly Collections To Begin Again September 11

TUCSON - After a restful summer, the Share Bears will be out again at the bars on the first Saturday, (with the exception of holidays that fall on the first Saturday), of each month from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m., asking for donations towards services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

People being served by PACT, TAP and Shanti benefit from this monthly event. Each agency is responsible for getting three or four volunteers who will go to the bars and ask people for a contribution as they enter.

The total amount raised each month ranges between \$250-\$450. The money is shared between the three ASO's, Shanti receives 40% while PACT and TAP each receive 30%. All the organizations use the money for services and programs directly impacting the people we serve.

We've heard from a lot of people in the community that Share Bears could be improved, made more dynamic. The ASO's agree and we want your help in making the needed changes. Ideas that have come forward include getting other people involved such as the directors of the ASO's, Presidents of the various clubs, Miss Gay Tucson, Queen of Fiesta de Mayo, etc.

We are sure that there are other ideas, and we'd love to hear from you. We are all in the fight against AIDS together. Let's work together and help one another to ensure that we are doing the best we can.

If you or a member of your club or organization would like to get involved in Share Bears, please call Anne at Shanti, 622-7107.

UPDATE

Lambda Demo Caucus Meets Sept. 14

TUCSON - The September meeting of the Lambda Democratic Caucus is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14. The time of the meeting will be from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will take place at the Fourth Avenue Social Club. This event is also being co-sponsored by the Young Democrats.

The meeting will be a "Meet the Candidates" night. Persons attending will have the opportunity to meet the Democratic candidates for the City of Tucson September Primary election. There are three City Council seats up in this year's election. They are in Ward's 3, 5, and 6.

Expected in attendance are Council members Steve Leal (Ward 5), and Molly McKasson (Ward 6), who are running for re-election, and candidates Tom Saggau (Ward 3), David Fossdal (Ward 3), and Don Coleman (Ward 6).

There will be a no-hust bar and refreshments at the meeting. For further information call 791-7000.

Priest Given 10 Years In Sex Case

MESA, Az., - Having shown remorse for his family and his former parishioners, a priest who kept detailed records of hundreds of sexual encounters has been spared the maximum sentence.

But the judge still gave the Rev. Wilputte Alanson Sherwood a 10 year sentence, lifetime probation and a \$10,000 fine for attempted sexual contact with a minor.

Sherwood, 48, former pastor of St. Benedict's Catholic Church in Chandler, faced between 5 and 15 years when sentenced by Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Cheryl Hendrix in guilty pleas to attempted sexual conduct with a minor and attempted sexual exploitation of a minor.

He had kept detailed, cross referenced audio, visual, and written records of sexual encounters with men and boys. Hendrix reviewed those records before sentencing him.

U.S. Files Motion In Paniccia Case

PHOENIX, Az., - A judge has been asked by the federal government to rule against former Air Force Sgt. Tom Paniccia, who is challenging the military's ban on homosexuals after being discharged last year for acknowledging he is Gay.

Paniccia, 29, filed a lawsuit asking that the military's ban be overturned in constitutional grounds and that he be reinstated.

The Department of Justice had until last Wednesday to respond to Paniccia's motion that U.S. District Judge Earl Carroll rule in his favor without having the case go to trial. Paniccia seeks a permanent injunction reinstating him.

This past Wednesday, the government filed a cross-motion that said Paniccia's "request for reinstatement has been mooted by his approved application for voluntary separation from the Air Force, which would have taken place on Dec. 31, 1992, if plaintiff had not been discharged for homosexuality on Oct. 7, 1992."

AIDS Stamp Debuts Dec. 11

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - A postage stamp encouraging awareness of the AIDS epidemic will be issued December 1 to mark World AIDS Day.

The stamp, unveiled by Postmaster General Marvin Runyon, features a red ribbon, a symbol of compassion and awareness in the battle against the disease.

"This special effort will greatly increase AIDS awareness across the country," said National AIDS Policy Coordinator Kristine Gebbie.

The 29 cent stamps will be sold in sheets and booklets. The booklets will include telephone numbers for the AIDS hot line at the federal Centers for Disease Control and the Points of Light Foundation as well as the American Association for World Health. All three organizations provide AIDS information.



Gay Rights Voting Law Causes Legal Trouble

SALEM, Or., - A new state law is putting a large cloud over city and county elections on anti-Gay rights ordinances as well as the anti-Gay initiative measures that already have passed at the polls.

Just one locality so far, Cottage Grove, has postponed an election in the wake of the law passed by the Legislature in the final days of its session.

The statute says local voters and governments cannot enact or enforce ordinances that single out individuals or groups based on sexual orientation.

The law took effect when it was signed by Gov. Barbara Roberts on August 3, and it is leaving a long paper trail.

Seven cities and counties so far are going ahead with September 21 elections on anti-Gay right proposals backed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance.

But the American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit in Clackamas County Circuit seeking an injunction to call off elections in Estacada and Molalla on grounds the new law bars them.

The OCA is suing in Marion County Circuit Court, meanwhile, to overturn the new law. The group claims the measure violates voters' rights to initiate laws under the Oregon Constitution.

The ACLU also has brought lawsuits against several cities and counties, asking courts to nullify their anti-Gay ordinances based on the new state law.

'Oasis Days' Sept. 11

TUCSON - "Oasis Days", a series of seminars for Lesbians and Gays and their families and friends, begin Saturday September 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Picture Rocks Retreat, 7101 West Picture Rocks Road. Registration for the first program, "Gay Catholic Issues", will be at 9:30 a.m.

The series is offered by Fr. Dick Mevissen, CSSR, the director at Picture Rocks, whose family life ministry background includes Gay/Lesbian ministry, and Lynda Canfield, a psychologist and spiritual counselor to the Lesbian/Gay community in Tucson. The suggested donation is \$15 and includes lunch. Call 744-3400 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for information.

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Awareness Project Changing Attitudes Through Education

by Michelle Yakovich
All Lesbians hate men. All Gay men molest children. All homosexuals do is have sex. All Lesbians are "mannish". All Gay men are effeminate. Homosexuals want to "recruit" in the schools.

Unfortunately it is not just Jesse Helms, Jerry Falwell and the Pope who believe these kind of statements to be true. Lots of heterosexuals and some homosexuals have untrue stereotypes of us.

Every day, each of us, in our own way. Needs to educate our co-workers, our neighbors and our family's to the fallacy of this thinking the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Awareness Project Arizona/Tucson would like, on a larger scale, to educate the general public, Gay and straight about our lifestyles and our lives.

The Awareness Project is a group of like minded individuals, some out,

some not so out, who want to promote a positive image of the Gay community in Tucson. Our goals are important, and the time to begin is now. By working to educate people, and working with other community organizations we can begin to change attitudes and break stereotypes.

The Awareness Project is here for the community. We need you support, and we welcome all who wish to be involved. We will offer a variety of services, and you will be hearing more about us as we grow. Check us out!

Plan to join us for the '93 Coming Out Day Parade, October 11. Call 742-1535 or 326-3492 for more information. New ideas are always welcome. Meetings are held at Wingspan, there are two meetings scheduled for Monday, September 13, and Monday, September 20, both meetings are scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m.

Gay Activists Say Indictments In Graveyard Case 'Trumped Up'

DENVER, Colo., - Gay activists said that the felony charges against four people who allegedly vandalized Denver's Catholic cemetery are "trumped up" and they have raised a national legal defense team.

Jefferson County officials announced the indictments against two men and two women who allegedly vandalized the Mount Olivet Cemetery January 14. The four were charged with two felony and two misdemeanor counts for allegedly putting spray painted plastic bags on gravestones and for \$3,600 in damage to a large stone crucifix.

The two men arrested, Taylor St. John and Madrid St. Angelo, both 25 and formerly of Denver, are members of the group ACT-UP. They now live in Chicago.

They were arrested there and held under \$50,000 bail for five days in the Cook County Jail before bond was posted by ACT-UP representatives, said Debbie Gould, an ACT UP-Chicago spokeswoman.

The Gay rights group said it has organized a "national defense committee," according to a release from its Chicago office. The group also planned a news conference in Chicago.

ACT UP believes the charges are "trumped up and way out of proportion to the supposed actions," Gould said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from Chicago.

"The charges themselves are extraordinary and carry as much as 30 year sentences," she said. "It's disproportionate to the events they are charged with."

Gould also said the timing of the indictments, announced the day John Paul

II arrived in Denver, is "an attempt by the state of Colorado to paint the defendants as very dangerous people and they are not."

The grand jury in Golden handed down the indictments, accusing the four of desecrating 306 tombstones at the Catholic cemetery in unincorporated Jefferson County.

The vandalism, which included spray painted messages such as "Jesus Died of AIDS" and "Virgin Mary Sez: No Latex, No Sex," outraged both the Catholic and Gay communities.

Also arrested were Nadine Connelley, 30, of Denver, and Lorna Wheeler, 32, of West Hollywood, California, formerly of Denver. Conelley had reportedly been released from the Jefferson County jail; Wheeler was still being held in Los Angeles on \$50,000 bond.

St. John, also known as Randy Albert Freeman, and St. Angelo, also known as Michael Scavone, asked for a continuance at an extradition hearing, which was postponed until September 22, Gould said.

Gould said ACT-UP believes that it is coincidence that the charges were brought in Colorado, where residents in November approved Amendment 2, a state law that bans Gay rights measures. The Colorado Supreme Court has since ruled that it would probably be found unconstitutional at a trial scheduled for this fall.

"In the environment of Amendment 2, where Lesbians and Gay men are not only protected but it's almost open season on them, it makes sense that it's coming out of Colorado," she said, "It's an attempt by the state of Colorado to pander to the religious right."

Frank Urges Justice Dept. Not To Appeal Asylum Case

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Barney Frank has announced that he urged the Justice Department not to appeal the case of Marcelo Tenorio, a Gay Brazilian who was granted asylum by an immigration judge.

Congressman Frank noted that while there may be factual questions involving Mr. Tenorio, it would be wholly inconsistent with the Clinton administra-

tion's position against discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians for the INS to appeal the judge's ruling that Gay men and Lesbians are a group entitled to protection of the asylum laws where anti-Gay persecution is proven.

"I believe that the facts show that Mr. Tenorio is very much entitled to asylum," Frank said, "and I believe that

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY



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Viewpoint

by KENNY JACOBS

"I hate having to do this!" a participant in last week's candlelight vigil said as she reached for a 'Senator McHATE' sign.

I have a new hero. Her name is Edna. She was a beacon for me. Every time I became tired I looked to Edna. She didn't have to be there. She's a 'little bit older', probably a hell of a lot wiser, and of an age that she shouldn't have to be on the front line of any conflict. But there she was. Thank you, Edna (and good luck with Team Arizona). Thank you, to everyone who came out, came down, and spread the word.

Who are you? You are brave, the committed, the loving. "You are people like the Rev. John Fife who were appalled by callous blunder of a U.S. Senator. Some people came because I told them I would take attendance and leak rumors to 'Doc' about the no-shows. Some came because they had nothing to lose.

Who couldn't afford to attend? People in the closet i.e.; people who are married or, fundamentalist ministers or, U.S. Representatives or, McCain staffer or, our "FRIENDS IN THE FOOTHILLS" (FITF).

Do you know where your FITF is? First of all, they don't have to live in the foothills, but it helps. They are the weekend homos. They don't need to change the system, they're doing quite nicely, thank you. They scratch out a check to TAP every year, "those poor people". They wouldn't dare put a picture of their loved one on their desk, being too forward cause talk, you know. They might be a member of O.P. but just as long as things don't get stirred up, "that makes me ashamed to be Gay." They vote their pocketbook, that's Republican, "but don't ask me to change they're statements about Lesbians/Gays, I'm not into politics."

