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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER | JULY 31, 1996 | ISSUE 628

Christian Coalition Accused Of Violating Federal Election Law

by Mark R. Kerr
Observer Political Reporter

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Religion and politics is just like mixing oil and water. It can't be done, and it's illegal.

The federal government formally charged the Christian Coalition with illegally helping the GOP, and prominent GOP candidates in their election campaigns, in violation of their tax-exempt status.

The lawsuit was filed by the Federal Elections Commission (FEC). The FEC, in their suit, accused the Christian Coalition distributed millions of their "voter guides" and made thousands of get-out-the-vote calls to turn out voters, all in an illegal effort to elect Republicans.

In addition, the suit states that Christian Coalition didn't reveal any of these activities to the public, or in financial reports as campaign spending, which is required by law.

The court case, according to political observers won't be settled before the November general election and could go against the FEC, who've lost several recent cases.

But a critic of the coalition, Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said in an interview, the lawsuit helps "remove the cloak of religiosity" covering the coalition's operations.

Lynn went on to say in an interview that the coalition voter guides were bogus, and that the coalition has operated what amounted to a political action committee supporting the GOP, while claiming they're only educating people.

Federal law states that churches and religions organizations must refrain from partisan political activity to maintain their tax-exempt status. The tax-exempt status of the coalition, a temporary one, is being reviewed by the IRS.

Lynn said many churches, which help distribute coalition material, now will worry about their own tax exempt status. Lynn went on to say that churches are going to shun the guides like the plague.

The Christian Coalition was founded by televangelist Pat Robertson, following is failed 1988 GOP presidential campaign. The coalition has grown and has become a force in politics. The presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Bob Dole, has openly courted the approval of the group's leaders.

The federal election laws, and the creation of the FEC were passed after the Watergate scandals. Under federal law, independent committees can try to influence elections, but must file campaign financial reports, and reports showing how they spent the monies raised. They also have to act independently of political candidates.

The coalition, in a statement by executive director Ralph Reed, insists it only tries to educate people about the issues and not elect candidates. Reed, in the statement, said the group will fight the suit in court.

But the FEC lawsuit charged that the group worked with candidates to directly influence their campaigns. The suit accuses them of illegally helping President Bush, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Sen. Jesse Helms, former Senate candidate Oliver North, and Arizona Rep. J.D. Hayworth of Phoenix. The suit also accuses the coalition of working with the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and advocating the defeat of Montana Democratic Rep. Pat Williams.

MPS 'Roast' Benefit Sunday, Aug. 4

TUCSON - The Tucson Gay and Lesbian community can be called one big "family." The community rallies to help all of its members of their family.

This Sunday, August 4, Gay and Lesbian Tucsonans will be asked again to help one of it's most special members of the family, Woody Duffy, and to help special children like Woody who are afflicted with MPS.

"A Roast & Toast of Aviva Diamond," is a benefit fund raiser for the National MPS Society. The "Roast" of Miss Diamond takes place, Sunday, August 4, from 4 to 8 P.M., at the Holiday Inn-City Center, 181 W. Broadway.

Woody, the son of Beth and Natalie Perry has Hurler/Scheie Syndrome, a rare genetic disease that usually kills children between 14 and 18 years of age. Lacking an enzyme that breaks down mucopolysaccharides, the long chains of sugar molecules that help build connective tissues, his body is slowly shutting down.

Beth, his mother, knows there is neither a treatment nor a cure for his disorder. Beth knows time is running out, but she's not willing to give him up without a fight.

Thus the annual benefit. Proceeds from the roast, which Natalie and Beth hope will raise about $15,000, will help continue the society's membership directory, it's annual magazine, a quarterly newsletter, as well as educational and research efforts.

MPS 'Roast' Guest Of Honor
Woody Duffy

But Woody, the "smallest member of our family with the biggest heart" said in an interview about the benefit, "It's not just me. It's for other people too. There's a lot more people worse off than me."

"A Roast & Toast of Aviva Diamond," a benefit for the National MPS Society takes place this Sunday, August 4, 4-8 P.M. Tickets cost $20 per person. The location of Aviva's roast is the Holiday Inn City Center.

For more information or reservations call 747-7426.

Senate Rebuffs Dornan On HIV Ban

by Lou Chibbaro, Jr.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Senate voted 68 to 31 to approve a defense authorization bill that would allow servicemembers who test HIV positive to remain in the military as long as they can perform their duties.

The Senate action is being viewed by Capitol Hill observers as a sharp rebuke to Rep. Robert Dornan, R-CA. In the House's annual bill authorizing Department of Defense activities, Dornan pushed through language that would force the military to discharge, within two months, all servicemembers who test HIV positive.

Dornan also persuaded the House to add a separate clause to its version of the authorization measure that would reinstate the DOD's previous policy of flatly banning Gays from serving in the military. The Senate version makes no mention of the Gays in the military policy. The two versions of the bill will now be reconciled in a House-Senate conference committee.

Language in the Senate bill was crafted by Sen. John McCain, R-AZ. At McCain's request, the Senate Armed Services Committee adopted an amendment to the DOD authorization bill requiring the military to treat all servicemembers with chronic illness uniformly. HIV was included in the list of illnesses.

Current DOD policy states that such servicemembers can't be deployed to overseas assignments but can other wise remain on active duty as long as their health permits them to perform their duty.

"Through his leadership, Sen. McCain has helped maintain the voice of reason and compassion in the face of an otherwise mean-spirited attempt by Rep. Dornan and others to persecute members of the military simple because they test HIV positive," said Jay Coburn, lobbyist for the AIDS Action Council.

Winnie Stachelberg, legislative officer for the Human Rights Campaign, said HRC is confident the conference committee, and later the Congress itself, will adopt the Senate's version of the DOD measure.

"The Senate bill is a stark contrast to the House version, which extremist

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

Appeals Court Hears Controversial Custody Ruling

TALLAHASSEE, FL - The Florida First District Court of Appeals was asked to strike down a lower court ruling that removed a child from the home of her Lesbian mother and gave custody to the girl's father, a convicted killer.

Ten year old Cassie was removed by state circuit court Judge Joseph Tarbuck, who said Mary Ward's Lesbian relationship was detrimental to the child. She was given to John Ward, Mary's ex-husband, who was convicted 22 years ago of the murder of his first wife and now is married to his fourth.

According to Edward Fleming, John Ward's attorney, Tarbuck's decision was not based on Mary Ward's relationship with her partner, Margorie Wright, but what the court decided was the detrimental effect the relationship was having on Cassie. Fleming said Cassie at times exhibited poor hygiene, bad table manners, occasional use of vulgarity and had a preference for men's cologne.

Attorneys for Mary Ward dismissed such claims, saying the child's behavior was characteristic for most 10 year olds and that Cassie thrived under Mary Ward's care.

"There is not a case in the country where a modification was granted because a child used a vulgarity in an isolated instance, because a child had poor

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

UPDATE

Tucson Business Association Trade Fair August 15

TUCSON - The Community Business Association, will be holding a trade fair on Thursday, August 15, beginning at 6 P.M., at the Double Tree Hotel in the Bonsai Boojum Room.

The guest speaker will be Tucson Mayor George Miller. During the fair, members of C.B.A. will be displaying merchandise and business products. Desert Voices will provide entertainment for the fair. There will also be a raffle for cash and merchandise throughout the event. For a $2.00 admission, guests will receive one raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets will be available at $1.00 each or six for $5.00. Proceeds to benefit the C.B.A.

For more information about the fair or C.B.A., call (520) 793-9272.

Winterball Softball League Meeting August 6

TUCSON - An organizational meeting for the Winterball Softball League will take place Tuesday, August 6, 6 P.M., at *Hours*.

Winterball is designed to draw beginners and players who've not played in while to the sport and to keep the veterans in shape through the fall/winter months. The Winterball league is just for fun, no trophies or banquets. If you're a coach with a team, or a player interested in participating in Winterball, please attend this meeting. Fees for Winterball are only $120 per team.

Winterball is scheduled to run from Sunday, September 8, through Sunday, November 10. All games will be played at Freedom Park. For more information call Mary, 770-9979, or Bertie at 318-3415.

Wingspan Art Reception Aug.3

TUCSON - Wingspan Gallery will hold an artist's reception on Saturday, August 3, 7 to 9 P.M. The artist honored is John Chenworth. He will be exhibiting mixed media and poetry. The show will run the month of August.

For the hours the gallery will be open call Wingspan at 624-1779 for information. For artists, who wish to show their work in the Wingspan gallery, call Bob MacMahon at 571-8783.

Crew Call for 1 In 10 Theatre Production

TUCSON - One In Ten Theater has announced a crew call for their upcoming production of "Remember My Name." The company is working on assembling the crew, directors, set designer, props, costumes, lighting and sound people.

The show was first done by the company several years ago and remains one of the theaters most successful ventures. The show revolves around the start and making of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in San Francisco.

The cast is made of eight men and one woman with each performer playing several roles. The show will run two weekends in Tucson, and then two weekends in Phoenix. Proceeds from the show will benefit both Shanti foundations in the two cities.

For more information about One In Ten, or the production call (520) 293-5397.

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Auditions August 30

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, Tucson's first and only Gay Men's Chorus, announces auditions for their 1996-97 concert season. Men of all ages, races and musical experience are encourage to audition. Prepared audition music isn't required.

The auditions will take place, Tuesday, August 20, 7 P.M. at the Metropolitan Community Church, 3269 North Mountain Avenue.

Get out and join Tucson's rising star choral organization. For more information call (520) 795-7156.

NIH AIDS Research Efforts Report Released

BETHESDA, MD - Final reports and recommendations of the scientific panels reviewing AIDS research efforts at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) were released by Dr. William Paul, Director of the NIH Office of AIDS Research (OAR).

The report of the six panels and two sub=panels follows a year long process in which distinguished non-governmental experts reviewed every aspect of AIDS research at NIH, the most comprehensive review in the fifteen year history of NIH AIDS research program. The review was conducted to determine whether the components of the program are appropriately designed and coordinated to provide the knowledge that will lead to more effective prevention, better treatments, and eventually a cure for AIDS.

For more information, or a copy of the report, call OAR at (301) 496-0357.

Home HIV Test Goes On Sale

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new test for the AIDS virus that Americans can take at home went on sale nationwide just two days after approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Home Access Health Corporation of Hoffman Estates, Illinois became the second company to win FDA approval of test kits that let people take a blood sample at home, mail it to a laboratory and learn by telephone if they have the HIV virus.

Johnson & Johnson's home HIV test is being sold in Texas and Florida while the company prepares for a national rollout in 1997.

The Home Access Express test, however, began selling nationwide via a toll-free phone number. It promises tests results in three business days. Later this year, the company will offer regular Home Access tests in drugstores that offer one week for $39.95, $10 less than the faster Express test.

To conduct the test, the person pricks a finger and places drops of blood on a test card and mails it in a prepaid, protective envelope to a laboratory. The sample has a personal identification number.

To get the results, the person calls a toll-free number and gives his identification number. People with positive or inconclusive results get the news from counselors who can refer them for long-term counseling and medical treatment. Negative results are usually given by a recording, although the caller can request a counselor any time.

