

MCC Church To Honor Departing Pastor



Rev. Nita Willey

Vista in 1984. She was credentialed as Clergy by the Universal Fellowship in 1987, and was ordained in 1991. In 1987 she was called from Sierra Vista to join the Pastoral staff at Water of Life MCC in Tucson, serving as the Associate Pastor. In 1989 she was named as the Assistance Pastor of Water of Life MCC.

The Community Awards of Tucson has honored Rev. Willey three times with the Certificate of Merit. She has been nominated for several humanitarian awards; and has been chaplain on call with various area hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices. Rev. Willey was recognized by the National Association for Female Executives in their 1995 edition of "Who's Who."

A native of Maine, Rev. Willey joined the U.S. Army in 1973, serving until her medical discharge due to a spinal cord injury in 1983. During her time of service, she was awarded seven commendations and medals.

Willey studied at Cochise College, and received her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of Arizona in 1987. She earned her second Bachelors Degree in 1989, with high honors. In 1990 she was awarded her Bachelor of Theology degree from Samaritan College. She earned high honors in her extensive study of ASL as a second language at Pima College. Currently Rev. Willey is enrolled with the Chicago Theological Institute working on her Doctor of Ministries degree with her Master of Divinity in process.

The Board of Directors of the church is honoring the Pastor's dedicated service and leadership by hosting a dinner Saturday, January 25, 6:00 P.M. After the dinner, 7:30 P.M., there will be a time of sharing and wishing Rev. Willey well in her future ministry. All activities will be at the church facility, 3269 North Mountain Avenue, (between Fort Lowell and Prince Roads). All are invited to attend this dinner and time of honoring Rev. Willey for her many years of service and wishing her "God Speed."

For further information, please contact Ms. Danny Swift, Deacon, at 557-6694 (pager).

TUCSON - The Rev. Nita Willey has announced her resignation as the Pastor of Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) effective January 31. The congregation will recognize Rev. Willey's ministry with special activities on January 25.

Rev. Willey was elected as the Pastor of Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church in August 1994, and has served as Pastor since that time. In her announcement, Rev. Willey noted that "I am called to another work. I know that God knows what is best; I do know that God will continue to use me in a ministry that is waiting."

Rev. Willey will deliver her closing sermon in word and song at the regular 10:45 A.M. Worship Service on January 26. She is relocating to north Texas, and after a brief sabbatical, will continue in active pastoral ministry with the Metropolitan Community Churches in Texas.

Rev. Willey has been in active pastoral ministry with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches since joining MCC in 1984. She was the founding Pastor at Apostles of God Metropolitan Community Church in Sierra

Not All Rejoicing At Inauguration

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NP) - As U.S. President Bill Clinton was inaugurated for a second term January 20, there were Gays and Lesbians dancing, singing, playing instruments, and even performing in a cheerleading squad - but others observed the event with solemnity and with anger.

The wide-spread rejoicing of the first Clinton inaugural, when many Gays and Lesbians believed that all their legislative dreams would soon come true, was toned down considerably this time. Four years later that that same Presidential knight-on-a-white-horse ironically is both the Gay-friendliest President in history and the man who signed into law one of the most explicitly anti-Gay bills in history -- DOMA (the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act," excluding Gay and Lesbian relationships from all federal purposes, and to allow states to deny recognition to same-gender relationships established legally in another state).

The dancers were at the parties that went on all weekend in Washington D.C. On January 18, there was the Women's Inaugural Gala, probably the first inaugural event exclusively by and for Lesbians. Held at the Galleria at Lafayette Center, near the very Gay DuPont Circle, the event was organized by local women to benefit San Francisco's National Center for Lesbian Rights, Washington D.C.'s own Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer and the Lesbian Services Program of Washington's Whitman-Walker Clinic. The honorary co-chairs were former HUD Deputy Secretary Roberta Achtenberg and award winning-filmmaker Deborah Chasnoff.

Virginia and Washington D.C. Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs hosted others from around the country for a reception on the evening of January 18 at the DuPont Plaza Hotel.

The Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund all joined together for a huge "triangle ball" at the Omni Shoreham Hotel on January 20, featuring the multi-talented Chita Rivera as the headline entertainer and a video message from comic Ellen DeGeneres. The Victory Fund also had a smaller dance on January 18.

Another inaugural ball, the "Red Ribbon Inaugural Gala," was hosted by the American AIDS Political Committee. AIDS lobbyist Tom Sheridan organized this event specifically as a fund raiser to help Gay-friendly Congressman Loretta Sanchez, D-CA, defend her seat against the vote fraud claims of her unsuccessful opponent, former Congressman and loudmouthed homophobic pitch-man Republican Bob Dornan.

The singers were the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, who performed for 45 minutes on the morning of January 19 at the National Museum of American History as part of the "American Journey" concert series, making them the first Gay men's chorus to be part of an official inaugural event. Their selections included Michael Callen's "Love Don't Need A Reason," "In This Moment," "Light One Candle," and "In Our Lifetime."

The musicians were the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America, back again after being the first openly Gay and Lesbian group ever to participate in a Presidential inauguration four years ago. The 175 members from two dozen Lesbian and Gay bands from across the country had a site on Pennsylvania Avenue to play before and after Clinton's swearing-in. Their favorites include "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" and "I Am What I Am."

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY FOUR

Colorado Springs Ground Zero Again!

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO (NP) - Controversy over a high school newspaper's article on homosexuality has sparked a "family values reunion" for Colorado's pro-Amendment 2 crowd. The fight over the school board's publication policy continues.

Colorado Springs, Colorado, population 290,755, was dubbed "Ground Zero" by Gays and Lesbians there in 1992, when the locally-based Colorado for Family Values (CFV) proposed the state-wide anti-Gay ballot measure Amendment 2, which was passed by voters only to be struck down in 1996 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Now CFV is taking action closer to home, seeking to silence discussion of homosexuality in local public schools, in reaction to articles printed in a leading local high school's student paper. Color-

do Springs is also the headquarters for a number of significant U.S. national conservative Christian organizations, including the wealthy Focus on the Family, which is supporting CFV's efforts.

It was October 24 that the Palmer High School "Lever" cover story examined the lives of Gay and Lesbian teens, running with a sidebar of resource information and an editorial in support of same-gender marriage.

The Board of School District 11 began to receive calls which led them to seek legal advice about revising their policies on student publications, which has followed the state's in allowing wide latitude for student editorial control and free speech. The Board's November meeting drew scores of people who gave

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY ONE



Free Valentines to be printed in the Feb. 12 issue of OBSERVER.
Check with your bartender or TAP, PACT or SHANTI
Deadline is Monday, Feb. 10

UPDATE

David Tiller To Speak At UofA Jan. 30

TUCSON - The U of A Program on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Studies invites all interested to attend a lecture by David Tiller, correspondent for the San Francisco Chronicle and author of *Cracks In The Iron Closet*, on his experiences living with Gay men and Lesbians in Russia.

The lecture will be held Thursday, January 30, 5:30 P.M., in the Economics Building, Room 301, at the University of Arizona. For further information call Doug Weiner, 325-7765.

Badly Dressed As He Wanna Be

LOS ANGELES, CA (NP) - It's always been a peculiar distinction to be named to designer Mr. Blackwell's annual list of Worst-Dressed Women, but perhaps a little more so this year for the most famous drag aficionado of professional sports, the wildly popular Dennis Rodman.

Blackwell placed Rodman Number One on the list, saying, "In fishnet and feathers, he's a unisex wreck." Blackwell held a media conference to declare his 37th annual judgments.

But Rodman's only two when it comes to being a man on the Blackwell roster of the fashion-impaired: the gender line was broken last year by talk radio star Howard Stern, whose book of that year featured a jacket photo with him in drag.

Blackwell added that for Dennis Rodman to improve his appearance, "he should consult Cruella DeVille for fashion tips."

MFSA Endorses 'Statement of Conscience' on Homosexuality

PACIFIC PALISADES, CA (UMNS) - A recent "statement of conscience" on homosexuality has been endorsed by the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) Board of Directors.

During a January 9-12 meeting in Pacific Palisades, the board decided to urge all United Methodist clergy to consider signing the statement, called "In All Things Charity," which was released January 1. The Rev. George McClain, MFSA executive director, is one of the original 15 signers.

The statement affirms "liturgical support" for commitments between same-sex couples and advocates the ordination of Gay men and Lesbians. The United Methodist Church currently prohibits ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" as well as services of union for same-sex couples.

PACT Seeks Finance Director

TUCSON - The People With AIDS Coalition of Tucson is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Finance Director.

Experience is required in accounting, spread sheets, data entry, and all bookkeeping functions. Knowledge of contracts, grants, and/or non-profit helpful.

Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to: "Finance," POB 2488, Tucson, AZ 85702. HIV+ encouraged to apply. EOE

Gay Theory Bombed For FBI

ATLANTA, GA (NP) - An article in Vanity Fair magazine claims the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was sidetracked for weeks in their investigation of the pipe bomb at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, by their mistaken belief that security guard Richard Jewell was Gay.

Jewell, who was at first portrayed as a hero for his quick thinking in the emergency, soon became police officials' leading suspect, held under the closest observation until he was finally cleared in October. According to one of Jewell's attorneys, the FBI investigation was for weeks directed with the idea that Jewell was an "enraged homosexual cop-hater" who planted the bomb, with a male lover first acting as his co-conspirator and later alerting police by phone.

It's believed this scenario was concocted from rumors begun by students at a college where Jewell once worked in retaliation for him having brought students' drug use to the attention of authorities. It probably didn't help that Jewell fit the stereotype of an unmarried man living with his mother.

The FBI declined to comment.

St. Francis Features Support Group & Sunday Volleyball

TUCSON - St. Francis in the Foothills invited you to join their discussion/support group. The group is there for all who desire a safe place for general discussion and support of issue in our lives.

The drop-in group meets Thursday evenings, 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. at St. Francis in the Foothills, 4625 East River, Rooms 32 & 33. For further information contact the church office, 299-9063.

St. Francis has started their Recreational Volleyball season. They play on Sundays, 1 P.M. at the sand courts. Men and women of all playing levels are welcome. For more information contact Davey, 886-1208.

IN MEMORIAM

SGT. P.A. (PAT) WALTERS
9/27/51 - 1/15/97

After a three year battle with cancer, Pat has finally gone to patrol the great streets in the sky. She leaves behind great friends, and wonderful memories. She will be protecting us from up above.

Thanks for the good times, Honey. Remember "Just do it" and "No fear." Love you, Sarg. KRIS

A memorial service will be held Thursday, January 23, 9:00 A.M. at Avalon Chapel, 8090 N. Northern. Tucson Police Department will hold full honor guard services.

LYNNE PAYNE
5/9/33 - 1/16/97

Lynne Payne, age 63, passed into another life this last Thursday, January 16, 1997. She is survived by her life-mate, Pam Young, and had no other living relatives.

Lynne was a member of the Tucson Knight Owls (T.K.O.) and has been known to club members for many years as "Phoenix Mama." Lynne was born May 9, 1933 in Jacksonville, Florida. She and Pam had been living in Phoenix and only recently moved to Tucson.

Lynne will be sadly missed by friends in Tucson and Phoenix. Her body will be cremated and memorial services are pending.

CBA Holiday Party A Success

TUCSON - This past December the Community Business Association (C.B.A.) held its first annual Holiday Party at the Catalina Park Inn Bed and Breakfast, 309 East First Street.

Over 120 guests and C.B.A. members, made up of Tucson's most influential Gay and Lesbian business people and professionals enjoyed the historic ambiance of the 1927 built, 4263 square foot Craftsman style B & B.

The C.B.A., Tucson's only Gay and Lesbian network breakfast group was started last February by Brad Sensenbach and Greg Hollman of Prudential Aegis Realty. The association has grown from an interested group of 30 perspective members at its first breakfast to well over 130 members in just 11 months.

Last August the C.B.A. held its first annual Trade Fair with about 40 exhibitors and over 300 guests and, keynote speaker, Mayor George Miller.

Co-founder Greg Hollman says the C.B.A. mission statement is "to provide a forum to the Lesbian and Gay business community for the purpose of networking to create increased visibility and strengthen business relationships."

The C.B.A. meets at local restaurants every third Thursday of the month at 7:30 A.M. Meetings include; a time to mingle, full breakfast, one to two guest speakers and, an opportunity for each business to introduce themselves to the members attending. Meetings generally draw about 60 to 75 C.B.A. members each month.

For additional information or, to join C.B.A. call Greg Hollman, 577-5999, ext. 1112.

