Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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S.B. 1314 Fails; HIV Testing Guidelines Remain The Same

House Speaker Holds Up Bill

by Mark Kerr
Observer Political Writer

PHOENIX - In a surprising turn of events during the last days of the session of the Arizona Legislature. A bill that would have changed the requirements for obtaining consent to perform HIV testing, failed to make it out of the Legislature.

S.B. 1314, which would have changed the guidelines for obtaining consent to perform an HIV test from requiring a specific written consent form to "informed oral consent" noted in the subject's medical chart.

The bill, originally sponsored by Sen. Austin Turner (R-Sun City), had been approved by the Senate Health Committee, Rules Committee and passed the State Senate by a vote of 16-14. The bill was the sent to the House, and was heard by the House Health Committee and approved and was also accepted by the House Rules Committee.

The bill received it's second reading before the full House and was passed by a voice vote with amendments. Then S.B. 1314 would be sent to the full House for it's third reading. The bill never received it's third hearing because House Speaker, Mark Killian (R-Mesa), would not release the bill to the full House for consideration.

Capitol lobbyists and sources within the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA), the bills chief backer, stated that Killian's holding of the bill contributed strongly to the demise of S.B. 1314. They also stated that there were three major factors in Killian's actions on S.B. 1314. First, since the Maricopa County Community AIDS Project and a key Republican legislator did not oppose the bill, the Speaker believed that it had to be a bad bill and it had to benefit homosexuals. Killian does not want any legislation passed that would help homosexuals.

Second, the conservatives in the House disliked the bill because informed oral consent guidelines were too restrictive. Some House members felt that doctors would end up resorting to written consent because of all the requirements needed to obtain informed oral consent.

Lastly, the key factor, Speaker Killian was aware that the Arizona Human Rights Fund, a Gay and Lesbian political group, was looking for a bill to which it would attach an amendment repealing the sodomy statutes. S.B. 1314 was the bill originally chosen. The Speaker, and other conservatives began holding bills that they thought AHRF could use to attach an repealer amendment.

When the Arizona Medical Association and Senate proponents learned that the bill would not be released by Speaker Killian, they decided to amend another bill going through the State Senate. They chose H.B. 2217 which dealt with medical records confidentiality.

The bill was then to a House and Senate health conference committees which considered the amended bill. The House committee approved H.B 2217, as amended, and sent the bill to the Senate Health Conference Committee for consideration. However, the Rules Attorney for the Senate ruled that the HIV testing amendment was not germane, a requirement to amend any legislation, so H.B 2217 died.

Local reaction to the developments was swift. Craig Snow, TAP Executive Director, expressed relief that S.B. 1314 did not make it through the legislative process. "This gives us time to work on the issue for next year. Informed written consent for HIV testing, is, in my opinion, critical; and we must educate physicians and legislators to retain this."

Anne Maley, Executive Director of Shanti-Tucson stated, "Every year they try to change the guidelines for HIV testing. I personally wish they would understand the importance of written consent."

Chris Brown, of the Pima County Health Department called the developments "good news and very surprising." He added that ASO's clearly wanted the guidelines to remain as they are with informed written consent."

Blaze Dante Crowned New Miss Gay Tucson

TUCSON - A full house attended the Miss Gay Tucson Pageant on Sunday, April 17 at the Ramada Inn. Five contestants vied for the 1994-95 crown and when the dust settled, Blaze Dante was declared the winner in a very tight race with first runner-up, Lucinda Holliday. Blaze also won the Miss Congeniality Award.

The pageant was produced by Raven/Parker Productions and was handled with excellent control, things running smoothly and on time. Raven is to be congratulated for a great first pageant.

Pictured above is Miss Gay Tucson, Blaze Dante in the center flanked on the left by former Miss Gay Tucson 1993-94 Madame X and on the right the producer, Raven.

Judge Upholds Arizona Law Barring Same Sex Marriages

TUCSON - A Superior Court judge rejected a request from four homosexual couples to declare unconstitutional a state law prohibiting same-sex marriages.

The couples sued Pima County Superior Court Clerk James Corbett last year after he refused to issue them marriage licenses. They claimed the law he cited that barred him from doing so violates their right to privacy and equal protection under the law.

But Judge Bernardo Velasco refused to declare the law unconstitutional, saying it is up to the state Legislature to decide whether Gay couples should be allowed to marry.

"In Arizona, moral judgments are generally left in the hands of the Legislature," Velasco wrote in a four page ruling denying the couples' motion for a pre-trial ruling in their favor.

"The statutory definition of marriage is a passive recognition of Arizona societal desires," he continued. "Arizona's marriage statute was not enacted to discriminate selectively against any particular individuals. It merely codifies what has traditionally been defined as marriage."

Paul Gattone, an attorney representing the couples, said Velasco's ruling gives lawmakers too much latitude to determine whether the laws they pass are unconstitutional.

"Legislators have their own set agendas and viewpoints, and very often they pass laws that will not pass a constitutional challenge," Gattone said. "Historically we turn to the courts to make that determination."

Corbett, though, said he was pleased Velasco decided against taking the matter into his own hands. "I believe the Legislature must change the law if it's to be changed," he said.

The lawsuit, filed August 217, targeted an Arizona law that states a marriage license is to be issued only to couples that include one male and one female.

The plaintiffs in the case, Jerry Callander and Antonio Muniz, John Duran and Stephen Baker, Eileen Maura Jutras and Lizbeth M. Petrucci, and Kathy Greaves and Aileen Jacinta McMurrer, were denied marriage licenses by Corbett.

The lawsuit sought a ruling declaring the law unconstitutional, an order forcing Corbett to issue marriage licenses to the couples and an injunction preventing the future denial of license based on that law.

Gattone compared Velasco's ruling to trial court decisions in the 1960s that upheld state laws prohibiting interracial marriages. Those decision were appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which struck down such laws in 1967.

"The court ruled those statutes were unconstitutional because they violated the constitutional guarantee of equal protection," he said. "We've proceeded on

CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTEEN

UPDATE

Cornerstone Fellowship Celebrates 8th Anniversary

TUCSON - Cornerstone Fellowship will celebrate its 8th anniversary on the weekend of April 22-24, 1994, with a special series of worship services and activities to mark the occasion. Helping them celebrate their anniversary will be Evangelist Evelyn Schave, from Centralia, Washington.

Evelyn and her husband Dennis were long time Pentecostal ministers with very negative opinions about homosexuality when God called them to begin a ministry to the Gay and Lesbian community in 1988. After a lot of soul searching and confrontation with their deep seated bigotry, they accepted the call and transformed their negative attitudes into a true love for Lesbians and Gays. They now travel all over the country encouraging churches in the Gay community, as well as speaking in "straight" churches, telling them how God really does love homosexuals, contrary to what the religious right says.

Evelyn is a dynamic and entertaining speaker who has a strong love for God and for his people, and is a great asset to the Gay and Lesbian community as an advocate in non-Gay churches. She will be speaking at the Friday and Saturday evening services as well as on Sunday morning.

Everyone is welcome to help Cornerstone Fellowship celebrate eight years of serving the Lord in the Tucson Gay and Lesbian community. The Friday and Saturday evening worship services begin at 7:00 and the Sunday morning service begins at 10:30. A special workshop on worship will be held on Saturday, April 23, from 10:00 to 2:00, with a complimentary lunch provided. A potluck lunch will be held on Sunday, April 24, after the morning worship service. A healing service will also be held on Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Cornerstone Fellowship is located at 2902 North Geronimo; 1 block north of Glenn and 2 blocks west of First Avenue. For more information call 622-4626.

Tucson AIDS Project Public Forum May 4

TUCSON - The Tucson AIDS Project invites all interested persons to a public forum Wednesday, May 4th, from 7-8:30 p.m. The location is Temple Emanu-El, 225 North Country Club, just north of Broadway.

The evening is intended to inform people about how TAP's programs and services address HIV & AIDS in Pima County and to encourage discussions about the agency with the community.

If you have questions or comments, please attend the meeting and be prepared to share your thoughts with representatives from TAP and others in the audience. We hope to hear from everyone and address any concerns presented.

If you have any special needs to attend or participate in this meeting, please let us know in advance. We will try our best to facilitate such requests.

If you cannot make this meeting, please submit your comments in writing, with your name and a return address included, to the Tucson AIDS Project, 151 S. Tucson Boulevard, Suite 252, ATTN: Public Forum, Tucson, Arizona 85716. Your comments will be stated at the meeting of you wish, with priority given to people present.

For more information, please contact Dale Kuehnert at 322-6226.

Dartmouth ROTC Challenges Gay Military Rules

HANOVER, N.H. - Army ROTC will stay at Dartmouth College, but school trustees say they will work to change the federal government's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on Gays in the military.

"The trustees believe that American society is in a period of transition that will ultimately lead it to embrace full and equal participation of homosexuals in the military," the board of trustees said in a statement. "The trustees now commit Dartmouth College to help push the transition forward."

They said the Ivy League school may join court cases challenging the homosexual ban might try to pressure the White House, Congress and military leaders.

New 'Live' Gay Talk Show Coming To Tucson Public Access Cable In July

TUCSON - Scheduled to air, beginning Thursday, July 7th, at 8:00 p.m. via facilities at Tucson Community Cable Corporation, "The-G-Word", as the show will be titled, is currently in pre-production stages and will be produced and directed by Tony DeNinno, a.k.a. Tonybob, of Zoom In On Reality.

Gay Nineties Productions (GNP), the company assembled to produce the show, has enlisted Gary Clark, of Observer fame, to host the talk and interview segment of the weekly broadcast. In addition to Clark's wittiness and tasteful but sometimes testy sense of humor, the show will have a newscast segment dedicated to local and national coverage of Gay news, and will provide a calendar of local events which would be of interest to Tucson's Gay audience. Current plans call for the newscast/calendar segments to be anchored by KT Goode, winner of two 1993 Oasis Awards for "The Big Picture", with periodic fill ins by Maude Metcalf, of Dr. Maude comedy fame. Other special hosts and interviewers for specific assignments include two very active, talented and creative new members to Tucson's Gay community, Cynthia Gaver and Meikel Berry. In addition to local and topical coverage, the show will air independently produced comedy sketches, dramas, and Public Service Announcements (PSA's) by such access media and Oasis Award winners as Rosa Love of Empty Closet, Cynthia Gaver, KT Goode and Janell Pierce, not to mention, vignettes produced jointly by Gary Clark and Tonybob.

"The-G-Word", in opting to stay away from the typical talking heads format of other public access shows, will follow a network format with interruptions designed to allow Gay groups and organizations to run PSA's in the same manner as commercials are run on network television. GNP will assist local groups in finding producers to coordinate production of their respective PSA's.

Other segments which are in planning and/or pre-production stages are: A call-in segment to allow the viewing audience to participate in topical discussions; a Gay history question segment, where the first correct respondent will received a prize donated from either a Gay or Gay friendly business; A viewer mail segment allowing Mr. Clark to read and respond to the viewing audience; and a Dear "Drag Queen" segment, encouraging viewers to send their most personal questions for a talented response.