These people don't need civil rights, they need a lifetime supply of latex and a designated driver (and a cute pool boy wouldn't hurt).

A FITF is the lady that owns all those fast food joints, or that guy can be seen selling all those cars on T.V.

Do you see who you are? Do you know what you are doing to us? Why I am bothering? You only read this paper because you needed a reason to move over to the cigarette machine to see that new face in town. You won't take the paper with you because you might have to explain it to a client. Best to leave the evidence with the truth, hidden.

The only argument I hear from you is, "My sex life shouldn't matter, that is what we're working for, isn't it?"

Of course we are, but you aren't. If you think of the Lesbian/Gay and Bi movement as a foot race, then our FITF are already standing at the finish line, champagne in hand, BEFORE the starting gun has been fired.

Let me tell you where to put the cork.

Put it back in the bottle and put the bottle on ice. Find a friend, a family member (not the family), a co-worker, someone who doesn't know you're Gay and tell them. And another. And another.

Please.

That's activism. It's simple, it's quick, it separates the friends from the frauds, and you don't have to suffer a bad hair day on live T.V.

Take out a business card ad in the "OBSERVER" (are you catching this, Bob?). After all, paper doesn't grow on trees. Let us know who you are so we can ALWAYS BUY LESBIAN/GAY or LESBIAN/GAY FRIENDLY (ABLG).

You don't have to shave anything or not shave something, pierce, tattoo, pad, stuff, lyposuck, or shout. All that's required are integrity, honesty, faith, and commitment. And if you can fake that you've got it made. Who knows, maybe Madame X can help you with the bad hair.

[Comments, rebuttals, and pithy remarks are welcome. Send them to Kenny Jacobs, c/o The Observer, P.O. Box 50733, Tucson, Arizona 85703. Letters cannot be returned.]

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Colorado Springs Group Issues Urgent Appeal

COLORADO SPRINGS, Co., - Christians must be able to hate, homosexuals should be quarantined, the death penalty is prescribed for homosexuals, homosexuals should be stoned to death, tolerance enforces, etc., are all concepts being taught from pulpits in Colorado Springs.

Mayor calls homosexuals queers; Colorado for Family Values leader says it is not about God or homosexuality, it's about "who carries the biggest stick" as he announces fund raising drive to raise \$1,000,000 to support anti-Gay legislation; America for Family Values announces nationwide organization to enact legislation that denies equal rights and opportunity to Gays and Lesbians as the Coalition on Revivalism announces move to Colorado Springs to be near supportive groups, their objective, a theocracy in America in twenty years, are all examples of daily events in Colorado Springs.

Cars driven off road, psychotherapist has cross carved in hands, windows broken, friendly business owners and churches harassed, Gays and Gay supporters intimidated and threatened, hate posters appearing all over town, KKK holding rallies, news media blacking out Gay friendly news, "celebrate diversity" becomes fighting words, etc., represent just the tip of the iceberg of the hate and intolerance that permeates the epicenter of hate, Colorado Springs.

In the face of overwhelming odds, Ground Zero, a human rights advocacy organization of 250 members working in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community, struggles to survive and to fight the right another day, a fight centered in the Belly of the Beast, home to sixty national and international fundamentalist organizations with more of the same on the way.

Until now, this small group has done miraculous things with money raised locally, from members and from small fund raisers. It has sent out tens of thousands of documents to hundreds of organizations nationally fighting similar fights and starved for guidance and background; it has produced a radio series on the issues designed for national distribution on educational and released across the nation, generated thousands of interviews and news articles, debated the devil at every corner, marched, educated, etc., etc.

But the opposition threatens to overtake this intrepid band with the sheer might of money and power. Ground Zero must grow, it must expand the fight, if it is to continue and if it is to be successful.

Numerous projects are planned, including a new video, expanded informational services, a national informational BBS, a major multi-media campaign, and all are on hold awaiting funding. Their combined costs will be in excess of \$100,000. Ground Zero uses its funds to the best advantage and believes that it can begin to counter the \$1,000,000 campaign of the Right with this amount. Certainly, a major step can be taken. The beast can best be crippled in his own lair. It is in the national interest to counter the Fundamentalist Agenda at its roots. Given the opportunity, Ground Zero will do just that.

Donations of any size are desperately sought. Checks, money orders, etc., may be sent to Ground Zero, P.O. Box 1982, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80901,

and arrangements have been made for Visa/Master Cards also, just give you name, number, expiration date and amount to be charged.

Bonuses are available to donors who send over the designated amounts if a desire to receive them is stated with the donation:

1. Sustaining Membership in Ground Zero (includes newsletter and continuing information) \$25 plus (below included)
2. Sacred Lies, Civil Truths, the one hour videotape from GLEMC, minimum donation, \$40.
3. Gay Rights in Colorado, the Uncivil War, an educational documentary for the knowing and the naive, \$35.
4. Get both for \$65.

Another source of funds could be explored locally by asking your local bars and organizations to hold an event or to take up collections with the funds designated for Ground Zero. We pledge they will be put to very good use.

For more information call, 1-719-635-6086.

Ground Zero is a non profit (501 (c) (3) pending) human rights advocacy organization seeking to counteract through education, coalition and community outreach the political agenda of intolerance and discrimination being supported by the religious right. Our principal area of concern is the attack on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people.

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Tucson Musician Forms Own Recording Label



BEAU COMIER

TUCSON - Local songwriter, multi-instrumentalist Beau Comier, ex-singer/leader of Domino Theory, has announced the emergence of her own recording label, Domineaux Device Soundz. In the near future Comier plans on pumping out six music releases. The previously unreleased tracks both live and recorded will contain her own material ranging from dance pop to hard edge Rock & Roll.

Comier's first solo debut release "Avec Moi" is a fine brew of electro technopop, punk and jazz blendings. Her compositions show a diverse range of musical territories, such as the broody darkened sounds of "We Want Control" to the sarcastic surf pop of "Waiting For The Flesh".

Beau's creative lyrical vision and her addictive unique rhythmic sense are definitely a rare combination that shows off her moody downtown wit and her bold coolness.

Not only does Comier handle the producing and mixing, she also plays all of the instruments on "Avec Moi". None of this is actually a surprise at all since her history in music is amazing.

In her musical past she was a drummer in the British band 'If' and back

east in Philadelphia and New York she played and recorded with over 30 musical groups, including Transfactor; Idle Rich and Maiden Japan. Beau has been offered recording and publishing contracts but she never signed one due to dissatisfaction with either the financial or controlling end. She even turned down a publishing deal for her song "Silhouette" which Cindi Lauper wanted to record.

"I guess I'm holding out," Beau says. "Over the years, I realized I wanted and deserved more creative control than what was handed to me. It's my turn now to send my productions to those I am interested in working with and I'll go from there," she said.

Beau is currently seeking musicians to showcase and record live with. She seeks guitarists, synth-midi players, drummers and percussionists. If interested call Domineaux Device Soundz at (602) 529-5212.

Comier's release, "Avec Moi" will be available soon at the Cactus Gallery on 4th Avenue and all Zia and Loco record stores.

Beau Comier is truly a woman of the 90's who marches to her own drum.

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At The Closet Door

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by Frank Hartigan

Pagan Babies

This week in Colorado Springs, a mother found out that her children had been baptized without her knowledge or consent while they were at a church picnic. She is suing the fundamentalist church, which asserts it has done nothing wrong. What could be wrong with God's work?

"God's work" is still being used as a rationale for the coarsest sort of manipulation and unethical shenanigans.

Those pagan babies are still being stamped to Heaven.

When I was a kid, the nuns were always hitting us up for our lunch money to support the missions. If a class collected enough money, the kids could buy a pagan baby.

The thrill of the pagan-baby drive was that you got to pick the kid's baptismal name. Never mind what the South American or Chinese child's actual name was; if Sister Colette's second grade picked Charles Borromeo Aloysius, that was what the missionary priest called the child in baptism.

Somebody at the pagan-baby office in Rome would send a beautiful Madonna-and-child certificate with the kid's name and the schoolkids' class written on it.

I never asked what the parents of the pagan babies thought about their baptism, or if they were even consulted.

After all, those babies would go to Limbo if they weren't baptized. Who wouldn't want their kids to go to Catholic heaven?

Every little kid in first grade in Catholic school knew how to baptize another person. The nuns taught us the magic words in case we had a baby dying in the house.

I'm not making this up. They told us that if we had a new little baby brother or sister in the family to watch him or her in case s/he died before baptism. If the baby looked like it was going to die, we were supposed to run and get a glass of water to baptize with.

I wonder how many infants were traumatized if not drowned by siblings eager to get that soul for the church?

The fundamentalist church in Colorado Springs reminded me of those over-eager baptizers. The woman suing them sent her kids for some ice cream and a picnic in a safe setting. Instead her children were stripped, dressed in white robes, and immersed in a tank of water.

Her twins came home and said, "We's baptized now." She said, "No, I don't think so."

Then there is the matter of the "age of reason". When I was little, the Catholic Church baptized us as infants, gave us first confession and Communion at seven, and confirmed us at eight. They said that children knew right from wrong

at age six or seven; they wasted no time thereafter turning us into little soldiers of Christ.

Rome has since followed the Protestant lead in waiting until puberty before taking on new souls. Now that Limbo has been decommissioned, I suppose there isn't nearly as much of a rush.

Just when it seemed safe to let your kids grow up enough to decide on their own religion, the fundies are rushing in to grab them. Before they are old enough to say, "You must be joking," they get told that the evil ol' Devil will get them if they don't join up pronto. They get scared by the Technicolor version of Hell nreached at them and run for the tub.

They don't care what you think as a parent. They don't care if your kids are too young to know better. They only know that there is an ever-increasing competition for souls in their unending celestial scavenger hunt.

They are determined to save your sorry ass if you agree or not, if you believe or not. They speak and write about how they cry for those of us who have no personal relationship with Jesus The Savior. They clog the airwaves with mind-numbing claptrap and the grocery stores with "news" unfit for service in an outhouse.

If that were all, we pagan babies could laugh at their antics. We could tell them to keep their cosmology to themselves and cry over something that matters.

But that's not all.

The religious right is determined to herd the whole of humanity into their sheepfold. They no longer see the separation between Church and State as necessary or even desirable. The world will be lost unless it is **SAVED**.

What a load of crap that is. The world was here before we were. The people were here long before Jesus. We have only the church's word for the world's need to be saved.

Faith is the important thing. It may be in the nation, oneself, a lover, the future — people need to believe in something. For some people it's Jesus.

For others it isn't.

Any religion that claims to have an exclusive on salvation is full of hot air. There may be more than one answer; there may be none.

In my own search for understanding, I have looked at Native American spirituality. The characteristics of many plants and animals are observed and woven into an ethical system and view of the world.

Crow medicine is one aspect of Native spirituality. Human law is not the same as sacred law. More than any other medicine, Crow sees that the physical world and even the spiritual world, as humanity interprets them, are an illusion.

Crow medicine signifies a first-hand knowledge of a higher order of right and wrong than that indicated in the laws created by a human culture.

Crow medicine allows your personal integrity to be your guide.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

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4TH AVENUE

Notes From Desert Voices

Desert Voices Are Singing Again!

Desert Voices, Tucson's own Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual chorus, begins it's weekly rehearsal schedule next Monday, September 13. Rehearsals are on the UA campus in the School of Music Building, Room 106 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm.