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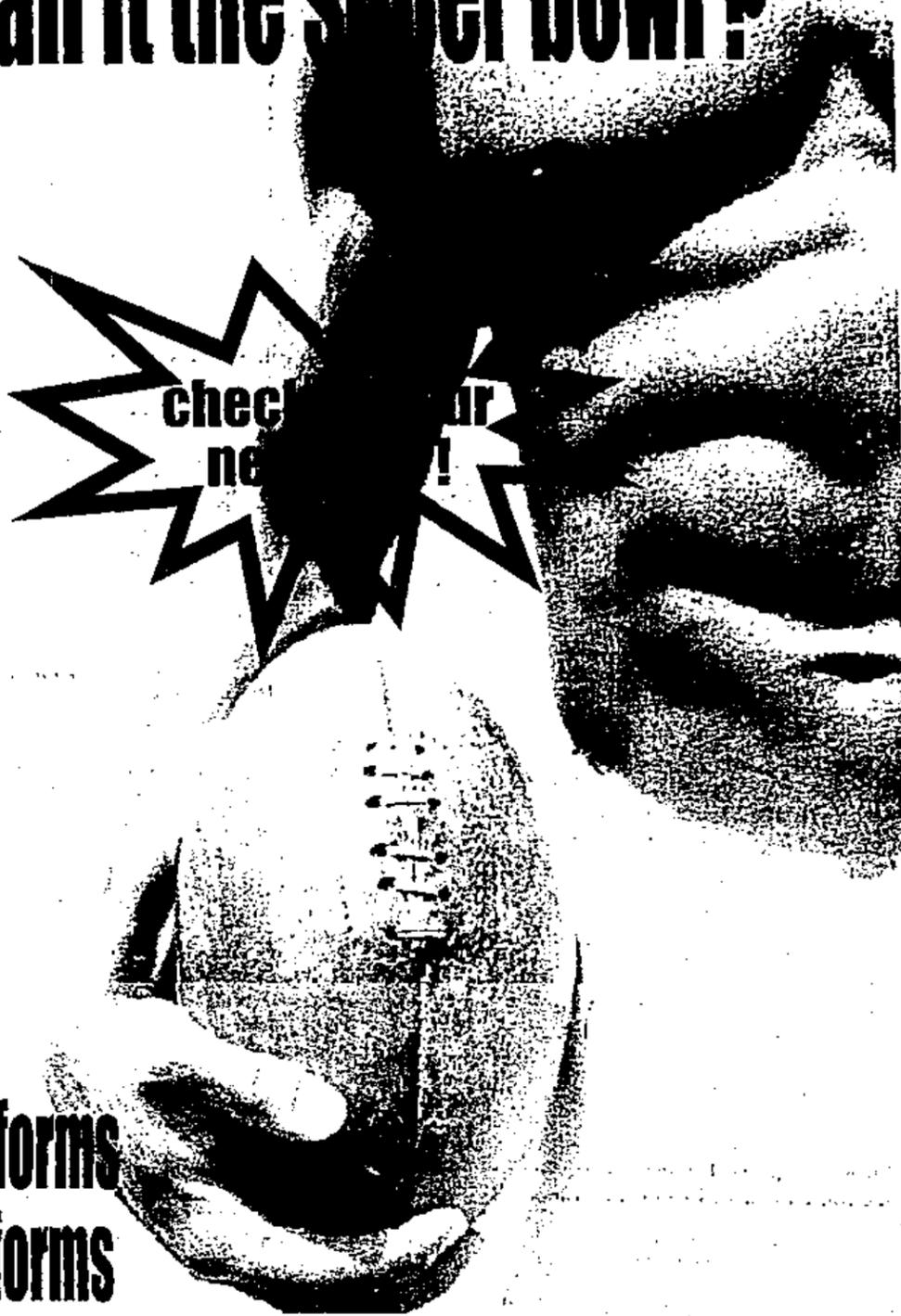


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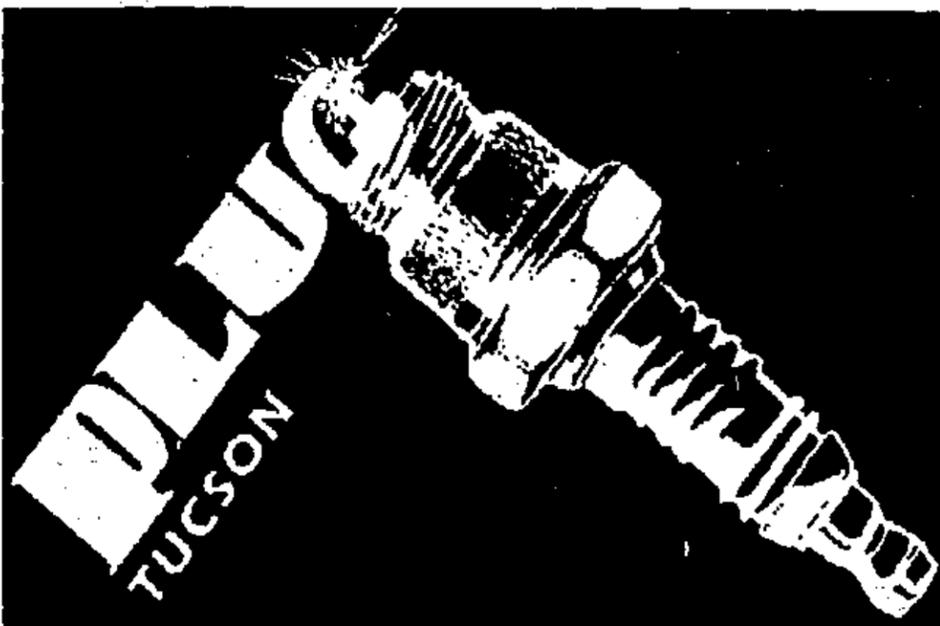
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HOME ON THE RANGE WITH AGRA-TUCSON

by Anida Cowboy

Hi y'all! So much dish and so little time! I am proud to say that I survived the 12th Annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix this weekend. We had a great time and I would like to thank all of those from Tucson who attended the Rodeo this weekend. I must say that it has created a great positive energy for me and I feel that if Tucson can pull together we can host one of the best events this town has ever seen. Enough of that . . . on with the dish!

There is a certain person in a certain bar who stands above the crowd a few nights a week and gets annoyed when people stomp their feet on the floor. This is a bar that has supported AGRA for quite a while. Well, in this bar having our own "pre Phoenix Rodeo Party" and dancing to a flawless remix of an "Evita" track when we were informed that "This is not a country bar!" Well Mr. DJ! You may not be a country bar, but our crowd does "quite often frequent your bar! Choose your words a little more carefully next time. There is a rodeo in a few months and now is not the time for bad Public Relations!

On Friday morning it was off to the Rodeo. We had a great time and it was so nice to see so many old friends. The Tucson members did some great networking and PR to support the March Rodeo. Our membership is a great group and we are proud of their hard work and dedication to AGRA.

Rodeo events can be fun and quite dangerous at times! Especially when you are trying to ride a steer in drag! I learned this while watching our very own Joseph go head over steer during his "Wild Drag" event. Luckily, he realized he wasn't hurt when he was informed of the three hour wait in the emergency room. A few bumps and bruises, but no cosmetic surgery was necessary. The trio of Joseph, Sherry and R.J. came back for more on Sunday to complete the event. Although no buckles this time, but we will get 'em in March.

Speaking of R.J. and getting 'em. R.J. learned that keys are meant to be put in the pockets, (especially while frequent-

ing the Port-A-Potty) after his keys were drowned in the Potty and later retrieved and sterilized. And, he thought this would not make the paper!

The AGRA Chick (a rodeo virgin) had the time of her life this weekend. She went back to work this week in a neckbrace from Cowboy whiplash! But the question is did she keep her virginity and stay in the hot tub all night to ease the pain of the whiplash? It must have worked, because she came home early in the morning feeling quite refreshed! Thank you Albuquerque! More dish next week as the reports come in! I have space limitations for this article.

We are also in the process of planning our Annual Valentines Dance. This will be held at the Quality Inn on Valentines Day evening. The cost is \$10/per person tickets available at the door. This should be a very special evening. A great idea if you are looking for a place to spend with that special person or just among friends. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Memo: AGRA-Tucson is accepting nominations for all AGRA Board Positions for 1997. If you have someone in mind that you would like to serve on the Board of Directors, please submit your written nomination to AGRA-Tucson at the address below. If you have any questions regarding nominations, please feel free to contact the AGRA Hotline and we will be glad to answer your questions. It is a whole new year and there is no better way to be involved than to serve on the Board.

Reminder: AGRA-Tucson will be holding their monthly General Membership Meeting this Sunday, January 26, 5:00 P.M., at the Graduate. We ask for as many people to attend. There is some business that needs to be taken care of and we need your attendance!

That's all I have for now! As always, remember to keep your pride and play safe in the saddle!

[AGRA-Tucson, POB 40894, Tucson, AZ 85717-0894. Phone: (520) 323-0805.]

YWCA Lesbian Cancer Project Gets CDC Funding

TUCSON - The Lesbian Cancer Project of the YWCA of Tucson has again been funded through the Center for Disease Control.

The Lesbian Health Initiative was developed by the CDC in response to information that Lesbians do not participate in cancer screening at the same rate as other women. The reasons include fear of discrimination by health care providers, misinformation about cancer screening needs of Lesbians, and lack of inclusion in promotional screening messages.

The YWCA of the USA was chosen by the CDC to direct the special Lesbian Health Demonstration Projects because of their strong Breast and Cervical Cancer education and service programs and their longstanding commitment to the inclusion of all women in their programs.

The goals for the first year of the Lesbian Cancer Project have been met that included: focus group research to determine appropriate messages and outreach strategies for our community, ongoing training for health care providers to assist them to better serve their Lesbian patients, ongoing educational activities in the Lesbian community to increase awareness of

Breast and Cervical cancer risks, the availability of screening from Lesbian friendly providers, and resources for Lesbians with cancer.

An additional goal of the project this year is to help Lesbians who need financial assistance to get low cost or free mammograms and/or PAP Tests.

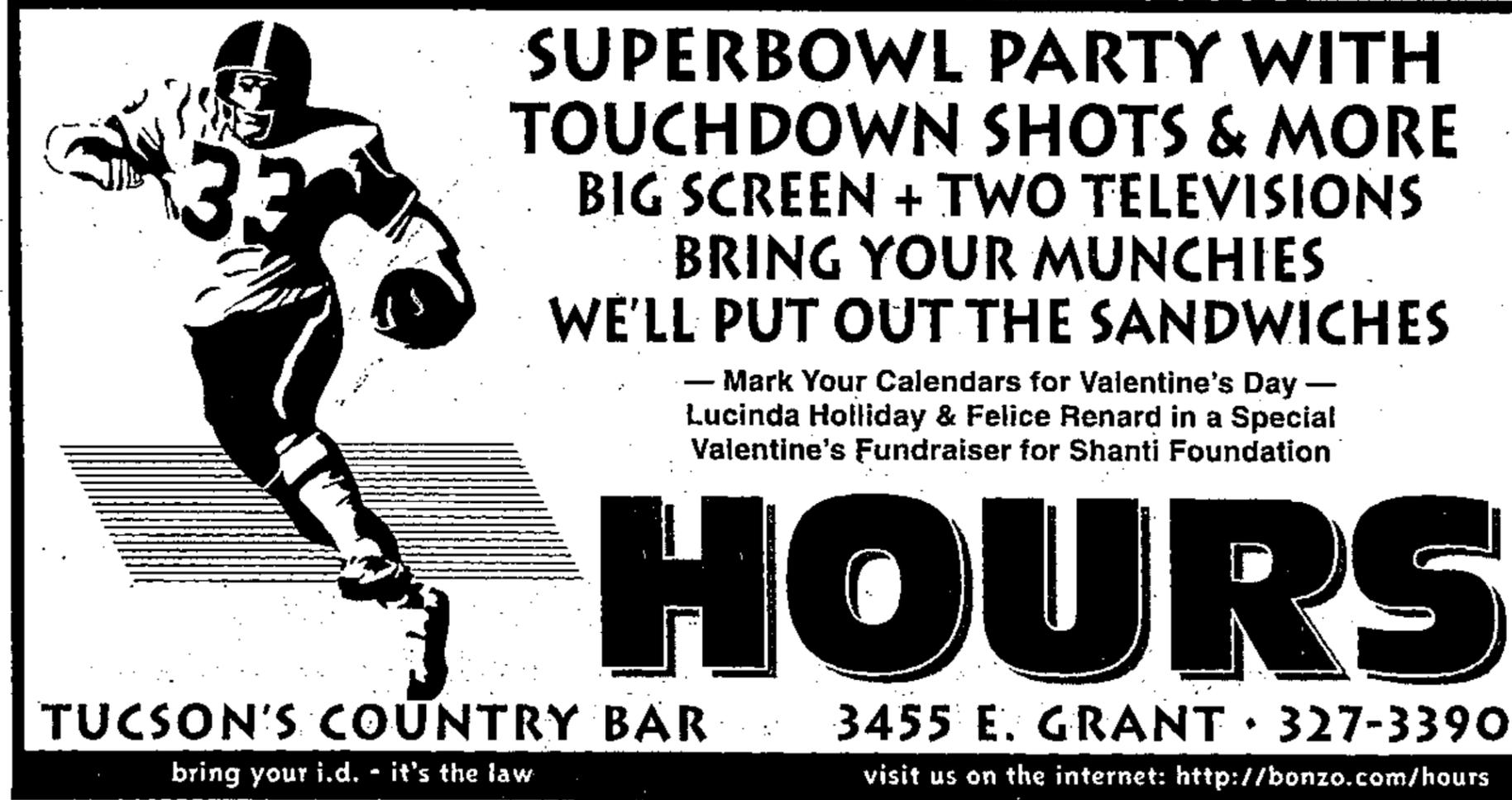
Our two major events in this second year of operation are: Cancer In Two Voices on Thursday, February 13, 7:00 P.M. at the University of Arizona, Room 103, Center For English As a Second Language (in collaboration with the U of A Women's Studies Department), and on April 19, A Lesbian Health Fair at the YWCA of Tucson, 738 North Fifth Avenue.



AS I SEE IT BY CLARK

#1 AWESOME GUY Hi! My name is [redacted]. I am very good looking and have a tan, well defined, hairy body. (5'9", 150 lbs., 30" waist, brown/blue). I look and act straight and I am very discreet. I do not work for a service, and I am available 24hrs. In/out, live in Phoenix but will travel. If looks, personality, and a clean healthy body are important, than give me a call. I guarantee you will be disappointed. [redacted].