The show plans to have a live studio audience, on an RSVP basis only, and is already accepting reservations for seating on July 7, 21 & 28, and August 4, 18 & 25.

For further information on "The-G-Word" project and R.S.V.P. audience arrangements: Gay Nineties Productions, P.O. Box 1086, Tucson, Arizona 85702. Or call (602) 882-2075.

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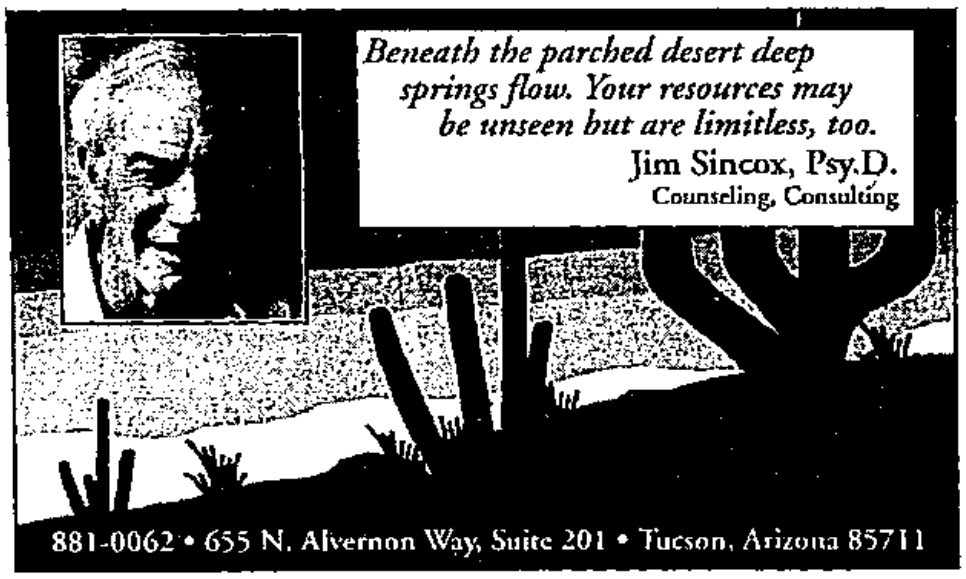

Attacking Homophobia Through Humor
Fundraiser For THRC Thursday, Apr. 21

TUCSON - Paul Bonin-Rodriguez at age 30 has accomplished what for many is a lifelong quest: the successful uniting of experience and creative ability.

PAUL BONIN-RODRIQUEZ

Paul Bonin-Rodriguez at age 30 has accomplished what for many is a lifelong quest: the successful uniting of experience and creative ability.

In his case, the experience is small town culture; the abilities are writing and movement, as an English major and professional dancer, Their union has come about in his writing and performing three related one-man pays, collectively called "The Texas Trinity".

Bonin-Rodriquez will be in Tucson to perform the second play of the trilogy, "The Bible Belt and Other Accessories" in a benefit performance for the Tucson Human Rights Coalition. The monologue by Bonin-Rodriguez will take place Thursday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Sciences Auditorium at the University of Arizona.

Admission is free and donations are encouraged and will go to the Tucson Human Rights Coalition which is formed to fight the impending anti-Gay Meliti Amendment which will be on the November ballot if Meliti's petitioners gather the 158,000 signatures by July 7th.

Directed by Steve Bailey, "The Bible Belt and Other Accessories" deals chronologically with Paul's experiences in the fifth grade in a tiny Texas town, then high school and college as a sensitive, wry-humored homosexual coming to grips with his sexuality and a world that largely shuns him despite his personal charm and lively personality.

Though performed solely by Bonin-Rodriguez, monologues the plays are not. He transforms himself with a mere change of posture and voice into the various characters involved in his growing up including many bothersome townspeople.

Not to give too much away about the evening's performance except to say that it is a very funny, moving, intelligent and brave play. All are encouraged to attend the one-time performance and contribute to THRC which is gearing up for the upcoming fight for your rights.

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POLITICS '94 by Mark Kerr

The 1994 session of the Arizona Legislature has ended. The legislature finished in 98 days, 2 days before the Republican controlled body's self imposed deadline of 100 days.

With Radical Right Republicans in charge, very few bills of concern to Gays, Lesbians and the HIV/AIDS Community were considered, but there bills that were voted on.

In addition to S.B. 1066, the archaic laws repeal; and S.B. 1314, dealing with HIV testing (see story on page 1), this session primarily dealt with AIDS. Here is a rundown of the bills considered:

S.B. 1356 - Juvenile Crime Omnibus. This bill would have juveniles convicted of a sexual offense be require to be tested for HIV. The bill stalled in the Senate because leadership learned that the AHRF planned on attaching it's sodomy repeal amendment to S.B. 1356. The bill was amended, with H.B. 2054 and passed. Senate 27 to 0; House 58 to 1.

H.B. 2563 - Appropriation; AIDS Prevention. This bill would appropriate $500,000 to the Arizona Department of Health Services. The bill was heard by the House Health Committee and passed by a 7 to 1 vote. The bill was held when House Speaker Mark Killian learned that the AHRF planned on attaching it's sodomy repeal amendment to the bill.

H.B. 2087 - This bill would have allowed a person to designate an agent to follow the person's instructions regarding burial wishes. The bill was held up due to concerns raised by the Funeral Directors Association.

The first financial reports for Senate and Congressional candidates were filed this past week and here is a quick rundown on how has raised what:

SENATE: U.S. Rep. Jon Kyl (R) $1,800,000 raised. U.S. Rep. Sam Coppersmith (D) $250,000. Arizona Secretary of State, Richard Mahoney (D) $284,000. State Rep. Cathy Eden (D) $72,103.

State Senator Cindy Resnick (D-Tucson) has not officially became a candidate, so she is not required by law to file a financial report.

CONGRESS: U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R) $121,576. U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor (D) $64,511. Gary Auerbach, candidate for CD-5 $26,000.

On a recent radio program, Democratic Senatorial candidate Richard Mahoney was asked how he has raised his campaign monies without taking a dime from PAC's, which he consider's to be "evil." He stated he is raising his money through telemarketing. So, when you get that annoying phone call during your favorite television program. And you answer the ringing phone. Just remember, you can "interrupt" Mahoney at the ballot box in September during the Democratic primary.

Talk about truth in advertising! State Representative Debbie McCune-Davis (D-District 20), in the Arizona Democratic Party Newsletter, stated that she is running for the Arizona Corporation Commission seat because, "...that a Republican controlled Corporation Commission would be a disaster."

This quote is interesting for several reasons: 1. There is only one seat up for election this year. The ACC consists three seats. 2. The seat is currently held by Dale Morgan, who happens to be a Republican, and who is retiring. 3. The other two seats are held by Democrats, Marcia Weeks and Renz Jennings. (C'-mon Debbie! Get your facts straight!)

Now you all are wondering why The Observer, or this column, did not have any coverage for a time on S.B. 1066, the archaic laws repealer, and some publications had advertisements from the Arizona Human Rights Fund who was pushing the bill, even when it was stalled in the Senate Rules Committee.

The answer is simple. I was asked, by a State Senator, Representative and capitol lobbyists to "sit on the story" so that the publicity generated by coverage would not have informed opponents of S.B. 1066, who dominated leadership positions to mount an attack and kill any chance for passage of a repealer amendment. I followed this request. And I will continue to do so when I am asked.

Actions taken by a Phoenix Gay/-Lesbian political group on S.B. 1066 helped to lead to the demise of any chances of an archaic laws repealer amendment passing during this session.

This groups actions did have an unintended positive effect on another bill, S.B. 1314, which dealt with HIV testing. Due to the group's actions, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President held bills that archaic laws repeal amendments could be attached to for consideration. Thus, due to these actions, two homophobic legislative leaders became AIDS activists.

And so it goes!

Clinics Assail Planned Home AIDS Test Kit

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A proposed home testing kit to detect the AIDS virus was attacked by Gay health clinic officials.

They warned that a positive diagnosis, received impersonally over the phone without counseling, could have potentially devastating results.

The Food and Drug Administration is reviewing a license application for the test, which is manufactured by Direct Access Diagnostics, a division of Johnson & Johnson Co. The company claims the test makes detection of the AIDS virus at home quicker, cheaper and easier.

Using the home kit, a person simply pricks a finger, dabs blood on a special paper and mails it to a lab, accompanied by a unique ID code. One week later, a phone call announces the test result.

The new test promises to help more infected Americans learn that they have the killer virus. But the home kits also pose a unique problem: How to counsel HIV-positive people if they never set foot in a clinic.

That was the message from the leaders of the 11 member National Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Health Clinics, which warned of dire consequences if persons testing positive for the virus are simply notified over the phone, without proper counseling.

The 11 clinics test more than 150,000 people a year and provide pretest counseling, post-test counseling and follow up care.

"If they are alone, just talking on the telephone, how will they react?" asked Christopher J. Portelli, the alliance's national coordinator in Washington. "The potential for catastrophic impact far outweighs the intended advantages."

James Grant, an official with the Whitman-Walker Clinic, the primary provider of community based HIV-AIDS services in the Washington area, said the realization that one was infected "would be a savage assault on one's emotional well-being" without appropriate counseling.

Still, not all Gay and Lesbian leaders, or physicians, oppose home testing.

Ina joint statement, four prominent physicians involved in AIDS research, along with several prominent Gay and Lesbian activists, said "the benefits of home access testing far outweigh the risks."

The statement, issued at a press conference, said that even though existing testing options have been available for the last six years, less than 15 percent of adults have been tested for HIV infection.