Membership in the chorus for this fall will remain open through the next two rehearsals, until September 20, for those who want to join. Even those who are interested but missed the orientation session last week are invited to show up and check things out. Come a little early to sign up if it is your first time to attend.

After a fabulously successful performance in June on Pride Weekend, Desert Voices singers are excited about the Holiday Concert planned for early December. Many new singers are joining us this fall as we continue to create a high quality choral ensemble dedicated to promoting an

ongoing, positive Gay and Lesbian presence in Arizona.

Free parking is available in the nearby U of A parking garage on the NE corner of Speedway and Park. Walk under the Speedway tunnel to the Music Building, room 106, at 2nd and Olive Streets.

You also have many opportunities as a "non-singer" to participate in the support activities required for a successful season. Mr. Jim Gall continues to lead and inspire the Chorus as artistic director again this year. Join us in our growth as an artistic presence, and in your growth as a musical artist or as a non-performing associate member in support of the Chorus.

For further information, call the Desert Voices information line at 791-9662. Let your voice be heard, proud and strong, in the Tucson community!

Bears of the Old Pueblo

by Rich

Labor Day weekend is traditionally the end of the summer. Everyone wants to get in that last fling or two. The Old Pueblo sure had quite a few diversions last weekend. The Old Tucson studios was celebrating an anniversary and the annual Norteño '93 Festival is going on. The various nightclubs in town booked all sorts of groups and I had a hard time figuring out who to go to see.

At our General Meeting last Thursday, we went over some of the September events. The biggest thing we've got planned is our First Anniversary party on the 17th. About one year ago, a group of Tucson Bears got together and

decided they wanted to get this club going. Yea!! The rest of this weekend will continue in this vein. A Bear Hug is planned for Saturday night and a potluck picnic is on Sunday in the park. Rich or John have all the details. Since we plan on doing this right, we're asking everyone to give the hosts of each event a "heads up" (i.e. RSVP). Again, Rich or John can help you contact these hosts.

For the Bear Hug, the deadline for the RSVP is Thursday, September 16th. This allows the host enough time to prepare his home den. There will be a pool and all sorts of munchies to eat as we enjoy ourselves. Be sure to get the details.

As you read this article, be sure to free up this weekend for the movie night at Troy and Bob's (and now Rich's) home. It will begin around 7 p.m. Call to get directions. That's about it for now. Something for everyone! Hugz, Rich.



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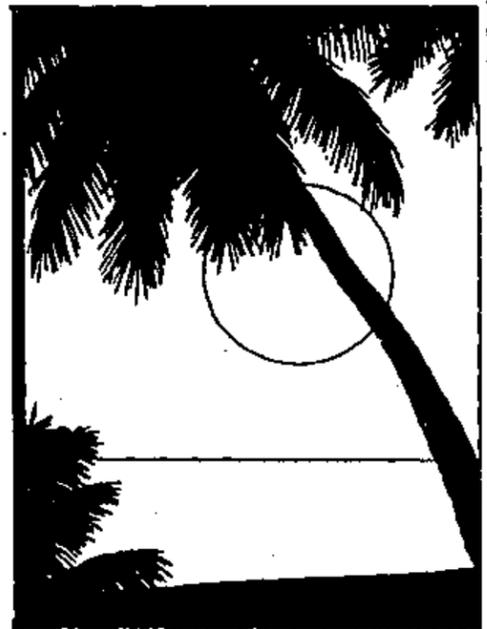
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FYI

by Big John

DOCTORS, PATIENTS & HIV

First and foremost, someone is paying attention. Thank you for your encouragement and support this past week, and in particular Sean Thomas and "Chicago" Jeffrey at Rumorz. It was just the shot in the arm I needed.

My intention for this week's column was to cover clinical trials. But after "the interview" it seemed more appropriate to examine cooperative relationships between yourself and your doctor. Also, to start an ongoing list of names and phone numbers of critical use to the community at large.

My fellow activists and I have checked on the qualifications and training of the following HIV primary care physicians and feel very comfortable recommending them to the community.

Our failure to list any other M.D.'s and D.O.'s does not necessarily reflect on their level of competency or interest in the area of HIV care. I will list additional names of physicians as they express and interest in being listed and certainly after we check on their qualifications. Here is the first list of physicians:

Kevin Carmichael, M.D.
El Rio Special Immunology
1701 W. St. Marys Road #141-B
Tucson, Arizona 85743
Phone Number: 628-8287
Plans: Mercy Care, AZP/IPA,
AHCCS Select, Commercial

Michael Darragh, M.D.
North Hills Center
264 W. Ina Road
Tucson, Arizona 85704
Phone Number: 575-7648
Plans: Cigna, Intergroup,
AHCCS Select, Commercial

So, now that you have one (1) T-cell left and I'm stepping on it. Let's get down to business of the removal of the pedestal under you physician's ass and take charge of what is going on with the management of your health.

Few aspects shift more profoundly than the doctor/patient relationship. Many people develop a more assertive attitude about what is happening and what to do about it. This, as Ms. Bette Davis once remarked, "is going to be a bumpy ride," unless you learn to work with your doctor. Remember, both of you are striving to learn what works from a variety of available.

A growing number of people are no longer willing to "wait & see" and instead insist upon an aggressive treatment strategy, even if this means self-treatment. There is an acknowledged uncertainty among many physicians about how to respond to requests for monitoring and/or assistance in using medicines not licensed by the F.D.A., while perhaps only a minority are overwhelmingly opposed to such medication, few will recommend or initiate such approaches.

PI suggests the following general guidelines for discussion. The intent is to help both parties establish reasonable expectations of each other and set up a climate of cooperation and joint responsibility for healing. They should be viewed as a starting point in a challenging situation, not as hard positions or demands.

FOR THE PATIENT:

1. Education. Begin this process at home. Their are a lot of implications of a positive anti-body test or having AIDS. Likewise, it is fairly easy to learn about basic treatments, strategies and options. Overtaxed physicians seldom have time to

instruct patients on fundamentals, and most welcome working with patients who learn as much as possible on their own.

2. Choose A Style. People have different styles of relating to physicians and those styles vary at different times and different illnesses, some prefer that doctors take a direct, authoritative stand because it make them feel secure. Others see the physician as a specialist called in to advise on a particular problem. Still others seek a collaborative relationship in which physicians and patient together weigh the pros and cons of a treatment strategy before decisions are made. My preference is the later, if you choose a certain relationship style, you must let your doctor know.

3. Prepare For Appointments. Write down key questions ahead of time. The limited time in the doctor's office should be used to focus on the most critical issues, rather than conversing about everything that comes to mind. Both patient and physician benefit when a visit is well planned.

Preparation might include bringing along any treatment literature that will be discussed in the visit. This allows the doctor to know a patient's sources and how to evaluate them.

4. Communicate treatment request in a spirit of mutual respect! For a variety of reasons, most physicians feel they can't recommend unapproved treatments, even if they see possible value and know they are non-toxic. Some take a conservative view and don't see any point in using unproven remedies. Some are concerned with legal questions and others feel uncomfortable dealing with uncertainty. This however doesn't mean that your doctor is or has to be opposed to such interventions.

When unapproved treatments are discussed, some aspects of the usual patient/physician role may be reversed. Patients often have to take the more active role in reviewing and selecting treatments.

The use of unapproved medicines needs to be discussed, avoiding confrontive approaches. This calls for a well-planned visit in which adequate time for conversation is allowed. It makes no sense to just demand a treatment, no questions asked in a brief visit! Only discord and frustration can result.

When the time and place are right, the patient should discuss what is known about a treatment and why you have decided to use it, all the while when requesting prescriptions for existing medications which show some promise, a friendly and firm request is likely to work best. If the doctor is opposed, the patient is entitled why, in clear terms. The doctor's concern and knowledge are due respect, whether or not you agree. Remember, both of you may be new at this kind of dialogue.

Some doctors have worked through their concerns with these issues, and actively support their patients efforts to use unapproved treatments wisely. Their courage has taken them a long way from traditional medical model's and they risk possible criticism from other doctors. These doctors are exceptional people and deserve to hear our appreciation expressed.

Whether or not agreement is reached on the use of a treatment, cooperation in the form of proper monitoring through examinations and lab tests should be secured. The patient, in turn, should agree to heed reasonable warnings suggested by the monitoring process.

5. Be Prepared For The Emotional Contents Of The Visit. Most physicians treating HIV infection are sensitive caring people who respond emotionally to their patients. They have seen an enormous amount of suffering. When fear is written all over a patients face, no one should fault the doctor for using "kid gloves" gentle treatment, perhaps even shielding the patient temporarily from the harshest implications.

The Bowling Beat

by Mark Rosenbaum

It's a BOY! No, wait... It's a GIRL! Actually, it's both, and lots of 'em. The Tucson Desert Coyotes have given birth to the Tucson Lambda Lizards, the official name of our new Gay and Lesbian bowling league. This new Friday night league officially began its season two weeks ago with twelve five-person teams (men & women, any mix) and offers local bowlers the opportunity to participate in Tucson's fastest growing Gay activity AT AN EARLIER TIME (6:15 p.m.). The Desert Coyotes still bowl each Wednesday at 9 p.m. in a trio format. These two leagues represent a combined membership of over 130 Gay and Lesbian bowlers of all ages, gender, skill level, (and reputation!). Although the fall league season has officially begun for both leagues, there's always room for one (or two, or three...) more. Call Geoffery (884-8443) or Dennis (743-3303) for more information.

WHO SAYS THIS COLUMN ISN'T EDUCATIONAL?

From Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary comes the following definition:

rummage sale, n, an informal sale of miscellaneous goods, esp. a sale of donated articles conducted by a nonprofit organization to help support its programs; see also: Gay bowling tournament, H.I.T.T.;

Obviously, Webster's wouldn't have included this if it wasn't VERY IMPORTANT and infinitely worthwhile. Therefore, the Beat is happy to provide you with information on this weekend's huge rummage extravaganza: H.I.T.T.'s HUGE Rummage Round-Up takes place this Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 & 12, from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. There will be a wide variety of items including housewares, books, collectibles, and much, much more. The happy H.I.T.T. bakers will also have fresh baked goods on hand (and everywhere else, for that matter) and several other surprises. We're also still accepting donations of any and all items that you'd like to part with. Pick-up of saleable items can be arranged by calling 743-3303 or the new H.I.T.T. information line at 321-8538.

PUMPKIN ALERT! It's that time again. Preparations for the Halloween Invitational Tournament - Tucson '93 are well underway. Several tournament applications have already been received and the number of inquiries from our neighbors in California and Nevada are running far above last year at this same time. It looks like H.I.T.T. '93 may sell out earlier than ever before and we will be limited to one squad (48 teams) on a first-come, first-served basis. Tucson bowlers: don't be shut out by waiting 'til the last minute. Entry forms and more information are available by calling the H.I.T.T. line (321-8538).

Home On The Range With AGRA-Tucson

by Frank E.G. Gallego

Get ready for the onslaught of activity now that September is here.

The activities start with a AGRA State Board Meeting, which will take place this Sunday, September 12, at Club 2520, starting at 3 p.m. A State General Membership meeting will follow at 5 p.m.

Also, on Sunday, September 12, a "People" Rodeo will be held after the Board and General meetings. Featured will be Barrel Racing on foot, "Critter" dressing, Pole Bending events. Also, a "Pie in the Face" auction will be conducted as an additional fund raiser.

Castañeda will hold his first fund raising benefit at Rumorz beginning at 9:30 p.m. Beto is a candidate for Mr. AGRA. All contestants for Mr., Ms., Miss AGRA are required to raise money to give to a charity, association, etc., of his/her choice.