Immediate Action Needed To Pass Enda

This is a critical moment in the drive to end job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, so everyone who cares about fairness should contact their U.S. senators immediately. Urge your senators to support the Employment Non-Discrimination ACT, S.932, as an amendment to the "Defense of Marriage Act, S.1740, and tell them to oppose DOMA itself. DOMA, the anti marriage bill, is rocketing through Congress, and a Senate vote is fast approaching, so right now is the time to make your voice heard.

Since the House passed the anti-Gay marriage bill, the Senate is our only hope for something positive to come out of this election year spectacle. The good news is that it can at least deliver some basic fairness in the workplace if we each do our part to have the Senate pass the ENDA amendment to it.

ENDA would protection Americans from job discrimination based on sexual orientation. President Clinton endorsed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act last October.

With your help, the ENDA amendment as a decent chance of succeeding in the Senate. ENDA has 30 Senate cosponsors, including two Republicans. ENDA also enjoys the support of major corporations, such as Eastman Kodak, and GOP Governors William Weld of Massachusetts and Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey.

Contact your U.S. Senators immediately and urge them to support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, S. 932 as an amendment to the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act," S.1740, and express your opposition to DOMA itself. Call Senators McCain and Kyl at 202-224-3121, or write them at The Honorable Sen. McCain or Kyl, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

Gay & Lesbian Catholics National Conference This Fall

WILLIAMSBURG, VA - The National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian & Gay Ministries (NACDLGM), announced their plans to hold the organization's third annual national conference in historic Williamsburg, Virginia.

The conference will take place September 5-8, 1996 at the Hospitality House Hotel located directly across from the College of William and Mary. Over 150 individuals representing Roman Catholic ministries with Lesbian and Gay persons, their families and friends across the United States are expected to participate in this year's conference entitled: "Called to Teach & Heal."

The event brings together people who are actively involved in the leadership of Catholic Gay and Lesbian outreach groups and programs based in dioceses and parishes, and other interested persons. For more information call (510) 465-9344.

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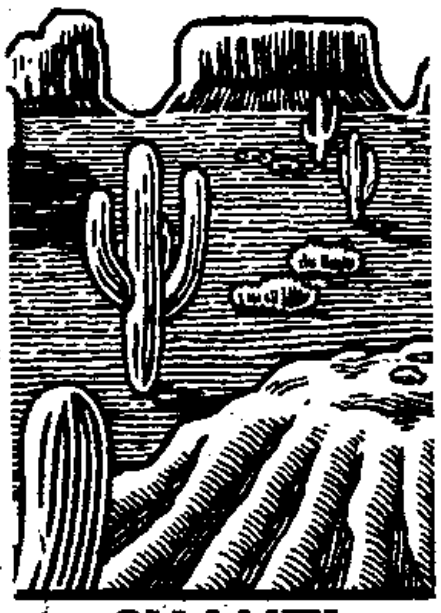

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PERSPECTIVE....

by Rob Morse

House Prevents Gay Divorce

SAN FRANCISCO - My marriage has been threatened by a lot of things, including arguments, marathon silences, raging hormones (mine), midlife crisis (mine), dirty clothes piles (hers) and occasional failure (mine) to wash the backs of plates.

My marriage has never been threatened by Bob wanting to marry Ted, or Carol getting engaged to Alice.

Now, with the passage of the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act," the House of Representatives has saved the batter institution of heterosexual marriage. Let the marriage counselors of America, the ones who aren't in Congress, join the unemployment lines.

If the bill passes the Senate, Gay couples won't be able to share the joys of government sanctioned connubial bliss. They'll have to decide who takes out the garbage without benefit of marriage licenses.

Oh, yeah. And American Civilization will be saved.

And now a word about some of the legislators who saved the institution of marriage and America.

Rep. Bob Barr, R-GA, the sponsor of the bill, declared on the floor of Congress that "the flames of hedonism, the flames of narcissism, the flames of self-centered morality are licking at the very foundations of our society, the family unit."

Barr ought to know about family units because he's been married three times. And he knows about the licking flames of hedonism too. He once was caught licking whipped cream off the chests of two buxom women.

Of course, that's okay, because it was disgusting straight sex, not disgusting Gay sex. However, it was shockingly high in fat grams.

Then of course you have the speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, R-GA, whose idea of traditional family values was to visit his cancer-stricken first wife in the hospital to say he was leaving her.

Paying guys like this to defend marriage is like paying Bonnie and Clyde to guard your bank.

That's what we're doing, paying meddling politicians to deal with nonexistent problems. More precisely, to make problems.

They're trying to make problems for Bill Clinton, and turn him into the best man of the Gay marriage party. It's a desperation move by Republicans saddled with a dud candidate for president. As Sen. Ted Kennedy said, this should be called "The Defense of the Endangered Republicans Act."

President Clinton responded in true form, out of both sides of his mouth. He said he opposes discrimination against any group of Americans, but will sign the bill because he "has long opposed Gay marriage."

Another guy whose advice on marriage we need.

The backers of the anti-Gay marriage act say they're saving American civilization, you know, the heterosexual civilization that brought us Al and Peg Bundy.

Rep. Steve Largent, R-Okla., who used to run around and get smacked in the head by NFL free safeties, said, "No culture that has ever embraced homosexuality has ever survived."

Steve, no culture has ever survived. They all decline and fall. Homosexuality somehow stays with the human race, though.

Largent seems to have been referring to ancient Greek culture, as represented by pederastic philosophers who live on in the Western Civilization courses conservatives love so much.

So Greek culture doesn't live on? What was that Olympic flame all about? Think Greco-Roman wrestling, Steve.

For the first time, the federal government has tried to define marriage. Legislators who claim to favor states' rights, religious freedoms and individual rights are overregulating intimate human relationships.

The House has forbidden citizens to peaceable assemble as man and man in their own bedrooms. The House that treasures the right to keep and bear arms can't bear two women legally in each other's arms.

The problem with most Washington politicians is that they're so busy boozing and bimboing that they've never seen a Gay relationship.

They should do some field work in San Francisco, where the only normal people on the average block are Gay couples.

I lived in a bungalow that was occupied for 45 years by two women, easily the stablest relationship for a radius of three miles.

On my old block the two Gay men next door were quiet, loving, neat and owned a successful small business.

The other neighbors included a psychopathic heterosexual redneck couple who kept a .357 Magnum stashed in their broken dishwasher, and a zoned-out heterosexual hippie couple who grew pot in a

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POLITICS 1996

By MARK R. KEMP

"Are we that gullible?"

This past week at a Democratic party fund raiser-a-palooza in the *Gay Capital of the World, San Francisco,* President Bill Clinton promised to seek extra money for AIDS patients in the 1997 budget. Really!

Clinton, talking out of both sides of his mouth, said he would request an increase for state AIDS drug assistance programs by $65 million, for a total of $117 million.

The measure must get congressional approval. Right, after what's going down with DOMA, ENDA and B-1 Bob Dornan, we're just holding our breath!

Can we say this was a gesture to us, Gay and Lesbian voters, since its election time, and Prez is up for consideration? I just wonder if President Clinton "feels our pain" over being treated as second class citizens.

Can't marry, join the military, can be fired from our job, can't see if our government will lead research for a cure to AIDS! Can see a gesture being just a movement of a hand. Yes, and we've seen the middle finger from elected officials a lot recently!

Yes, despite President Clinton opposing our right to marriage, will be the presumptive nominee of the Democratic party. He will be renominated at the Democrat's big infomercial, held in Chicago Labor Day Weekend. A possible oxymoron? . . .

The Democrats, along with the Republicans are trying to get more coverage of their August infomercials, since the networks will give them bupkiss. Hey, they live and die by ratings, and since every little, agonizing detail will be sewn up by convention time, can we say dull television!

So, the political parties are entering the infomercial market. So who will host the infomercials?

How about Dionne Warwick, or Linda Georgian for the Democrats, since they can sense and feel the future? For the Republicans, how about the Ronco guy, he could spray the delegates, mostly bald-headed white guys with his "hair-in-a-can!" And just think, Ross Perot's "Reformistas" will just sell the self-help books and tape by Ross, like those inspirational hucksters! Yikes!

Despite being relegated as second class citizens, Gay and Lesbian delegates will be going to the Democratic Loll-a-palooza in record numbers. A total of 102 delegates, and 25 first runner-ups from 27 states and D.C., will attend the scripted affair.

Will they be activist delegates? Will they be protesting? Or will they be part of the "mainstream, moderate, all-American" perky-as-all get-up, typical scripted infomercial audience? Can we say the latter! . . .

Some Republican bashing now. Our favorite phobe, forgotten presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, with his handful of delegates is screaming for a prime-time spot, to let loose some of his patented rhetoric. Gee, go figure!

What was the reaction? The Dole camp, the dull, presumptive nominee said no, well yes, well lets do a video spot.

Buchanan's group of brown-shirts responded by saying no to the video spot, they want Pat live, they don't want to create another video sensation like Vanilla Ice. Oh, heavens no!

They are demanding he speaks in prime-time, or he'll give a speech outside the convention hall, "Unplugged."

Maybe we'll see fireworks after all, I hope! . . .

Some more boring convention news. The presumptive nominee, just plain old Bob Dole, said he will name his vice-presidential nominee a week before the San Diego GOP-alooza begins. Whoopie!

So far, a bunch of midwestern governors, Senator Connie Mack of Florida have been mentioned. Also saying he may be interest in joining the Dole for Pineapple campaign; trailing Clinton by 24% in the latest polls; is none other than Senator John McCain from Arizona.

Wow, I guess Senator McCain is still looking for a challenge since Charles Keating is in prison, his wife, Cindy, is safely tucked away, and the GOP controls the Senate? John, how about raising the Titanic, you would have more luck with that, than joining the Dole sinking ship, which is going down fast! . . .

Lastly, some good news, the Christian Coalition is being sued by the Federal Elections Commission for allegedly promoting Republican candidates for president and congress! [See accompanying story.] Gasp!

Some of the notables helped were George Bush, Jesse Helms, Oliver North, Newt Gingrich, and Arizona Congressman J.D. Hayworth. Arizona is never far from scandal! The Christian Coalition could end up losing their tax status and be forced to shell out multi-million dollar fines. If there is a God! . . .

So it goes for now kids!