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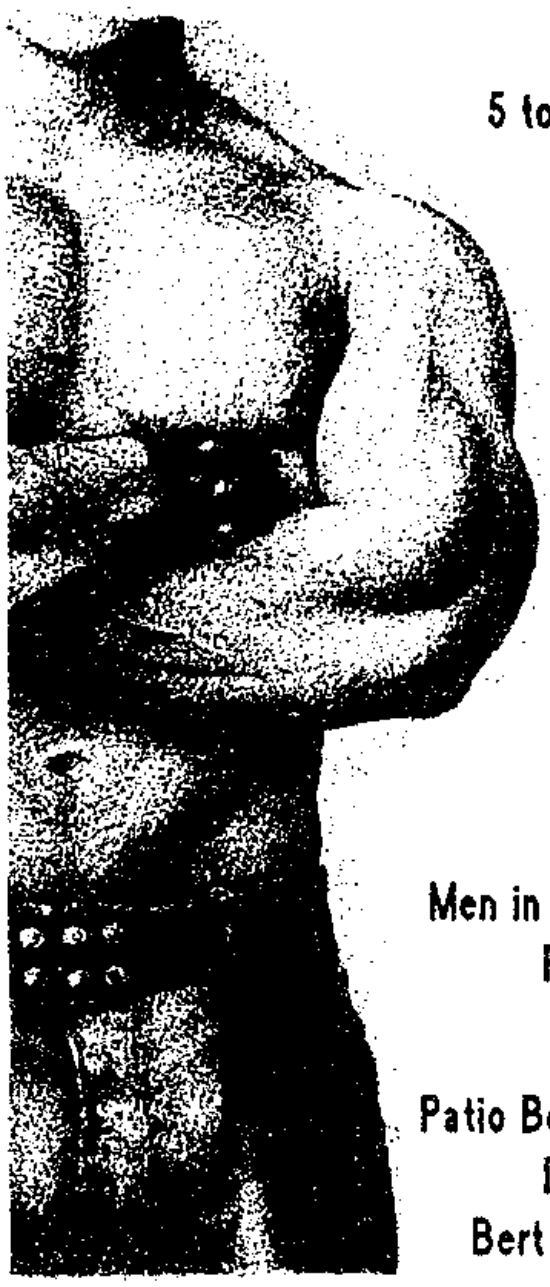

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Tucson AIDS Project, 151 S. Tucson, #252

Completed applications must be mailed to:
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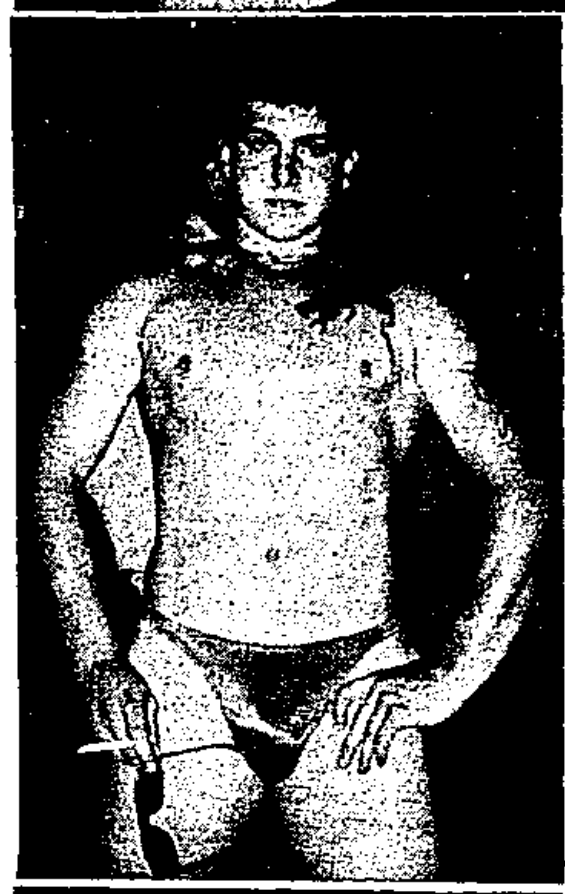
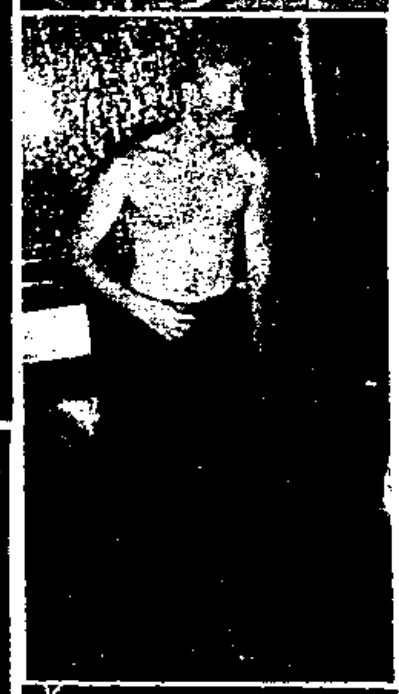
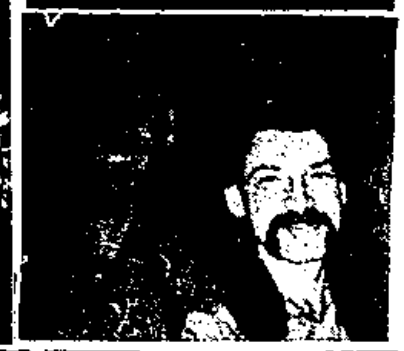
Rumorz Closes Doors







TUCSON - One of the older and more popular night spots for the Tucson Lesbian and Gay community, Rumor Has It, has ended its era as a Gay bar. Ken Sullivan and Jerry Geller have sold 'Rumorz', as it was popularly known, and it has reopened as a straight bar. Here are some photos taken on closing night, when the place was jammed with party goers saying goodbye to the old place.

Sullivan and Geller's Eagle/Stonewall bar at 2921 N. 1st Avenue has been open since the first of the year, and they, as well as their staff, welcome all former Rumorz customers. Most of Rumorz popular entertainment events can be seen on the same schedule at the Stonewall. Check out their ads and the calendars for specific times and days. Watch for their Grand Opening May 9 thru 12.

Mormon Church Fires First Salvo In Looming War: Same Sex Marriages

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (AP) - In the mid 1970's, the Mormon Church launched an unprecedented campaign against the Equal Rights Amendment, saying it's passage would promote Lesbianism and degrade the American family.

Two decades later, the church is gearing up to fight another perceived threat to home and hearth: same sex marriages.

A concerted Mormon anti-ERA campaign raged in several states and some believe the church tipped the scales for the amendment's failure. Proponents complained bitterly about what they saw as the church's intrusion into the secular, political arena.

Like an echo from the past, the charges resonate today.

In February, the church's ruling First President issued a rare call to arms to members, urging them to oppose legalization of same gender marriage and encouraging them to "appeal to legislators, judges and other officials to preserve the purposes and sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman..."

Church leaders contend they are apolitical and speak out only on public issues they consider also to be moral issues. "The church can teach whatever doctrine it feels appropriate," said Marty Baudet, a San Francisco Gay activist and the national executive director of Affirmation, a Gay Mormon support group.

"But I don't accept the premise they can deny the citizens at large, people who don't subscribe to Mormon doctrine, the right to be recognized equally under the law," he said.

As bothersome to Baudet and others is the appearance, at least, that church headquarters is orchestrating the fight. In Hawaii, where a recent court ruling could validate same sex marriages, flyers instructing church members to support legislation to counteract the ruling and telling them how to get involved in the political process have been made available at church meetings.

Hawaiian church officials say the effort is local.

"We never expressed to our members that we require this," said Donald Halstrom, the church's regional representative and spokesperson in Hawaii. "There was no coercion, in any way shape or form."

The flyers contain no references to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Some list a telephone number for the Hawaii Public Affairs Council," which rang to the church's public affairs missionaries.

Hallstrom said the flyers were intended for church members only.

William E. Woods, a spokesperson for the Honolulu based Gay and Lesbian Education and Advocacy Foundation, said several statements faxed to a Senate subcommittee came from machines at the church owned Polynesian Cultural Center and the campus of Brigham Young University-Hawaii.

"I am absolutely, personally and clearly aware that the church and its business organizations are actively developing testimony" on the issue, Woods said.

Church spokesperson Don LeFevre said that other than the February statement, church leaders have not involved themselves. LeFevre also said no church general authority was available for an interview on the issue.

There are those, however, who believe that if church leaders are not conducting the campaign now, they will be. Historian D. Michael Quinn said the tactics closely resemble those used in the early days of the fight against the ERA.

"I see this as a replaying of the anti-ERA campaign of the late '70s and early '80s," said Quinn, who presented a paper entitled "The LDS Church's Campaign Against The Equal Rights Amendment" at the Sunstone Symposium in Washington, D.C. "The tactics, although we're starting very early, mirror the kinds of tactics used then."

Church claims that the Hawaii effort is isolated raise questions when taken in context with a flyer Quinn said was passed out to members of the Montgomery Village LDS Ward in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Similar in wording, it urges members to action against proposed ordinances that, among other things, add sexual orientation to Maryland anti-discrimination laws.

Like the message from the First Presidency warning of same gender marriages, the church in 1976 issued a formal statement opposing ratification of the ERA, warning it may "stifle many God given feminine instincts" and take away, rather than add to, women's rights.

Not long afterwards, members of the church's Council of the Twelve Apostles began publicly speaking out against the ERA. They also instructed Mormon women to get involved in the International Women's Year conferences in 1977. Feminist and pro-ERA platforms in Utah, Hawaii, Montana and some other states were defeated.

There are some notable differences between the way the ERA was handled by the church and it's task in opposing same gender marriages the most prominent being the battle ground.

Where the ERA was fought domestically, the same sex marriage issue will be fought globally. The week before the church issued its statement in February, the European Parliament approved a non-binding resolution urging members of the European Community to allow Gay couples to adopt children.

Affirmation's Baudet believes the church is fighting a political riptide, much as it did when black males were forbidden ordination to the faith's priesthood.

Baudet said the church repeated that struggle in the 1970's with feminism.

"It didn't have to worry back then because society treated blacks and women the same way," he said. "But those two groups put pressure on the church and things changed."

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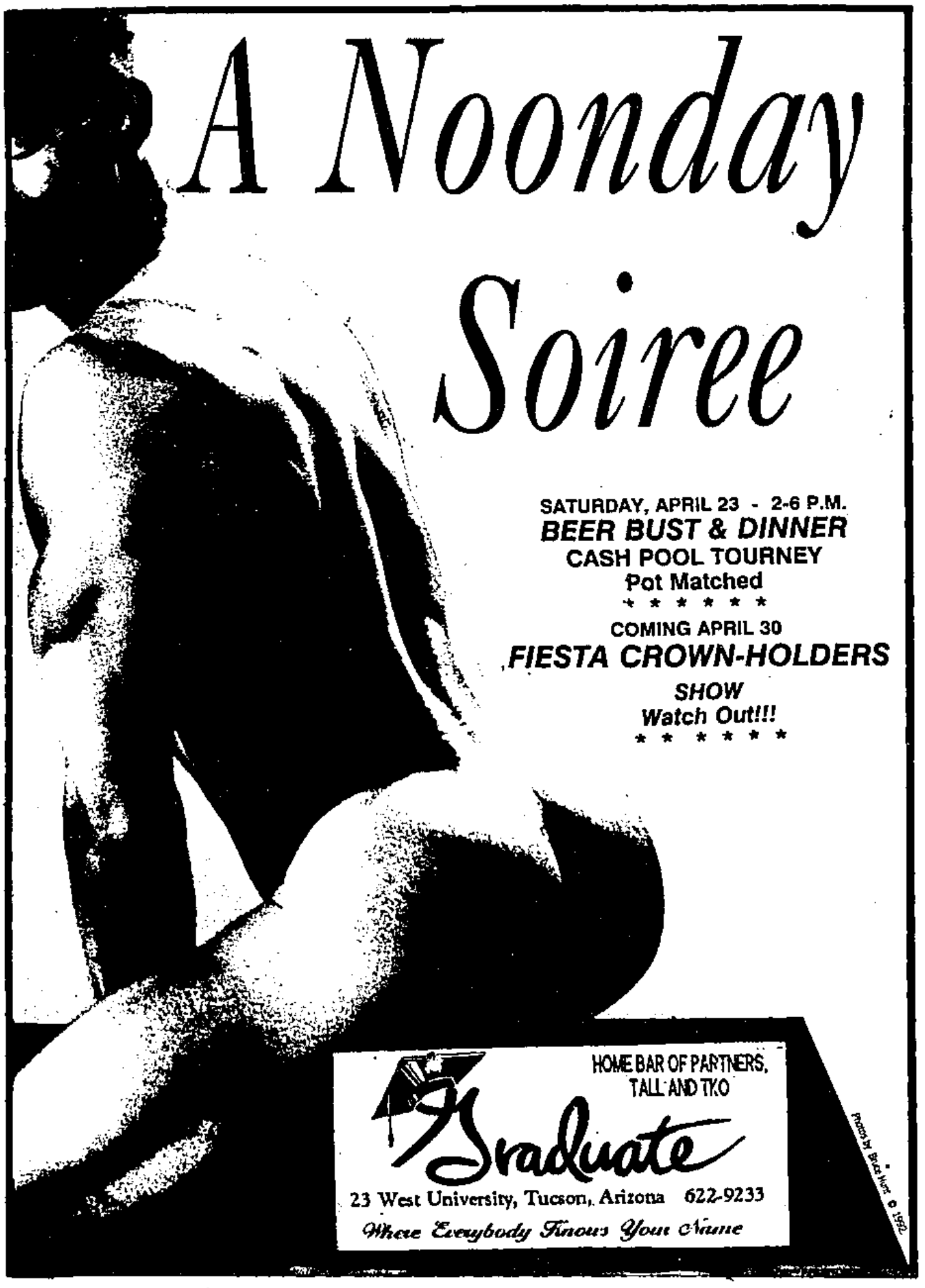

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LETTERS

[The following letter was sent to the Mayor and City Council of Tucson.]