The following Sunday, September 19th, an AGRA-Tucson Board Meeting will take place at Rumorz, at 3 p.m. The General Membership meeting will take place at 5 p.m. A Beer Bust will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. A glass of beer will cost just 50 cents.

BULLETIN!!!

This just in, AGRA will have a taco hut as part of the Mexican Independence Celebrations, held at Rumorz beginning Wednesday, September 15th. The taco hut will open at 4 p.m. on Wednesday. Tacos with all the fixin's will sell for \$1.00 each.

H.I.T.T. is hiring 1 to 2 luxury liner(s) (buses) to San Antonio, Texas, for the Texas Gay Rodeo Association's Rodeo, November 12-14, which also coincides with the I.G.B.O. Mid Year Bowling Tournament.

Departure will be scheduled for Wednesday, November 10th or Thursday, November 11th. Departure from San Antonio is Sunday, November 14th. Estimated cost is approximately \$125 per person. The liner(s) include lavatory, VCR/TV's. There will also be a food and beverage service. Call 743-3303 for more information.

Captain Hannum! Private Zippo plans to be AWOL from the 15th to the 28th, please don't find a new lighter, sir!

Later, on Sunday evening, Beto



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CALENDAR

of upcoming events

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

IBT'S - This will be the new night for IBT's free Country/Western dance lessons from Tom Maza. The lessons will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

IBT'S - Delta Lambda Phi, America's only Gay social fraternity hosts a "Back To School Bash" here. Friendships, fun times and brotherhood. Party with the brothers!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

GRADUATE - Tucson Knight Owls' monthly Beer Bust from 2 to 6 p.m. will include a 'Recycled Virgin's Birthday Party' too.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

CLUB 2520 - AGRA State Board meeting at 3:00 p.m. and membership meeting at 5:00 p.m.

4TH AVENUE SOCIAL CLUB - A newer spot on the entertainment scene will present brunch every Sunday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and feature hot entrees, seasonal fruit, fresh baked pastries and made to order omelettes - \$7.95. Then from 2:30 until 6:30 and old friend and favorite disk jockey of many Mr. Ronnie Rios returns. Ron has been on hiatus for a while, will be playing the hottest dance music for these regular Sunday afternoon T-dances there are drink specials also. Then from 7:30 until 11:30, the live dance band "Friendly Fire" will be performing. \$2.00 cover for that. The club is located at 424 N. 4th Avenue. Everyone should take in this unique establishment.

IBT'S - The wonderful Sunday afternoon Bar-B-Que on the patio will benefit P.A.C.T. this Sunday. A great cause, a great bar-b-que and a great time!

RUMORZ - Beto Castañeda benefit for Mr. AGRA. 9:30 p.m. Showq will star Christina de Alexis, Misti Malone, Linda Fizzle, Touche and Royza.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

CLUB 2520 - Compass Travel and Club 2520 will present a Gay Travel Expo with proceeds to go to Shanti beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be some fabulous door prizes, including trips to everywhere and raffles with some more fabulous prizes and refreshments, exhibits. Watch for more information on this unusual and informational and fun evening.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

CLUB 2520 - Basic level square dance class begin tonight from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The classes, which are offered by T-Squares, will be held every Tuesday night. There will be a \$10 registration fee to cover cost of the materials. New registration ends at 9:00 p.m. Sept. 21. Instructors will be Maxine Smitherman and Curt Stubbs with the help of the rest of the T-Squares.

IBT'S - Something new here for dancers - Techno Nite with your DJ David ZZZZZZZZZZ. Check it out. 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

RUMORZ - Rumorz Fabulous Falsets will make their initial appearance here beginning at 9:30 and every Tuesday evening at the same time. Featuring Mr. Dani Reid, Kenneth Blake, Alois Whoremone and Royza.

SEPTEMBER 15-19

RUMORZ - Fiesta De Independencia. Watch for it!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

HOURS - A big show here featuring the live vocals of Teresa Housley. It all begins at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

HOURS - Starting off their 3rd anniversary with a promo night. Come in and try something new. Complimentary gifts and raffles.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

HOURS - Third anniversary party continues with music, dancing, door prizes, drink specials. More later.

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HELD OVER! SEPT. 9-10-11 by popular demand! One in Ten Theatre Company presents "Suave Succubus" by Clint Jeffries; an outrageous comedy of piracy and deduction. A swaggering Gay pirate ghost with a raucous reputation creates havoc for a young couple who have just moved into their new summer home. Shows at 8:00 p.m. at the 1-in-10 Theatre in the Historic 'Y' theatre, 738 N. 5th Ave. \$9 admission. Tickets at the door or in advance at Antigone's. Call 770-9279 for information or reservations.

a.k.a. Theatre Hosts Victor Lodain's production of "A Book of Harsh Geometry", an intense exploration of schizophrenia and mental illness. Show runs Wednesday through Sunday evenings Sept. 1 through Sept. 25. All shows are 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$9. a.k.a. Theatre is at 125 E. Congress. Call 623-7852 for info.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPT. 11 & 12

H.I.T.T.'s the Tucson Mid-Year '94 Committee is sponsoring a gigantic rummage sale all weekend (7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Go treasure hunting, bargain hunting or just plain hunting at this convenient central Tucson location (exact location to be published later). Refreshments will be available and a whole lot of great merchandise. Forget the swap... come shop til you drop! Donations gladly accepted... free pick-up. Call 743-3303.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Parents Network is having a Poduck beginning at 2:00 p.m. All parents, partners, and children are invited to attend. Come have fun and meet other folks and families like you! Call Lisa or Sabrina at 323-2946 for directions and to coordinate a dish.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Chorus, begins its weekly rehearsal schedule from 7 to 9 p.m. at the UA School of Music Building, UA campus, room 106. Membership in the chorus for this fall will remain open through the next two rehearsals until Sept. 20.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Men Meeting Men party will be at 7:00 p.m. It is a good way to make new friends. It is a structured evening of activities that makes it easy to meet others and develop friendships. Call Marc at 881-4582 to reserve a place.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TLGA) will hold its meeting at 3:00 p.m. at Club 2520 with two important items on the agenda. (1) appoint Liaisons to the Tucson Police Department and (2) nomination of TLGA officers for the coming year.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

A workshop for Gay men and lesbians to strengthen your relationship skills based on the Myers-Briggs Type indicator. 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Francis church, River and Swan. Fee is \$55 per person and is presented by William T. Harrison, Ph.D.. To register call 577-3481.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

The Third Annual TORCH Awards (Tucson Organizations Recognizing Community Help). Ramada Inn, 475 N. Grande beginning at 6:00 p.m. Awards, Hors d'Oeuvres. Cash bar available. Recognizing those dedicated individuals who make a difference in our world in Tucson and the world at large. Your presence is requested to join in honoring these heroic individuals. For ticket or other information call PACT for Life 770-1710.



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Tucson

CALENDAR

Sunday

CLUB 2520 - Open Noon. Solid Bar and Western Rock Fry 4 to 7 pm. C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music 8 to 1.
GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm - All Short Well Drinks \$1.00.
4TH AVENUE SOCIAL CLUB - Brunch 11 am - 2 pm; Ten Dance with Ron Rice 2:30 - 6:30 and then a live band from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. (usually a cover for the band)
HOURS - Bloody Marys and Screws \$1.25 til 7 pm. Country/Western dance instruction 8-8 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1.
IBT'S - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm, \$1.25 domestic beer and well. Cocktails for community organizations 3-6.
RUMORZ - Open at noon. Bloody Marys and Screw Drivers \$1.25 from Noon to 6:00 pm. Domestic Beer \$1.75 9-1.
VENTURE-N - Open 10 a.m. 301 Dart Tournament 4 pm, \$3 entry fee. Cash prizes. Patio Bar Beer Bust 3-7 pm, B-B-Q 5-7 pm.

Monday

CLUB 2520 - Open 3 pm. 99c Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. \$1.25 well 8-1 + Mount Madness "Rockets". C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music begins at 9 p.m.
GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm all short well drinks \$1.00. Bring in your VHS movie and they'll play it. (No porno please!)
HOURS - Open Noon. Happy Hour 12 to 7 pm - Well and Domestic Beer \$1.25. .50 Draft Beer 7 to close.
IBT'S - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm, \$1.25 domestic beer and well. \$1 hamburgers 5-7, also, 8 pm to midnight, 50c draft beer. Mellow Jazz Mondays with Pete from 9 to 1
RUMORZ - Open 1:00 pm. From 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer. 9:00 to closing, Domestic Beer \$1.75 9-1. Female Dancers 9:30 pm.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens at 5 pm

Tuesday

CLUB 2520 - Open 3 pm. 99c Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer 8 pm to close. "Monster Beer Nite" 25oz can of Pesters \$2.75 8 to 1. T-Squares Advanced Group 7 p.m. Country/Western dancing and Trash Disco Black Light Party begins at 9 pm.
GRADUATE - Beer Bust all day. Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well \$1.00
HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7 pm Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Schnapps 75c 7 to close.
IBT'S - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm, \$1.25 domestic beer and well. \$1 hamburgers 5-7. Bud and Bud Light \$1.50 8 pm to midnight.
RUMORZ - Open 1:00 pm. \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3 to 9 p.m. \$1.75 Domestic Beer 9 to close.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens at 5 pm

wednesday

CLUB 2520 - Open 3 pm. 99c Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. 50c off on everything from 8 pm to close. "Uptown" head the dancing at 9 pm with resident and guest DJs from LA SF and beyond. Drink specials all night. ID required. C/W dance lessons with Edgar 7:30-9:30.
CLUB CONGRESS - Rod Farrow's "Queer Extravaganza" here from 8 pm to 1 am, featuring cabaret dancers.
GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well drinks \$1.00.
HOURS - Happy Hours 12 to 7 pm. Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Bartender's choice 7 to close.
IBT'S - Open Noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm, \$1.25 domestic beer and well. \$1 hamburgers 5-7. Seasonal shot specials 8 pm to midnight. Country/Western Dance Lessons with Tom Maza. 7-9. Open C/W dancing 9 pm to close.
RUMORZ - Open 1:00 pm. \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer. Salas/Modera Dance Nite 9 to close. \$1.50 Margarita Clips & "Flim" alias.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens at 5 pm.

Thursday

CLUB 2520 - Open 3 pm. 99c Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. Men's Nite - 50c draft beer 9 pm to 1 am. C/W & Progressive Dance Music begins at 9 pm. Dart Tournament 8 p.m. Bar matches pot.
GRADUATE - Beer Bust all day. Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well \$1.00
HOURS - Happy Hours 12 to 7 pm, Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Hicken or Corona \$1.75 9 pm to 1 am. Country/Western dancing 9 to 1.
IBT'S - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm \$1.25 domestic beer and well. \$1 hamburgers 5-7. Underwear Nite 10 to 1. \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer to those in their underwear.
RUMORZ - Open 1:00 pm. \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Male Dancers 9:30, High Tech Music follows with VJ/DJ Linda.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens at 5 pm.

Friday

CLUB 2520 - Open 3 pm. 99c Happy Hour 4 to 8 pm. (well and domestic beer). C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music begins at 8 pm.
GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well drinks \$1.00.
HOURS - Happy Hours 12 to 7 pm, Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Dancing 9 pm-1 am. Dance 8pm to 1am playing a mix of dance and country music.
IBT'S - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm \$1.25 domestic beer and well. \$1 hamburgers 5-7. Dance Party Weekend 9 pm to 1 am with DJ David Z.
RUMORZ - Open 1:00 pm. \$1.25 Well and Domestic Beer from 3:00 until 9:00. Hors d'Oeuvres. VJ/DJ Jeff Stricklen 9:00 to 1:00.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio Bar opens 5 pm.