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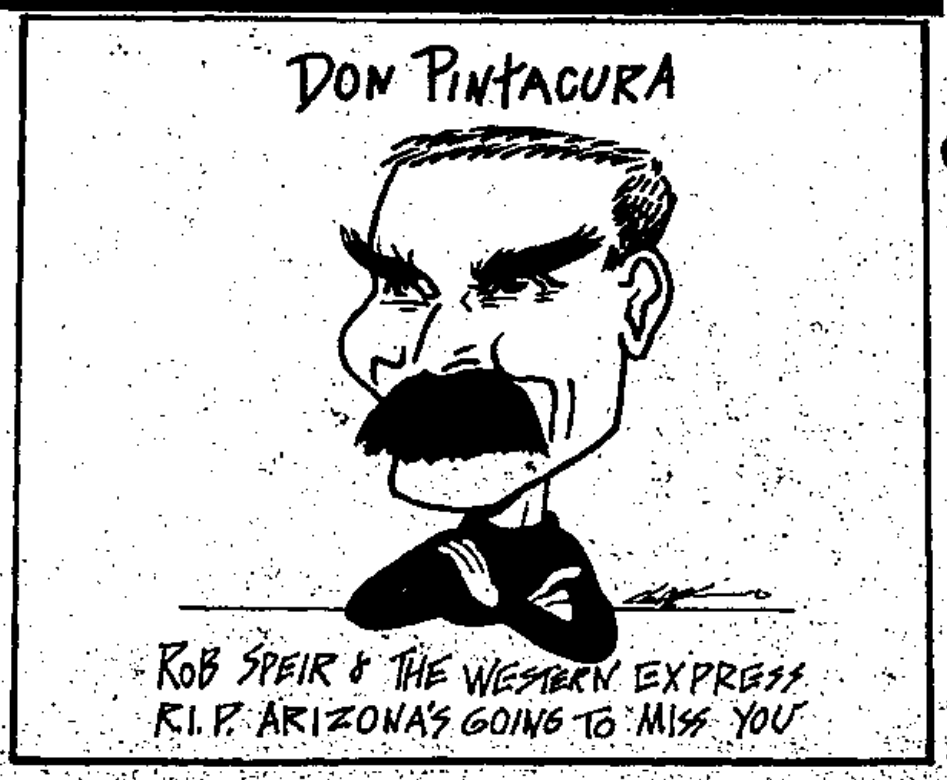
AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



Columna Abierta. . . . . .

by Dr. Eleazar Garcia

Saludandoles de nuevo con el mismo ánimo de siempre esperando darle respuestas a las preguntas que nos hacen llegar; y desde luego que les ayuden en sus propósitos. En esta ocación las preguntas que me hicieron son las siguientes:

¿Son precisos los resultados de las pruebas de detección de drogas? Sí, cuando se realizan correctamente. La mayoría de las empresas utilizan un proceso de dos etapas, en el cual la muestra de orina del empleado o aspirante se divide en dos, y la primera mitad se analiza empleando una prueba sencilla, económica, y precisa (generalmente una prueba de inmunidad o una prueba cromatográfica de lámina fina). Si salen "positivos" los resultados de esta prueba, se realiza una segunda prueba utilizando un proceso químico diferente para analizar la segunda mitad de la muestra original de orina. Esta segunda prueba "comprobatoria" generalmente emplea una técnica cromatográfica así como la cromatografía de gas/espectrometría de masa (gc/ms). El laboratorio que realiza las pruebas considera que los resultados finales son "positivos" solamente si ambas mitades de la muestra dividida de orina salen "positivas".

La precisión de la primera prueba (la prueba de inmunidad), oscila entre 92 y 98 por ciento. La precisión de la prueba comprobatoria (la gc/ms) es prácticamente 100 por ciento desde un punto de vista científico. Con la realización de este proceso de dos etapas y la utilización de laboratorios profesionales y acreditados para eliminar el margen de error humano, debe quedar poca o ninguna duda acerca de la precisión de las pruebas de detección de drogas.

¿No es posible "confundir" los resultados de las pruebas de detección de drogas? Sí, es posible, pero las probalilidades de hacerlo son casi nulas. Han habido grandes avances técnicos en las pruebas de detección de drogas en los últimos años. La mayoría de las pruebas tiene indicadores que registran la temperatura de la muestra para asegurar que corresponda a la temperatura del cuerpo. La posibilidad de adulteración o sustitución generalmente se limita por la integridad de los procesos de colección y análisis, y de todas maneras es perceptible en el laboratorio en la mayoría de los casos, Cuando la prueba de detección drogas está administrada profesionalmente, (empleando los reglamentos internos de custodia en cadena), no está susceptible ni a la contaminación ni al engaño.

¿Qué se puede decir acerca de los "positivos falsos"? Por lo general, la preocupación predominante debe dirigirse hacia los "positivos verídicos" que reflejan las circunstancias legítimas. La mayor parte de las historias populares que tratan de esplicar las cosas que erróneamente provocan un resultado "positivo" -por ejemplo, la comida, los cosméticos, o los medicamentos para resfriados que uno toma- está fundada en conceptos falsos. Estas cosas: (A) o no se manifiestan en absoluto, (B) o no pueden ser detectadas en niveles suficientes, (C) o son plenamente distinguibles en el laboratorio.

Por ejemplo, algunos empleados han afirmado que los resultados "positivos" de sus pruebas de detección de drogas fueron causados por la inhalación pasiva del humo de marihuana. No obstante, investigaciones han concluido que la exposición al humo de marihuana hubiera tenido que ser tan constante y prolongada, y en un espacio tan restringido, que resultaría en un escenario absurdo. Sí, saldrán "positivos" los resultados de tu prueba si estás encerrado en una cabina telefónica hermética, acompañado de cuatro fumadores de marihuana que no dejan de fumar durante ocho horas seguidas. De otra manera... es fácil descartar la posibilidad de que la inhalación pasiva del humo de marihuana provoque un resultado "positivo".

La escepción está en el uso legítimo de un medicamento recetado, o alguna otra justificación legítima para explicar un resultado "positivo". Esto debe ser inmediantamente comunicado al supervisor cuando se realiza la prueba de detección de drogas y en cualquier otra ocación, según las normas de la empresa.

¿Por cuánto tiempo permanecen las drogas en el organismmo? En la mayoría de las personas, los niveles perceptibles de marihuana permanecen en el organismo de 2 a 5 días y los de cocaína de 2 a 3 días.

Para abusadores crónicos, la retención de la droga en el organismo puede ser mucho más larga, hasta 60 días en casos excepcionales (uso excesivo con regularidad habitual durante un tiempo extendido).

Sin embargo, ésta es la excepción y no la regla. Por ejemplo, para que el organsimo retenga el menor indicio de marihuana más de 5 días después de usarla, se requiere una dosis acumulativa considerable.

Y cambiando totalmente de tema; les invitamos a que nos acompañen durante la excibición de carteles para la prevención del SIDA: "Conciencia y Expresión al VIH/SIDA" que estará en los pasillos del centro comercial EL CON desde el día 5 al día 10 de agosto de 1996, donde se podrá apreciar material de CONASIDA y recibir información de las diferentes agencias locales que están trabajando en relación al SIDA; tal evento está coordinandose por el Consulado de México en la ciudad de Tucson, Salud es Poder del Tucson Aids Project, y nuestra agencia Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center, (S.E.A.H.E.C.). Ya les daremos más información en futuras Columna Abierta.

También, queremos hacer llegar las gracias a las diferentes personas y agencias de servicios que contribuyeron a que el evento sobre la Conservación del Agua que se efectúo en la vecina ciudad de Nogales, AZ. el pasado día 19; fuera un éxito, donde más de 200 personas disfrutaron de musica, rifas, refrescos, etc, y sobre todo pudieron aprender de la importancia de conservar el agua y de otros temas en relación al medio ambiente y su conservación, muchísimas gracias a todos!!!.

Por hoy es todo, y hasta la próxima semana D.M. y esperamos sus sugerencias y comentarios...

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Surfing with Cyber-Queers

by Anne C. Schmitt

Sometimes I feel like I live my entire life on the Internet. No, I'm not a *Mouse Potato*! I happen to do my work here. And I spend most of my non-working hours there also, but try and call it work so that I can justify not walking my dogs, or raking my yard, or going to the grocery store.

After a full day of hanging my arms on the keyboard and shifting around in my office chair, I feel like a road kill. (Never mind that I look like a road kill since I don't have to comb my hair or get dressed to work online.) So, here is the Helpful Hint of the Week, get some exercise, running to the kitchen for cold pizza and Pepsi doesn't count.

Myself, I belong to the YMCA Downtown. Several times a week I make myself go (it's not easy to get rolling) and once there I indulge in a gratuitous trip down the exercise machines, then a long soak in the jacuzzi and steam room. It takes less than an hour and completely cures the neck pains, back pains, tiredness, and the shoulder/arm thing that comes from hanging onto a mouse all day. After almost 20 years of sitting in front of a computer I can't stress the importance of this enough! Carpal Tunnel and all the other fun tendon problems associated with computing can be avoided by getting some exercise. Besides, the scenery is nice at the gym and when you're done, you can E-mail all your friends and tell them about what nice bodies you saw.

New Web Pages Linked To Observer

This weeks newest pages associated with the Online Observer that you may want to check out are the Community Business Association, which features a member directory for those of us who need to find Gay and Lesbian friendly services in Tucson. AIDSWalk '96 is now online and will be offering online walk registration later this week. Greg Hollman & Brad Sensenbach - Prudential/Aegis Realtors, have a page offering their services to folks both in town and those in other places looking to move here. Silver Cloud Conch Belts features beautiful, silver conch belts. You pick the conchos and belt style you want. All these and more are to be found under the Community Pages heading of the Online Observer (http://bonzo.com/observer) and there's more coming all the time!

Surfing with Cyber Queers 101 Internet is happening *August 21, September 4 & 16* at Girlfriends Coffee House, 3540 North Oracle, from 7 to 8:30 P.M. Preregistration can be done or call us at 624-8792, E-mail us at cca@bonzo.com. We've developed a great little book that will go with the class so that you can impress your friends with how much you know about the Internet.

See ya in Cyberspace!

HOME ON THE RANGE WITH AGRA-TUCSON

by JD WRANGLER

Another week's gone by and all is well on the western front.

I'm back to bring you up to date on current events. Terry has returned from the IGRA convention will be hosted by Atlantic States Gay Rodeo Association. In addition, AGRA-Phoenix will be hosting the 1997 and 1998 IGRA Finals Competitions. Congrats to ASGRA and AGRA-Phoenix. Best wishes for successful events. We'll see you there.

The public relations committee is off to a big start. The Friday gathering at Hours brought out a great deal of ideas, all of which are joining forces to ensure a positive boost for AGRA-Tucson. Major highlights that were discussed were the Rodeo promotional agenda and a volunteer pool (no, it's not a party, but it could be if you joined the team). The PR Cowboy would like to extend his personal thank you to all who attended the PR Committee organization meeting, and to Lee and Eddie for their support and input and especially those who have joined the PR Committee.

Speaking of committees, Raul, the fund raising guru, is ISO a few good cowboys (now lost those thoughts, this is a serious matter) and Cowgirls for the fund raising committee, As Rodeo gets closer, fund raising becomes vital to the success of this event. With all the activities involved, more than one person in needed to coordinate them. Contact Raul for more information.

A volunteer coordinator, a non-board position, will be appointed at the August meeting. This coordinator will be responsible for maintaining the list of volunteers for all events year round and for contacting everyone interested in helping out in the various activities. Anyone, who would like to add this to their resume, should be at the August meeting or contact the AGRA-Tucson Hotline.

Upcoming events: *August 18*, Board and General membership meetings, Stonewall/Eagle, 3 & 5 P.M. *August 24*, Yard sale at Hours parking lot. Donations for the Yard Sale are still needed. Get that spring cleaning done early (or in my case-late!) And call the AGRA-Tucson Hotline to schedule a pick up of the items.