DEAR MAYOR MILLER AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

The People With AIDS Coalition of Tucson (PACT for Life) thank you for the opportunity to apply for this year's CDBG Housing Grant. However, it is with much regret that PACT must ask that you delete our name from the application process.

This decision is the product of many hours of discussion within our Board and with the Tucson HIV Community as a whole. As a coalition of people living with HIV/AIDS, it is PACT's purpose and goal to represent our clients, and the HIV Community, to the fullest extent.

Please allow me to explain. On February 21, 1994 the PACT Board issued the following statement to the Executive Board of the Tucson AIDS Project.

One of PACT's roles in the HIV Community is to serve as an advocate for people living with and affected by HIV/-AIDS. Given TAP's recent public perception problems within the community, The Board of PACT, at this time, must express a lack of confidence in the concept embodied in the current application for the CDBG Housing Grant.

This statement was issued with the promise that PACT would do everything possible to support TAP, if they would address the HIV Communities' concerns in a timely fashion. Unfortunately this has not happened. Therefore, on Monday, April 18, during our regular monthly meeting PACT's Board unanimously voted to issue the following statement.

In response to TAP's failure to address the recent concerns of the Tucson HIV Community, PACT will withdraw from the 1994 CDBG Housing Grant for the purpose of joint headquarters. This will be for a period of one year, without foreclosing the possibility of a future collaboration.

This decision is only regarding this specific grant proposal. If by no means discounts any other venture that PACT has or may have with TAP. It certainly does not indicate a lack of desire to work with TAP or any other Tucson AIDS Service Organization and it most certainly does not diminish TAP's capability to serve the HIV Community here in Tucson.

Once again, on behalf of the PACT's Clients, Members, Staff, and Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to apply for this grant. It is our hope that we might come before you next year as a unified body and submit a proposal that will truly serve the Tucson HIV/AIDS Community.

Sincerely, Mark Miller
President - PACT For Life

DEAR TUCSON:

This past Sunday, I was hoping to win a crown and title for Miss Gay Tucson. Well, it didn't work out that way. I may not have won the competition, but I have won the respect and support of our fine city. The response I got during the evening showed me that I am loved.

Now I would like to thank my wonderful sponsors for all of their support, to Hours, IBT's, Stonewall/Eagle, Club 2520, the Graduate & Martin Russell, I'll be back soon.

I'd like to say "congrats" to all of the contestants this year, we were great!

Also, to Raven, great job girl!! Keep on going!!

Now that this pageant is over, I'm going to continue doing as the always done, I'm not going to change. A crown does not make a good Miss Gay Tucson,a good heart, hard work, and sincerity make a good person.

Blaze, I wish you all the luck in the world during your year, you have an opportunity here to make this title work for you, but only you can do it. In the past there has been very little respect for this title, I hope you can change all that.

Please don't let me forget all of the people who helped me. There were so many, that I'm afraid I'll forget one, I will call them Holliday's Helpers, you all were great!

I'd like to end by saying, thank you to everyone who cares for me, if you need me, just ask. Plus, I'm single & need a good man (or woman), HA!

And always remember to drink safe, drive safe and play safe.

Lucinda Holliday/Larry Moore

DEAR FRIENDS:

I take this opportunity to thank Dave & Frank of IBT's for allowing the Monte-Jon Party to happen there. I also thank everyone who brought the wonderful "photographs." Thank you's to Jon, Greg, Pete, and Linda for helping with balloons. Thank you's to all who made the pot-luck exceptional. (Gary, the bologna was outstanding.)

A special thanks to AGRA for changing their meeting site. You're all sweethearts for doing so. And a great big extra special thank you to Big John, Rick & Scott. I owe you big time.

To all who were there, I hope you had a great time. That's what it was all about.

One more special thanks to Bob & Gary for the "blow up" board. What can I say. Thank you all for the laughs, the tears, and in the words of Bob Hope, "thanks for the memories." I love you all!

Rhett B. Gable

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Be Like Mike

Joan was a straight A student. She yearned to take an acting class but wouldn't, since she couldn't be sure that she'd get an A. Because of her investment in being the best, she never tried anything just for the fun of it. She was trapped in her success, paralyzed by the desire for "perfection."

Jane sometimes got As and sometimes got Cs. She played on a softball team as a back-up catcher and occasionally hit a solid single. She was really good at learning languages, but she never could get the hang of math. She's trying hang gliding next week.

Michael Jordan is a Jane sort of guy, taking chances and admitting flaws, but the media want him to be Joan. Why?

The media say Jordan's making a spectacle of himself, but they're the ones making the spectacle. The cover of Sports Illustrated featured Jordan flailing at a pitch. Was his lack of bat speed truly the most important sports topic that week? Jordan's not hogging the spotlight; the media are shining it right in his face, as always. It's a bit dishonest to blame their obsession with Jordan on his decision to try something new.

The media sa that Jordan is disgracing baseball. But he is one of the most talented athletes who has ever lived, and he's giving 110% effort. Is that really such a disgrace to a sport that has brought us Jose Canseco and his steroid driven moronity, Len Dykstra and his tobacco drooling egotism, George Steinbrenner and his public viciousness, and the 1993 New York Mets and their bleach squirting, firecracker tossing stupidity? How do you disgrace men (not all players, but not a few either) whose main recreational activities are crotch scratching and spitting, rounded out by drunk driving, sexual harassment, and rape?

Perhaps I don't think Jordan's disgracing baseball because my home team is the San Diego Padres; while it's true that Jordan got hired because of monetary considerations rather than his talent, the bulk of the Padres players were hired for the same reason. Granted, the White Sox want more income, while the Padres want less outgo, but the logic is the same.

Michael Jordan is young and healthy and looking for a challenge. Isn't his constant desire to push himself to new levels the reason he is admired? Or do people only admire the success itself? If so, they are missing the more interesting story of a man who was once cut from his high school team, hated the way it felt, and decided never to feel that way again. If Jordan were merely physically brilliant, his success would only reflect a felicitous combination of genes; isn't it more satisfying to watch a complicated man work his ass off?

Of course, if Jordan were just some sort of biological chimeras, part mountain goat, part eagle,we wouldn't need to feel jealous. Jordan lucked out, the rest of humanity didn't. Period. Maybe Jordan failing in baseball takes him off that pedestal, and makes us have to wonder about our own willingness to try. or, on the other hand, if he were to succeed, maybe it would be too damn much to watch one person get to be brilliant in basketball and baseball. And he's good looking too.

It's hard to second guess the responses of sports fans and writers in general, but many clearly use their love of sports as an outlet for their more difficult emotions. There's nothing quite as weird as the fan who couldn't run around the block dripping contempt at a ten year 300 hitter who has one bad year or the college basketball hero who makes one ill timed mistake.

Whatever the intricate psychology that causes some people to viciously deride Jordan and his baseball career, I think they are missing his true heroism. Having a 50 pint basketball game is a glorious magical high. Getting up at 5 in the morning, going to practice, being the least talented person there, and sticking it out, that takes guts. Enduring the ridicule and vitriol of the press, some fans, and some other players, having your errors immortalized on TV and in the paper, that takes guts. And even if he fails, he'll always know he tried.

Many sarcastic jokes have been made about the "be like Mike" slogan since Mike turned out to be a lousy fielder and worse hitter. But wouldn't it be great if lots of kids emulated his willingness to learn new things, even at the risk of looking silly? I know I would rather be like Mike at the ball field testing his limits than like Mike sitting home watching TV.

'First Direct Evidence' Found, AIDS Virus Causes Cancer

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (AP) - Researchers have found that the AIDS virus directly causes cancer, and the discovery offers a possibility of better treatment for both diseases. It also raises doubts about the safety of some new forms of gene therapy.

The results, could lead to safer ways to treat certain forms of cancer in AIDS victims, said the study's authors, Drs. Michael McGrath and Bruce Shiramizu of the University of California at San Francisco.

"This is the first direct evidence that we have a human virus causing cancer through some mechanism, not just indirectly by immunosuppression," McGrath said.

Cancers, including lymphoma and Kaposi's sarcoma, have long been associated with AIDS. But most researchers have thought the cancers were opportunistic, taking advantage of AIDS weakening of the immune system, rather than being caused by the virus itself.

The study, however, found that when the AIDS virus inserted its genetic material into a cell's DNA it apparently switched on a nearby cancer causing gene, starting up a less common variety of lymphoma called non-B-cell lymphoma.