AND YOU THOUGHT WE HAD TYPOS

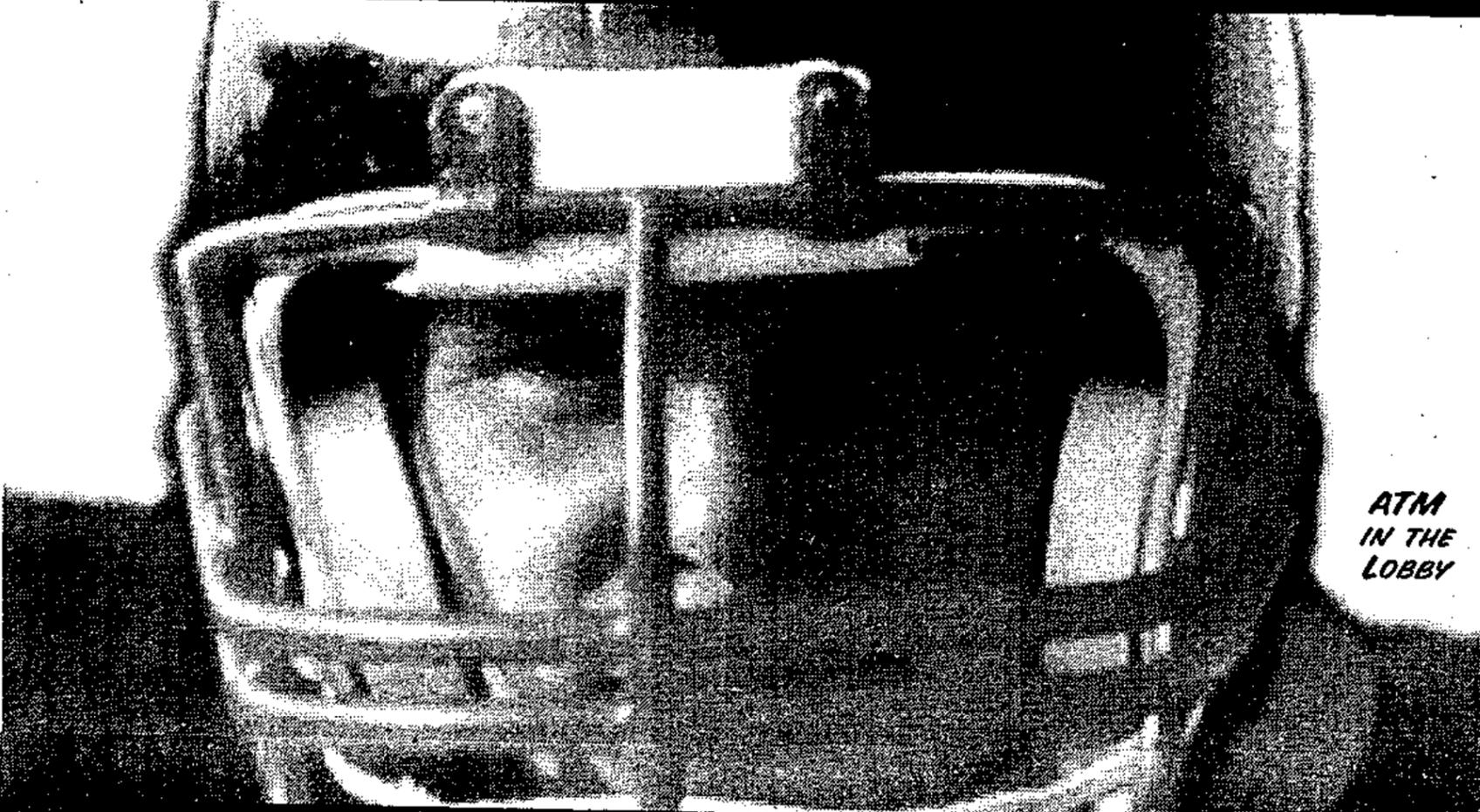




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Columna Abierta.
by Dr. Eleazar Garcia

Hola!!! Un poco de prisa al hacer esta Columna Abierta ya que como les comenté en la edición anterior; que les traería alguna información sobre la conferencia "SWYPES" ; que se llevó a cabo en la ciudad de Albuquerque N.M. la cual fué todo un éxito, con la asistencia de cerca de 400 participantes de diferentes Estados de Unión Americana, así como del norte de México, pudimos hacer nuevas amistades, y sobre todo aprender que es lo que están haciendo los diferentes grupos en lo que a prevención del VIH concierne... Y como le digo estimado lector, se tubo la oportunidad de saludar y compartir con "viejos" (de tiempo atrás, no de edad) colegas y nuevos (aquí sí, de edad) colegas, ya que como les mencioné la conferencia era para jóvenes especialmente para la nueva generación; Bueno pues los organizadores se ganaron un diez más puntos extras, de verdad la organización fué más que excelente... Y lo que más me impresionó, fué que el Grupo Compañeros de Ciudad Juarez ha crecido mucho en personal así como en trabajos realizados, actualmente tienen entre sus grupos de trabajos a un grupo de muchachos que se nombran "Jóvenes contra el SIDA" que están haciendo excelente trabajo en aquella ciudad fronteriza, y se pudo apreciar el gran potencial que esos muchachos y señoritas tienen y sobre todo la conciencia que reflejan al presentar lo que están haciendo... "Mis respetos"...

Una de las mejores presentaciones (hablando desde el punto de vista personal) fué la de la señora River Huston, con quien tube la oportunidad de hablar y desde luego hacerle la invitación para que nos considere en su ocupada agenda de presentaciones, así es que ya le haré llegar la fecha, ojalá, y que sea en un futuro no lejano... pero si tiene la oportunidad de asistir a alguna de sus presentaciones, le aseguro que se dará cuenta que no me equivoco, y además se divertirá mucho, ya que la presentación tiene picardía y algo de doble sentido, que es lo que la hace especial...

Bueno pues, en realidad fué una experiencia fabulosa, considerando desde luego el clima tan frío que nos tocó, ya que el termómetro estuvo siempre en los 30/40 grados con nieve y hielo por todos lados, así que en esa ocasión no tube la oportunidad de dar los "tours" acostumbrados para saber "que onda" en la ciudad...pero se pudo apreciar que hay bastante gente amigable y simpática...

Y una de las preguntas que nos han hecho sobre salud e información acerca del VIH/SIDA es la siguiente: ¿Cuál es la función del Timo en relación al sistema inmunológico?; Primeramente, el Timo es una pequeña glándula situada en la parte inferior del cuello y anterosuperior de la cavidad torácica que desempeña un papel de importancia en la función inmunológica; algunas células blancas de la sangre, (linfocitos) viajan desde la médula ósea, donde son producidas al Timo; allí ellas son convertidas en células T, y son "equipadas" para "pelear" con invasores específicos (antígeno). Después, las células T maduras dejan el Timo y se van a "trabajar" en el sistema linfático o a circular en la sangre. El Timo normalmente se reduce con la edad, y por lo tanto trabaja menos en personas mayores. Algunos investigadores piensan que se podría estimular al Timo con suplementos químicos y esto pudiese restaurar la función inmune. Algunos

pacientes con SIDA le ha sido implantados tejido de Timo para ver si esto puede ayudar, pero otros investigadores piensan que el VIH pueda bloquear la migración de las células blancas; y creen que sí

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Nuestro amigo Ernie Pérez, coordinador del proyecto Salud es Poder ya está trabajando duro en los planes para celebrar el Primer Aniversario de las Noches Latinas el próximo día 28 en el StoneWall, donde habrá; Show, Comida, y sobre todo mucha diversión, y desde luego está haciendo la invitación a voluntarios para ayudar en la decoración y en la elaboración del programa, para que sea como usted lo desea... Además dice Ernie, que está planeando "en grande" la "pachanga" para celebrar el Día de San Valentín o Día de los enamorados como usted le llame... Comuníquese con Ernie para más detalles...

Por hoy es todo, lo espero la siguiente semana, D.M.

Ernie Pérez, Salud es Poder/TAP
151 S. Tucson Blvd., Ste. 252,
Tucson, AZ 85716
FAX: (520) 327-9557

Dr. Eleazar Garcia, SEAHEC
1171 W. Target Range Road
Nogales, AZ 85621
(520) 287-4722 - FAX: 287-4349

Tere Méndez, HIV/AIDS Education Coalition, 1852 N. Mastick Way,
Nogales, AZ 85621
(520) 761-2147 - FAX: 761-2153

Arizona/Mexico Border Health Foundation
2501 E. Elm Street, Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 795-9756 - FAX: 795-1365



IBT's News Gay-zette

Your Source for What's Hot & Happening in Tucson • Published Weekly in the Observer

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Thursday Nights are Give-Away Nite Special Prizes & Drinks for Anyone Wearing Their Favorite College Logo. Get That T-Shirt Out of the Laundry!



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Meet the gang for a fun day of football, food, music, drinks, dancing and lots of hot men.

Spend the day & night at IBT's Sunday, January 26. Kick-off is around 4PM



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LAST CALL FOR MALE BOX NITE WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29TH

Join Sean, the Postmaster for this final Postal Event. He's taking a vacation so we'll all have to save those messages until he returns. So, Play Post Office with us one more time.

NOTE: NO BENEFIT BAR-B-QUE / BEERBUST ON SUPERBOWL SUNDAY DUE TO THE FOOD ALREADY PLANNED. IT WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK.

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LETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTE
TERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERS

DEAR OBSERVER:

RE: MPS-NORMAN TABERNA-
CLE CHOIR.

IBT's hosted its Second Annual MPS X-MAS Show, helping us raise \$700.00. Lucinda Holliday, Sandy, Felice Reynard and the Norman Tabernacle were fabulous.

Our choir members: Frank & Dave (IBT's), Bruce Lundquist, Harry Lewis, Bobby Harris, Dave Locke, Tim Brightwell, Willie Gradillas and the Church Ladies (Vanna & Jeff - Stonewall Eagle) were well rehearsed this year, surprising us all!

A special thanks to David Weinstein, Penny Peters, Joey and Bob & Gary. Thanks to Penny & David, a.k.a. Aviva Diamond, the choir looked delightful!

To our choir director Ricky Norman, we love you! To Natalie Perry, thank you once again. And to Doug, thank you for handling the money that was coming in at a rapid pace.

Lucy, Felice and Sandy . . . and to the choir, we love you!

Beth Tullis-Perry
National MPS Society

P.S. Thanks Roger

DEAR OBSERVER:

RE: Bob Feldhaus' column,
"Spiritually Sane and Insane."

You make a series of statements that contradict one another. Furthermore, you condemn others for the very things you do yourself.

You condemn Catholics for being on an authority trip, yet what would we call what you're doing? Your religion just happens to be Psychology. You believe that you hold the truth to healing people's souls. In order to do so, you ask people to believe in things no one should be asked to believe in. You believe that people can change the effects of their past, simply by talking about it and reenacting it. For instance, you use styrofoam bats so people can beat out the anger inflicted by people who aren't even around. You think people can actually create their own reality, simply by thinking that they can. (I could digress into other improbably rituals of Psychology, but I will be brief. I'll assume our readers are aware of the drugs, surgeries, and other sacraments of the field.)

Then you say that Christians have this big worry about sex. I would assert you're the one with the worry. Humans are part of a large whole and the divine spirit looks out through each person's eyes. This includes those who feel that homosexuality is wrong and a sin. You stereotype all Christians (and other religious people) into the category of enemy based on the actions of a few. Using this stereotype, you blame established religions for not letting you be a part of theological discussions and rituals. This type of "us versus them" mentality simply covers up your fear of being a part of the religious discussion as an openly Gay person. Your worried that your sexuality will place you in harms way. But, in fact, there are many organized churches where this is no longer the case. To say that all Christians are involved in sex-fear is simply not

true. In fact, it is ignorant of the truth. Theological discussions that include Lesbians and Gays are common within many established religious groups these days. Those who think you are a sinner will continue to hold your place in the discussions as long as you keep yourself conveniently separated from them.

Your statements that religious people are crazy, sick, weird, wacko, and insane further shows your prejudice and ignorance. You say that the core of spirituality is to consider people with kindness and fairness. Then you write insults at every opportunity. Then you quote, "Judge not, lest you be judge?" This kind of twisted reasoning says a lot about your need to make religion wrong so that you can feel right. It's just more separatism based in fear. It's exactly what you accuse established religions of doing.

To stereotype religious beliefs into such narrow categories can only be the result of a lack of contact with religions and what these beliefs mean. Certainly there are beliefs in some churches that exclude Lesbians and Gays. Certainly some of the rituals seem inexplicable. But religion is meant as a council of spiritual beings. We need to promote our inclusions in these councils, and make changes where necessary, rather than condemn theology. It wasn't long ago that "Established Psychology felt just like the Pope."

Finally, I would say that despite the antics of Psychology and science, we are finally finding that the ancient stories and rituals of our ancestors have some spiritual meaning as Lesbians and Gay people. This is true in all of the religions. You tell people that if they desire to commune with the universe to go out into the desert alone. While this is a wonderful thing, I would add that when they return they bring what they have learned to the established religions and make their voices heard.

Queerly and Sincerely,
James Ru

**WHAT'S
BLACK
&
WHITE
&
READ
ALL
OVER?**



He who has a thing to sell and goes and whispers in a well, is not so apt to get the dollars as he who climbs a tree and hollers.

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NOBODY'S BUSINESS

Feasting With The Uninvited Guest; Literature In The Age Of AIDS

by D. Killian

KEY WEST, FL - Thinking about the recent 15th Annual Key West Literary Seminar, on the literature in the age of AIDS, I keep hearing in my head, like some kind of irritating pop song, the most famous of literary lines: "It was the best of times, the worst of times . . ." (etc., etc.).

Yet nothing else sums it up: the odd mixture of decadence and mourning artistic detachment and unavoidable involvement (as everyone keeps asking, Who has not been affected?); the tensions and concerns, raised by the Seminar and its participants and heightened, almost surrealistically, by the anomalous environment: on the edge of ever-present mortality in the Floridian paradise of Key West.

Drawing a range of cultural critics, publishers, journalists, and writers: Sarah Shulman, Dale Peck, Edmund White, Michael Bronski, Christine Downing, Tony Kushner, among others, the week-long workshops and Seminar advertised a controversial objective: to consider AIDS literature as a new genre. Other related, heady stuff included literature as advocacy; writing about AIDS in a phobic and hostile culture; giving voice to grief and rage; and how AIDS has influenced the way we write, and think about, sex and death.