Before I close for this week, my reporter in the field tells me that a person or person unknown has been sighted in the presence of a personal trainer and wearing non-Wrangler type shorts in public. Can this really be? I'll have my eyes on the look out and let you know. Until next week, keep your feet in the stirrups and hold on tight, rodeo is on the way! Take care and be safe!

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America's Oldest AIDS Fund Raising Organization Makes Big Comeback

NEW YORK., NY - In June 1994, New York City was consumed with celebrations for the twenty fifth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which many cite as the birth date of the modern Gay movement.

As DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS), the nation's oldest fund raising organization for AIDS care, support and education programs, entered this celebratory month, expectations were running high that it would be a fund raising bonanza. With the Gay Games taking place in New York, and thousands of Lesbians and Gay men in town for celebrations, DIFFA's former administration was optimistic that its aggressive events schedule would raised much-needed funding.

Unfortunately, it didn't, and DIFFA's fund raising plans backfired, as did many other AIDS organizations which had banked on these events. Not only did DIFFA not raise funds during this Silver Jubilee, but the loss of expected revenue turned out to be the near final straw in what had become an escalating financial crisis for this leading AIDS fund raising organization. What DIFFA learned from this experience has proven to be an invaluable lesson for this Foundation.

As DIFFA closes the books on the current fiscal year, just two years after a significant revenue shortfall, the Foundation has not only weathered its crisis but utilizing valuable human resources and sheer willpower, has come back stronger than ever, repaying all of its debts, funding all of its grants, and establishing a new set of fund raising, administrative, and grant making guidelines. These new guidelines not only halted DIFFA's financial decline but reinvigorated the Foundation, creating a road map for other fund raising organizations facing financial crisis. Earlier this year, DIFFA heralded its comeback by funding grants that brought the Foundation's total support to $20 million.

David Sheppard, recently appointed Executive Director of DIFFA, inherited the problems left by a decade of short-term financial policy decisions. "Since DIFFA was founded in 1984, we have been responding to an emergency of untold dimensions and have been committed to getting dollars to AIDS service organizations and people living with AIDS as fast as possible," said Sheppard. "DIFFA had been granting projected revenue to address the overwhelming need without the benefit of long-term strategic planning. There was no perceived need to plan ahead as everyone was certain that a cure was on the horizon."

As DIFFA embarks on its second decade of fund raising activities, the organization's leadership has targeted a goal of raising $30 million in AIDS funding, up 50% from its first decade. And having learned that the survival of any AIDS fund raising organization depends greatly on the management of its resources, long-range planning, and a diverse base of fund raising efforts, the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director have instituted new polices which are certain to have profound impact on the Foundation and other organizations.

DIFFA's Executive Director also made several strategic decisions that helped to reduce its overhead by nearly 30%, including laying of a number of staff, subletting 40% of the Foundation's national office, and eliminating project that weren't underwritten or didn't meet Foundation performance standards.

Through tremendous work and financial commitment on the part of the Board of Trustees, the local chapters, and the national staff, DIFFA is ready to start making new grant commitments. It has been a difficult road, with valuable lessons along the way, but DIFFA has reconfigured its financial house, ensuring that the Foundation will be here to generate additional funds for the AIDS epidemic as long as this health crisis continues to be a challenge.

Valley of the Sun G/L Center Annual Benefit Concert September 7

CHANDLER - The Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Center is having their annual benefit concert with the Laura Love Band from Seattle, Washington. The concert will take place, Saturday, September 7, 7 P.M., at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Avenue in Chandler.

Proceeds from the concert will go to fund the Valley of the Sun Center, and fund its four programs: Anti-Violence Project, Valley One In Ten Youth program (VOIT), AIDS Information Line and the Lesbian and Gay Switchboard.

Laura and her band successfully wed African/Caribbean rhythms with traditional acoustic instruments and intriguing harmonies into a style that they call Afro/Celtic.

Laura and the band have opened for a diverse array of artists such as Lyle Lovett, John Lee Hooker, Karla Bonoff and Ani DiFranco. They have performed at a variety of Lesbian and straight festivals in the U.S. and Canada. She has released three albums on the Octoroon Biography label, and enjoys wide radio play.

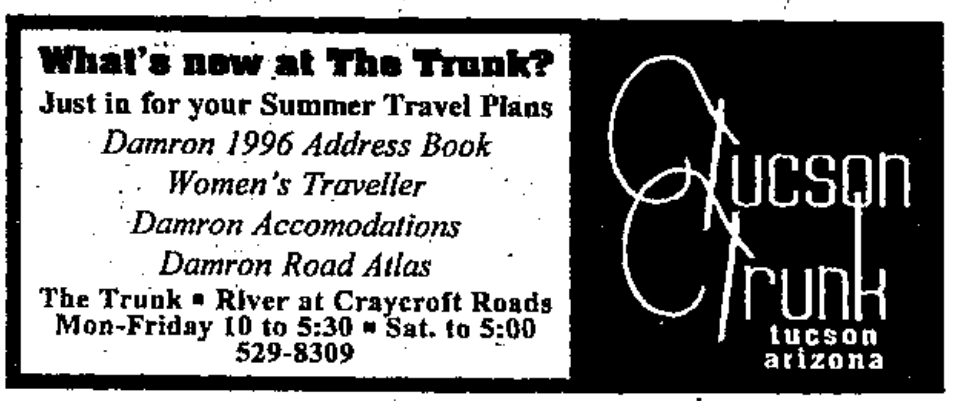
An opening act will be Kenny Jacobs from Tucson making his second appearance in Phoenix as a stand-up comic. "It's not that he hates stand up, he just finds it much easier during a presidential campaign."

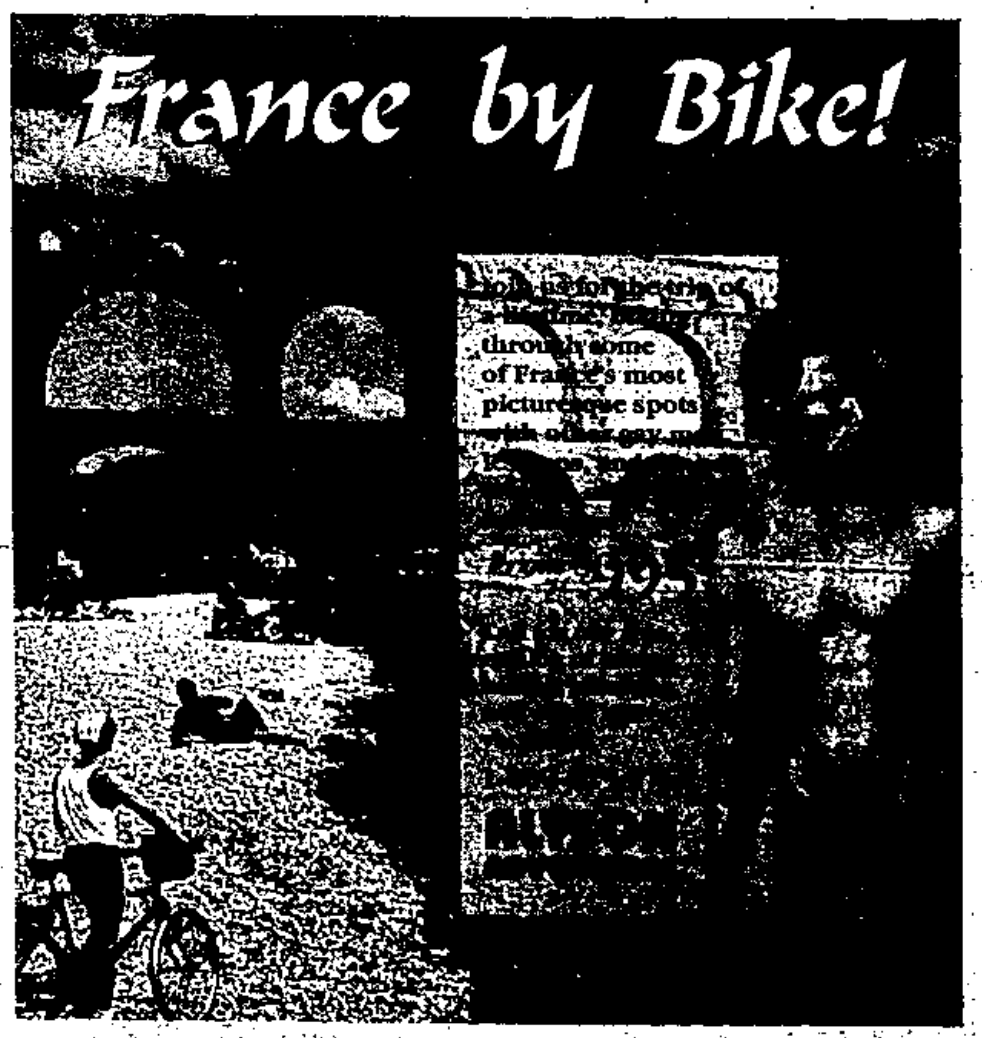
Kenny has appeared in regional theater including "He's Having Her Baby," the first pro-choice musical comedy. Kenny has done motion pictures, [Lightning Jack, Fast Getaway II], and television, such as Back to Hannibal, and Legend.

Also opening will be Phoenix performance artist D.W. McKim, a "perfectionistic, double-personality, witty/depressive, icy/romantic, overeating, Muppet-obsessed, too sensitive for his own good artist."

Tickets run from $12-$15, with a reception to follow. Tickets for the reception costing $50, with the event to be held at the Embassy Suites, 44th & McDowell.

For more information call (602) 258-7985.





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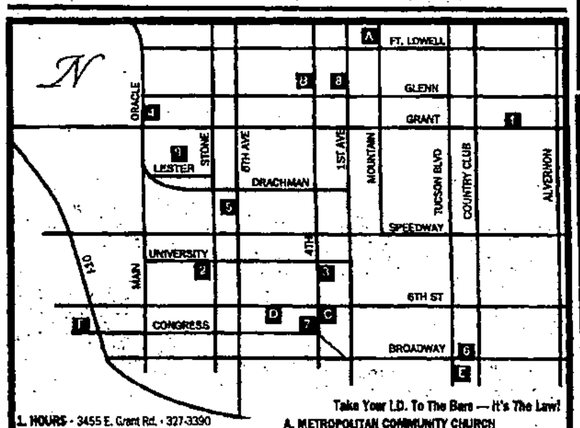

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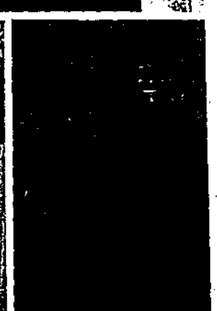

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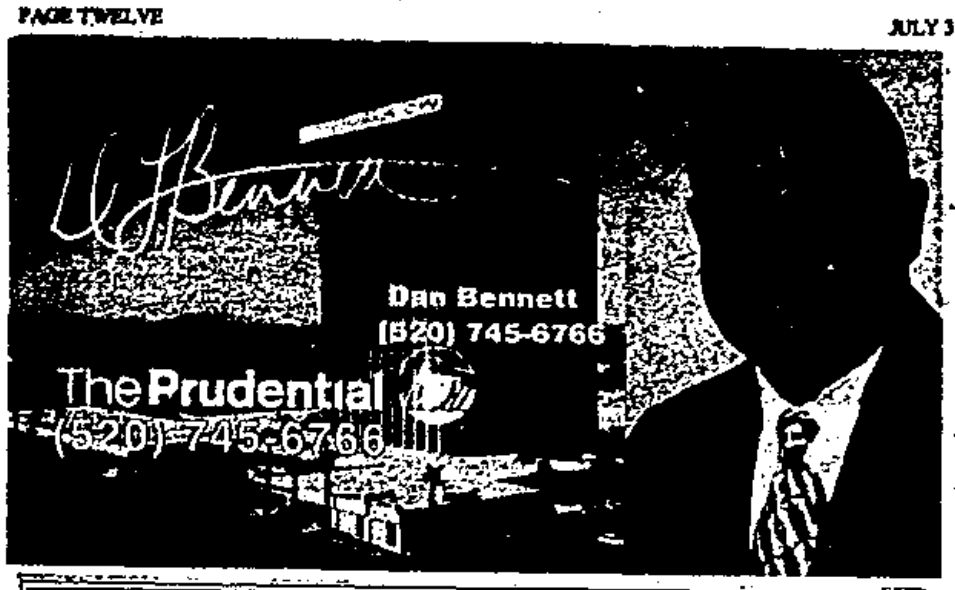

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NEWS FROM P.A.C.T.

by Frank E.G. Galipeo

[This article has been provided by Kelly Griffith, Shanti Training Coordinator.]