The scientists spent two years reviewing 30 lymphoma cases, and found four in which the AIDS virus inserted itself into the same spot in a cell's DNA. McGrath said the researchers now have additional examples, and estimated that up

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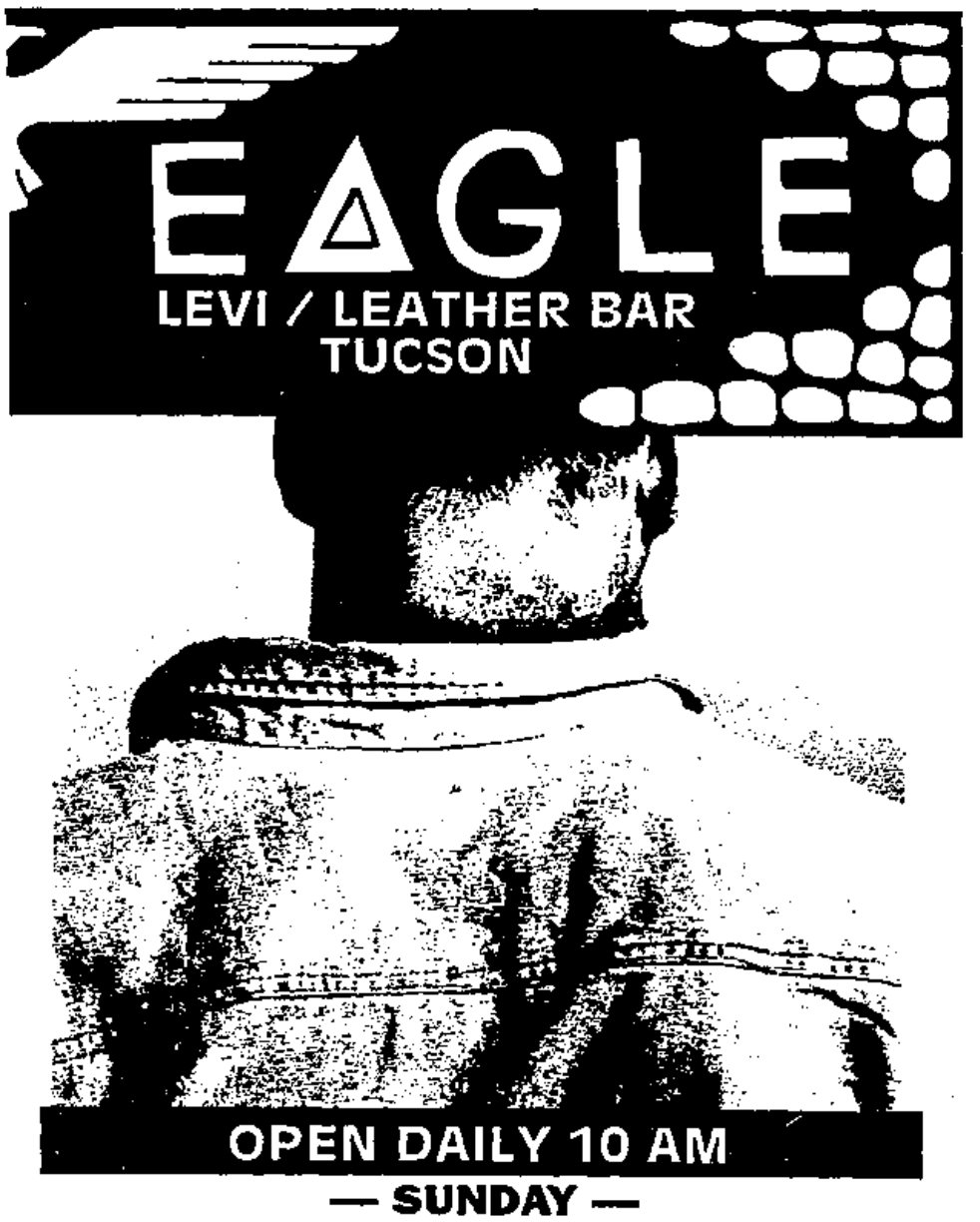

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News From MCC/Tucson

by Ben Corbin

Spring has arrived at MCC on the breath of the magnificent rose bushes in our Memorial Garden, and heralds many exciting new plans for Worship and Praise services, as well as expanding our landscaping project and recreational activities. This time of year is picture perfect for outdoor social events, and our grounds lend themselves toward fun, food and fellowship.

Sundays are busy days with worship, music, and a pertinent message from the Pastoral staff; followed by the joy of shared food, fellowship, and laughter. Our congregation comes from every walk of life, a multitude of employment and service opportunities, and diverse backgrounds; and each person finds something uniquely tailored to their expectations to last throughout the coming week.

A date is being determined for a great Movie Night this month, complete with homemade popcorn and other tasty munchies. Movie title, time, and date will be announced very soon.

Plan to share in the joint MCC/-PACT Italian Feast fund raiser dinner this Friday night, April 22nd, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at MCC. A suggested $4.00 donation entitles you to all you can eat of Rev. Nita's taste tantalizing spaghetti supreme, plus garlic bread, salad, Italian dessert and beverages. Meat and vegetarian sauce are available. Lots of food, fun and relaxation await you.

Preparations are underway for publication of the May-June Beacon. Final touches are being applied to material for our popular bi-monthly church newsletter, which will soon be appearing in your mailboxes.

Thought for the week: Listening may be the most important thing you do this week.

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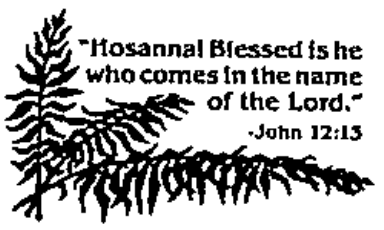

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A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Did you ever meet someone and know then find out to your surprise that that person was a Christian? You might have thought to yourself, "but she acted just like I do", or "he partied like all the rest of my friends!" Maybe this person was a good friend, always there for you, but had never shared their Christian faith. So, what is a Christian like? How can you tell a Christian apart from other people?

First of all, a Christian is simply someone who has accepted the truth that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that he died for their sins and was resurrected, and that he is coming again to earth. A Christian is someone who has asked God to forgive their sins and is seeking his will in their lives. That's the first step. It's what makes a person a Christian. A lot of people take that step, but when life gets difficult they reject Jesus. Others take that step but keep it a secret.

I know all about keeping your Christian faith a secret because I used to be a "closet" Christian. That part of my life wasn't "out". My Gayness was something I'd share, but not my Christianity. You can be Gay or straight and be a closet Christian, and it's hard to recognize one.

You see, when we're Gay and in the closet we can very often pick up on one another. We may have that "Gay radar" perfected! But Christians who keep it a secret are hard to recognize. They may never let on to anyone that they're Christians. Christianity is not a popular stand to take, especially in the Gay community. Gay Christians are an oddity. I know, because I'm one of them.

One day I realized that I had to come out of the Christian closet and let people know who I am. How could I do that? Jesus says in Like 6:44, "Each tree is recognized by its own fruit..." The Bible is full of examples of how Christians are to live. I needed to follow those examples. We aren't supposed to seem like everyone else. In Luke 9:26 Jesus says, "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the son of man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory..."

Can you come out of the Christian closet and share your beliefs? For those who don't know what a Christian believes, I encourage you to read the Bible or talk with a Christian. If you don't know one, come to Cornerstone Fellowship. There's a whole new lifestyle waiting for you!

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Judge Upholds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

the same theory in this case."

Gattone said he plant to appeal the ruling, but that he is unsure about the status of the lawsuit. While Velasco denied the couples' motion for summary judgment, which asked him to grant their demands without a trial, he did not rule on a defense motion for summary judgement in their favor.

Velasco said last might that he did not expect any more hearings in the case in his court, but Gattone said he would press for a trial if the judge does not dismiss the lawsuit.

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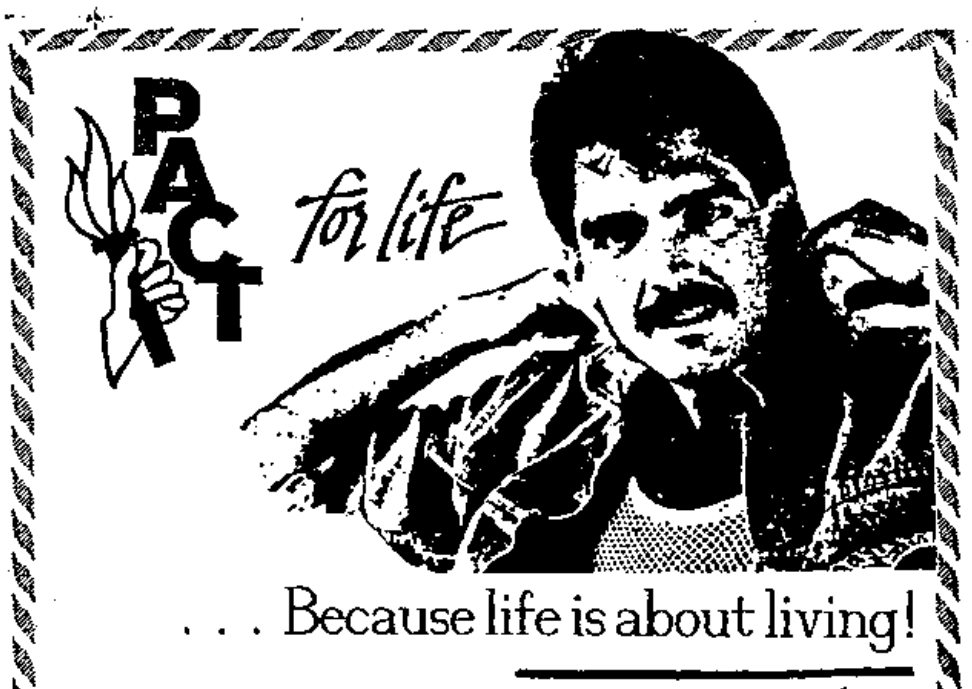

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CALENDAR
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CLUB 2520 - Anonymous HIV testing by Pima County Health Department will take place here from 5:00 until 7:30 p.m. Here's a great chance to get tested.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
CLUB 2520 - Big Fundraiser for Team Arizona going to the Gay Games in New York. From 8 to 10 p.m., the night will feature Sumo Wrestling. If you want to volunteer to wrestle, come on down or call 881-6212 and sign up. 50¢ Draft Beer. It looks like a 'fund' night so come on down for an evening you won't soon forget.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23
GRADUATE - TALL monthly Beer Bust and Dinner here from 2 to 6 along with the regular Cash Pool Tourney with Pot Matched.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24
IBT'S - Sunday Benefit BBQ and Beer Bust on the Patio. This Sunday proceeds go to Tucson Human Rights Campaign. It goes from 3 to 6 p.m. COme on down!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
IBT'S - Special Glamazon Show "Farewell to Madame X" whose reign as Miss Gay Tucson is now over. Come and celebrate the Madame's freedom!

SATURDAY, APRIL 30
GRADUATE - Fiesta de Mayo Crown Holder's Show - watch for details on this community Pride Week fundraiser.

FRI-SAT-SUN, MAY 6-7-8
IBT'S - Fiesta de Mayo will be held here with booths, food, contests, games and a lot of the old hoopla that goes with this annual fund raising event that helps defray costs of putting on Pride Week activities and the annual Picnic. Get down and get with it!

SUNDAY, MAY 8
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Beginning of a weeklong celebration of their Grand Opening. Check it out as details become finalized. Lots of eye-popping action plus loads of entertainment and special, special surprises. You won't be disappointed. Better get ready!

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Non-Bar CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
"The Bible Belt and Other Accessories", a new monologue by Paul Bonin-Rodriguez will be performed at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Sciences Auditorium on the UofA campus. The performance directed by Steve Bailey is a benefit for the Tucson Human Rights Coalition. Admission is Free but donations are encouraged and will go to THRC. Bonin-Rodriguez has performed this funny, intelligent and moving one-man play throughout the country to great acclaim. See story on page four of this issue of Observer.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22
Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo, will be celebrating their anniversary this weekend, and will open the celebration with a worship service this evening at 7:00 p.m. with special guest Evelyn Schave.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23
Cornerstone Fellowship continues their Anniversary Week3end Celebration with a Worship Seminar from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. today with a special Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. with special guest Evelyn Schave. Call if you plan on attending the Worship Seminar because a complimentary lunch will be served. RSVP to 622-4626.