In addition to the panels there were poetry readings, entertainment (by Penny Arcade, a nostalgic fag hag), an art show by Gay Sumie Brush artist Bob Schmitt, the token open mike, book signings, literary walking tours (of Heming-

way's house, etc.), and plenty of supposed down time to compare notes, "meet the authors," and hang out after hours in a Gay friendly coffee house.

While nothing in the program was explicitly Gay-themed, much of the discussion blurred from AIDS issues to Gay (i.e., read "white male") concerns: the future of Gay writing and the Gay rights movement; the aesthetics and political philosophy (and lack of it) in Gay lit; the difficulties of Gay publishing; the uneasy relationship between Lesbians and Gay men. With so many queer writers hanging out in the Provincetown wannabe of Key West, perhaps it was inevitable that the event became something of a week-long OutWrite.

Straight writers (like Ann Beattie and Benjamin Saenz) were also panelists; straight people living with HIV were vocal from the audience; everyone reminded everyone else again and again that AIDS is not just a Gay disease. But this bias was set from the beginning. Edmund White, in his opening address, politely mentioned straight writer but then spoke as if to an exclusively Gay audience. Among other points, he argued that AIDS (along with the Religious Right) saved the Gay Rights Movement (which, after Stonewall, had fallen into disarray). Even if this "was" the case, unfortunately everyone is still acting, even those who should know better, as if the Virus is personal, selective, and specifically a Gay catastrophe.

ACT UP founder Larry Kramer, looking white and pasty (like Darth Vader without his mask) was predictably reckless, insulting everyone in his midst (Ed-

mund White for being apolitical; Dale Peck and David Leavitt for obsessing, like all Gay writers [Kramer sez] on cock and cum; and all of us (smug and naive) for even "thinking" about AIDS, and Gay, writing as "literature." As far as Kramer is concerned, nothing we that self-involved, ant-like mortals have written can yet compare with the achievement of the great French and Russian novelists. The obvious and more apt comparison would have been to an Italian, to Boccaccio's "Decameron," set and written during the equally gruesome Black Plague of the Middle Ages. Anyway, no matter. The only reason Kramer even agreed to attend this "ludicrous" seminar (he told us) was to get on the gravy train to Key West. You may have a chip on your shoulder the size of the Empire State Building, but you still like a free trip.

Beyond the arguing, summing up, reflecting, and discussing, the week was pure eulogy and grieving. The Virus itself like an uninvited guest at the table, there was almost a surreal quality: discussing the repercussions, the representation, of the plague while outside the air conditioned and velvet-lined seats of the auditorium, IT rages. Words do make a cure. Words do not mate prevention. You may not be positive, but the person sitting next to you probably is.

This was no high brow, literary event. We were not discussing how many angels can dance on the head of a pin or reflecting on the lame significance of Shakespeare's plays in latter 20th century America. We were not discussing "Others," other people, other cultures, other times, we were facing ourselves (or at

least those we intimately know) in the moment, and the moments of the immediate past. A whole generation has been lost, like in the trenches of the first world war; we are living out another Holocaust. But unlike these previous traumas, the AIDS pandemic is unique in the lack of artistic/cultural delay; we are not writing after the fact, from a safe distance. We are in the trenches, still-the-living dead; the crematorium smokes, outside our windows, inside our own homes.

The suffering, the dying, the loss, the infection, is not over. No AZT or miracle drug has, in fact, offered a "cure," and these drugs, as remotely promising as they may be, are available only the rich, the educated, and the insured. Many people, especially those in working class and/or ethnic communities where resources are limited and shame and denial rampant, won't even benefit from these small miracles of chemistry because the drugs require early assessment and treatment. Young Gay boys are nihilistic and don't care, especially because, in Gay male culture, growing old is worse than death. Even if the beast "is" tamed in the West, in developing countries, "It" stalks unbridled.

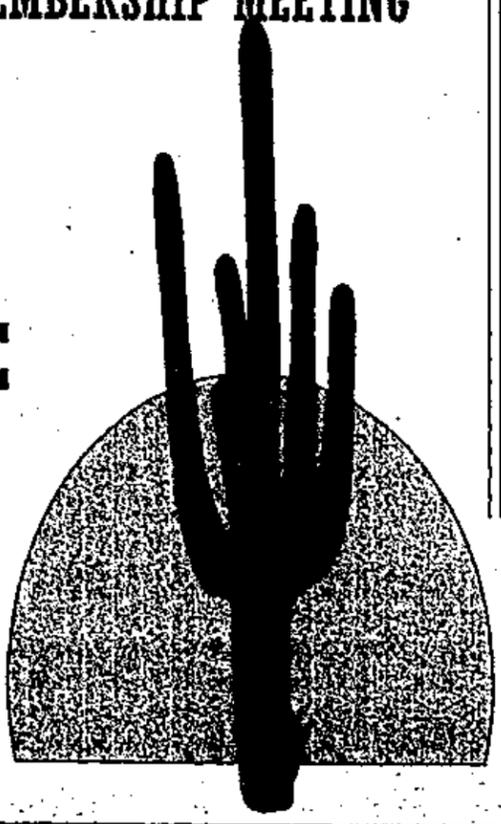
A seminar of this kind suggests celebration, a further ensconcing, institutionalizing, a looking back; a closure of events. Yet the only thing all of us could agree upon, Gay or Straight, positive or negative, panelist or audience, was the obvious: that this is not history; that there is nothing, yet, to celebrate.



ATTENTION RODEO FANS !!!
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* * * * *

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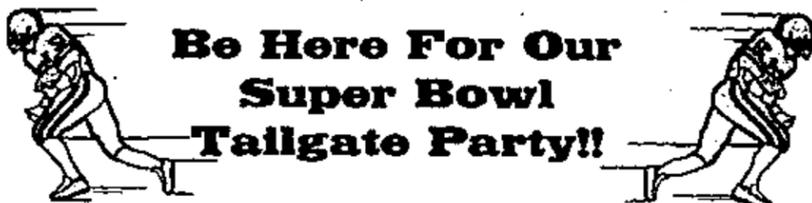
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This past week could safely be described as an act you see in a Grade-Z movie flick.

Four more years . . . of litigation! On Monday, the comedy team of Bill Clinton and Al Gore were given another encore at the Palace. The ceremony took place at the nation's Capitol with a vast audience present and watching on the tube. Peace and love was espoused by the Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress. Gag! Wait till next week, the honeymoon will be over!

Meanwhile, last week, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case against Bill Clinton. So what did happen in that hotel room?

Jones' mouthpieces saying the case should proceed. Clinton's shyster saying the Prez is too busy and too important for the case to proceed during his term. Wait till 2001? Expect a decision this year on "Trousersgate."

Lest we forget the ongoing novelas, "Whitewatergate," "Moneygate," "Indonesiagate," "Filegate," "Lippogate," "Thisgate," "Thatgate," and "Whatever-the-GOP-says-next-gate!" Ongoing investigations, special prosecutors, sound-bites galore! Ain't democracy grand! . . .

House Speaker Newt Gingrich finally got his spanking of sorts from the House Ethics Committee. The Committee voted, 7-1, to reprimand the Salamander, turn his case over to the Justice Department and was fined, gasp, \$300,000! He wasn't made to write 100 times, "I'm a bad Speaker?" Some punishment indeed!

This wasn't the end though. La Newt stated after the Committee had handed down their judgment that he plans to pay the fine through campaign contributions given to his 1996 race, of which he has over a million dollars! Newt talks



POLITICS 1997

By MARK W. NEWMAN

"Gratuitous Hose Down!"

about campaign finance reform! Smell her! . . .

Speaking of wet t-shirts and bad acting! The Arizona State Legislature have gone through week one of their fourteen week run. Be afraid, be very afraid!

As reported in the Observer, there are four bills pending that deal with: Banning Gay and Lesbian support clubs in schools; making sodomy a felony and firing school employees who encourage and/or participate in illicit sexual activity. Does the National Guard count?

The measures have not been read and assigned bill numbers as of press time. Though capitol sources expect that to happen soon. Let the Gay bashing begin!

If the measures banning the clubs passes, the state will be in violation of the federal Equal Access Act. This means federal funding for education in Arizona will be cut off! So where will the shortfall be made up? Arizona taxpayers will soon learn; as Colorado taxpayers are for Amendment 2; the cost of unrestrained homophobia is high! . . .

Despite all this at the Legislature, there are two supportive bills of concern to report on. What a concept, good news!

H.B. 2431 is the Arizona Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). This measure, patterned after the federal ENDA, would bar discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. The measures main sponsors are state Rep. Ken Chevront, D-Phoenix;

state Rep. Andy Nichols, D-Tucson and state Rep. Carmine Cardimone, D-Tucson.

H.B. 2431 has been assigned to the House Commerce committee and the House Judiciary committee. The Chair of the House Commerce committee is Rep. Robin Shaw. The Chair of the House Judiciary Committee is Rep. John Verkamp. Call 1-800-352-8404 and leave messages with the chairs to have H.B. 2431 heard.

The other measure is H.B. 2244. This bill would establish an HIV and AIDS pilot education program for the seventh and twelfth grades. The measure once again is being sponsored by Tucson Rep. Herschella Horton, (D). With teenagers being the fastest rising group with new HIV infections, we need to act for future Gays and Lesbians.

H.B. 2244 has been assigned has been assigned to the House Health committee and the House Appropriations committee. The Chair of the House Health committee is Rep. Susan Gerard. The Chair of the House Appropriations committee is Rep. Bob Burns. Call 1-800-352-8404 and leave messages with the chairs to have H.B. 2244 heard. . . .

Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition! An incident involving the State Legislative Chaplain Rev. Charlie "Torquemada" Coppinger and our hero, openly-Gay state Rep. Ken Chevront, D-Phoenix, to report.

As the 43rd session of the State Legislature commenced, during a break on

the House floor, the Rev. Coppinger went up to Chevront and said, "I pray for you every day!" When reached for comment about the incident, Coppinger said to reporters, "I guess I'm just doing dirty-work for the Lord." Give me that old time religion! Give me that old time religion! . . .

In their editorial in the January 19 Arizona Daily Star, the paper may have come up with the right idea about dealing with the Legislature. Their suggestion, "Burn down the House!" . . .

So it goes for now kids!

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IT'S NEWS TO ME . . . BY STEVE RISLEY

Barbarians at the Gate: Just about the time you think that common sense has at last prevailed, Gay and Lesbian Arizonans are once again faced with the specter of legislated bigotry. Several obviously anti-homosexual measures are being drawn up for introduction in this year's session of the state legislature.

Despite their author's protestations to the contrary, the intent of these prospective bills quite clearly is to suppress, harass and criminalize homosexuality, and drive Gays and Lesbians entirely from the land. Equally obvious is the paranoia, ignorance and pure meanness that drives them to it. How sad this all is, particularly in view of the truly pressing problems and needs in our state which they should be devoting their attention and efforts toward rather than embarking on this colonial witchhunt.

As difficult and irksome as it is for me to try to understand why supposedly intelligent people are making these attempts in this day and age, the fact still remains that they are. And every citizen of Arizona needs to be extremely concerned about it. It's been said before, but I'll repeat it again. If they succeed against one group, which group will be next? You know that if they're successful they'll start looking around for the next target.

The guiding light behind all of this is the so-called Traditional Values Coalition, directed by California's rabid right-winger and arch-conservative Rev.

Lou Sheldon. It appears that the "traditional values" he embraces are chiefly bigotry and hate. Although cloaked in high sounding principles and social fervor, he's a dangerous character to be sure and he wants you COMPLETELY out of the picture.

He knows exactly where the "hot" buttons are and delights in pushing them. He's an expert in creating fear and then using it to manipulate public sentiment to further his own personal interests (among which is maintaining a very comfortable lifestyle for himself and his family in upscale Orange County, California). Truth and reason have no place in the lexicon of his mission in life.

Many groups, and many activists inside and outside of the legislature will surely fight this challenge but this sort of nastiness requires that we all do whatever we can to ensure that it goes no further. Gay and Lesbian Arizonans have fought long and hard for whatever measure of personal freedom, rights, and pride we now have.

If you value that to any degree please, please, please make your feelings and your opposition to these bills known to your state representatives and senators. This newspaper has provided their names in the past and will undoubtedly do so again in the future, and you can leave a message for them by calling 628-6596, the number for the Tucson office of the State House and Senate.

And then it was now.....

Go In Good Health

by Rev. Andrew Brooks

This time, I would like to discuss respiratory ailments. This is the time of year when cold winds bring in the inevitable recurrence of flu season, and colds, coughs and viral infections lead to a lot of problems for people.

Basically, any excessive stress, and air contaminants, from car exhaust, chemicals, smoke, and this, of course, includes cigarette smoke, can lead to problems. Respiratory ailments can be due to upper respiratory tract infections, viruses, or other factors. Nature does have a number of remedies that help.

One of the best herbs for cough and difficult breathing is Mullien, and herb that helps with "croup," bronchitis, and other conditions of impaired respiration. Mullien can also aid with hay fever, and is known to aid sleep, and be a pain killer. As an herbal medicine, it is often combined with complimentary herbs.

When you have cold or flu, increase your vitamin C intake. Vitamin C can ward off the onset of colds, and help you fight them off faster. Another beneficial combination of natural immune-boosting antibiotic herbs is a combination of Myrrh and Goldenseal.

The local New Life Health Food Stores chain has some excellent herbal medicines, in a wide variety, including a wide assortment of liquid extracts, and herbal capsules as well. I was hit by a sever congestive cold, and got some nice herbal medicine there, and it has helped me a lot. I frequent the store near Speedway and Rosemont, but check around.

Also of benefit is vitamin A, but this cannot be taken in high doses, except in emulsified form, which bypasses the liver. The liver metabolizes all medicines, and all medicines filter through this vital organ first. Anyone taking long-term medicines, should consider taking milk thistle, to strengthen liver function. Some standard medicines are hard on the liver, which brings up another point. Liver stress can be dangerous. The liver is capable of regenerating itself, but when it is overstressed, it runs into trouble.