The Positive Living for Us (PLUS) Weekend Seminar gives people living with HIV/AIDS reliable legal and medical information and emotional support, and empowers people to make choices and decisions affecting their lives. Education is empowerment.

PLUS encourages self-case management in which a participant makes his/her decisions about how to proceed with self-care, medical treatment and psychological support and is able to carry them through.

Research has shown that a positive emotional outlook, medical and experiential treatments are helping people live longer. Lifestyle changes, stress reduction, attitudinal changes, emotional support and information on nutrition, insurance, and legal issues are making a significant difference in the lives of HIV positive people.

Shanti held its first PLUS seminar in March. Twenty two people participated. It was a high energy, exciting event for volunteers, presenter and participants alike. Overall, the seminar was a success. Participants reported an increased sense of well being, a feeling of rejuvenation, and thought the seminar was a good use of their time.

Making plus a reality in Tucson has proven to be quite a process. Individuals from TAP, PACT, TIHAN, and the greater Tucson HIV/AIDS community stepped forward in a collaborative effort called the PLUS Advisory Board. We worked together to reshape PLUS to fit the need for Tucsonans.

A group of very dedicated Shanti volunteers also stepped forward to facilitate PLUS groups and provide technical support. PLUS has been, from its inception, a team effort. I'm grate to all of you for the time, energies, and talents freely given to this seminar.

Anyone interested in participating in PLUS, contact Kelly Griffith at Shanti, 622-7107.

I leave you with this in mind, "When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves." - William Arthur Ward.

LEATHER BITS by Desert Leathermen

If you caught this column a couple of weeks ago, you found out that Ernie Hoop's shiny little head was filled with all sorts of grandiose ideas of what is supposed to transpire at Desert Leathermen's Wet 'N Wild Party this coming Saturday. Certainly you all know better than to believe Ernie. That's why I'm here to give you the big scoop, the straight poop, the real low down.

This Saturday, August 3, marks Desert Leathermen's Third Annual Wet N Wild Party on the patio of the Venture-N. In addition to DL's monthly beer bust (50 cent beer/sodas and $1.50 pitchers), from 3 to 8 P.M., a virtually endless supply of ice-cold water balloons will be available at the ridiculously low price of 50 cents each. Come and christen your friends and foes alike with a chilled douche-in-a-balloon. To add to the tide of fun, water guns will also be available for purchase. Rumor has it that the hose can also be rented if the price is right.

Remember, all proceeds from this wackiness go directly to DL's condom fund so we can continue to supply the local Gay bars with easily available condoms at no cost. Seems like a fair trade, come and use our water balloons so that you can fill your own safety balloons later, when you really need it!

You've probably noticed the two large framed pictures adorning the east wall of the Venture. Those are some of the last hot erotic art that used to hand in the old "2520." Now is your chance to get a piece of it. Those collectors' items will be raffled off Saturday as part of the Wet N' Wild festivities. Tickets are only three for $1.00 and will be available all day Saturday. The drawing will be held at 8 P.M. at the conclusion of Wet 'N Wild. Don't miss your chance at this rare opportunity!

While Wet 'N Wild drenches the patio, the Moodonna Party will be raging inside. Food and drink specials and a 50/50 raffle are certain to help make this an utterly spectacular soiree. There's even talking of selling cream pies to apply to your favorite face. Sounds promising.

So, basically, the Venture-N is *the* place to be this Saturday from 3 to 8 P.M. There's a little something for everybody, if you get cream spilled on you at the Moodonna Party, you can step and rinse off at Wet 'N Wild, one of the biggest annual summer happenings in town. But whatever you do, don't tell Ernie.

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A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Have you been watching the Olympics on TV? I heard on a radio newscast that something like five billion people would see at least a portion of them, so I imagine you have seen some of the events. There have certainly been lots of exciting things to watch in connection with the Olympics! Perhaps one of the most thrilling events to see so far was the women's team gymnastics competition. What did you think about Kerri Strugg, being willing to further injure herself to give her team a chance to win the gold medal? If she hadn't taken that second vault, perhaps her ankle wouldn't have been so severely injured, and she would have been able to compete in some of the individual events, where it seemed likely that she would win a medal for herself, perhaps even a gold. But if she hadn't taken that second vault, it was almost certain that her team would be unable to win the gold. She had only a split second to make her decision, and she made the decision to think about the good of her team, rather than herself. Because of her valiant effort, her team won the gold, and she became in an instant a role model for millions for people around the world. At this time it's not known if she will be able to compete in any individual events, so her chances of winning a gold medal for herself look slim indeed.

Why did Kerri Strugg choose to think of others rather than herself? I don't know the answer to that question, but I know of someone else who thought of others before himself. This person didn't merely allow himself to suffer injury for the benefit of others. Instead, he gave his life for those who didn't even know him. He left his beautiful home, lived on this earth as a servant, and suffered a horrible death at a young age, so that all who believe in him could have eternal life. I am speaking, of course, about Jesus Christ, who told his disciples shortly before he was betrayed, "'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.'" (John 15:13)

Right now Kerri Strugg is contemplating offers which will make her a rich young person. She had been intending to attend UCLA and compete at the university level for the next four years, but due to the lucrative offers she has received, that may never happen. She has been told she is going to be on the cover of a national sports magazine. Millions of people around the world have heard of her selfless act. She's unquestionably one of the most well-known and lionized people in the sports world today.

And what about Jesus Christ? Many people even refuse to believe that he ever lived, much less that his life has any meaning for theirs. However, Jesus tells all who will come to him, "' . . . I am come to that they may have life, and have it to the full.'" (John 10:10) His sacrifice wasn't for a select few but for all who will believe in him. And the reward for his sacrifice, "life . . . to the full" for those who believe, isn't just for this life, but for eternity.

In the years to come, people will probably forget all about Kerri Strugg and her selfless action. Those who do remember will have no lasting change in their lives because of Kerri. But each person who receives the free gift of eternal life which Jesus' sacrifice purchased for them will continue to enjoy the benefits throughout eternity!

Are you one of those for whom Jesus' sacrifice has meaning? If not accept him today!

Mist From The Water Of Life

by Pastor Nita — News From MCC Tucson

I hope you've found the periodic showers this past week to be refreshing. I know that with most people here using swamp coolers, the humidity makes them almost worthless. We still have yet to see the monsoon season to go into full swing, however, I'm thankful for any relief from this heat.

I trust that each of you are taking care of yourselves and each other. We as humans are a social species. It's difficult to live the life of a hermit. We need to be reach out to each other and allowing others to reach out to us. That seems to be the most difficult, allowing others to reach out to us. For some, we're too independent for our own good. When we hurt, or are in financial difficulty, go to the hospital for any reason, or are laid up in bed with the flu or other illness/accident. We're so stubborn that we don't want anyone else to see us in a time of weakness. Yet, it's in those times of weakness that we need to be reaching and allowing others to reach back.

Some of the most precious moments of our lives are remembered when we've reached out to a friend who is temporarily or terminally ill. And to allow others that same sense, we must set aside our pride to allow friends and other potential new friends to help us. Believe me as I write this, I'm one of those who gets sick and wants only to stay in bed and be left alone! However, the dogs need to be cared for, I need to eat and keep the house in some sense of order, get medicine and on and one. I'm working on the part of taking care of me, reaching out, stuffing my pride to accept the fact that as a human, I too will face illness, medical procedures, etc., and can't do everything alone. Can any of you relate to this? I believe more of you do, if you are honest with yourself.

We have no promises that we won't face illness, disease, grief, hardships, financial problems, (to name a few). Whether you believe in Jesus Christ, God, or any other higher power, no one is free from difficulties in this life.

All I'm asking or saying is to try to reset some of your priorities to take care of yourself first. Without this, you'll never be able to take care of others. Then secondly, take good care of each other. This will allow strong bonded relationships/friendships that will last a lifetime. Until next week.

CALL FOR WRITERS

The Lambda 10 Project needs the personal stories and experiences of being gay in a fraternity from gay fraternity men.
IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
ATTN: S. Windmeyer, Editor
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CALENDAR of upcoming events

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. Male Sex Nite is back at IBT's. Meet that someone special, play post office.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

GRADUATE - Special Tribute To The Olympics" show 9:00 p.m. Hosted by Christina de Alexis and featuring Tiffany St. Tomas, Cecile Renard and Kristin.

PLUG - Miami Salsa Show and Dance Party with Hostess Christina de Alexis.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

GRADUATE - Pool Tournament of Champions. 2:00 p.m. Sea Tucson's top pool players go for the gold.

IBT'S - Special Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust to benefit the Under-Grad Softball Team's trip to Minneapolis, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Followed by a Turnabout Show at 7:30 p.m. hosted by Christina de Alexis.

VENTURE-N - Wet 'N Wild Party with "Mooooo-Mania III" a fundraiser for the Desert Leatherman Condom Fund. (Water balloons, water guns, even the hose. Use your imagination!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

The Annual "Roast and Toast...." to benefit the National MPS Society. You won't want to miss this one! Aviva Diamond will be on the receiving end this time. Mark this date on your calendar. For more info call 747-7428.

IBT'S - Catch the Closing Ceremonies Party here at 4:30 p.m. with Cuervo Gold $2.00. Specials and special entertainment.

STONEWALL / EAGLE - Ultimate Productions present an extravagant evening of talent starring Miss Gianna, with Karina Montenegro, featuring Jasmine Bouvier (Miss Gay Latina 95-96; Miss Capitol City 96-97) with a special appearance by Christina de Alexis (Miss Gay Tucson America 88-89) and more. It all begins at 9:30 p.m. with proceeds going to benefit the Gay Pride Picnic.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

The Girlie Show 9:00 p.m. with Miss Gay Tucson, Felice Renard and starring Bulemia De Havilland, Ajia Simone and Mama Reyna.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Miss Carousel Ball 7:00 p.m. Watch for more details.