Saturday

CLUB 2520 - Open Noon. C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music begins at 8 pm.
GRADUATE - Happy Hour 3-9 pm, all short well drinks \$1.00. Pool Tournament 2:00 pm, \$3 entry fee, pot matched.
HOURS - Open Noon. Dancing 8-1 with a mix of dance and country music.
IBT'S - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm \$1.25 domestic beer and well. Dance 9pm to 1 am with DJ David Z. and Go Go dancers begin at 10pm.
RUMORZ - Open Noon. \$1.50 Corona 8:00 pm to close. Dance with Linda Fizzle VJ/DJ 10-1.
VENTURE-N - Open 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Patio bar opens at 5 pm.

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News From MCC/Tucson

by Ben Corbin

The Southwest District Conference will be held here in Tucson from November 12th through the 14th. The theme for this Conference is "Living The Abundant Life" using John 10:10 as the Scripture. The Conference will be held at the Ramada Inn downtown. There will be a special Morning Worship Service at the Conference on Sunday, November 14th with no service at MCC-Tucson. However, there will be a very special Evening Worship Service held at MCC-Tucson. We are looking forward to many visitors at this Worship Service here at the church as many attending the Conference will not be leaving Tucson until the following Monday.

In preparation for this District Conference, MCC-Tucson will be having Special Campus Work Parties on September 11th, October 9th and November 6th. All members and friends of MCC-Tucson are invited to these special parties. This coming Saturday, September 11th, will be

our first party. Work will start at 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served to all of the workers.

On Saturday, September 18th, we will have a Fund Raising Bake Sale in conjunction with Partner's Beer Bust at The Graduate from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The proceeds from this Bake Sale will help to pay for our Delegate's expenses to the District Conference.

Following the Bake Sale, the Social Committee will have a Bingo Party here at the Church, 3269 North Mountain Avenue, starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring a prize for one of the games and play Bingo all evening at no other cost. If you can't bring a prize, come and play anyway, only you will know.

Thought for the week: The big shock in becoming middle-aged is that you discover you keep growing older, even after you are old enough.

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE PART 1

Just about any Scripture passage, if not interpreted and studied within the context of the larger work, can be twisted and used to justify a person's bias or prejudice. Romans 1:18-32 is a classic example.

We are told by various "fundamentalists" that this passage of Scripture clearly describes homosexuality in lurid detail, therefore proving God's disdain of same sex relations. The problem with such an interpretation, however, is that the passage is actually referring to pagan idol worship, and has nothing to do with homosexuality as a lifestyle or orientation.

In this passage, the apostle Paul describes the regression of a rebellious humanity against God. Instead of worshipping their Creator, these pagans turned to worshipping the creature, both man and animal. Because this rebellion so displeased God, he allowed them to go all the way and wallow in their depravity, since they wanted nothing to do with a holy and righteous God.

The idol worship that evolved incorporated sexual activity, since the pagans tended to worship fertility gods and goddesses. The idea was that a fertility god or goddess would have sex with the earth, which would have the net effect of producing a bountiful harvest. By engaging in sex acts as a part of worship, the pagans modeled their gods and goddesses and encouraged them to "mate" often with the earth.

As most depraved activities go, this form of idolatry spiraled downward and became more outrageous as time went on. Eventually, the male shrine prostitutes (the pagan priests who had sex with the worshippers for money) engaged in self castration and began dressing as women. The female shrine prostitutes (priestesses) began dressing like men, and even wore satyr pants equipped with replicas of male genitalia. This type of cross dressing was very functional, since any priest or priestess could have sex with any worshippers, regardless of gender.

As one can imagine, the sight of

these orgiastic revelries were quite shocking to an outsider from another culture. Such was the case with Paul. When he wrote his letter to the Roman church, he was staying in Corinth, which was a hotbed of paganism and the center of worship of the love goddess Aphrodite and the "he-she" god Dionysis.

As Paul observed their practices, he recognized the depth of depravity that these people had sunk to. He mentions that they had exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones, and burned with lust for members of the same sex.

A study of the Greek words Paul used to describe natural and unnatural reveals that Paul was probably not referring to natural law, but rather that which is normally or customarily observed or practiced. He used the same words in 1 Corinthians 11:4 when he describes the appropriate length for a man's hair, indicating that it is unnatural for a man to have long hair.

Now, common sense tells us that a man's hair will naturally grow as long as a woman's if it is not cut, and I'm sure Paul was well aware of this, having taken vows to not cut his hair for certain lengths of time. What Paul was saying is that it is not socially acceptable (in that culture) for a man to have long hair. Consequently, Paul was probably referring to the fact that most, if not all of these pagan prostitutes were probably naturally heterosexual, but had exchanged their sexuality for something that was not natural to them.

One needs to remember that Romans 1:18-32 does not describe homosexuality as an orientation or lifestyle. Paul's exposure to an knowledge of homosexuality was probably limited, if not non-existent. It was unheard of for a good Jewish man not to marry and have children (thus equating heterosexuality), since this was paramount to their culture and religion. If there were Gay Jews (and there were, I'm sure), no one ever talked about them. Nowhere in any of Paul's writings do we find a wholesale condemnation of homosexuality as an orientation or lifestyle, but only as it pertains to pagan idol worship.

An interesting side note is the fact
CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

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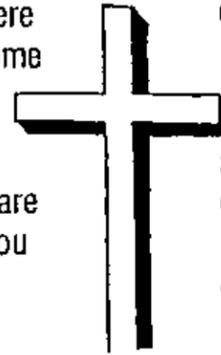
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Uncontrolled Exhibitionism

POLITICS '93 by Mark Kerr

An update, (action alert!) on the Federal Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-District 5), states his opinion on Gays & Lesbians serving in the military. Frank Meliti and his "Gang" starting petition drive soon to wipe out anti-discrimination ordinances, and we must be prepared to fight! Here we go:

THE FEDERAL GAY & LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

Since for the past nine months, we have been working to get the ban on Gays and Lesbians serving in the military overturned, another bill that would help the Gay and Lesbian community has been "put on the back burner" so to speak.

The bill in question would prohibit any discrimination against Gays and Lesbians. A great piece of legislation! But there is a problem. The Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights Act of 1993 is stuck in committee, (literally!).

The bill was introduced in January, referred to Committee, two of them, and in February, who then referred the bill to sub-committee, two of them as well, and the bill now sits, being held hostage for the past seven months!

H.R. 431, introduced in the U.S. House Representatives on 1/5/93, would prohibit discrimination on account of sexual orientation. The bill was introduced, and initially sponsored by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Cal.), Reps. Frank and Studds (D-Mass), Rep. Schroeder (D-Colo.) and Rep. Nadler (D-N.Y.). The bill now has 68 co-sponsors, one of which is Arizona Congressman Ed Pastor, (D-Dist. 2).

The bill, cited as the 'Civil Rights Act of 1993', goes as follows: "It shall be unlawful to discriminate against any person - (1) in employment, education, credit, or housing; (2) in the sale or use of goods or services; (3) with respect to any public facility; or (4) in any federally assisted program or activity on account of that person's sexual orientation, actual or perceived.

Now, as I had mentioned earlier, the bill was initially referred to two Committees, the House Judiciary Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.), and the House Education & Labor Committee, which is chaired by Rep. William Ford, (D-Mich.).

The committees, in February, referred H.R. 431 to two sub-committees, one the House Subcommittee on Civil & Constitutional Rights, which is chaired by Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.), and the other, the House Subcommittee on Select Education & Civil Rights, which is chaired by Rep. Major R. Owens, (D-N.Y.). And the bill sits, and gathers dust.

We must act, to get the bill heard. Here are several things we, as a community can do: (1) Call the House Switchboard at (202) 224-3121, and leave messages with Reps. Edwards and Owens, to have them hold hearings on H.R. 431; or (2) Write or send telegrams to: Rep. Don Edwards, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, and Rep. Major Owens, (same address as Edwards); or (3) Call your local Congressman, Ed Pastor at (602) 624-9986, or Congressman Jim Kolbe (602) 881-3588, and register your support for H.R. 431, and ask them to relay the message to D.C. to get the bill heard.

We need this piece of legislation to "establish a beachhead" in our fight for our civil rights. We won't get anything from Congress, until we get this bill through. So please call, or write, if we don't, H.R. 431 will die, and our dream for civil rights will go "up in smoke."

CONGRESSMAN KOLBE STATES HIS VIEWS ON GAYS IN THE MILITARY

Last week, I received correspondence from Rep. Kolbe (R-Dist. 5). The letter dealt with his "thinking on the issue" of homosexuals serving in the military. Here is the basic text of the letter:

"First, and foremost, I oppose discrimination of any sort that is based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual preference. Such discrimination, not based on any objective standard or performance or behavior, has no place in our society which has dedicated itself, evenly or unevenly and imperfectly, to eradicating such discrimination.

"Second, as a former naval officer with service in Vietnam, I know that homosexuals do serve in our military with distinction. I find no justification for their exclusion solely on the basis of an identified sexual preference. I know it is often said that the military should not and can not be the laboratory for social experiments in our society.

"While I agree that the primary mission of our military services must be to defend our nation against aggressors, I would also point out that the military can take considerable pride as an institution that has been at the forefront of change in our society. In that connection, I would not President Truman's order desegregating the services in 1948:

"It was said then that it could not work, that unit cohesion would be destroyed if a white soldier from Mississippi had to share barracks with a black soldier from Alabama. That proved to be untrue, and today the military stands as the most nearly color blind institution in our society.

"Third, I am also a legislator, a congressman, and I have an obligation to vote for policies that are workable, I am very aware of the deep seated opposition the President's proposal faces in the military services. These are the people, officers and enlisted alike, that must make this proposal work. Therefore, I have an obligation to consider carefully any workable solutions proposed by military leaders in the Pentagon. I believe we, the military, Congress, the President, and the public, are steadily evolving in our understanding of this issue. Solutions won't come easily, but I am convinced we can find them. I intend to work for that goal."

MELITI & HIS PETITION

As reported in Steve Meissner's column, Sunday, 9/5, in the Arizona Daily Star, Frank Meliti, chair of the "Traditional Values Coalition", the off-shoot of the Anaheim based T.V.C. headed by that raging homophobe, Lou Sheldon, says his group is about two weeks away from launching a petition drive to "put everyone on a level ball field by keeping anyone from getting special rights" based on their sexual orientation.

Meliti refused to talk about the specifics of his initiative but said it would

repeal ordinances in Tucson, Phoenix and in the Maricopa County Community College District that provide civil rights protections to homosexuals.

We must prepare for the fight against "Meliti & his petition!" How might you ask? By joining the Tucson Human Rights Coalition, they are gearing up for the fight, (which will begin in two weeks!) against this hatred, and they need volunteers to counter Meliti and his "horde." To join the Human Rights Coalition, or for more information, call 791-7000.

Until next time, Letterman still rules!!!