A popular modern medicine is derived from Naprosyn, a prescription anti-inflammatory drug, but it can be very harsh to the liver. Naproxyn Sodium is a derivative of this medicine, and is sold in low doses, and should never be double-dosed. There are far safer alternatives. If you are going to be taking Ibuprofen, Naprosyn, Clinoril, or any other "non-steroidal" anti-inflammatory, supplement your diet with the milk thistle herb. I cannot stress this enough. If you drink more than a couple of alcoholic beverages a week, add milk thistle to your regimen.

You can buy Milk Thistle as "Silymarin" made by 21st Century herbal products, and I have found that University Drug carries it, for those on the westside. A good eastside source is the Drug Emporium. Anything to strengthen the body function is good.

[Andrew Brooks is a holistic counselor and herbalist. He can be reached at 326-0841]



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-To Have and Have Not (1945)

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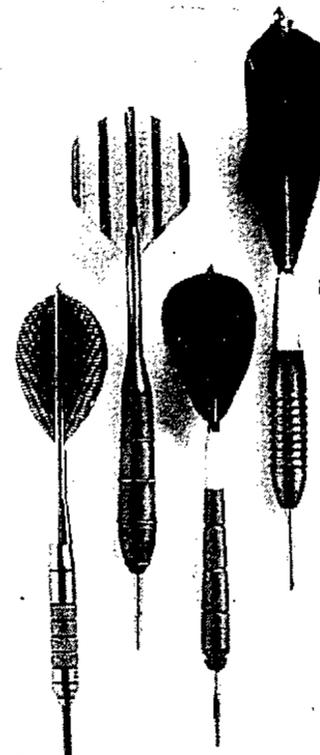
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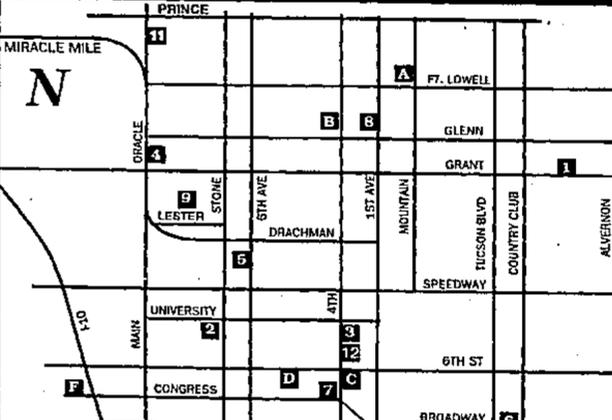


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Bi Now, Gay Later

Have you, as a Gay man, ever had even a fleeting erotic impulse towards a woman? I know it's not very well accepted to admit to it, but don't worry, you don't even have to tell anybody else. If you have had even a vague sexual feeling toward a woman, does this mean your parents are right, and you should be straight?! Or is it a vestige of society's conditioning, telling you you "should" be attracted to women? Or does it not particularly mean anything except that you had the fleeting impulse, and could act on it if you chose to? Or does it mean, perhaps (if the impulses are strong enough and frequent enough), that you are better described as Bisexual than Gay?

This is a topic that arouses strong emotions and controversy whenever it is brought up, and that's one reason I want to write about it. Strong emotions and controversy always point to issues that are important to many of us, and need a closer look.

One common opinion is that men who call themselves Bisexual are actually Gay, but can't quite admit it. Bisexual is a closet term, in this opinion. It seems slightly more respectable to be Bisexual than to be all-out Gay. Many men who have same-sex attractions choose straight marriage for reasons of respectability, keeping family approval, keeping a job. This is because Gayness, whatever else it is, is definitely not respectable in the eyes of the straight community. When these heterosexually married men cannot contain their Gay desires anymore and want to have some same-sex contact, they often call themselves Bisexual. It's a way of distancing themselves from the state of being irredeemably queer.

There are even some men who feel a sexual turn-on by being with another man who is at least partially "straight." These men do not want to have sex with another Gay man like themselves, since Gay men are seen as sissies, fags, lower life forms. They want to have the fantasy of having sex with a straight guy, a guy who shares in the white male heterosexual privilege, a guy who will be butcher (presumably), a guy with one foot in the straight society. This is homophobic; more specifically, it is based on the idea that Gays are worthless. Homophobia among Gay men is at first surprising, until you see that it simply reflects what society has told us about ourselves since day one. As a therapist, I have seen internalized homophobia among Gay men, internalized racism among blacks and other racial minorities, and internalized sexism among women. These are powerful forces, and of course, they are forces that militate against self-esteem.

I have seen the term "Bisexual" used as a way of running away from the stigma of being Gay. I feel compassion for men who do this, because of their deep discomfort with themselves. Many of these "Bisexual" men, as they have more gay sex and realize it is their preference, will eventually divorce their wives or leave their girlfriends and identify as Gay. Thus the phrase, "Bi now, Gay later."

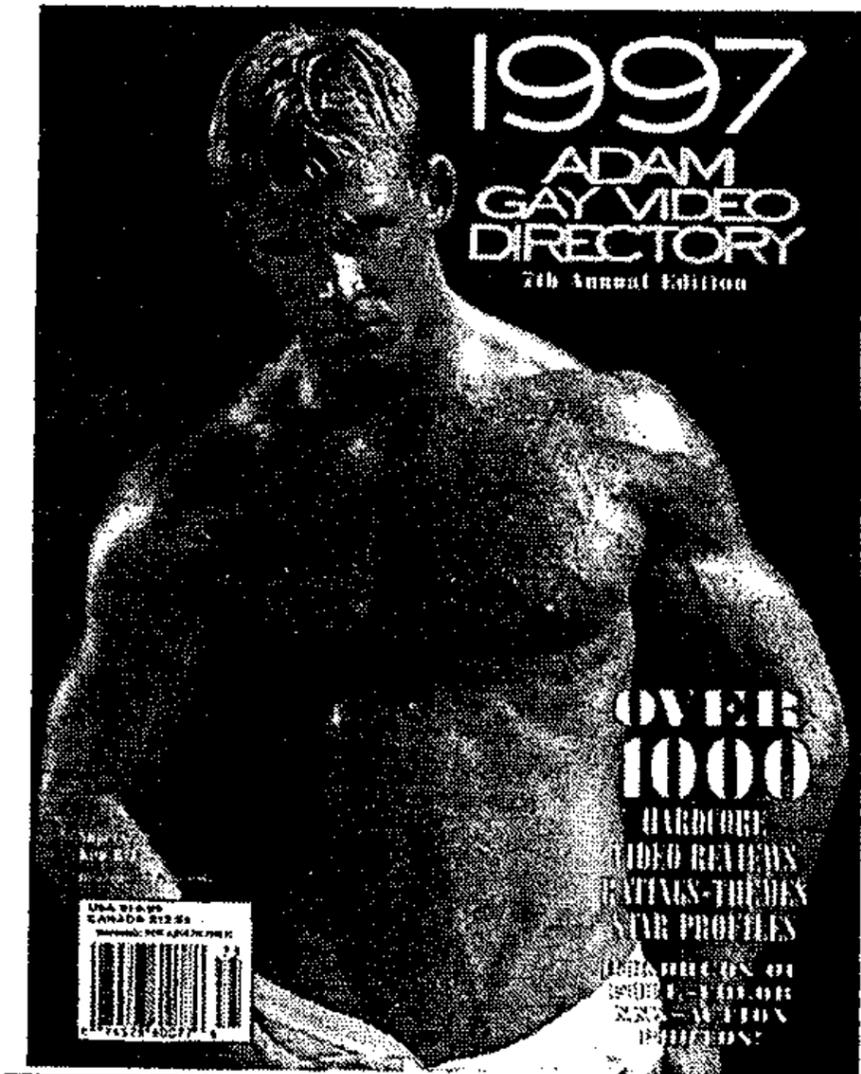
In recent years, however, Bisexuality has been making a comeback in the left leading edge of the queer community, that is, in places like San Francisco sex clubs and New York leather scenes. The people who are coming to terms with their

Bisexuality in these venues are folks who have long been out of the closet, living very out Gay lives in the Gay ghettos. So it is less likely that these folks (men and women) are exploring Bisexuality out of internalized homophobia. It is simply that, as they become more comfortable with their eroticism, they realize that some component of their sexuality is oriented to the other sex, as well as the main component oriented to the same sex. A man in this situation will often identify himself as a "Bisexual Gay man," in order to make it clear that he is not using the term "Bisexual" to distance himself from his fellow gay men. Once we get past the idea that gay is bad, and can really accept our same sex desire, some of us begin to realize that we want to have sex or affection with women, too.

As soon as Bisexuality is mentioned to most people, immediately there comes the whole slew of stereotypes about Bisexuality: that Bisexuals are promiscuous, that they are afraid of commitment, that they spread AIDS to the Lesbian and straight community, that they can't make up their mind, that they're really Gay. Many Bisexuals have primary relationships, with either a man or a woman, that are open to other sex partners. Others arrange sexually exclusive three-way relationships to best meet the sexual/emotional needs of each partner. Still others have monogamous relationships, even long-term ones, with one other partner. Many Bisexual people are quick to point out that, just because their inner orientation includes both sexes, that doesn't mean they have to physically act out all their desires. They simply feel more honest when they admit that some part of them is attracted to each gender. Sometimes Bisexual people choose serial monogamy, often with partners of alternating gender. So there is a great variety of ways to express Bisexuality.

In my opinion, if the concept of Bisexuality is being used as a way of distancing yourself from your fellow queers, it is ultimately dishonorable, even if understandable. If you identify as Bisexual, test yourself by asking yourself how you feel about purely Gay men, that is, men who have no interest in having sex with women at all. If your feelings are negative or judgmental, you are likely using the idea of Bisexuality to hide from yourself. But if your feelings about "pure" Gay men is positive and supportive, but still find yourself attracted to women to some degree, you may be a Bisexual Gay man. If that's the case, respect these feelings, explore them in fantasy, and feel free to come up with creative ways to express them if you so choose. Just remember to always honor and be honest with everybody you have sex with.

[Robert Feldhaus, Ph.D. is a counselor and bodyworker for the Gay community. He welcomes feedback. For more information, please call Robert at 623-1732, or email him at : bobby@azstarnet.com.]

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Perspective

A Letter To Dad. . . .

DEAR DAD,

How do I start this. I start by saying I love you and no matter how you react to this letter, that will never change.

I've grown through the years but I've always been your little "Dawnie-re-bo." I was Daddy's girl. I've been complimented over the years for my character. Be it integrity, strength from within or just my wholesome face. None of this I could have acquired without parents. Be it my upbringing or just genetics.

But for about the last eleven years or so I've been involved in a dance. The name of this dance is deception. There are many reasons to deceive. For personal gain, for political reasons or perhaps just out of fear or weakness. For whatever reason we dance and justify it with a higher cause. But, over a period of time this dance causes anger. And sometimes it blurs the lines of reality. Well my dance is over and for my own inner-peace I must get on with reality and stop the deception.

So by now your wondering, what is my point. I would like you to go back to the first paragraph and re-read it.

My point is that I'm Gay and I've been living this lifestyle for eleven years now. When did I become Gay? I believe at a time unknown to me. Be it conception, birth, childhood whenever. It's basically a mute point.

I'm what is sometimes referred to as a Homo, Queer, Dyke, Lesbian. Any way you want to label it, that's who I am. I am that and I will always be.

You've met most of my lovers Pam, Teresa, Carey and Sharon. There are many you didn't meet but, the timing wasn't there.

But what it comes down to is me. I am tired of the deception and the anger caused by this false life. You are not to blame. Nor should there be blame. For I do not believe it is wrong and no blame should be laid.

I have plans to marry a very caring woman soon and this I had to say in order for me to be honest with myself. I will always love you.

Your daughter,
Dawn

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

Many people have a rudimentary knowledge of Jesus Christ. Some of you reading this article may even believe his declaration of John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me." We are told in Acts 4:12 that "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Speaking of Jesus.

In these waning years of the 20th century, everyone seems to have an opinion regarding how soon the "end of the world" will come, if they will be alive then, and what exactly will happen to them, personally. This hot topic can stimulate conversation and perk up interest at parties, yet the end result is no more than sheer speculation.

In Matthew 24:26 Jesus told his disciples, "No one know about that day or hour, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the son, but only the father." Jesus told them that when he returns it will be as it was when Noah built the ark and people continued eating, drinking and carrying on their lives unconcerned and unaware about the future which would shortly bring the flood with its total destruction of the world and everyone remaining in it.

The day Noah entered the ark, the people suspected nothing, until the flood came and took them all away. When you really think about the cost paid by everyone who was not on the ark when God closed the door, it's sobering. Yet, in Matthew 24:39-42, Jesus states, "That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a handmill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

I don't know if Jesus will come in the next five minutes or the next five years, but I have a vivid mental picture of the sheer hopelessness and despair of the man left in the field and the woman left to grind alone at the handmill. I don't want to be like that man or woman!

You see, if our lives on earth end or the second coming of Jesus Christ occurs before we have accepted Jesus as our own personal savior and Lord, it will simply be too late to receive his salvation. All of us desire salvation, an eternity in Heaven, but time is of the essence!

You are invited to join us as we study God's word together each Sunday morning at 9:00 A.M. Sunday School to learn more about God's plan for our futures. If you can't come then, we also have two mid-week Bible studies each Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M.; one for those just beginning to study the Bible, as well as one for those with more knowledge of God's word. And of course we encourage you to worship with us each Sunday morning at 10:30 A.M. We may not have all the answers to your questions, but we will be glad to point you to the one who has them!

In Revelation 22:7, Jesus says, "Behold, I am coming soon!" Are you prepared to face the consequences should he not tarry?