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Non-Bar CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

Cronies Social Club "Classic Oldies" movie night at Leo's. 7:00 p.m. "Rain" a '30s flick starring Joan Crawford will be shown. Call Leo 624-5768 for directions and RSVP.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Monthly potluck/social at the Scottish Rite Hall, 33 Ochoa Ave., Ochoa Room. Bring your favorite dish to share. Meet new people. Membership continues at 250. Call Jerry at 690-9565 for directions. Guests welcome.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

MPS Society Roast and Toast Benefit. Aviva Diamond will be in the frying pan on this one. Always a great evening of fun. Holiday Inn City Center, 181 West Broadway (downtown) 4:00 p.m. cocktails; 5:00 p.m. the 'Roast' begins. $20.00 per person and all proceeds benefit the National MPS Society. For tickets call Beth or Natalie 747-7428.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 4-6 p.m. Triangle Tribe awareness group. The group learns and uses communication and relationship skills towards developing feelings of trust, love, acceptance and brotherhood. Call Tom at 318-1650 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome.

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

Girlfriends Coffee House and Book Store, 3540 N. Oracle, Suite 126, now open Mondays from Noon until 11:00 p.m. Stop by 7 days a week!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Summer Chiller video movie (out of the heat, into the cool), "Big Business" starring Bette Midler and Lily Tomlin as two sets of twins mismatched at birth. Call Les at 690-9565 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

GTV - All live Gay cablecast program #23 of this season begins at 8:00 p.m. on Tucson Cablevision channel 54 (or for cable ready TV's try channel 56). If you would like to participate in the audience be at the studio at 124 E. Broadway by 7:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. The MSN Book club will be discussing Gore Vidal's gay classic, The City and the Pillar. Call Jerry at 690-9565 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 a.m. Salt River Tubing. We will car caravan up to the Mesa area and tube down the river (4 1/2 hour float). Return to Tucson about 6 p.m. Call Donn at 325-4257 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 9 a.m. Day trip to Bisbee by van. This is a chance to have a guided tour or time to wander around downtown Bisbee on your own. Return to Tucson about 7 p.m. $12 covers van and lunch. Call Dan at 622-8112 for reservations for this popular day trip. Guests always welcome. 4 p.m. Triangle Tribe, a support group using communication and relationship skills towards developing feelings of trust, love, acceptance, and brotherhood. Call Tom at 318-1650 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Intermediate bridge night. Bridge for persons who want to refresh their bridge skills. Table talk learning. Call Perry at 321-4387. Guests always welcome.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Dinner out at Caruso's Restaurant, 434 Fourth Ave. Call Steve at 795-8718 for reservations and directions. We need to have numbers in advance. Guests always welcome.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Community Business Association, Tucson's Gay business network is holding a Trade Fair exhibiting Gay and Lesbian businesses, products and services available in Tucson. 6:00 p.m. in the Bonzai Room of the Doubletree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon. There will be entertainment by Desert Voices, door prizes and a no host bar. Featured speaker for the evening will be Tucson Mayor George Miller. There is a $2.00 donation to benefit CBA. (Admission is free to CBA members). All members of the Tucson Lesbian and Gay community should take advantage of this opportunity to learn about who, what and where is the Gay businesses of Tucson.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Slide show of a "Visit to Turkey". A way to visit Turkey without leaving Tucson. Call Jim N. at 577-1602 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Discussion night. This will be a discussion of "Dating", where we discuss various thoughts about dating. Call Bob at 623-1732 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 2 p.m. MSN hike on the Oracle Ridge Trail in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Call Larry at 795-9125 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome. 4 p.m. Triangle Tribe, a support group using communication and relationship skills towards developing feelings of trust, love, acceptance and brotherhood. Call Tom at 318-1650 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Card game night. A variety of card games are available for all levels. Call Martin at 571-8950 for reservations and directions. Swan and 5th Ave. area. Guests always welcome.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Surfing with Cyber Queers 101 Internet Classes are happening at Girlfriends Coffee House, 3540 N. Oracle from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Pre-registration can be done there or call 624-9792 for more information.

Tucson CALENDAR

monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers. Sake Sunday! Great music, better dancing and it all begins at 9pm.

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, $1.50 domestic beer and well. Benefit 8-10 and Beer Bust for community organizations 8-7:30pm. Hi energy dancing 9pm to close.

PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8pm. BBQ 'Bobone' with Brian & Michael 4-7pm. 50¢ Beer Bust 4-8.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Pool tournament 2pm. Bar-B-Que and Beer Bust. Stonewall opens at 9pm with High Energy Music.

VENTURE-N - Open 10 a.m. Backside Beer Bust 3-8pm 50¢ draft. 301 Dart Tournament 8pm $3 entry fee. Dart Slayers 5-7, Tuff Stuff Tool 4-11pm.

monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour 3-7 2for1 well and domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Karoke 9 to 1 am.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. 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, $1.50 domestic beer and well. 8pm to midnight, $1.50 32oz pitchers. Retro 80s with DJ Jonathan 8pm-1am.

PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 8pm. $1 schnapps all the time. Canopy service with Moose 8pm. Dart Tournament 8:30pm. $1.50 Longnecks 8pm-close.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon to 7:00pm. Party with Brian. Longneck Specials all day & nite. Stonewall opens 9pm Hi-NRG Dance Music. Party with Stephen.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Draft Beer 75¢ 6am - 8pm. Happy Hour Prices 6am - 8pm.

tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7 2for1 well and domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. New Pool Tournament 7 pm. Boys Nite Out At The Ritz 2for1 on all wine, well and long necks from 9 to close.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. 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, $1.50 domestic beer & well. 8 pm to close Tattoo Tuesday. $1.25 well and $1.50 domestic beer for those showing their tattoo. Prizes and surprises.

PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 8pm. $1.75 well 9pm to close.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7pm. Stonewall opens at 9pm with Latin Music Party.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am to 1am. Draft Beer 75¢ 6am - 8pm. Happy Hour prices 8am - 8pm.

wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7. 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Boogie Night. Music from 70s & 80s from 8to1. Beer Bust 7-11pm - $1.25 pitchers.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢. 301 Dart Tourney 7:30 p.m. Singles $3 entry. Pot matched. Double elimination.

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

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

PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 8pm. 2 for 1 Well 8pm - 1am.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7pm. Stonewall opens at 9pm. Corona and Cuervo Gold $1.50

VENTURE-N - Open 6am Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-8pm. Cuervo Gold $2 all daylight. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 8pm-close. Tuff Stuff Tool open 8:30pm.

thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Karaoke 8pm to close.2

GRADUATE - Open 9am. 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 $2.00 8pm to 1am. Country/Western dancing 8 to 1.

IBT's - Open noon to 1am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm $1.50 domestic beer and well. Underwear Nite 10 to 1 - win a pair of Calvin Klein underwear. $1.25 Well and $1.50 Domestic Beer to those in their underwear. Hi energy dancing 9pm-close.

PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 8pm. $1.75 Corona and Cuervo from 9 to 1.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour 12pm-7pm. Peter specials all night long. Stonewall opens 9pm with hot male strippers from Phoenix.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-8pm. Pool Tournament 7pm $3 entry fee. Happy Hour prices for Men in Leather 8pm to close. Backside open open 8pm-close. Tuff Stuff Tool open 8:30pm

friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Complimentary Hors D'Ourvres

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well $1.25 draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢

HOURS - Happy Hour 12-7pm well or domestic beer $1.25. Country Western Music 8-1am.

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour 4-8pm $1.50 domestic beer and well. .. Patio Bar with Leesey 8-1. Dance Party 8 to 1 with DJ David Z.

PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with Condos. $1 schnapps all the time. $1 Domestic Long Necks 8-10pm Dance music with Dave from Phoenix at 9pm.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon-7pm; Hot Hors d'Ourvres 6pm. Stonewall opens 9pm. Wear Stonewall T-Shirt and get happy hour prices all evening long.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Draft Beer 75¢ Bar 6am-8pm. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 8pm-close. Tuff Stuff Tool opens at 8:30 pm.

saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Pool Tournament 5 pm. Pot matched, 1st: 70%, 2nd: 20%, 3rd: 10%

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well drinks $1.25 draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢. Pool Tournament 2pm, $3 entry fee, pot matched.

HOURS - Open Noon. Strawberry & Banana Daiquiris, Pina Coladas $3. Country/Western Music 8-1.

IBT's - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour noon to 8pm $1.50 domestic beer and $1.25 well. Patio Bar with Leesey 9-1. Dance 9 to 1 with DJ David Z.

PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to8pm. Free Pool noon to 5pm. On 3 tables. $1.50 Well 8-10pm. Dance music with Dave from Phoenix at 9pm.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7pm Free pool Saturday afternoon. Stonewall opens 9pm with High Energy Music.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Bitches & Bagels w/$1 Bloody Marys 6am-noon. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 8pm-close. Tuff Stuff Tool Opens at 8:30pm.

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Summer Coyotes No-Tap Bowling League

	Won	Lost	Pins
Hot Dingers!	20	8	18356
3 Queens/King	19	9	16608
The Squealers	15	13	17106
Red X's	14	14	17442
Go-Girls	13	15	17150
Boobs & Tubes	11	17	17150
Ah-So!	7	17	14177

Average: Mark K, 237; Hot Dingers!, 821. Game: Brian P., 320; Red X's, 1041. Series: Mark K., 845; Hot Dingers!, 2751.

Summer Lambda Lizards Bowling League

	Won	Lost	Pins
Seven	22.5	7.5	2812
Jam It Hard!	17.5	12.5	4555
Lil Darlings	16.0	14.0	3778
Court Jesters	15.0	15.0	3760
Carboyz	15.0	15.0	3031
Bar Bitches	13.0	17.0	3498
Ab Fab	11.5	18.5	3638

Average: Jam It Hard!, 189. Series Scratch: Jam It Hard!, 781. Game Scratch: Jam It Hard!, 236. Game HC: Bar Bitches, 256. Series HC: Carboyz, 878.

Shootin' Around Town

by Wayne Steele

TUCSON - Here are the winners of the most recent pool tournaments held in the Old Pueblo.

Stonewall/Eagle. $100 pot. 7/28. First Place - Dan FF, $50. Second Place - Patricia "Mongoose", $30. Third Place - Lee LC, $20.

SPORTS

Bowling Benefit August 11

TUCSON - The Lambda Lizards, Desert Coyotes and HITT will be holding a benefit barbecue dinner at the Plug, Sunday, August 11, from 4 to 7 P.M.

There will be information and sign up sheets for the fall G/L bowling leagues which will commence in September. Also, there will be information and volunteer sign-up sheets for Tucson's G/L bowling tournament, HITT, which takes place on Halloween weekend.

Cost of the benefit is $3 per plate. More information will be in next week's Observer.

TGSA Fund Raising Weekend For Softball World Series

TUCSON - The Graduate Softball team is holding three fund raisers this weekend to raise money for the team's trip to Minneapolis, MN. The Graduate will represent the Tucson Greater Softball Association (TGSA) representative at the 1996 Gay Softball world series.