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		JULY	JUNE	MAY		JULY	JUNE	MAY		JULY	JUNE	MAY	
APACHE	61,591	7	7	7	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	0
COCHISE	97,624	23	22	22	11	5	5	5	0	44	44	44	3
COCONINO	96,591	17	15	15	10	1	1	1	0	17	18	18	0
GILA	40,216	7	7	7	4	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0
GRAHAM	26,554	5	5	5	3	1	0	1	1	5	5	6	0
GREENLEE	8,008	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
LA PAZ	13,844	4	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	7	7	7	1
MARICOPA	2,122,101	2180	2173	2124	1267	477	461	454	55	1738	1721	1721	74
MOHAVE	93,497	37	36	35	20	5	4	4	1	26	27	26	3
NAVAJO	77,658	11	11	10	8	2	2	2	0	3	3	3	1
PIMA	666,880	602	602	587	334	79	74	71	14	536	534	530	39
PINAL	116,379	30	27	27	16	5	4	4	0	31	31	31	1
SANTA CRUZ	29,676	8	8	8	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0
YAVAPAI	107,714	33	35	33	21	4	3	3	0	32	32	32	3
YUMA	106,895	35	34	34	19	9	9	8	3	60	60	60	3
UNKNOWN		3	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	118	118	120	1
	3,655,228	3003	2990	2921	1726	589	564	554	75	2625**	2608**	2606**	129

** NOTE: ON MARCH 15, 1989, THE OPTION TO RECEIVE HIV TESTING ANONYMOUSLY BECAME AVAILABLE. AN ADDITIONAL 1,694 PERSONS HAVE TESTED HIV+ USING THE ANONYMOUS OPTION.

McCain Urges Oregon Group To Be Tolerant

PORTLAND, Ore., (AP) - Sen. John McCain, the first national political figure to speak to the Oregon Citizen Alliance, used the occasion to deliver a gentle lecture on tolerance.

The Arizona Republican avoided any specific mention of the alliance's highly publicized battle against homosexual rights.

Instead, in his appearance Monday at what the OCA billed as the first of an annual series of fund raising dinners, he spoke in general terms of the importance of diversity in America and the Republican Party.

"We may disagree with one another," he said. "And we are free to do so openly, enthusiastically and persistently. But we are not free to force adherence to our argument on anyone. We are merely free to make the argument. Our opponents are free to listen to it or reject it. Anything less is tyranny."

While it may have seemed McCain was warning the OCA to back off its anti-Gay rights campaign, the organization's chairman, Lon Mabon, didn't see it that way. He said he was not disappointed in McCain's remarks and didn't believe they were intended to criticize the OCA's efforts.

"In private conversations with him, I really didn't think we were that far off, if off at all," Mabon said.

He said the OCA agrees that people are free to live as they please as long as they don't interfere with the rights of others. The problem comes, he said, when homosexuals seek special protection for their lifestyle.

McCain, however, said in a brief interview before the speech that he welcomes Gays and Lesbians into the Republican Party.

The party, he said, "includes all the members of our society who share the principles and philosophy of Abraham Lincoln."

McCain told about 320 people who paid \$30 per plate, that "We must be careful to prevent the false perception that Republicans have constituted themselves as the private advocacy group of only some Americans, be they of one economic class, one race, one religion, or of one particular character."

The OCA gathering featured the singing of "The Lord's Prayer," but McCain said the United States must be a nation of many religions. "We must assure Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and non-believers that this is their country, too," he said.

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ARIZONA

Arizona GROUP/GROPE: 5'8, 155lbs, clean shaven, avg. built, dark hair, looking for avg. kinda guys 26-38 for group get togethers. Call anytime. #5672

Arizona TALK ABOUT WHATEVER: want to talk to young smooth bodied guys, let me know you're out there. #5794

Arizona OPEN TO ALL: Interested in getting together for rel.? leave msg in my box. #6338

Tucson PERSONAL TRAINER SOUGHT: HISPANIC 5'10, 180lbs, brw hair, love racquet sports, looking for guy who likes to work out & have fun. #6367

Arizona V. STRONG GBM, 31, DESIRES similar or hispanic for rel., if serious call. (you'll be surprised by the results.) #1817

Tucson NEWCOMERS WELCOME: 6'2, 210lbs, brw hair, blue eyes, hairy chest, look for inexperienced guys and anyone curious enuf to call. #3263

Phoenix WE TALK WE MEET... the chemistry's great! Yng Smooth good shaped, 5'11, 160lbs, new for Chicago, desiring the above mentioned. Call my box. #2844

Arizona ATHLETIC 31, hispanic, 5'7, 140lbs, muscl, goodlkg, educated, masc, seeks fit WM, #4231

Phoenix SHY BOY: longing for others into the comforts of swimwear, & lingerie, call for my address, espec. if you match my interests. #4071

Tucson RIGHT STUFF: 33, brw hair/eyes, 170lbs, looking for men 25-35, who keep themselves in good shape, like to stay on top of a good time. #4318

Tucson YNG ATTRAC. HISPANIC: 19 YR OLD: 5'8, 130lbs, blk hair, enjoy shopping, cruising, going out, cuddling up, seeks guy 19-24 for my area, #4580

Beauhead City ANYONE with a PULSE: 6'4, dark hair, turquoise eyes, looking for anyone alive, call for hm # (prefer WM). #3171

Phoenix B AND DEVOTEE: dynamic 44, 5'10, hairy, w/blk hair, seeks exceptional yng man for sub. times. #3688

Tucson SELF-EMPLOYED: CUTE hairy, 38, 5'10, blond, 170lbs, enjoy C & W, camping, just wanna have fun, (no co-da's pls.) #3827

Phoenix ALL EXPENSES PAID: for right travel partner: 38, prof. GWM, seeks 18-25 yr old, to travel with at no expense. Call for details. #3861

Arizona OVER 35? 28, brw hair, hairy, 6'1, 180lbs, looking for guys over 35, for fun no matter when. #3887

Arizona WE SHOULD MEET: 28 yr old, 5'6, 150lbs, blond blue eyed, hairy chest, seeks friendship/rel./male bonding. #5049

Tucson EXOTIC 21 YR OLD ASIAN MALE: 5'5, 130lbs, seeking someone 18-25 for friendship maybe more. #5131

Phoenix I PREFER HISPANIC MEN, & long haired guys too. I'm fun, attentive and a connoisseur in all rooms of the house. #5183

Bowlhead STILL LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT: 6'4, 185lbs, where are you WM? dying for your call! give a call. A Call is worth a thousand words. #3171

Tucson CURRENT AFFAIR: 6', 160lbs, brw hair/eyes, hairy chest, looking for indoor xcitem't & discreet times during the daytime. #4547

Arizona OPEN ENDED REL: 5'8, 155lbs, clean shaven, avg. built, want to get together on monthly basis w/ guys for regular get togethers. #3413

Phoenix RU NICE & HUNKY? Versatile, nice looking 34, 6', blue eyed sandy blond, seeks local or visiting hunky guys who would like to have a good time. #2782

TUCSON, JUST DESSERTS. GBM 23, masc. athletic, interested in meeting guys mid-30's who are masc. attrac. into good times. Give a call. #2766

PHOENIX, STOP GUYS! LET'S GET SERIOUS! GM 30, 6', 230#, masc. husky, attrac, tired of being alone sks White or Latin close to my age or younger, serious, trusting, stable, attrac, w/ht prop. If your tired of bars and searching ads, call me. #2908

TUCSON, ACCEPT NO IMITATIONS. Airforce veteran GBM 35, thin, 160#, 6'3", prof. clean-cut, HIV-, like cars, music, radio scanners, sks GWM 25-40, mil. vet, for friendship/relationship. No drugs or fml impersonators. #2902

PHOENIX, FRIENDS ARE A RARE FIND. GWM 20, Bln/Blu, 5'11", 31w, looking for friends. Please call and get my hm number. #3167

PHOENIX, FOR GOODTIME FUN. Very gdllg GM 33, 5'11", 155#, Brn/Blu, moust. & nusc., looking for masc. man early 20's. Give me a call! You won't be sorry. #4274

PHOENIX, UNBREAKABLE BODY. GM 28, 6'2", 185#, Blu/Lt. Brn, smooth body, workout 5 days wk, looking for other guys in the area for fun. Into sports, the outdoors. Thanks. #4597

CONSTANTLY WORKING OUT! GM Ital/Spain. 29yrs., 5'9", 160#, Grn/Dk Brn, very attrac., 43c, 29w, sensitive. Looking forward to hearing from you. Let's get some good hardbody fun going. #4688

FLAGSTAFF, PREFER HAIRY, FOREIGN A PLUS! Grad student at NAU, 6', 175#, Br/Blu, interested in safe fun with disc. educated male. Looking for friendship, like travel, outdoors, computers, good conversation and good fun. #5097

TUCSON, COUNTRY LIVING AND LOVING. Good-looking cowboy looking for muscular guys in the area. Give me a call. #5251

BLOND HAIR, BLUE EYES A PLUS! GM recently moved to area 21yrs., 6'5", college student interested in seeking soulmate relationship with someone my age. #2025

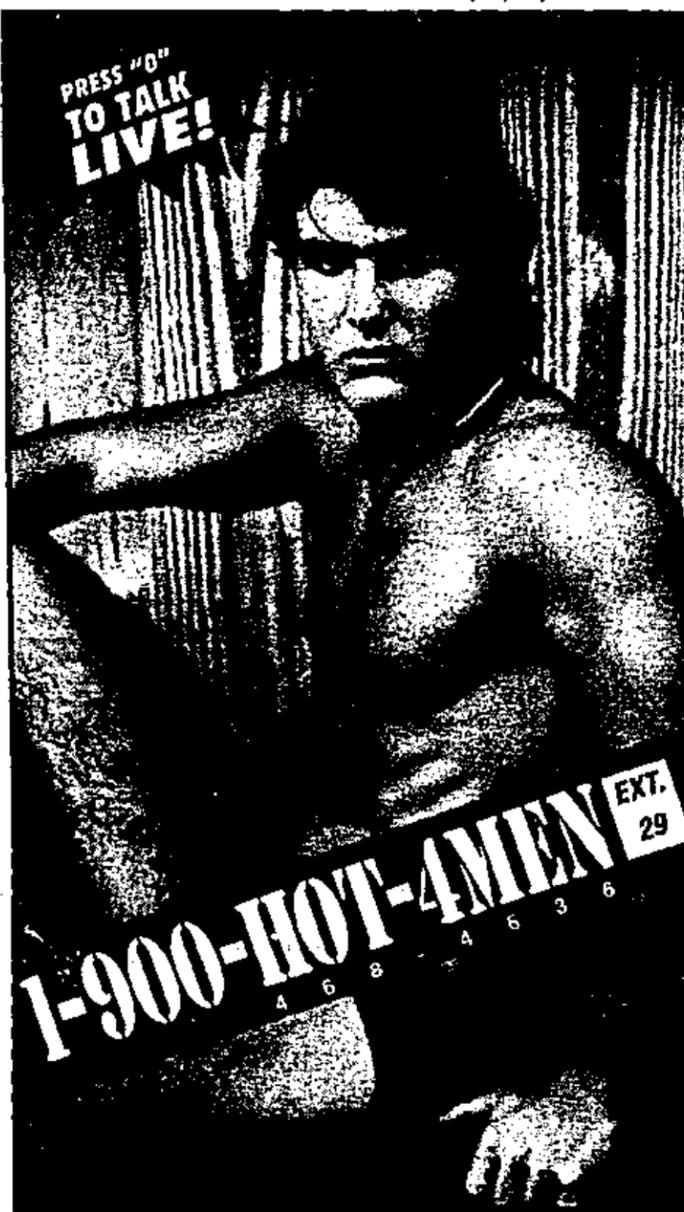
DON'T WANT YOUR EMOTIONS, BUT I DO WANT

YOUR MUSCLE! Looking for studs under 30, smooth, long hair, to come over and turn and burn! I'm 28, Br/Br, ready to rock & roll! #2072

TUCSON, JUST OUT FOR FRIENDS. Give me a call, looking for

relationship. Someone into outdoors, cuddling, honest & sincere. #2829

ALBUQUERQUE, BLAZING FUN UNDER THE SUN. Gay Hisp. male btm. looking for other dom. men in the area. Heat up my days! #2236