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"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

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GYM - GAY YOUNG MEN'S PROJECT

by Frank Terrero

He had about two and half hours before he had to be home. As he slowly walked down Fourth Avenue, he stared at the old buildings. He hadn't spent a lot of time in this part of town. It looked like some other place. Another town from those old shows that his parents watched on Nick at Night. He liked it though. It was nicer than other parts of Tucson. The only thing that really scared him was those homeless guys asking for money. They screamed at him a little. "Hey kid, you look like you might have some change. Come on, don't be a jerk!" He didn't

know what to do when they had asked him for money so he tried to ignore them. If they hadn't screamed at him he might have talked to them but now he just wanted to get past them.

As he continued down the sidewalk, he noticed his reflection in a shop window. He stopped and stared at himself while pretending to be interested in the used clothing that was piled in heaps on the other side. He had worn his leather jacket. He hadn't been able to decide on a cap or not. But after taking it off and putting in on so many times, he finally had decided to leave it on to cover his messy hair.

"Not bad," he thought to himself, trying to boost his confidence. "I would want to ask me out for a date. I think," he thought. He gave himself a smile, then a frown, straightened his hat, and continued on.

As he walked along he spoke to himself. "It will take me about forty-five minutes to get home. So I have about an hour and half." He picked up his pace, and headed north.

He was remembering the first time he had come to fourth avenue with his father. He must have been around six or seven. His aunt was in town and they had decided to go to a restaurant down here for dinner. All he could remember was the yellow screen door with chipping paint, that had squeaked when it was opened and that his dad had got mad at him for opening and closing it. He had just wanted to make it squeak. He smiled at the memory.

"That was forever ago," he said to himself. Today, he was here for a different purpose. He had to meet someone.

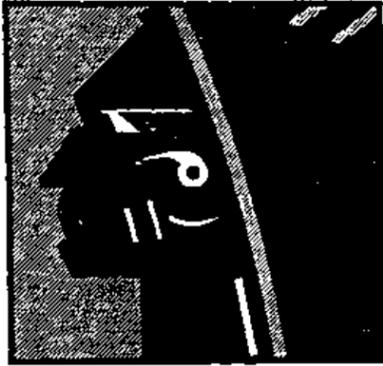
It all had started last week when he went to a thing with the GYM Project.

He really hadn't know who they were but they had this thing where everyone could play on a computer for free at the Library of Congress. He had told his mom that he was going downtown to the library to study. It was one of the first times he had really lied about the whole thing. But, he had noticed that more and more he had been thinking about guys and he felt that he wanted to do something about it. Even yesterday his father had asked him, "So what about that Evelyn? Do you like her?"

"Well, kinda," he had lied. "She's taller than I am though. So I think we will just be friends. Anyway, I think that she likes Robert more than me. He's a football player and stuff." "Well, why don't you go to the movies with her or something. You know she will pick the one that pays attention to her. Maybe you should buy her something. You know something that girls like." He had felt himself getting nervous. He had never known what to say when he and his dad had conversations about this stuff. He had wanted to yell at his father, "Leave me alone already! You don't understand me and I don't want to date girls. And that is it!"

But, instead, he had said, "Yeah, maybe I should," as he had walked out of the kitchen and headed for the bathroom. He had heard his father pull out of the driveway about ten minutes later and was relieved. He could then think about what he wanted to think about--boys. As he had walked out of the house he had noticed a \$10.00 bill taped to the inside of the front door. There was a small note attached that said: Get her something nice. He had stared at the money and the note for a second before deciding to take it. He then crumpled the bill into his pocket and tossed the note into the fireplace as he ran out. Now on Fourth Avenue, headed for his big adventure, he reached into his pocket and felt for the crumpled bill. It was still there.

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PLUG - Live Piano music during happy hour begins here from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. plus complimentary hors d'oeuvre buffet. It's going to be a regular Thursday and Friday feature.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

PLUG - Cycle Slut Party. \$50 prize for best costume. Happy hour prices for everyone in cycle drag.

VENTURE-N - Pet Watch Beer Bust from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. 50¢ draft beer!

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, JAN. 26

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Enjoy the Super Bowl here on the Big Screen TV + 3 smaller TVs. The party starts at 2:00 p.m. Free food and shot specials. \$1.50 long necks. Come out and root.

IBTS - Super Bowl Party starts at 3:30 p.m. Food and fun. Locker Room Dance 9:00 p.m. to close. Tom, tattooed, tattoo's drink specials.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Big Super Bowl Party here with 8 TVs and Big Screen! Plus (weather permitting) Steak Fry on the patio. Get your Super Bowl memorabilia.

VENTURE-N - Super Bowl Tailgate Party here 2:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - 50's Nite returns. 9:00 p.m. to closing. Come in 50's attire and get 50¢ off drinks all night. \$1.25 pitchers and other drink specials all night. No cover. Lots of fun!

IBTS - Last chance Male Box Nite 9:00 p.m. to close Postmaster Sean goes on vacation for a couple of months.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

IBTS - Girly Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday with Celia Putty, Felicia Renard, Bufemia De Havilland with special appearances by Truly Fabu and Regina Starr.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

IBTS - Mark your calendars. Special appearance by male film star Dallas Taylor. Watch for upcoming ad.

VENTURE-N - Ray Gregg returns! Chinese New Years Buffet 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Advance sale \$4.00

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Non-Bar CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. A night devoted to getting out the MSN newsletters. It's a fun way to help the organization and get to know the MSN guys. Dessert and door prizes. Call Les at 690-9565 for directions.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

St. Francis Discussion/Support Group meets every Thursday from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at St. Francis in the Foothills (Northwest corner of Swan and River Rd). In rooms 32 & 33. A safe place for general discussion and support of issues in our lives.

Crosses Social Club mid-month dinner at "Old Timers Cafe". Call Richard for more info and RSVP 578-0540.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. Join MSN for a fun night of roller skating on "Adult Night." The cost will be \$5 for rental of traditional skates, or \$8 for in-line skates. Call Chris at 290-4266 or Donn at 325-4257 for details and directions.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Our monthly Pizza Party will take place at Les & Jerry's house. Simply bring \$4.00 and join in for a fun evening of food and good conversation. Salad and dessert are also served. Vegetarian pizza offered as well. For directions and reservations, call Les at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Card games of all sorts will be played at Martin's home. Hearts, Pinochle, Uno and Rummy are just some of your choices. For details, directions and to reserve your space, please call Martin at 623-1732.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 12:00 p.m. A Super Bowl Party will be hosted by our sports-hound Robert. If you're interested in watching man on the field, join Robert for a day devoted to football fanatics. You're asked to bring a munchie to share with the others. For reservations and directions, call Robert at 296-2738.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 4-6 p.m. The Triangle Tribe, an awareness group meets to learn and use communication and relationship skills toward developing feelings of trust, love, acceptance and brotherhood. Call Tom at 318-1650 for reservations and directions.

Recreational Volleyball at St. Francis in the Foothills, 4625 E. River Rd. Men and women of all playing levels welcome. 1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Intermediate bridge night. Bridge for men who may want to refresh their bridge skills; table talk playing. Call Perry at 321-4387.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Our Favorite Film choice for this month is John Waters' "Hairspray." Divine and Ricki Lake play the mother/daughter duo, with Ricki just dying to be a dancer on a teen dance show. But Debbie Harry and Sonny Bono have other plans! For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:30 p.m. Join MSN for a fun night of ICE SKATING at the Iceplex. Call Chris at 290-4266 or Donn at 325-4257 for details and directions.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

St. Francis Discussion/Support Group meets every Thursday from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at St. Francis in the Foothills (Northwest corner of Swan and River Rd). In rooms 32 & 33. A safe place for general discussion and support of issues in our lives.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Bob as he hosts a Topic of Discussion centered around spirituality (not religion, spirituality). For directions and reservation, please call Bob at 623-1732.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Recreational Volleyball at St. Francis in the Foothills, 4625 E. River Rd. Men and women of all playing levels welcome. 1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Tucson Prime Timers invites Gay men over 30 to their monthly Wednesday dinner at Mandarin Grill, 505 E. Grant Rd. (West end of Fry's shopping center, 1st and Grant). 6:30 p.m.

Tucson CALENDAR

Sunday

**AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, \$1.25 pitchers. Salsa Sunday! Great music, better dancing and it all begins at 8pm.
GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8 pm all well \$1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢
HOURS - Bloody Marys and Screw \$1.25 til 7 pm. Country/Western dance instruction 8-8 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1.
IBTS - Open Noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm, \$1.50 domestic beer and well. Benefit 8-8 Q and Beer Bust for community or organizations 5-7:30pm. Hi energy dancing 9pm to close.
PLUG - Open Noon. 25¢ Beer Bust and afternoon dance 3-8.
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon-8pm. Pool Tournament 2pm. Bar-B-Q 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 5pm \$3 entry fee. Surf Burgers 5-7, Tuff Stuff Teal 4-11pm.**

Monday

**AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour 2-7 Start well and domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Karaoke 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.
IBTS - Open noon. Happy Hour 4-8pm, \$1.50 domestic beer and well. 8pm to midnight, \$1.50 2oz pitchers. Retro 80s with DJ Jonathan 9pm-1am.
PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 8pm. \$1 schnapps all the time. Carry movies with Mouse 8pm. Dart Tournament 8:30pm. \$1.00 Well all day and all night.
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon to 8pm. Party with Stephan. Longneck Specials all day & nite. Stonewall opens 9pm HI-ERG Dance Music.
VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Draft Beer 75¢ 6am - 8pm. Happy Hour Prices 6am - 8pm.**

Tuesday

**AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7 Start well and domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. New Pool Tournament 7 pm. Start 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
IBTS - Open noon. Happy Hour 4-8 pm, \$1.50 domestic beer & well. 9 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. \$1.00 Bud and 6oz Light longnecks all day and all night.
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 8pm. Stonewall opens at 9pm with Latin Music Party.
VENTURE-N - Open 6am to 1am. Draft Beer 75¢ 6am - 8pm. Happy Hour prices 6am - 8pm.**

Wednesday

**AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7. Start well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. \$1.25 pitchers from 8 to midnight. Tucson's hottest country music from 8:30 to close.
GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well \$1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢. 301 Dart Tournament 7:50 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.
IBTS - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour 4 to 8pm, \$1.50 domestic beer & well. Shows alternating Wednesdays with Male Box 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 9pm - 1am. Queer Dance at 9pm.
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 8pm. Stonewall opens at 9pm. Corona and Cerveo Gold \$1.50
VENTURE-N - Open 6am Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-8pm. Cerveo Gold \$2 all day/night. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Teal open 8:30pm.**

Thursday

**AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, Start well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Karaoke 8pm 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. Heineken or Corona \$2.00 9pm to 1am. Country/Western dancing 8 to 1.
IBTS - 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 9-close.
PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 8pm. \$1.50 Skyy vodka cocktails with "The Smed" 9pm - 1am. Live DJ at 9pm.
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon-8pm. Pater 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 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Teal open 8:30pm**

Friday

**AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, Start well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Complimentary Hors D'Oeuvres. Hot dance music with Alex 8:30. Shot specials every 1/2 hour.
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.
IBTS - Open noon. Happy Hour 4-8pm \$1.50 domestic beer and well. .. Patio Bar with Looney 9-1. Dance Party 9 to 1 with DJ David Z.
PLUG - Happy Hour 3 to 8pm. \$1 schnapps all the time. Hi-Energy Dance music at 9pm.
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon-8pm; Hot Hors D'Oeuvres 6pm. Stonewall opens 9pm. Wear Stonewall T-Shirt and get happy hour prices all evening
VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Draft Beer 75¢ Bar 6am-8pm. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Teal opens at 8:30 pm.**

Saturday

**AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Pot matched, 1st: 70%, 2nd: 20%, 3rd: 10%. Hot dance music with Alex 8:30pm to 1am. Drink specials every 1/2 hour.
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, Piña Colada \$3. Country/Western Music 8-1.
IBTS - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour noon to 8pm \$1.50 domestic beer and \$1.25 well. Patio Bar with Looney 9-1. Dance 9 to 1 with DJ David Z.
PLUG - Open Noon. Happy Hour till 8pm. Free Pool till 8pm. Hot Dance Party at 9pm.
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 8pm Free pool Saturday afternoon. Stonewall opens 9pm with High Energy Music.
VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Bitches & Bagels w/51 Bloody Marys 6am-noon. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Teal opens at 8:30pm.**



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DEADLINE FOR VALENTINES MONDAY, FEB. 20



UPDATE

Five Similar DC-Area Murders Sparks Fear Into Locals

WASHINGTON, DC (AP) - The deaths of five Gay African-American men in the District of Columbia have the community fearful a serial killer is stalking the patrons of two area bars and nightclubs.

Patrons of the Bachelor's Mill, 360 and Full House nightclubs told police they recognized the victims from likenesses which appeared on flyers posted in local Gay bars and other Gay-friendly businesses.

A spokesperson for the Prince George's County Police, Cpl. Diane Richardson, said the victims had all frequented the same clubs though she said, "we have not established that they knew each other." She said all five victims were Gay men and one was last seen at the Bachelor's Mill bar.

"I don't think their being Gay has anything to do with it," said Beatrice Gatch, owner of the Bachelor's Mill. Gatch said that while many of her customers were anxious that Gay patrons were being selected at random, others suspected drugs and money as possible motives in the slayings.

The first of the five victims, Anthony Barnes, 42, was found stabbed to death in his home on October 6. The next two victims, Jimmy McGuire, 33 and James Williams, 27, were found shot to death in the home they shared on December 21. The most recent pair of victims John Whittington, 41, and Derrick Hilliard, 22, were found in the ground floor room of a Motel 6 in Camp Springs, Maryland on January 5.

All five victims, besides being patrons of the same two clubs, were found dead in their homes. There was no sign of forced entry implying the victims knew or had at least met their killer.

New Study Says Broadly Aimed AIDS Education A Waste

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (WS) - What seems a perfectly reasonable and obvious suggestion could, if enacted, have vast policy implications for the way federal, state, and local agencies distribute money for AIDS prevention efforts.

The American Journal of Public Health published a University of California at San Francisco study which concluded, in part, that the "benefits of targeting to known high-risk populations appear so substantial that intensive intervention in low risk populations may be hard to justify from a public health perspective."