An all-women's dance beginning at 9:00 p.m. presented by Lesbianas Latinas de Tucson and featuring the popular women's band Rare Breed. 9:00 p.m. at the 4th Avenue Social Club. $5 donation requested. Proceeds to sponsor Latina Lesbian Cultural Evening and Conference Sept. 16 & 17 featuring Cherrie Moraga.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Anniversary activities wind up at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo, with a full schedule of activities today. Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. followed by Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. and a Potluck at 12:30 p.m. There will be a healing Service at 6:00 p.m. Happy Anniversary!

TUESDAY, APRIL 26
A benefit poetry reading for Shanti with an open mike after the reading hosted by One-in-Ten Theatre in the Historic Y Theater, 738 N. 5th Ave. Suggested donation $5. Refreshments by Wingspan Youth Group.

THURSDAY, MAY, 5
UBGLAD (United Bisexuals, Gays and Lesbians with Dignity), the Pima Community College Group will meet in Room RC-5 from 3:00 to 4:30. For more information call Nicole or Wayne at 884-6562.

SATURDAY, MAY 7
Julia Benitez Arriola will be one of the featured artists at the Cinco de Mayo Celebration to be held at the UofA Museum of Art. The exhibit is entitled "Impacto Cultural III, Mujeres a Traves de La Frontera/Cultural Impact III, Women Across the Border". Ms. Arriola will be exhibiting metal sculptures. The opening artist reception is today from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. and the exhibit takes place from May 7 to 27.

FRI. SAT. SUN. MAY 6-7-8
Fiesta de Mayo Weekend. This is a major fund raiser for Pride Week activities including the big annual picnic. Watch for more details.

JUNE 12 THROUGH 18 - PRIDE WEEK
Watch for more details as the time draws closer.

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Tucson CALENDAR

sunday
CLUB 2520 - Open Noon. Salad Bar and Western Steak Fry 4 to 7 pm. AGRA C/W Dancing and Beer Bust 5-8, all you can drink $5. C/W and Progressive Dance Music 8 to 1.

EAGLE - Opens at 10am with special prices on Bloody Marys all day. 3pm Pool Tournament with Beer Bust.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8 pm, all well $1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢

HOURS - Bloody Marys and Screws $1.25 til 7 pm. Country/Western dance instruction 6-8 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. Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 3-6. Tea Dance 4-8. Rock 'n Roll dancing later

STONEWALL - Open at 4pm with pool tournament. T-Dance begins at 4; Disco dancing 8 to close.

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 3pm. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8pm. $1.25 well 8-1 + Moose Madness "Buckets". C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music begins at 9pm.

EAGLE - Happy Hour in the Eagle 10am to 8pm with $1.50 Well and Domestic Beer. Uniform Nite, drink specials to those in uniform.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢ Bring in your VHS movie and they'll play it. (No porno please!).

HOURS - Open Noon. Happy Hour 12 to 7pm - Well and Domestic Beer $1.25. 50¢ Draft Beer 7 to close.

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour 4-8pm, $1.25 domestic beer and well. 8pm to midnight, 50¢ draft beer. Mellow Jazz Mondays with Prize from 9 to 1

STONEWALL - Opens at 8pm for dancing. Enjoy midnight specials.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio Bar opens at 7pm

tuesday
CLUB 2520 - Open 3pm. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8pm. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer 8 to close. $2.50 pitcher of beer and get a free sub sandwich 8-10. T-Squares Advanced Group 7pm. Country/Western dancing and Trash Disco Black Light Party begins at 9 pm.

EAGLE - Happy Hour 10am to 8pm. Leather Nite, drink specials to everyone wearing leather.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well $1.25, Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢

HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. Schnapps 75¢ 7pm to close

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour 4-8 pm, $1.25 domestic beer & well. 9 pm to 11pm, 2 for 1 on well and domestic beer.

STONEWALL The Palsies Revue Show at 9:30 plus Midnight specials.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am to 1am. Patio Bar opens at 7 pm

wednesday
CLUB 2520 - Open 3pm. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8pm. 50¢ off on everything from 8pm to close. Drink Specials all nite. ID required. C/W dance lessons with Edgar 7:30-9:30

CLUB CONGRESS - Rod Parrow's "Queer Extravaganza" here from 8 pm to 1 am, featuring caged dancers.

EAGLE - Happy Hour 10am to 8pm. Bowler's Nite, drink specials to bowlers all night.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well $1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢

HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. 50¢ off all call drinks 7 to close. Disco dance music 8-1.

IBT's - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour 4 to 8pm, $1.25 domestic beer & well. $1.50 Bud Product Special 9 pm to close. (Specials do not apply during shows)

STONEWALL - Open at 8pm. Salsa Nite. Corona and Margarita specials.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am to 1am. Power Hour 5-6 $1 Longnecks & Well, Patio bar opens 7pm. Bare Chest Nite from 7pm. Happy Hour prices for "upwardly naked" men.

thursday
CLUB 2520 - Open 3pm. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to 8pm. Men's Nite - 50¢ draft beer 9pm to 1am. C/W & Progressive Dance Music begins at 9 pm. Dart Tournament 8pm. Bar matches pot.

EAGLE - Happy Hour 10am-8pm. Country Nite, drink specials to those in western attire.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8pm, all Well $1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢

HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. Heineken or Corona $1.75 9pm to 1am. Country/Western dancing 9 to 1.

IBT's - Open noon to 1am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm $1.25 domestic beer and well. $1 hamburgers 4-7. Underwear Nite 10 to 1 - win a pair of Calvin Klein underwear. $1.25 Well and Domestic Beer to those in their underwear.

STONEWALL - Open 8pm. Male Erotic Dancers 10pm, Midnight specials

VENTURE-N - Open 6am to 1am. Power Hour 5-6 $1 longnecks and well. Patio Bar opens at 7pm. Leather Nite 8 to midnight. Special prices for men in leather. Pool Tournament 7pm, $3 entry fee.

friday
CLUB 2520 - Open 3pm. 99¢ Happy Hour 4 to8 pm. (well and domestic beer). C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music begins at 8pm.

EAGLE - Happy Hour 10am-8pm; Hot Hors d'Oeuvres 6pm

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well $1.25 draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢

HOURS - Happy Hour 12-7pm well or domestic beer $1.25. Dance 9-1

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour 4-8pm $1.25 domestic beer and well. $1 hamburgers 4-7. GoGo dancers 10pm. Dance Party Weekend 9 to 1 with DJ David Z.

STONEWALL - Opens 8pm. Karaoke hosted by Crash at 9pm.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am to 1am. Power Hour 5-6 $1 longnecks & well. Patio Bar opens 7pm.

saturday
CLUB 2520 - Open Noon. C/W dancing and Progressive Dance Music begins at 8pm.

EAGLE - Open at 10am. All day special on screwdrivers and canned beer until 8pm.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well drinks $1.25 draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢. Pool Tournament 2pm, $3 entry fee, pot matched.

HOURS - Open Noon. Dancing 8-1.

IBT's - Open noon to 1 am. Happy Hour noon to 8 pm $1.25 domestic beer and well. $1 Hamburgers 4-7. Dance 9pm to 1 am with DJ David Z. and GoGo dancers begin at 10pm.

STONEWALL - open at 8pm, Salsa and Dance Music.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am to 1am. Patio bar opens at 5pm.

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WHAT'S UP DOC???

I must say, after such a short column last week, you would almost get the impression that I was getting tired of the weekly BS, but never fear. My only excuse (if you wish to believe me) is that Mother Nature had me a wee bit under the weather and I was not out and about as usual. So with that over, here goes.

First off - out of the BS shoot - I wish to welcome a couple of travelers, those 5th wheelers, who sometimes call Deming, N.M. home, Alan and Gordi. These two live as a lot of us wish we could, whenever they get tired of their present stomping ground, they just hook up and hit the road.

Sometimes, and this did happen in New Orleans, they move on a little faster than they should have. It seems that they put a bunch of rolls of film in to be developed, forgot about them. In calling the photo shop later down the road, all the pictures had been thrown away, to long sitting on the shelf waiting to be picked up.

Anyhow gang, welcome to Tucson and we all hope your stay is pleasurable and fun. And, if by chance, by the time this article hits the streets, you have already moved on again, I'll save you a copy and bring it with me to the City of Rocks.

In going over some of my previous columns, you would think the only people I ever catch, or others pass info on to me, is Stan and Ray. Well, this is not just a personal advertisement column for either one of them, it's just the two of them constantly give both myself and others so many of those little juicy tid bits, how could any columnist pass them up.

But I will say one thing about Ray, not only does he himself give me some of these tid bits on himself, he also passes on some juicy one's on others, point of example follows.

He was recently visited by a couple friends from Tyler, Tex., John-John and "Super Dyke" (Terry). They arrived last Monday and the party began over at the Congress. From there, Ray carried the two of them to each and (almost) every Gay and Straight bar around Tucson. The straight bar is one that Ray has a habit of slipping into once in awhile, or I should say - three different straight bars.

Then Tuesday morning, the three of them got up with all intentions of visiting the Desert Museum. Well, they stopped off at the Shamrock for just one cocktail. They stayed a wee bit to long, the end result, headed back out to Rays house to sleep it off. And this was all before lunch.

Now this tour director - Ray - also carried them by the Biosphere. And we all read in the paper about people breaking into the place for a look see, guess who three of them were?

Ray was trying to play the perfect hostess by carrying them out for dinner. Super Dyke - her meal consisted of nothing more than nachos. No wonder Super Dyke is so small in statue. Maybe there should be a name change to Mini Dyke.

And what I later found out from Ray, because I was along with them on the Monday excursion, was that a triangle was going on, with (and you can believe this or not) ME as the target of the other two from Texas. Well, everyone knows me and that I'm true blue and un-tattooed to Keith, so I went home alone.

And finally on John-John, if you see him sitting at a bar talking to the wall, a napkin, a mirror, or whatever, don't worry, he is either a wee bit over the limit in drinks or just plain flat assed bored.

One other person that was not on this trip was Mona - 84 years young. It seems, from listening to Ray and John-John, she has bailed them both out of a lot little problems. And also, it seems she is a party gal. I do hope someday that I can meet this lady and then she can tell me stories about these two that they would never tell me.

Moving on, did you notice the ear ring Stan was wearing at Partners beer bust last Saturday? If must of been in respect, honor, or ???, for Ben's shirt.

One final item to pass on is, let's attend TALL's beer bust this coming Saturday to see if Stan is wearing another ear ring, or what. If his ear was pierced, he could wear the original friendship pin TALL ever used, and yes it was leather.

I guess that will be it for this week. With the two happy-go-lucky 5th wheelers in town, John-John and Super Dyke arriving back in town Wednesday, you can bet my pen may have plenty of material for next week. So, until then, have a safe and loving week.

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From The POOP SHEET
by Ace Lundon

Well kiss ma' grits and butter ma' buns! When President Clinton proclaimed it best if children were born into a two parent family, all the Religious Right stood up and cheered; as did those of us who are Gay/Lesbian who come from two parent families; because we love our Moms and Dads who love us. The assumption that a child will have the love, compassion and understanding from a Mother and a Father is exactly that, an assumption. Plus, there are plenty of straight kids with two parents families in the same boat with us!