The first fundraiser takes place today, with a 50/50 raffle held at IBT's. So go and support your team. The second fundraiser, Saturday, August 3 will also be held at IBT's. A Food and Beer Bust, from 4 to 7 P.M. begins the festivities. The Turnabout Show follows at 7:30 P.M., with some of your favorite ball players will come out in their regular clothes, then come out as members of the opposite sex. Should be fun!

On Sunday, the team will play a game or games against other TGSA teams. This event will take place at Ourey Park, (6th St. & I-10) from 2 to 5 P.M. Food and drink will be available for a small donation.

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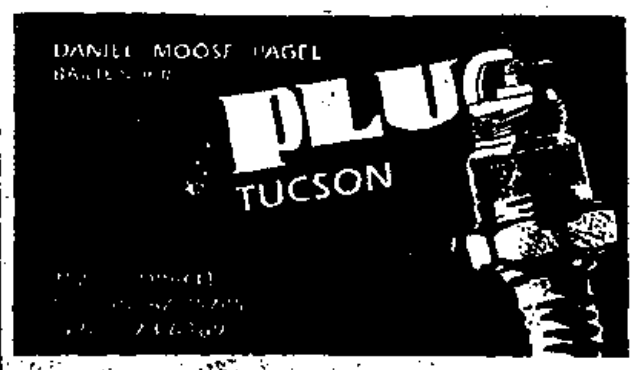

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THOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

Even the dog days of August with their retrograde planets can't dampen my apres pride attitude. Pluto, Jupiter, Neptune, Uranus and Saturn all continue in their retro wayward ways through the month. Bring 'em on I say, and with the help of energizing Mars and lovely Venus we'll handle these wild outer orbs. Some of us like our orbs wild and out.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

As you attend to home related issues, other more public areas of your life become open to greater inspection and possible change. It may be that coming out to your family will produce a cathartic and far reaching impact on your career, social circles and global philosophy. Proud Rams should not be totally surprised; the overall change can be exceptionally dramatic.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Placid queer Bulls would do well to get off their duff and set the explorative gears on faraway regions. Zesty energetic Mars shoots you out and about while delightful Venus cushions your landing. Travel brings many benefits, not least of which is the ability to escape the sudden surprises pummeling your career. It's not all bad dear. Deep down you just don't like change.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Whose money is it anyway? That's the question posed by the planets in August. Queer Twins can be exceptionally strange about money particularly when it comes to the sharing thing. I wouldn't say you're stingy. I'd say you're especially secretive. Perhaps it's because you understand the fickleness of the heart that you protect your loot at all costs. This time the cost may be too high.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Pink Crabs will be catapulted out of their shells this August thanks to the uncompromising Mars attitude. The trick will be for you to balance the "we and me" in your life as the crowds adoringly call for encore after encore. Consider the effect on partners or any one-to-one relationship; don't become a prima donna. Attitude is fine for the crowd but it's deadly for the partnership.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Karmic proud Lions are faced with a universal adjustment in exercise and diet and, believe me, it's a welcome change. The planets demand that you reach an inner equilibrium and live your life more in tune with nature and with your inner voice. If that means adjustments and changes, so be it. Meat is not on the menu, well at least not on your dinner plate.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Let the group dynamic call the tune for once. You may find yourself marching for a fabulous cause. It may be time for all queer Virgins to get in synch with the social scene, lampshade and all. Let loose and enjoy yourself a little, even if the music is too loud or the chips and salsa too hot. Life can never be too hot in August cousin. Schlep them old bones out onto the dance floor and see what's shaking.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Actionable Mars is a catalyst for change in your career for all sassy pink Scales willing to take a leap of faith. Interestingly though, the real change occurs in your private life and the family and friends that make up your closet circles. Since there is very little space for all those folks in your closet, may I suggest the living room instead? It's far more comfortable.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 -NOVEMBER 22

Proud Scorps often like to be the counsel behind the throne, but I think you deserve a bit more credit for your ideas and strategies. Thankfully Mars agrees and now your views take on a more global and philosophical tenor. Take it to the streets friend and let them see how vividly explosive and far reaching you can be. Please be a benevolent dictator when you reach the top.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

It's time, queer Archer, to measure the true value of all that you hold near and dear. Mars gives you the shovel to dig deep into your psychological depths and what you find could change your perspective forever. Of course the other meaning of this transit is that you will enjoy hot, steaming, unbridled sex that will cost you lost of money, but will it be well worth it. Count me in!

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Serious, conservative Gay Caps find themselves the glorious center of attention with partners prodding you on. "Watch where you're prodding," you say, but it's to no avail. The combination of planetary force and the wishes of others conspire to create a new you, ready or not. A new wardrobe? A new style? It's not all that bad once you get used to those leather hot pants.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

The dreary, uneventful day to day drudge of a job may, in fact, have monumental and far reaching karmic impact on cynical Aqueerians. Don't be afraid to tackle any detailed task, no matter how onerous because there is a fabulous reward at the end of the treadmill. The most important thing is give a little something back to our community in the process. The goddesses must be appeased.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

It will amaze you how so much fun could be so beneficial to your purpose and direction in life. Pink Pisces need to relax and explore their more creative and artistic side now with the help of feisty and aggressive Mars. The planets give you backbone, direction, a few friendly helping hands and even a bit of crazy luck. Go with the flow Fish and see where the fun filled course takes you.

For entertainment purposes only. For best results, read both your Sun sign and Ascendant. For a free calculation of your ascendant, send birthdate, time, place, name of this publication and s.a.s.e. to: Lichtenstein, POB 1726, Old Chelsea Station, NY, 10011.

THE WHOLE MAN
BY DR. BOB

The Benefits Of Massage

It's been awhile since I wrote in this column about massage. Plain old, non-Tantric, Swedish massage. Most people, unfortunately, have never had a professional massage. They don't know what they're missing! I remember my first massage, about six years ago. I was still living in Cincinnati, and my boyfriend and I were on vacation here in Tucson. He handed me forty dollars and said, go get yourself a massage! If you've never had one, you owe it to yourself to have the experience.

So I did. I remember feeling nervous before I went. I thought about all my bodily imperfections. I felt the massage therapist would probably refuse to work on me, since I was a few pounds overweight! I didn't know if I was going to be naked, clothed, or something in-between. I didn't know if it was going to feel good or bad. I had heard of Rolfing, in which "no pain, no gain" seems to be the philosophy. I thought maybe I was in for an hour of punishment. Then again, what if it felt good? What if I got an erection during the massage? Then surely I'd be kicked out of the massage therapist's office!

I made the appointment and went in. The office seemed safe enough. The massage therapist told me that he was going to leave the office for a minute, and that I should undress and lie down on the massage table, with a sheet over me, face down. As I was lying there, waiting for him to come back, I thought, what am I in for? But my boyfriend thought I should have this experience, so I was willing to give it a go.

The massage was one of the best experiences of my life. The masseur was sensitive and yet forceful, working the back of my body with his hands, forearms, and fingers. He used a light oil that had no scent. I allowed myself to relax totally, and gave myself over to his hands. I breathed deeply. I moaned as I released long-held tension. My attention effortlessly hovered wherever his hands were working, experiencing the pleasure of muscle tension being released. He removed a portion of the sheet to expose the leg or whatever part of my body he was working on. Then he would replace the sheet on that part of the body, and move to the next part. He was very respectful of my privacy.

I turned over, still under the sheet, and he worked the front of my body with the same care. I drifted off to somewhere else, not exactly sleeping, not exactly dreaming, something in between waking and sleeping. It was very therapeutic for me to drop off into that space.

Then it was over. I opened my eyes. My skin felt soft and flushed, young and moist. My muscles felt loose. When I stood up, my posture was naturally aligned, without effort. My skin felt nourished by the touch I had received. I felt relaxed, yet mentally alert. I felt more in touch with my body than I ever had been in my life up to that point. I gave him a ten dollar tip!

In this society, most people are touch-deprived. We hardly ever receive major amounts of touch, except during sex. Even during sex, the touch is often restricted to the genital areas. In a massage, your whole skin surface receives prolonged, expert touch. The oil or lotion used enhances the sensations of nurturing. This is a great experience.

In a massage, the blood circulation is improved. Improved blood circulation means that toxins are carried out of the body more quickly, and nutrients are transported to all parts of the body more efficiently. Chronic muscle tightness is relieved. Postural imbalances are righted. Massage is in the same ballpark as chiropractic, in the sense that we are interested in the health of the spine and making sure that the body is aligned. Massage therapy is simply gentler than chiropractic manipulation. Of course, in addition to all this, a massage just plain feels good!

Most of go through life out of touch with our bodies. We are only vaguely aware of what goes on beneath the neck, except when it's time to have sex. We only notice our bodies when something goes wrong! A massage is a quick remedy for that condition, putting you in contact with your bodily being in a way that is pleasurable and good for you all at the same time. How many things in life are there you can say that about?

[Robert Feldhaus, Ph.D. is an educator and bodyworker for the Gay community. If you'd like to chat about this column, feel free to call Dr. Bob at 623-1732 or email him at bobby-@azstarnet.com.]

Volunteer Chaplain Sacked Over Anti-Gay Remark

ORLANDO, FL (WS) - Local newspapers have reported that Sheriff Kevin Beary of the Orange County Sheriff's office has dismissed the Rev. John Butler Book, a volunteer chaplain notorious in the central Florida community for his anti-Gay bias.

Book recently went out of his way to condemn a deputy in the Sheriff's department for attending a Gay pride parade in June. He has long been harshly critical of Gay people and has stated publicly they should undergo therapy to become heterosexual.

A local editorial praised the move, saying, "It's easy to see why Mr. Book was dismissed. What's tough to understand is why he ever was recruited as one of the agency's 40 chaplains."

The deputy's attendance at the pride parade, said the editorial, is a matter of public service and should be considered by all in the community as the routine fulfillment of an officer's responsibilities.

The editorial continues, "[Book's] public intolerance casts an unfair shadow on all deputies who must be counted on to protect residents, especially people most likely to be targets of persecution. Chaplains are expected to have the genuine compassion necessary to comfort all people who've been affected by tragedy. Mr. Book's over disdain for a segment of the population makes him inappropriate for the job."

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NOTICES

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9565 for information and a newsletter.538

SOFTBALL - For info on the Tucson Greater Softball Association T.G.S.A., please contact Mary G. 770-9979 or Bertie L. 318-3415.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-9063.

DR. BOB'S EROTIC DISCUSSION GROUP for Gay and Bisexual men. A confidential setting in which to discuss all aspects of our erotic lives, from safer sex to masturbation to monogamy to. . . Many heads are better than one! Wednesday nights. Call Robert Feldhaus at 623-1732.

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? The Gay Young Men's Project is now looking for volunteers for the project. We need people who want to help create a positive social change for young Gay men as well as reduce the risk for HIV infection. For more information please call the Tucson AIDS Project at 322-6226.

"EVOLVERE" a transgendered Support Group open to all T.V.'s, C.D.'s, T.G.'s & T.S.'s. Dedicated to all our brothers and sisters. Offering our help and support in every way we can. Meetings held on 4th Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. Call 884-0541.