Doctor James G. Kahn, a health policy researcher at the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention studies said aiming prevention efforts (and funding) to high risk groups such as young Gay men and IV-drug users prevents up to 200 times more HIV infections than aiming at low risk groups. The finding stunned public health officials.

In the fifteen years since the outbreak of the epidemic, the UCSF study is the first to measure the comparative effectiveness of prevention messages aimed at different risk groups. Though the message is unequivocal, the eventual policy implications are not. "In the real world," said Kahn, "funding decisions reflect more than cost-effectiveness."

SF Domestic Partners vs United Airlines

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (NP) - The San Francisco Board of Supervisors meant business when they passed their first-of-its-kind law requiring that companies contracting with the city extend employees' same-gender partners the same benefits as legally married ones. They're hanging tough now with the world's largest airline before the law even goes officially into effect.

United Airlines makes up 40% of San Francisco International Airport's business and employs thousands of local residents. The airline is negotiating to expand its facilities at the airport on a 25-year lease at more than \$500,000 per year in a contract that's retroactive to before the partnership requirement was even passed.

When their proposal came before a subcommittee of the Board of Supervisors - two of whose three members are openly Lesbian Supervisor Leslie Katz and openly Gay Supervisor Tom Ammiano, sponsors of the partnership measure - it was sent back to the airline for a rewrite to include a domestic partners policy.

United expressed disappointment that their "routine" contract renewal was being held up for law not yet in effect, but additional legislation required the partnership provision be included in long-term contracts (more than two years' duration).

Moreover, since the company has a large number of contracts regarding the airport, it would have been only a matter of time until the issue arose. United has been exploring the possibility of a domestic partners policy, but is not yet ready to take a position on the question. In order to comply with the new San Francisco regulation, the airline would have to change its benefits policy not only for local employees, but for all its employees worldwide - 86,000 of them.

At least one local Gay activist is angered at what he perceives as United's effort to avoid instituting a domestic partners benefits policy, given that United has invested in heavy marketing to the Gay and Lesbian community.

Liz Taylor Birthday Bash To Benefit AIDS

PASADENA, CA (WS) - Michael Jackson will compose a song titled "Elizabeth" for Elizabeth Taylor's star-studded 65th birthday bash, which will feature never-before-seen footage of her life and career.

But Taylor said the toast of the night will be neither her life nor her career.

"It's not because of my birthday. It's to celebrate AIDS and all the heroes and heroines who have fought so hard to stay alive," Taylor told reporters at the Television Critics Association meeting.

The black-tie gala - "Happy Birthday, Elizabeth - A Celebration of Life" - will benefit the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, which funds research and treatment organizations.

The two-hour gala will be taped February 16 at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood to be broadcast on ABC later in February. On her birthday, February 27, Taylor plans to be in Istanbul, Turkey for an AIDS event.

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and enjoy your birthday celebration.

The Sun changes signs this week moving from conservative Capricorn to humanitarian Aquarius. If the direction of our personal mission takes on a greater global purpose, chalk it up to the A-queerian sense of justice and fair play. There is no better time to step Out and wave the rainbow banner where all can see!

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

The Aquarian Sun encourages all proud Rams to seek and strengthen friendships and the social ties that bind. You can feel your oats in any social endeavor (and with any luck, someone else will feel them too) so plan a delightful event and get involved in the group dynamic. But share and share alike, queer Aries. It is not a matter of "What's mine is mine and what's yours is mine."

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

The Sun moves into Aquarius and heightens and brightens your career prospects. Although proud Bulls are usually content to play second fiddle to the big base, the planets now encourage you to grab the baton and conduct the entire orchestra. Revolution or evolution, somehow I know that you will be a benevolent dictator when you get to the top.

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Gay Twins become travelling fools during the Aquarian Sun. If you find yourself on the road more and more, at least you know that it is all for a good purpose. Open up and receive all the valuable stimuli and information; it will take you farther than you ever thought possible. Have you ever considered going back to school and learning a new thing or two? Well, maybe just take one class.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

The Sun in Aquarius turns up the sexual heat to full boil and what proud Crab can resist the aroma? Perhaps it's time to try on that tight outfit and see who feasts. Ah there is a method to this passionate madness; this solar energy also help you examine what really makes you tick. So, after you tire of looking deeply into someone else, turn that raw interest inward and gain a little affirmation.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

You can strut and fret your hour upon the stage dear, queer Lion, but it's a helluva bore doing it without an appreciative audience. Thankfully, the Sun in Aquarius sheds a warm light on partnerships so you can at least expect an enthusiastic crowd on one to see you through your little scenes. Share love and commitment now. Don't they say "I owe it all to my partner?" If not, they should!

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Proud Virgins are in their element; Sun in Aquarius highlights work and any health related enterprises. The job will go much easier now and you can accomplish a great deal in a relatively short amount of time. Even more important however is the beneficial effects of a revamped diet or exercise regime now. Get those potentially beautiful buns to a trainer. It is always g-string season!

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

The Sun in Aquarius encourages all proud Libras to kick up their heels and have a fabulous time. You know how to make merry, but don't waste this valuable creative energy on silly nonsense, tempting as it may be. Try to rev up your artistic Gay

HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

muse and create something beautiful and wonderful. Okay it can be the party of the year. too soon! Speak Out now or regret it later.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Gay Scorps can use this time to get back to their roots, so to speak. The Sun in Aquarius casts a warm glow on any home related issues so muster your courage and come out to the family. It is very possible that all will go smoothly and amiably, but if not, remember that it is your life to live. Don't compromise on your happiness and peace of mind.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

If you've been banging your head against the wall trying to launch that great Gay novel, give it a pause and get back to the typewriter. The Sun in Aquarius unleashes your eloquence and makes communication go much smoother. Who knows; one of your manifestoes could catapult our lavender revolution. And not a moment

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Practical Gay Caps usually have their eye on the bottom line. Now, with Sun in Aquarius, the bottom line gets a little weightier. It's an excellent time to plan your investment strategy. You have a particularly clear vision of what will and will not work for you financially. The trick is not to get too greedy. Bulls and bears (and Goats) can make money but pigs will lose their shirts.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

The Sun is in your own sign for the next four weeks and gives you great confidence and stage presence. Aqueerians should use this beneficially affirming time to meet as many new people as possible and set their personal agenda for the next year. Plant your seeds now to see what sprouts later. In the meantime, be the belle of the ball

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20
Intuitive Fish feel in the pink spiritually when the Sun enters Aquarius. A bright light shines in even the most hidden corners of your life. It is an opportune time to open up your closet and empty it Out once and for all; the planetary energy is right. Remember friend that you have more to fear from the unknown and repressed than from what s freely out in the open.

For entertainment purposes only. For best results, read both your Sun sign and Ascendant. For a free ascendant calculation, send birth date, time, place, name of this paper and s.a.s.e to: Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NYC, 10011-1726.

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Colorado Springs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

hours of testimony on both sides of the question of censorship versus free speech, and the Board determined to continue to accept public input.

This month, CFV proposed a policy of promoting abstinence, affirming traditional marriage and discouraging promiscuity in "every aspect of student life." The one-sentence resolution (on a post-card) has been billed as a sexual conduct policy that would guide students in a challenging area of their lives.

Local clergy have been distributing the postcards to their congregations, of which the School Board has received 1,400 to date and CFV hopes another 5,000 will be sent. In an unprecedented move, Focus on the Family preempted its own national radio broadcast in Colorado Springs, this past week, so that is leader James Dobson could devote the 30 minutes to urge listeners on the four local stations to supporting the proposal.

With all that, the School Board held its first public meeting of the year last week on the subject. Anticipating a crowd, the board members moved the meeting from their usual board-room to a high school auditorium seating 1,100. They also provided for a considerable security force to maintain order.

CFV's head Will Perkins wanted "thousands" of people to attend; in fact, a total of 629 showed up, and many of them were opponents of censorship or fearful of the religious right running their public schools.

There were two hours of public testimony on the CFV proposal and a

separate publications policy proposal. While feelings ran high, most testimony was prepared statements delivered in a civil manner. The publications policy proposal makes relatively minor changes in the stated local policy and retains students' editorial control.

One local clergy member's testimony is support of the CFV proposal compared Colorado Springs to Babylon, and emphasized the need to stand up for values before the town is destroyed. Another local resident said in opposition, "This policy is not about teaching morality or values. It's about condemnation of difference and restriction of individual rights. The CFV proposal is yet another thinly veiled, cloaked attempt at sweeping censorship."

Mary Margaret Nussbaum, author of the "Lever" cover story, said in support of the publications policy. "There is a lively and engaging debate going on here. So it should be with the student press."

The struggles continues; the school board continues to invite public input. It's possible that they could vote on the publications policy as soon as January 29, but the CFV proposal has not yet been placed on their agenda.

Furor Eases In Israel Over President's Anti-Gay Remarks

TEL AVIV, Israel (WS) - Israeli President Ezer Weizman had caused a Christmas furor in Israel when he made a series of anti-Gay comments to a group of largely appreciative high school students.

In answer to a question, the president told the assembly that he "despised" homosexuality, considered it "abnormal,"

claimed he could spot Gay men from a distance, and even did a limp-wristed imitation of a Gay man. The students laughed and applauded.

The Israeli news media treated the story as a scandal, and scores of commentators said that after a brief period of stunned silence, the Lesbian and Gay community rallied a united response which may ultimately strengthen the community.

Avi Soffer, head of the Society for the Protection of Individual Rights for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals in Israel, told reporters that while scorn from Israeli religious and political figures was nothing new, never had the assault come from such an exalted secular leader as the president.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY FOUR

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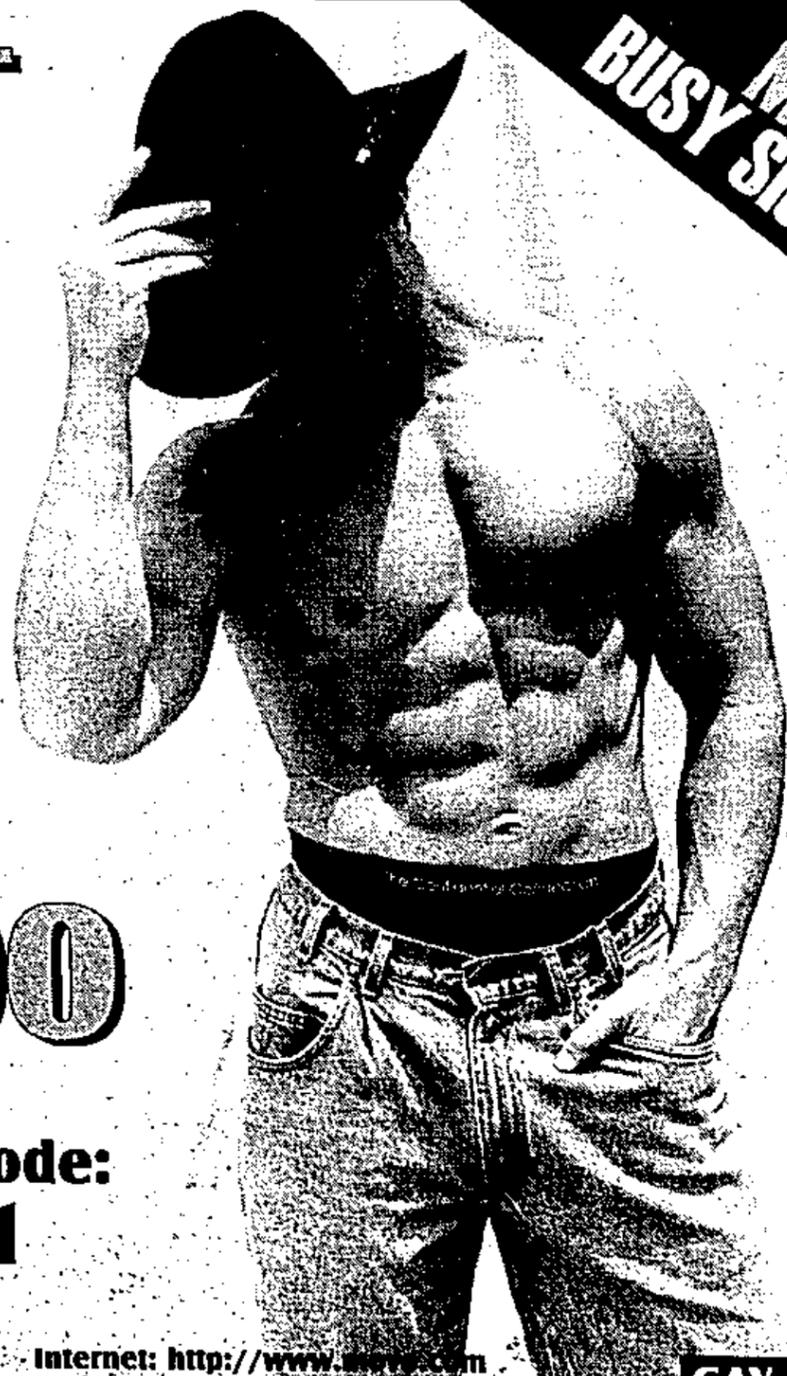
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GAY OWNED!

Human Rights Campaign Sets Its 'Gay Agenda'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NP) - Right-wingers like to refer to "the Gay agenda," as they do during the current fund raising campaign on "The 700 Club," but somehow in their version its always comes out that "homosexuals" are seeking to force heterosexuals into homosexuality. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) this past week laid out its own "Gay agenda" for 1997.

The HRC "Gay agenda" offers no surprises, it's clearly about making a place in society for Gays and Lesbians rather than about imposing anything on others except tolerance.

In Strategy and Agenda for 1997, HRC's analysis leans heavily on the large-scale survey they commissioned in connection with November's elections. They lead off with the Gay and Lesbian civil rights issue most popular among non-Gay people in the U.S., protections from discrimination in the work place.