We can also shout hooray for the fact that our creator's love is not as conditional as some of his so-called "children". Conditional love, to move, has always been tolerance, not love. Unconditional love is the only "love" which is truly loving.

Speaking of people with unconditional love qualities, let's throw a few bouquets while they can still smell 'em to the Moms and Dads in P-FLAG who probably don't know anymore about this "Gay-thing" then we do in reality, but they stand, by us all the way. They just go on loving those little ducklings of theirs, whom many think of as "ugly ducklings", because they know those ducklings were a gift from God to be cherished, nurtured and loved.

And, while I'm in the mood for throwing kudos, we must never forget all of the parents who may not have been lucky enough to have been gifted with a Gay or Lesbian child, yet they still exhibit unconditional love and accept us as their loved ones.

Time for a channel change! Got a few "ruffled feather" letters from some of you who were offended because I refer to "us" as "homos". So: brief explanation time. Gertrude said it best: "A rose is a rose is rose." There is no shame or negativity to the word unless we are ashamed of being who we are. You see, my generation grew up with that word and we were made to feel ashamed even though there was no reason to be so. "Gay" is a newly coined word, which I am getting used to using. But consider my surprise when I announced to my Mother in "coming out" that I was "Gay". She was so glad for me. I thought I was talking to another Mother. When I told her she must have misunderstood me and that I was a "homosexual", she then burst into tears and bemoaned the "fact" that she'd never see me in heaven. When I told her "don't bet on it Mother", she said she never would because gamblers won't be there either. So what's in a word? Only the meaningful truth in communication. Forgive my offensive truth.

Well! You say you're a Senior Citizen and can't find anyone to love?! Imagine that! You think this is only a problem for homos! Get over it Honey, it isn't. We live in the real world and it's been this way for centuries. Oh, I see. You've chosen to bellyache and cry-in-the-beer a bit about it anyway. Just a little moaning and groaning there's no body around who loves poor little old you now that you're over the hill. And what a pretty sight you are in that condition! It's just a barrel of fun being around a whiner and a complainer.

For those of us who are lucky enough to even still be alive after fifty in these times, we should wake up, smell the roses. This is the time of life when we have the time to be leaders! Not whining and complaining about our diminishing supply of fresh meat; which is really what it's all about, isn't it? It's not that we're not loved. It's that we're no "getting it" like we used to.

What is the ugly truth is that we're not Bad Dolly and Stud Muffin we once were when all the pretty young things were trackin' our trail. It is however a fact of life that straight and Gay must learn to live with. What's our choice? Well, we could bemoan the fact that we're sex starved old farts who are still alive or we can put that greed aside and make our Senior years count for the bettering of the lives of the generations yet to come. Edmund Wilson may have said it best: "If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes!"

But what can poor, sex starved, little old you do! Good God Gertrude,put your specs on and take a look around you! There are Community Service Centers is desperate need yet to establish such Centers.

There are letters to be written to our "public servants" in our Capitols and Washington D.C. There are people who need to be registered to vote so equal rights can be a reality. There are freedoms which need to be fought and protected.

And, probably the most important of all: if you are still in your closet is to throw open the door and step boldly into the truth of being a beautiful person you've deserved to be all your years but were afraid to reveal before.

As Senior's there's not much more Society can do to us at this point in life. Let's not waste the most important years of this lifetime, our Senior years, when wisdom can be our guide instead of our libido.

Well, that's it from the Poop Sheet.

Mormon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

In 1978, the church announced a revelation that "worthy men of all races" could receive the priesthood.

"I predict society will acknowledge Gay rights and, 20 years down the road, the church will find itself out of step once again and trying not to look bad," he said.

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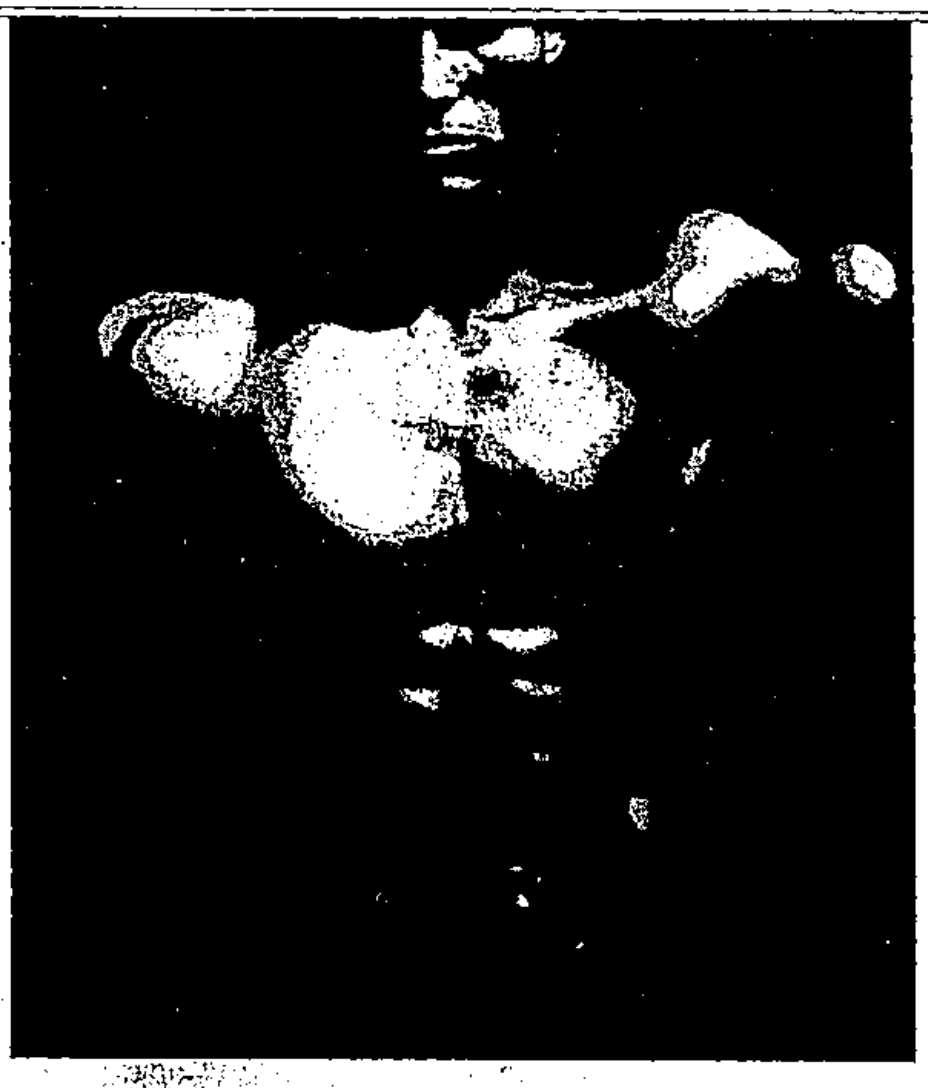

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AIDS Virus

Continued from page Nine

to a third of non-B-cell lymphomas in AIDS patients show similar results.

The study is to be published in Cancer Research, the journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Dr. William A. Blattner, chief of the viral epidemiology branch of the National Cancer Institute, hailed the finding as an important step in understanding how a retrovirus, the class of virus that includes the AIDS virus, can cause cancer.

"This has been seen in animal retrovirus, but it's the first example of an insertional retroviral situation in man," he said.

Dr. Dawn Willis, a virologist and scientific program director for the American Cancer Society, called the study "a very exciting finding."

She said the link between AIDS and cancer was always considered indirect because no one had ever found HIV, the AIDS virus, in a cancer cell before. The discovery could suggest research in tracing the role of viruses in other cancers.

Shiramizu agreed.

"It definitely leads us in some directions," he said. "Lymphomas, Hodgkin's disease, right now we don't know what's causing them." Now that researchers know where to look for viruses, further discoveries are possible, he said.

But the study also casts a cloud over the goal of creating an AIDS vaccine from a form of the live HIV virus. The study authors and other scientists fear such a vaccine could trigger cancer genes while halting AIDS.

More broadly, the study raises questions about the use of any retrovirus in a vaccine, as well as their increasing role in the new field of gene therapy. Retroviruses can be used to carry a gene into an organ to correct its functioning.

"This causes a lot of concern over the use of retroviruses for anything, for vaccines or even gene therapy," McGrath said. "Hooking up a gene to a retrovirus and then infecting human cells might risk cancer."

Shiramizu emphasized that the study doesn't show the AIDS virus' exact role in causing cancer. Until that is determined, he said, long range questions are still speculative.

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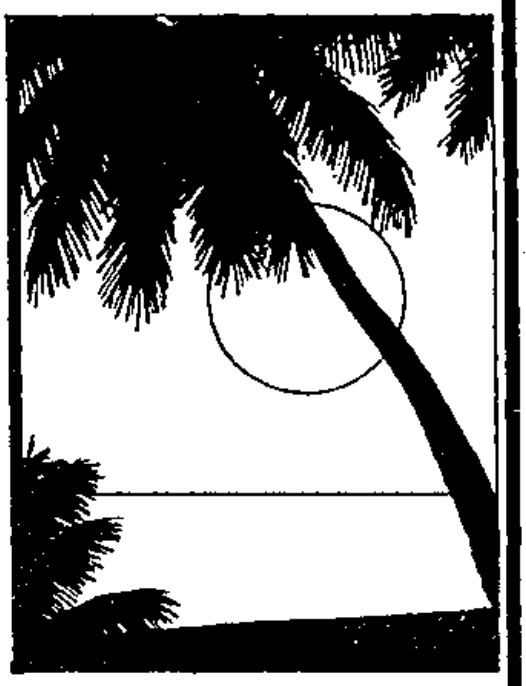

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HOROSCOPES by Daryl

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Great strides in friendship and equally in business. Being aloof to the wrong people could be a risk that should not be taken. Seize the positive momentum that surrounds you now.

TAURUS
APRIL 20 - MAY 20

You should have quite the green thumb with gardening or planting now. Family is the fulcrum governing all your social activities this week. Bask in the warmth of the familiarity.

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Neither a routine week without much difficulty. You will receive a legal document which will require immediate attention. Be quick to address things and they will not have lingering side effects.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 22

A great feeling of independence and individuality surprisingly brings you closer to a significant other. Someone prepares a special dessert for you. Remember to do that special favor you promised on Monday.

LEO
JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Exercise and diet makes this week a strong one for you. Caution against letting this added power become a deterrent to an otherwise sunny personality. Friends offer some interesting advice and a little gossip.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

A recent acquaintance quickly becomes a friend and also someone caught up in your collective activities. A unique outing provides diversity and camaraderie amongst a select group of people.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 23

Someone that you enjoy the company of has not been seen or heard of lately. By the end of the week that void will be filled and your friendship will be back on top. A quiet moment at night restores hope.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 21

P.M.A. (positive mental attitude) continues to ride along this week and releases those endorphins making you feel all the more content. Tackle the finance situation in order to keep your grasp on things.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21

Fidelity seems to be the most stressed topic this week. Try to accent this value and cultivate its propriety. Socially you are brimming and still manage to be punctual and vibrant at work.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19

Physical strain tests your limits and your mind set concentrating your extreme capabilities. Transform this into a positive experience to build on for the future. Push the edges of the envelope to explore.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18

You are thinking about an exotic sport or will partake in one this week. B sure to analyze all of the back up safety precautions for complete preparedness. Enjoy the time, it's one for the memory books!