To respond to printed ads or browse the latest voice ads with home phone numbers, call 1-900-468-4636 and enter ext. 29 \$19.99/MIN. ADULTS ONLY. CUSTOMER SERVICE: 415-231-3183

other Bi males in the area. Give me a call, get my hm number. #5363

TUCSON, BIG ARMS! THE BETTER TO HOLD YOU. Irish-American 36, young-looking, 5'8", 180#, Brn/Blu, clean-cut, clean-shaven, stocky, muscular, lot of weight-training. Looking to meet guys in area, especially dom. #4824

PHOENIX, ALL YOU JOCKS WITH SWEATY SOCKS! I'm a good-looking well-built GWM. If you're 18-35, also in very good shape, muscular, good-looking, & a jock, give me a call! I'm what you've been waiting for! #1563

ARIZONA, SHOW ME YOUR WHEELS PARTY GUY! Slender party buddy to 35 wanted by graying 34 year old husky. Friendship first, then pos. relationship. Must be employed & have a car. #2259

TUCSON, FRIENDLY GLANCES FROM A BLUE-EYED STRANGER. GM 20, Dk brown hair, blue eyes, 130#, looking to meet people 18-28 who live in the area for a friendship and maybe more. Cast your eyes upon me! #2817

Arizona A SMOOTH BODY TO MAKE AN HONEST MAN NERVOUS! GM 5'10", 180#, Blk hair, Brn eyes, smooth body, clean-shaven, sks individual to get to know to start a

ALBUQUERQUE, MOUNTAINTOP ROMANCE INCLUDED. GBM 22, 6'5", 210#, Br/Br. I like hiking and anything out in the mountains. If you're interested in good times and someone who is "no nonsense", give me a call. #2688

ALBUQUERQUE, LAUGHTER IS A GOOD SIGN. Looking for guys in the area. I'm GWM 49, 145#, disc. prof. seeking friendship with other Gay men, masc., caring, loving, good sense of humor. #5007

LOOK NO FURTHER: 27 yr old, 5'6, 170lbs, brw hair, hazel green eyes, into everything. All cultures welcome. (similar wavelength a plus) #1677

HISPANIC, brw hair/brw eyes, 6', 185lbs, looking for guy into fun, movies. #1895

TUCSON, PLAY WITH ME: 6'1, 220lbs, large & hairy, call me if you enjoy just being who you are. #1556

ENERGETIC 5'8, 140lbs, blond, blue eyed, 40, #1159

PHOENIX LOOKS UNIMPORTANT: 20, 6'1, hairy, desiring Good times w/ 20-45 preferred, #4073

Phoenix LOOKS UNIMPORTANT: 28 yr old, 6'1, 195lbs, gm eyes, hairy body, seeking traveller or local guys for fun & frolic. #4282

PHOENIX GREAT LOOKS OR PERSONALITY? take a chance on us & call #4295

MASTERFUL MAN WANTED: 34 yr old GWM, sub. 155lbs, let's play. #4297

PHOENIX LOOKS UNIMPORTANT: 28 yr old, 6', hairy, brw hair, should have 2 ears and one heart. #4337

PHOENIX I LOVE TO PHOTOGRAPH: 28, 5'11, very toned, very visual, #4475

CHUBBY CHASER? 5'8, 210lbs, brw hair, stached, hairy chest, call for hm number, what the hell, it could be fun. #4854

PHOENIX AGGRESSIVE HISPANIC, 34, 5'10, 160lbs, attractive, clean shaven, seeking masc. top man. #1333

VERY SINCERE: Half Mexican/white: 5'10, 150lbs, professional, dark hair/eyes, trim beard, good build. #4879

Tucson VESTED INTERESTS: seeking TV or TS that would like to be treated as a woman in a one-on-one affair. #4907

ARIZONA READY FOR EXCITEMENT: 34 yr old, brw hair/green eyes, take a chance! #1199

ARIZONA PROFESSIONAL BM 6'2, into singing, song writing & dancing, seeking honest drug free guy any race. #1544

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP: wanted by 26 yr old, 5'11, blond, 150lbs, btm, prefer hairy body, enjoy long walks/fun #2415

Phoenix CAN I BE OF SERVICE? young 6', 180lbs, moustached btm seeks fun time guys #2045

Phoenix VERY HANDSOME: CLEAN SHAVEN & smooth: 5'8, 155lbs, blk hair seeking endowed top man/ any race, #2813

Albuquerque AVAILABLE ATTRACTIVE, hispanic, 25 seeking all types, call soon #3133

White couple, 40s, clean discreet, want clean discreet black men to party with, all pleasurable activities anticipated #2254

Phoenix, Desert south west male looking for top quality friends. I'm 42, 6'1", 180, muscular masculine, well built, military hair cut, enjoy hiking, swimming, photography. #5525

SPANISH 19 yr old, seeks friendship and romance with white male 21-28 leading to rel. w/top man #2023

Tall, trim, tight, smooth, 32 yr old, #2207

A GOOD HOT TIME is what I want. I'm a 28 yr old, 5'9, reddish blond hair, hazel eyed stud #1774

James, 5'8, 140lbs, friendship first, I like outings in the country, HIV positive, let's have fun #1356

Mike, 25, 6'2, blond, 180lbs, handsome #9281

Mark, 35, 5'8, 170lbs, masculine, travel alot #9135

Arizona, Mixed up and New to the scene, Larry. #5903

Santa Rosa Area, Jhn, 5'7, 160lbs, 52, chlc, triobicydes. #5621

Take a Risk on me, I'm Tim, 24, blond, hairy. #5443

Santa Rosa, love outdoors, bike riding, I'm a discreet GWM for you if you are looking for new experiences. #5420

Anti-Ordinance Faction Claims Enough Signatures For Ballot In Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Oh., - Backers of a movement to repeal the Gay rights provision in the city's human rights ordinance say they have enough valid signatures to put the measure to a vote in the November election.

Take Back Cincinnati, a coalition of conservative groups and religious organizations, said it will present its petitions to the Hamilton County Board of Elections.

"We've been able to pull off, a borderline miracle," said Phil Burress, president of Citizens for Community Values and coordinator of the Take Back Cincinnati campaign.

Burress said the group will give the Board of Elections about 18,000 signatures. It takes 9,905 valid signatures to ask City County to place the issue on the November ballot.

The controversial measure was passed by City Council last year and bans discrimination in hiring and housing on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, color, religion, Appalachian origin, or disability.

Gay activist organizations and their allies say they are ready for a fight.

"We had always anticipated they would get it on the ballot because of the low number of signatures necessary," said Shirley Lesser, executive director of Stonewall Cincinnati, a Gay rights organization.

"Everybody is ready to fight the lies and distortions this community is going to hear."

Gay groups have formed Equality Cincinnati to fight the ballot issue.

Peri Jude Radecic, an organizer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, based in Washington, D.C., said her organization will bring experts to Cincinnati to train volunteers and help local activists organize.

Organizers of the Cincinnati repeal effort say they are not anti-Gay, but they oppose giving people "special status" under the law because of sexual orientation.

"There's nobody involved in this who hates anybody; it's not about that," Burress said. "It's about the right of people to petition their government for the redress of grievances. When there's something we don't like, we can fix it."

The anti-Gay rights initiative is similar to other efforts throughout the country, but is the first in Ohio. Take Back Cincinnati was assisted by the Colorado group that was successful last year in passing a statewide referendum that nullified Gay rights ordinances in Aspen, Boulder, and Denver.

But enforcement of that measure has been held up by the Colorado Supreme Court, and the constitutionality of the amendment is to be decided in a trial in October.

Brothers Who Raped Gay Man Sentenced

by Matthew Kauffman

HARTFORD, Ct., - Two brothers who raped a Gay Trinity College graduate were sent to prison by a judge who said he hoped the case would send a message about hate crimes.

John L. Pittman, and Johnny Pittman Jr. are among a handful of people convicted under the state's hate crimes law, which makes it illegal to intimidate others on the basis of race, religion or sexual orientation. They also pleaded guilty to first degree sexual assault.

John L. Pittman, 21 was given an eight year sentence as part of a plea bargain. His 30 year old brother, who had a criminal record, was given a 10 year sentence.

"Hopefully a sentence of this sort will send a message to deter people from any kind of bigotry based on race, creed, sexual orientation, whatever," said Hartford Superior Court Judge Richard A. Damiani. "People have the right to live their lives as they choose."

Police said the Pittman's confronted the man February 9 as he was walking, near the Trinity campus. John L. Pittman is alleged to have asked the man if he had any money. He then asked if the man was a homosexual. When the man said he was, the Pittmans' forcibly carried him to a remote area, where the men took turns raping him anally and orally. When the man screamed for help, John L. Pittman twice slammed his head against a rock, authorities said.

The Pittmans' mother wept in the front row as her sons were sentenced.

When a defense attorney asked if she wanted to speak to the judge, she leaned forward to rise, but she had no strength to do so. A grandfather spoke instead, telling Damiani over and over that the family cannot understand how the young men could have participated in such a crime.

Craig Raabe, a special public defender appointed for Johnny Pittman Jr., blamed Pittman's lifelong substance abuse, noting that Pittman told investigators he began drinking at the age of 5 and was an alcoholic by the time he was 11.

Public Defender M. Fred DeCaprio, John L. Pittman's attorney, said he did not believe the Pittmans' should be punished more severely because of the motive for the attack.

"I think any sexual assault is a hate crime," DeCarlo said. "To single this out as the type of case that a message needs to be sent out, I think is a little dangerous."

Assistant State's Attorney Joan Alexander praised the victim and said she was pleased by the police response to the attack.

"It takes a great amount of courage for any sexual assault victim to come forward," Alexander said.

"He's living proof that if it's reported immediately and accurately, that we will not tolerate violence based on intolerance," Alexander said.

(Matthew Kauffman is a staff writer for the Hartford Courant)

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Notices

FRONT RUNNERS OF TUCSON meet for fun run Tuesdays and a beginners walk/run on Thursdays at 6 p.m. Group meets in front of the Hinson Park Library (East side), and Sundays at various times and places. For more information call Mitch at 326-3535

FACT - People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson, 801 W. Congress. Office hours 8 to 5 M-F (8-7 Wed); Support Group meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Call 770-1710 for info.

SHANTI FOUNDATION OF TUCSON Help us help others in giving emotional support to persons with life-threatening illnesses and their families, friends. Contact us Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 622-7107. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

P.F.L.A.G. - Partners and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

Casa De La Paloma Apostolic Church, 225 W. Flores, Tucson. Worship Services Sundays at 11 am & 6:30 pm. Wednesday & Saturday Bible Studies 7 pm. Tuesday, women's Rap Group 7 pm. Coming out issues couple counseling provided. For appointment Pastor S. Lewis for info 323-6855.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call information and Referral about Alcohol 790-8922 in Tucson info about special groups for Gays and Lesbians.

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP: The group focuses on assisting members in integrating a positive sense of self and building caring relationships. Contact Michael Hutchins, Ph.D. 327-4024 Tucson.

OLD PUEBLO BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION For meeting dates and location or membership information call 577-6018 or write: OP, P.O. Box 44033, Tucson, AZ 85733

TRANSEXUAL, TRANSGENDERS, TRANSVESTITES AND CROSS GENDER SUPPORT GROUP. Conversation and Fellowship. Meets 2nd Saturday and last Friday of each month. Call 293-3456. Not a dating service.

YOUNG AND GAY? Lesbian and Gay youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 422 N. 4th Avenue from 3 to 5 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Randy 882-8966 or Lora 294-7990.