SCUBA DIVING CLUB. For information call digital pager 291-9602.

BISEXUAL INFORMATION/SUPPORT GROUP for women and men. Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan. 320-1319.

GAY VOLLEYBALL ON SATURDAYS. Competitive play. B or better players only. Grass court Northwest corner Himmel Park 5:00 p.m. Check it out!

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-4582 for more information or sign up.

DR. BOB'S INTIMACY SKILLS GROUP for Gay and Bisexual men. If you want more closeness in your life, you need to learn the skills that allow for intimacy. This group is a place to learn and grow quickly! Monday nights. Call Robert Feldhaus, Ph.D. at 623-1732.

CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 3rd Monday at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1800 N. Camino Pio Decimo in the Wine Room at 7:00 p.m. For more info call Ernie721-2003 or Anna Marie at the Parish office 885-3573.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call Greg Hollman 577-6333 for more info.

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE (TLGA) meets every third Thursday at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Avenue at 7pm.

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND. Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 694-7063.

TIHAN, a coalition of churches and synagogues committed to providing a compassionate response to the HIV crisis, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

THIRTYsomething Society - an exclusive society for single Gay and Bi men in or near their thirties. A social society that offers monthly activities including a monthly outing away from Tucson. Call 797-3116 for more information and a membership bio.

FRONT 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 Mitch at 326-3555

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 HIV and AIDS and their families, friends. Contact us Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 300 E. 6th Street, 622-7107. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and G[illegible]s - is a support g[illegible] available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. C[illegible] 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

LIVING WATERS FAMILY CENTER now meeting in the front building of MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Worship services on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. Counseling provided for couples and individuals. For more information call 795-7265.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call Information and Referral about Al-Anon 881-1794 in Tucson Info about special groups for Gays and Lesbians.

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, 624-1778.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS INTERNATIONAL invites Gay or Bisexual men over 30 years old to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men who are or wish to be involved in Gay community activities, issues and organizations. Call 887-7493 and leave your name and phone number. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday, 4-6 p.m. at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 292 (The Broadmoor Center Bldg.). Direct services for persons with and affected by HIV/AIDS Prevention education programs. Business hours, M-F, 8-5. 322-6226. AIDS Hotline: 326-AIDS.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

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

GAY OR BISEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 748-8977 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), 5:00 p.m. Information 624-1778.

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals 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. Room 22. Call the church at 299-0953 for information.

NOTICES

LICHEN HIKING CLUB for women of all ages and backgrounds of Sts. Hike with other women. Listings in Babytalk Journal available at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave.

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. 624-1778.

L.O.S., EX-L.O.S., GAY LESBIAN, BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. 7pm. 320-1319 for information.

RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL every Sunday at 2pm at St. Francis in The Foothills for anyone who likes to play and have a blast call Davey 886-1208 for more info.

ARIZONA/SONORA PROYECTO, S.I.D.A. - AIDS INFO LINE 882-3532. 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, 901 West Congress, Tucson, AZ 85745. 770-1314.

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

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5855. Leave message.

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers 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 64-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

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COCHISE COUNTY LESBIANS AND GAYS. P.O. Box 618, Bisbee, AZ 85603 / (602)432-5591. Rap Group, Youth Group, Social and Political Events.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR MEN IN SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS who have ever been physically, verbally or sexually abused, is now forming. Call Randy Oberhoff, Ph.D. at 570-0027 for more

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, Call the Bears Hotline (520)733-8409, write 1830 E. Broadway #124-403, Tucson, AZ 85719, or come to our general meetings the second Friday of every month. Location listed on our hotline.

TUCSON ROOMMATE LOCATOR SERVICE Men and women welcome. Office 574-2272.

"LAMBDA CAR CLUB, A social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving collectible vehicles. Call Rich 318-0540.

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. Mike 581-6450 or Ronn 968-2384.

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

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Merle at 888-7264? Call CRONIES 888-7264.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2002 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Jeff or Art (520)762-9135.

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 889-7296.

MANE MEN: Long-haired Gay male penpal network. Photo, 3 IRC's to join. Box 231, Station B, Ottawa, CANADA, K1P6C4

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP meets at St. Philips in the Hills Episcopal Church on alternate Mondays. Call David, 323-7943 for more info.

"AT EASE AGAIN", a men's discussion group meets at Wingspan at 7 p.m. every Tuesday. No meetings in July or August.. 422 N. 4th Ave.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS: Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus rehearses Monday evenings at 7 pm at UofA School of Music Rm #162. For information call 791-9662.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

PERSONALS

BIRDERS! Seeking Lesbians and Gay men for day birding outings; also Gay men for overnight on birding tours. Gene 628-8109. 630

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION
Si eres hombre que tiene sexo con otros hombres y quieres ayudarnos a extender y apoyar los programas para Los Latinos, llama para una entrevista extrictamente confidencial al 322-6226 y pregunta por Ernesto. 629

If you are a Latino man who is having sex with other men and you want to help us to support and expand our programs for Latinos, call for a confidential interview at 322-6226 and ask for Ernie. 629

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HOUSEKEEPER/CAREGIVER - Recent Surgery? Long term illness? Or just too busy working? Can keep your home organized - cleaning the laundry, cooking, errands, feed the pets too. Excellent references. Pam 296-7102. 629

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MASSAGE- MASSAGE- MASSAGE. Euphoric, stress-relieving, sensual (non-sexual) professional therapeutic massage by experienced L.M.T. Full hour, $35.00; 1.5 hour, $50.00. Mention this ad for $5.00 off first massage. Appointment only. Matthew Egebrecht 881-2140. 630

BODY BOTIQUE! Offering full service body massage with many extras, including facial, body wraps and more. Male and female therapists available. All major credit cards accepted. Bradley Michaels or Amy 733-7317. See display ad elsewhere in this issue of Observer. 625.

MASSAGE THE WAY YOU LIKE IT WHERE YOU NEED IT. Sensual, therapeutic full body Swedish massage for all men. Comfortable and private in home studio. Professional, experienced and discreet. A memorable full hour for $35.00. By appointment only. Rick 299-1782. 629

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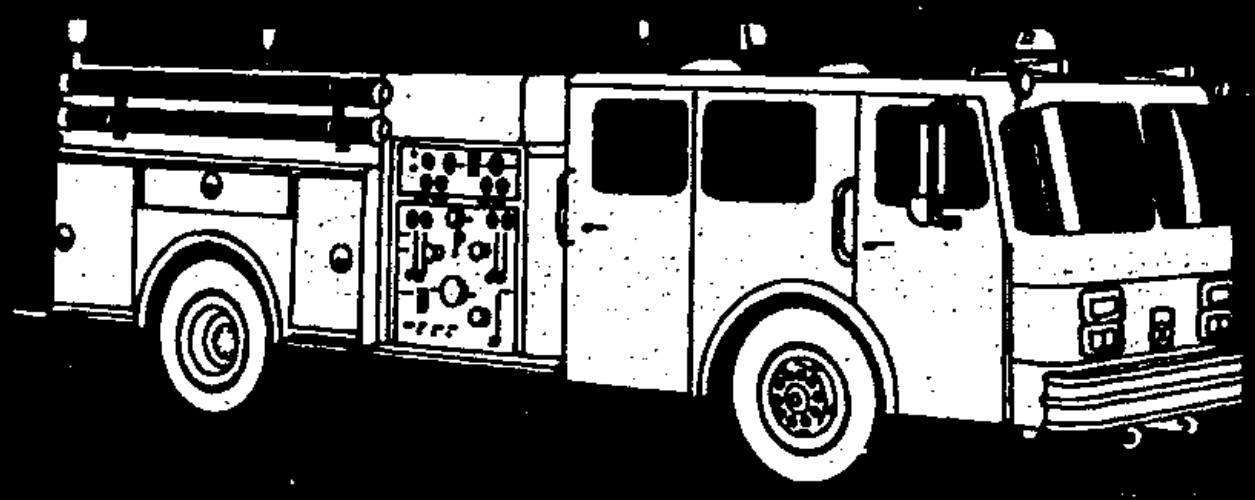

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HRC Attacked For GOP Endorsements

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is being put on the defensive by angry Gay and Lesbian activists over its decision to endorse two sitting Republican representatives over two Democratic challengers in Massachusetts and California. The organization was recently criticized for contributions made to the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee.

In the race for Massachusetts' 6th District, Rep. Peter Torkildsen won HRC endorsement over Democratic challenger John Tierney. In California's 38th District, Republican Rep. Stephen Horn got the HRC's nod over Democratic Rick Zbur. The controversy has been fueled by Torkildsen's voting record, which many charge is overtly hostile to Gay concerns, evidenced most recently by his support of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.

Torkildsen is a subcommittee chair who is a cosponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and has arranged hearings on pro-Gay legislation. Torkildsen was instrumental in the selection of witnesses that were heavily stacked in favor of the bill. ENDA is HRC's number one legislative priority in Congress. Some speculated that there was of a bit of a payoff here, with Torkildsen being one of the few pro-Gay Republicans for whom HRC support may make a difference in his election.

Observers say Tierney stands a good chance of winning the race. Tierney has raised more money than Representative Torkildsen since January, and came the closest of any Democrat in the country to unseating a Republican in 1994, the year not one incumbent Republican lost a race. Both the Republican and Democratic Congressional Campaign Committees have targeted the race heavily.

According to Art Leonard of New York University, the California race between Horn and Zbur put the HRC in the difficult position of supporting a reasonably pro-Gay incumbent who is fairly popular in his district, and an openly-Gay, attractive challenger. Complicating the race further, the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund is throwing its full support behind Zbur.

In its role as a combined endorsement and lobbying group, say HRC supporters, the organization employs a long term strategy to improve the climate for Lesbian and Gay concerns in Congress. This may mean being supportive of moderate Republicans who will vote the right way on Gay/AIDS issues much of the time, over Democratic challengers who may never be elected.

In endorsement calculations HRC is also responsible for weighing national trends that may affect overall control of each house, who will chair committees, who will control the flow of legislation, and other factors that may transcend the simple calculus of who is the better candidate on Gay issues in a particular race.

Dornan Rebuff

Continued from page one

members of Congress loaded with ugly, anti-Gay measures," Stachelberg said.

The Senate's refusal to follow the House, according to observers, indicates the Senate will most likely demand that the discharge language be dropped in the conference committee.

[Lou Chibbaro, Jr. is a reporter for the Washington Blade, from which this article is reprinted, and edited for the Observer format.]

Custody Ruling

Continued from Page One

table manners or because a child did not have ideal hygiene," said an angry Kathryn Kendell, counsel of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Mary Ward's attorney. "Mary Ward lost custody of her child for one reason and one reason only, because she was a Lesbian."

The three judge panel gave no indication when it might rule in the case.

Perspective

Continued from Page Four

house with so many grow-lights it glowed like something from "The X-Files"

Everybody else was single and lonely.

Congress should ensure domestic tranquility, not prevent perfect unions. If they want to save marriage, they should pass a law requiring that the backs of dishes shall always be washed.

[Rob Morse is a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, from which this article is reprinted.]