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

You are apt to be building towards over indulgence with food. Friendly jabs about weight from friends start to "eat" away at you. If this concerns you think of other substitutes to compensate for the fat. Easy does it!

Bears of the Old Pueblo

by Brad Spaulding

Get comfortable folks. There's a lot of stuff to tell you this week.

First, the wine tasting trek has been canceled. Too many factors just kept it from coming together. We're sorry. We'll try again sometime in the near future.

Second, the deadline for submissions to the Bear Newsletter is Monday, April 25. Submit all articles, interviews, letters, photographs, and art work to John Clark. I know what some of you are saying, "What the heel happened to last month's newsletter?" It seems that I was the only one who turned in anything for last month's newsletter, thus the newsletter came up a bit short. C'mon guys. This club hangs on your support and participation, so put pen to paper and get something in. This issue may go out to the general public, so pitch in.

Upcoming Bear Events;

Thursday, April 28 - Bear's Business Meeting is at the Venture-N's patio at 7:30 p.m. Guys, we need to talk. Bring yourselves down here so that we can do just that.

Thursday, May 5 - This year, Cinco De Mayo, coincides with our General Meeting/Bear Bust. Party time!! The General Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Venture-N, of course. Then, after we put all the issues to bed, the Bear Bust begins at 9 p.m. serving 50 cent drafts until midnight. There may be a few other surprises that night, who knows. Get your furry butt (or unfurry butt) down here and party on the patio with the Bears!

Saturday, May 14 - Movie Night. Showtime is 8 pm. Location TBA.

Wednesday, May 18 - Restaurant Night.

This week's Bear Hunting Grounds: Well I don't really have a hunting grounds, per se, but I do want to send out kudos to whoever come up with the TV commercial advertising Lloyd's Ribs. Never in my entire life of being a couch potato have I seen 30 seconds with so much hot Bear meat (the men, that is, not the ribs).

Until next week, happy hunting.

For more Bear Event Information, call Wayne, 887-3115 before 9 pm.

For membership information, call Brad at 882-4149.

CLASSIFIED: 20¢ per word. $4.00 Minimum.

Notices

PILOT RUNNERS OF TUCSON meet for fun runs Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Group meets in front of the Himmel Park Library (East side), and Sundays at various times and places. For more information call Mach at 326-3555

PACT - 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. - Parents 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 Al-Anon 790-8922 in Tucson info about special groups for Gays and Lesbians.

OLD PUEBLO BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
For meeting dates and locations or membership information call 793-6053 or write: OP, P.O. Box 44033, Tucson, AZ 85733

SORORITY - A support group for male & female Transexuals, Transvestites and Gay cross-dressers. Family oriented. Meets at 8 pm 2nd Saturday of each month. Call: 293-3456. NOT A DATING SERVICE.

YOUNG AND GAY?
Lesbian and Gay youths 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 Wingspan, 624-1779.

WOMYN'S THIRD FRIDAY COFFEE 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 Cronies 888-7264 in Tucson.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 252 (The Broadmoor Center Bldg.). Direct services for persons with and affected by HIV/AIDS Prevention education programs. Business hours, M-F, 8-5. 322-226. AIDS Hotline: 326-AIDS.

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 facilitator. Call 884-0476 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. Parents 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 Foothills 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
For information and membership 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.

TEN PERCENT meets every Wednesday on the UofA campus in the Student Union room 281 at 6 p.m. All Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual members of the community are invited.

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-G, Corturo, AZ 85652.

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

"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 8663, 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. 623-3390

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 41141, Tucson AZ 85717 or come to our general meetings the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm on the Venture-N patio.

GAY AND LESBIAN OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Stop binging, purging and overeating. Get a life! Call 793-3488 / 290-1739. Come to a meeting. Meetings are held every Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 pm at Mostly Books, 1001 N. Wilmot.

TUCSON ROOMMATE LOCATOR SERVICE
Men and women both welcome. Office 624-8265.

"LAMBDA CAR CLUB, Grand Canyon Region" for information about membership or activities call Bill James 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 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Rosa 968-2384.

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.

Notices

TEN PERCENT meets every Wednesday on the UofA campus in the Student Union room 281 at 6 p.m. All Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual members of the community are invited.

RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF ALL LATTER DAY SAINTS - 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 1-800-735-2928. Sacrament 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 281 or 285. Open to UofA faculty and staff concerned about Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual issues.

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

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (AGRA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 323-0805 or write AGRA/Tucson, P.O. Box 40894, Tucson, AZ 85717.

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. "Educating 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.

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers welcome too. Send stamp for information; Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

AGRA-Tucson announces a Press Conference for the 1994 Saguaro Regional Rodeo at 9:00 p.m. on March 16 in the Parkview Room at the Ramada Inn Downtown. Address: 475 N. Granada, Tucson. 504

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS! Arizona Nude Dudes or ANDES/Tucson for short, is a Gay men's nudist group. We hold local activities each month and have connections to Gay men's nudist groups across the country. For further information please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ANDES/Tucson, P.O. Box 64044, Tucson, AZ 85728-4044. For faster reply please include phone number.

MALE, FEMALE, BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Info: Steve, 323-8436 or Wingspan, 624-1779.

FRENSDORFF HOUSE, a group living facility for people living with HIV/AIDS. Private rooms with shared kitchen and living area. Free cable. For more info call Paul, 622-1437. Contributions accepted for direct patient services.

TAKE SQUARE DANCE LESSONS for free at Club 2520. Beginners "Basic Classes start every Fall. Watch "T-Squares" dance every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., 2520 N. Oracle. G&L benefit performance requests encouraged! Dance 745-9212.

SUN COUNTRY NATURISTS: Social Nudist Club for men and women. Write to: Sun Country Naturists, P.O. Box 43772, Tucson, AZ 85733-3772

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7298.

GAY & LESBIAN HIKING CLUB forming in Tucson. Persons interested in planning and/or participating in desert and mountain hiking and backpacking experiences which average 6 miles or more are encouraged to respond. Hikers must be willing to create a drug/alcohol-free, environmentally friendly experience. Call pager number 446-3711 and leave your number or write Les McAllen, P.O. Box 42532, Tucson, AZ 85733-2532.

MANE MEN: Penpal network for long-haired Gay guys! To join, send photo, self-description, 2 IRC's. Box 231, Station B, Ottawa, CANADA, K1P6C4

Personals

GWM 30, good looking watching for soul mate, a serious gym buddy. I'm very committed to right guy. B.P.M., P.O. Box 64802, Tucson, AZ 85728-4802. 508

GHM, 39, 5'10", 165#, handsome, affectionate, fit, neg. I.S.O.: GWM, 30's, with same attributes. Call 571-0917 between 6 and 7 p.m. 510

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I have 15 people seeking living quarters. Contact the Tucson Roommate Locator Service, 624-8265 from 9 to 5

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The 'Filthy Face Of Evil' Fred Phelps Targets Dick Sargent

by Karen Ocamb

LOS ANGELES, CA - Not content to disrupt AIDS funerals in Kansas and San Francisco, the latter being that of journalist Randy Shilts, the so called Reverend Fred Phelps has released a fax he has written to openly Gay actor Dick Sargent, saying he plans to picket the ill actor's funeral. Sargent recently appeared on the syndicated show "Entertainment Tonight," saying he was suffering from non-AIDS related prostate cancer.

The fax to Sargent, copied to several media outlets, features his picture, a cartoon, and various Biblical quotes. It reads in part: "Westboro Baptist Church plans to picket your funeral, because you are a famous fag who has bragged about your filthy lifestyle on national TV and otherwise in bold defiance of God Almighty and to the detriment of America's youth.

You are scheduled to check into Hell at any time now, and we urge you to give serious consideration to the offer WBC made to all famous dying fags soon after we picketed Randy Shilts' funeral: We will preach fags' funerals free. Please call me at 913-273-0338 to make necessary funeral arrangements. Kindest regards. Sincerely, Fred Phelps."

Sargent, TV's Bewitched husband officially came out with actress/attorney Sheila James Kuehl (Dobie Gillis) on October 11, 1991, National Coming Out Day, at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

It was a politically charged day: thousands of California Gay activists were protesting Governor Pete Wilson's veto of Gay/Lesbian civil rights legislation. Sargent had made a number of subsequent appearances on behalf of Gay rights.

Sargent, who says he's "okay" although tired "most of the time," is receiving regular chemotherapy radiation treatments for the incurable prostate cancer that has mestaticized to the bone. He has also been hit with "a terrible urinary infection" and has become severely anemic from the radiation treatments. After a lifetime of never needing a transfusion, he recently required two pints of blood for anemia.

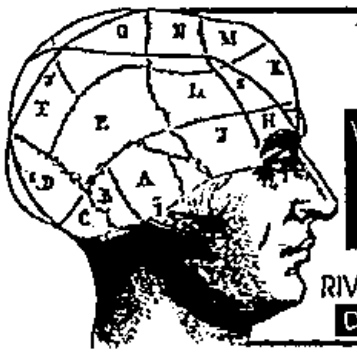
The letter from Phelps is the first piece of hate mail he had received. "It so blatantly ignorant, that's what shocked me most of all. God made us straight or Gay from birth, it's not a choice. And the hatred of picketing someone's funeral is incomprehensible. What a terrible God they serve. It's not my God."

Sargent chuckled when thinking about Phelps' closing the letter with "kindest regards" and of the possibility of the religious extremist showing up to his funeral. "It might add some spice to the day," he acknowledged, although his friends would consider it "in bad taste." he will not respond to Phelps in any way, however. "I don't want to give them the dignity of acknowledging their existence."

Dignity, Sargent says, is something he's observed in his close friends with AIDS, three of whom died this past year. People with AIDS have been an example to him in his own fight with cancer. "My friends died with such dignity and valor," he says. "If I can be as brave as they've been with me, I hope I can set an example for other people with cancer. It's really a tribute to Gay and Lesbian people of the world."

For Sargent's friend, Sheila James Kuehl, now running for a seat in the California Assembly, Phelp's fax is simply cruel. "Dick Sargent is one of the finest men I've ever known and one of the bravest," Kuehl says. "The only thing that makes me feel good about this letter is that I am certain God will punish the writer."

For David Smith, Public Information Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which is spearheading a national "Fight the Right" campaign, says Phelps is a very dangerous man. "I think it [the fax] is disgusting," Smith said in a phone interview. "we need to focus on Fred Phelps. He's not part of the mainstream of the radical right, he's to the extreme right of the radical right, he's a terrorist and he should be dealt with as a terrorist. He should be watched very closely because he's the type that would engage in violence. And because there is no federal civil rights protection based on sexual orientation, he may continue to do what he does unabated."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