WOMYN'S THIRD FRIDAY COPPER HOUSE meets third Friday of each month at Unitarian Universalist Church 4831 E. 22nd Street. \$2 at door (more if you can, less if not).

ARE YOU A GAY MAN 40 OR OLDER? Do you enjoy the companionship of your peers? Call Cronica 888-7264 in Tucson.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 252 (The Broadmoor). Services for people with AIDS, ARC or HIV+; Community Education. Monthly public meetings. Volunteers welcome. 126 AIDS (Hotline) or 322-6226 (Administration).

GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL IN TUCSON Call information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

GAY OR LESBIAN AND HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM? Call A.A. 624-4183. 24-Hour Hotline. Call for info about Gay and Lesbian meetings in Tucson.

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women: Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitates. Call 844-0476 Tucson. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 422 N. 4th Ave., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Sunday (open to all), General Meetings every 4th Sunday 6:00 p.m. Partners Support Group meets every 3rd Wednesday. Information 624-1779.

GAY SUPPORT GROUP: Lesbians and Gay men meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the Pothills Church, Swan and River Road. Call the church at 299-9063 for information.

LICHEN HIKING CLUB for women of all ages and backgrounds of life. Hike with other women. 795-3610.

CAMELBACK BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (CBPA) OF PHOENIX has a hotline for information and membership call: 266-7202 or write CBPA at P.O. Box 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP addressing a full spectrum of issues, problems and situations. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesday 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave. 624-1779.

U of A LESBIAN/BISexuals/DAYS UNITED Group meets each Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. in Student Union, Room 285. During the school year. Open to all UofA and Pima College students and their friends.

RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF ALL NATIONS - SOUTHWEST - Don't give up your religious beliefs and principles. Be with brothers and sisters of RLDS, LDS Mormon faith. For more information call 325-7668 or 1-800-755-2928. Sacramento Meeting Sundays 1-2 (social after). Mondays Family home evening 7-9 p.m. All welcome. Bring a friend.

UofA FACULTY AND STAFF for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Equity meets on the fourth Monday of each month for a Brown Bag Lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union, Room 283 or 285. Open to UofA faculty and staff concerned about Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual issues.

ARIZONA/SONORA PROYECTO, S.L.D.A. - AIDS INFO LINE 882-3933. Also seeking volunteers who are bilingual (Spanish/ English) and are interested in providing information about AIDS to Spanish groups in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Early Intervention Center, 801 West Congress, Tucson, AZ 85719. 770-1314.

ARIZONA GAY BOOBY ASSOCIATION (AGBA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 323-0803 or write AGBA/Tucson, P.O. Box 40894, Tucson, AZ 85717.

FREE COMPUTER INTRODUCTIONS! The Western Connection Bulletin Board Service. Dial your modem to 602-881-8243 and ask for access to Lambda West - a round table reserved exclusively for the Gay and Lesbian community.

AMERICAN GAY & LESBIAN ATHEISTS advocating state/church separation. Monthly meetings and support for the non-religious. Write: 3003 N. Central Ave., Suite 121, Box 211, Phoenix, AZ 85012-2903. "Recovering Our Community Since 1983".

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave message.

ARE YOU FEMME AND ATTRACTED TO OTHER FEMMES? For Lesbians and Bisexuals: Do you love wearing makeup and high heels, perfume and skirts, lingerie, etc.? Then, let's get together and see who we are! Femmes for Femmes Social/Support Group. Partners and singles welcome. Call 321-4737 for more information.

Notices

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Adm. Admittance welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all - Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-0, Cortaro, AZ 85632.

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, post life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

SQUARE DANCE WITH T-SQUARES at Club 2520. All level classes are held every Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. in the C/W room. New basic-level classes for beginners to be announced soon. For sign-up or information call 747-2875.

"QUEER BISBEE", Bisbee's Lesbian and Gay Alliance, has a general meeting every 3rd Sunday at 7 p.m. at the YWCA in Bisbee.

PRESCOTT GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & QUESTIONING SUPPORT GROUP now forming. Are you lonely? Scared? Confused? Need Friendship? Support? Please write to us. We will respond to all in confidentiality. We're here for you... don't be alone! For students and the community. YAG, Box 2663, 3200 North Willow Creek Road, Prescott, AZ 86301-3720.

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP. This ongoing therapy group, facilitated by a licensed psychologist, provides a safe place to work on interpersonal blocks and self-esteem issues. Membership will be limited to 8-10 people. Call Randy Oberhoff, Ph.D. 623-3190

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, write PO Box 40021, Tucson AZ 85717 or come to our general meetings the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm on the Vestart-n patio.

GAY AND LESBIAN OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Stop bingeing, purging and overeating. Get a life! Call 793-3488 / 290-1739. Come to a weekly meeting.

TUCSON ROOMMATE LOCATOR SERVICE Men and women both welcome. Office 791-0672.

"LAMBDA CAR CLUB, Grand Canyon Region" for information about membership or activities call Bill Jansen 622-3808 Tucson.

LESBIAN AND GAY ALANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 B. Thomas, Phoenix. Billie 581-8850 or Ross 964-2384.

AT BASE AGAIN, A men's discussion group, meets at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave. at 7 pm every Tuesday. All Gay and Bisexual men are welcome.

JOIN US! PLGC, Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, is a national organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Tucson chapter formed in May 1993; PLGC de Cristo. We invite all Presbyterians to join us at our meeting on the 4th Sundays of each month at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 E. 3rd St. Tucson in Geneva Hall. For more details contact Nancy Brown, 327-1293.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

ARIZONA NUDE DUDES (ANDRS) is a Gay men's nudist group with activities held in Tucson and Phoenix. Contact ANDRS/Tucson, P.O. Box 64044, Tucson, AZ 85728-4044 or call Jim Paris at 297-9815.

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Navratilova Signs Book Contract

NAVRATILOVA SIGNS BOOK CONTRACT

ASPEN, Colo., - These days a Powerbook computer is close at hand for Martina Navratilova as her tennis racket is.

Navratilova, the biggest winner ever in women's professional tennis, an co-author Liz Nichles, signed a three book contract with Villard Books, a division of Random House.

"Her personal and political beliefs, plus her rare insights into women's tennis, will be at the heart of her books," said Doug Stumpf, Villard's executive editor.

Navratilova said she is a fan of mystery fiction. "Clive Cussler's Dirk Pitt is my hero," she said.

But Navratilova is sticking with topics she knows, and their first novel will be set at several tennis tournaments, said Navratilova's publicist, Linda Dozoretz.

"Aspen will figure into some of these, I'm sure," Dozoretz said, adding Navratilova likely will creep into some of the story lines, though not by name.

The first book is to be published in 1995, the second in 1996, and the third in 1997, Dozoretz said. Contract terms were not disclosed.

Navratilova was at work writing between matches at a tennis tournament. "She has a Powerbook computer she takes everywhere," Dozoretz said.

Navratilova is not new to the literary scene. She coauthored her autobiography with George Vecsey eight years ago and recently wrote a column for USA Today on Colorado's Amendment 2 and Gay rights issues, and another of her columns is to be published by Time Magazine.

Pagan

Continued from page Eight

The religious right insists that it knows you better than you know yourself, and that you better follow the rules or you're done for.

Which approach makes more sense to you? If you're like me, you'll come out to your pagan nature.

Just don't send your kids to church unsupervised. You could be living with a miniature Oral Roberts or Cardinal Spellman before you know it.

Rock

Continued from page Thirteen

that Paul recorded a congenial greeting to Narcissus in Romans 16:11. Historically, Narcissus was regarded as Nero's male lover. Maybe Paul knew more than we give him credit for!

In our next installment, we will look at the phenomenon of "homosexual offenders" and "perverts" found in 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:10. If you would like to know more about what the Bible really says about homosexuality, call Cornerstone Fellowship or stop by. If you need a Bible, so you can read these passages for yourself, let us know, we have plenty to spare.

Frank

Continued from page Three

the INS should accept the judge's decision on the facts of the Tenorio case. Furthermore, I think it is important that the Clinton administration not only decline to contest but in fact make clear that it supports the judge's decision about the eligibility of Gay men and Lesbians for asylum when they are persecuted because of their sexual orientation and the relevant governments either joined in the persecution or do nothing to protect them."

Frank noted that the INS assured him that they have made no decision to appeal the case, although they did file a notice of intent to appeal to protect the right to do so later. "I believe that this was simply done as an automatic reflex, and I am confident that after studying the policy implications, the administration will agree with me and organizations such as the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, that anti-Gay and Lesbian persecution is, sadly, a reality in much of the world and that the victims of this persecution clearly meet the requirements of American law for asylum. I intend to continue to pursue this with the administration until we receive a favorable decision."

The case of Mr. Tenorio was brought to Congressman Frank's attention by Julie Dorf, Executive Director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

Asylum

Continued from page one

for asylum must show a "well founded" fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Goldberg said most persecuted homosexuals fall under the category of belonging to a social group.

Immigration authorities disagrees.

"The only avenue homosexuals can apply is under membership to a social group, yes. But do all homosexuals meet the definition of a social class? No," said Duke Austin, senior spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Austin added that the agency decides its political asylum claims on a case by case basis and if one group is given special treatment "it would potentially open the door" to scores of other groups, classes, and organizations.

Gerald Neumann, a law professor at Columbia University, said of the Gay cases: "There is no consistent U.S. policy, no set down rules on how to decide them."

Neumann, an immigration specialist, said a major challenge is asylum cases is convincing immigration judges that a nation's anti-Gay laws constitutes persecution.

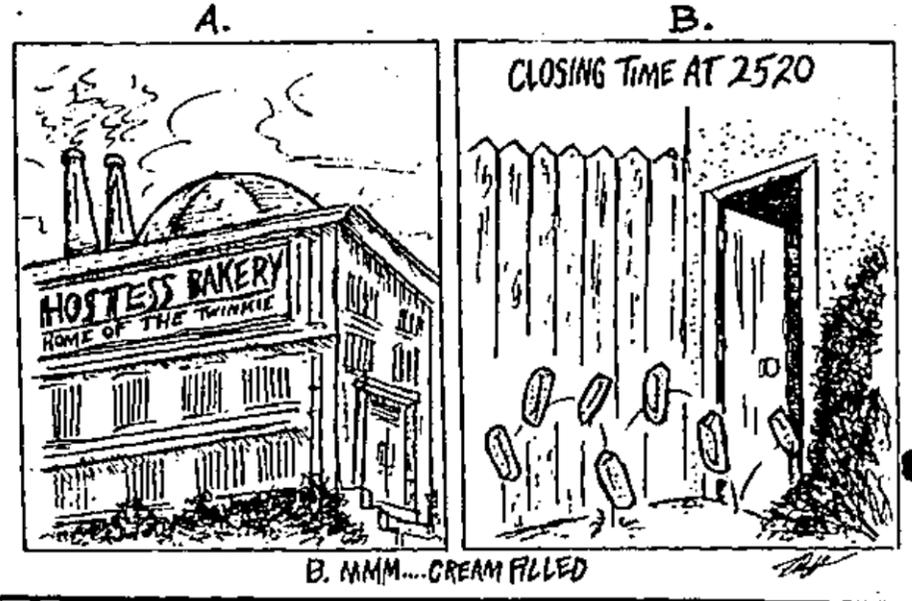
"There is a shadowy line between what the government may decide is a just or unjust law," said Neumann, adding that politics and moral beliefs may influence policy.

Referring to Iran, he said, "just because there is a death penalty doesn't mean homosexuals are being persecuted."

As I See It.....

by Clark

WHICH ONE IS CORRECT



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