The HRC is looking for support of corporate, labor, religious, and civil rights organizations to support their lobbying of moderates in Congress for the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). As part of a procedural compromise in relation to the Defense of Marriage in September, 1996, the U.S. Senate made ENDA the first Gay and Lesbian civil rights measure ever to reach the floor of either house of the national legislature.

While ENDA's defeat there by a single vote was a great disappointment to many, it was a remarkable first showing for civil rights legislation of any kind. The great barrier will be reaching the floor

again while Republicans control the workings of the Congress.

Second on HRC's list is the punishment of hate crimes against Gays and Lesbians. The first federal measure ever to explicitly name "sexual orientation" was the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, which was renewed in 1996. HRC hopes that hate crimes victims and their families will play a key role in educating members of Congress and federal and local law enforcement agencies towards a stronger response to Gay-bashers. HRC hopes to see legislation increase penalties for those who commit federal bias crimes against Lesbians and Gays, but many more of those attack fall under state or local ordinances.

Third on HRC's "Gay Agenda" is at least maintaining, if not increasing, the current federal support for AIDS research and treatment, another issue finding considerable concern and sympathy in the mainstream. That will be challenge enough with the hoopla over protease inhibitors and combination drug therapies encouraging the general public to think the crisis of the pandemic is over. In this area, HRC's leading targets are structural: preservation of the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health and support for the policies agreed on by the National Organizations Responding to AIDS coalition.

Fourth on the HRC agenda is increasing awareness of Lesbian health issues. Just what those issues might be is hardly known, even to Lesbians themselves, since the first federally funded national investigation of the question only began in the year just ended. Despite the lack of hard data, there are several reasons

to think that Lesbians face a special risk for breast cancer and many indications that Lesbians generally fail to seek gynecological care.

HRC's goals included increased outreach to Lesbians by the Centers for Disease Control, consistent inclusion of questions regarding sexual orientation in research through the National Institutes of Health, and publication of information on the subject.

The fifth on the HRC list is same-gender marriage, under the heading of "Protecting Our Families." Marriage is not a very popular issue with the mainstream as so phrased, and so HRC's position is to have equal marriage rights, but failing that, establishing as many specific elements of those rights as possible, e.g., hospital visitation and domestic partnership employment benefits.

The "families" category also include secure child custody for Gay and Lesbian parents, and prevention of suicide among Gay and Lesbian youth.

Finally, and most crucially, comes not "recruitment," but rather empowerment of what HRC calls "fair-minded Americans" - those moderates who wish to heal the divisions in U.S. society between the homophobes and the Gays and Lesbians. HRC hopes to get more of them elected to Congress in 1998 and to provide tools for larger numbers of them to support those election efforts.



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DR. BOB FELSHAUS GESTALT GROUP FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN. Learn to connect more powerfully with your own inner wisdom and with other men. Coming out issues, HIV issues, developing a healthy Gay identity, and more. A path of personal growth tailored especially for Gay and Bisexual men! For more information call Dr. Bob Felshaus, 823-1732.

CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 3rd Monday at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1800 N. Camino Pio Declino in the Kino Room at 7:00 p.m. For more info call Erin 671-2003 or Anna Marie at the Parish office 885-3372.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA). Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call Greg Hoffman 577-8333 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 8 weeks. 894-7083.

TIHAN, a coalition of churches and synagogues committed to providing a compassionate response to the HIV crisis, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer care teams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 296-8847.

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 797-3118 for more information and a membership bio.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays noon-1pm in UMC Dining Room "F", 325-0678 or 870-1954.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING AVAILABLE through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson. Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 781-7878.

FRONT RUNNERS OF TUCSON meet for fun runs Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Group meets in front of the Himmelpark Library (East side) and Sundays at various times and places. For more information call Mitch at 325-3555

People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (PACT ForLife), 801 W. Congress. Office hours MWF 8am to 5pm, Tu 8am-7pm, Th. Noon-8pm. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Call 770-1740 for more information.

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. 5th Street, 822-7107. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8880 or write P.O. Box 38264, Tucson, AZ 85740-8264. 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 785-7268.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call information and Referral about Al-Anon 861-1794 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, 824-1778.

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, tennis and organizations. Call 857-7483 and leave your name and phone number. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday, 4-8 p.m. at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 181 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 252 (The Broadmoor Center Bldg.). Direct services for persons with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Prevention education programs. Business hours, M-F, 9-5. 322-8228. AIDS Hotline: 329 AIDS.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL For information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call information and Referral 861-1794 - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

AIDS HOTLINE - 329-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-8977 in Tucson for more information. 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), 6:00 p.m. Information 824-1778.

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 32. Call the church at 299-9053 for information.

LICHER NIKING CLUB for women of all ages and backgrounds of life. Nise with other women. Listings in Rubyfruit Journal available at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave.

CAMELBACK BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (CBPA) FOR PHOENIX For information and membership write: CBPA at P.O. Box 2007, 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. 824-1778.

L.S.S. EX-L.D.S. GAY/LESBIAN, BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7pm. 320-1318 for information.

RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL every Sunday at 1:00 pm 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 PROTECTUS S.L.D.A. - AIDS INFO LINE 862-3833. Also seeking volunteers who are bilingual (Spanish/English) and are interested in presenting information about AIDS to Spanish groups in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Early Intervention Center, 801 West Congress, Tucson, AZ 85745. 770-1314.

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (AGRA) TUCSON CHAPTER. interested? Call 323-8805 or write AGRA/Tucson, P.O. Box 40894, Tucson, 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. 322-5653. Leave message.

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Advertisers welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9643, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all - Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-C, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

DRUG WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 578-8020

COCHISE COUNTY LESBIANS AND GAYS. P.O. Box 818, Bisbee, AZ 85603 / (602)432-5391. 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, in love 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)733-8408, 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 298-8434.

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2840 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Also 861-8450 or Room 808-2384.

NOTICES

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

CHRYMES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Marie at 848-7264.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Gertrude (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Jeff or Art (520)762-9135.

LIGHTING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 896-7298.

MADE ME: Long-haired Gay male penpal network. Photo, 31RC's to join. Box 231, Station B, Ottawa, CANADA, K1P9C4

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP of St. Phillips in the Killa Episcopal Church meets first and third Mondays. Call David, 323-7643 for more information.

'AT EASE AGAIN', a men's discussion group meets at Wingspan at 7 p.m. every Tuesday, 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, 3681 N. Campbell Ave. #345, Tucson, AZ 85719.

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

MEW'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 690-9545 for information and a newsletter.558

SOFTBALL. For info on the Tucson Greater Softball Association T.G.S.A., please contact. Mary 770-8978 or Bertie 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 providers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 298-9083.

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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 322-8226.

'EVOLVE' a transgendered Support Group open to all T.V.'s, C.D.'s, T.G.'s & B.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 291-8802.

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. BB or better players only. Grass court Northwest corner Himmelpark 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 851-4532 for more information or sign up.

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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 322-8228 and ask for Ernesto. 860

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GAY MALE, MID 80S, 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH. Must be neat and clean. References required. \$300 per month, \$100 deposit. Completely furnished with many extras. 571-8888, Call after 6 pm. 653

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Cobb County Resolution "Dead"

MARIETTA, GA (NP) - Cobb County, Georgia, which an infamous anti-Gay and Lesbian resolution made the county forbidden territory, has decided to give peace a chance.

The 1993 resolution condemning what it called the "homosexual lifestyle" made headlines around the world. It was notorious most recently for creating detours of protest in the routes of the Olympic torch run and the Tour DuPont bicycle race - but not its history, according to Cobb County Commissioner Bob Byrne, one of its leading proponents.

As a newly-elected County Commission met, members of the Cobb Citizens Coalition - which formed in reaction to the anti-Gay measure - invited the Commission to join what they called the "forward vision," and declare the resolution "dead and retired."

The following day, Byrne told reporters, "The opportunity presents itself to say the resolution is officially behind us with our new board coming on. That is a good place to leave it . . . There will not be a similar resolution introduced to that magnitude. As chairman, I can assure you of that."

This represents a complete turn-about for Byrne, who has clung to the

resolution through a continuing firestorm of protest from many quarters ever since it was passed. When the Olympics moved an event out of Cobb County, the Commission reaffirmed the measure instead of overturning it.

Byrne's own daughter coming out as a Lesbian and denouncing the measure did not change his position. But apparently almost three-and-a-half years of controversy have worn down even the staunch Bob Byrne. When asked if he would do it again if he had the chance, he answered, "Considering the negatives of the last three years, no."

One stimulus for the original resolution was nearby Atlanta's attempt at the time to establish a domestic partners benefits program for city employees, which was struck down by the state. Another domestic partners program has recently been established there, and is currently being challenged in court.

Though according to surveys by the Cobb Citizens Coalition, the majority of Cobb residents opposed the measure. Businesses too, both the large corporations like DuPont and Microsoft and the smaller "mom and pop" local stores, have been all but unanimous in protesting the resolution through public statements, withdrawal of business from the County, simply ignoring

the measure, or establishing their own non-discrimination policies despite it.

Perhaps the capper is that the Cobb Galleria Convention Complex, a local public showpiece, as well as the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, both have non-discrimination policies explicitly naming sexual orientation as a protected category.

The Cobb Citizens Coalition is happy to have the resolution off their agenda, because they have other targets. In 1997, they want to focus on improving the situation for Gay and Lesbian teens in the Cobb County schools with support and protection from harassment.

Win For Legal Pot Club

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (NP) - A San Francisco Superior Court Judge has lifted the injunction that had prohibited the Cannabis Buyers Club - a largely Gay enterprise - from growing marijuana or supplying it to people with AIDS and other medical conditions.

According to the Club's attorney, it was the first time in the history of the U.S. that a judicial order allowed cultivation and possession of marijuana.

The key to the ruling is Club founder Dennis Peron's contention that the group is not for profit. Judge David Garcia was very clear that his ruling was

meant specifically for the Cannabis Buyers Club, and that profit-making from marijuana would continue to be prosecuted.

But viewing the Club as a service for people in medical need of the drug, and given California voters' passage of a ballot measure to legalize the medical use of marijuana, Garcia felt he had no choice but to lift the injunction. Since the language of the ballot measure includes "authorized care-givers," Garcia didn't see why the Club shouldn't qualify as such.

The Club had been raised by state authorities in an action that was denounced in San Francisco but bragged about by conservative California Attorney General Dan Lungren.

The city of San Francisco had decided long since that it would not enforce federal laws against marijuana. Peron and five others have been indicted in Alameda County for conspiracy to transport and sell marijuana as a result of that raid.

It's a challenging moment for the federal government's drug enforcers, who just one week ago announced their determination to punish doctors who prescribed marijuana, despite the ballot measure in California and a similar one in Arizona. They are discussing the possibility of an appeal of Garcia's ruling.

Furor Eases In Israel Over President's Anti-Gay Remarks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWENTY ONE

Nightly demonstrations outside the President's Residence and worldwide condemnations from Gay leaders quickly pushed the President into a defensive posture. Initially refusing to apologize, Weizman relented and agreed to a meeting between he and his wife, Reuna, and six Gay activists.

"We were welcomed with great respect," Soffer said following the meeting. Another activist Jarus-Hakak said Weizman made a "sincere first step" towards repairing relations with the Gay community.

Inauguration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

And the cheerleaders were right there with the band: the professional Cheer San Francisco troupe of 15 Gay men, plus an 8-person co-gender flag corps.

On a more solemn note, the Inaugural Parade itself included some 50 panels from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, carried by local volunteers behind the banner, "The Quilt: Building a Bridge to End AIDS."

In a feistier approach to ending AIDS, the irrepressible ACT UP/DC (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/Washington, DC) had a full menu of protest actions, the first directed at the aforementioned "Red Ribbon Inaugural Gala." ACT UP/DC's Steve Michael is convinced that Tom Sheridan's AIDSPAC has distributed only a small fraction of the considerable funds it has raised for the purpose of supporting "AIDS-friendly" Congressional candidates.

Amid all the parties, pomp and circumstance, for the Reverend Mel White of the United Fellowship of MCC, the inauguration was an occasion for fasting and prayer. White staged a "People's Inaugural Celebration: A 24-Hour Fast and Prayer Vigil for Justice." White initiated a Justice Candle vigil, for all four years of Clinton's second term as a reminder for all that needs to be done on issues of concern to Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered people.

"ALL IN FUN"

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(MUST BE PRINTED OR TYPED)

- There will be an incredibly diverse group of young people attending the retreat. How do you work with people who are different from you or with whom you may disagree?
- Please tell us why you would like to attend the 1997 "ALL IN FUN" Retreat?
- If chosen to attend, how will you educate the people of your community about what you learned at the retreat?

The deadline for all completed registration forms is Friday, January 24, 1997. Please mail completed forms to the following agency:

GYM
c/o the Tucson AIDS Project
151 South Tucson Blvd., Ste. 252
Tucson, AZ 85716

ATTN: Arthur G. Padilla

If you have any question or comments please call Arthur or Gloria at (520) 322-6226.

Parental Consent Form

Valley One in Ten (VOIT) Youth Services and the Gay Youn Men's (GYM) Project is sponsoring "ALL IN FUN" an HIV Prevention/Education weekend retreat which will deal with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered youth. Many of the issues that will be presented and discussed during the retreat are potentially controversial in nature and may include such topics as HIV/AIDS, safer sex, condom use, drug abuse, etc. By signing below, I am granting He/She permission to attend the "ALL IN FUN" weekend retreat with the full understanding that He/She will be in attendance where these and related issues will be discussed. By signing below, I expressly agree that the VOIT Youth Services and GYM Project shall not be liable for the care of He/She and shall not be liable for any injury of any kind or the loss of any property from any cause whatsoever, which may be incurred by He/She while attending "ALL IN FUN." I also expressly agree not to hold the VOIT Youth Services and GYM Project responsible for any and all damages arising from He/She attending "ALL IN FUN."

Participant's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____