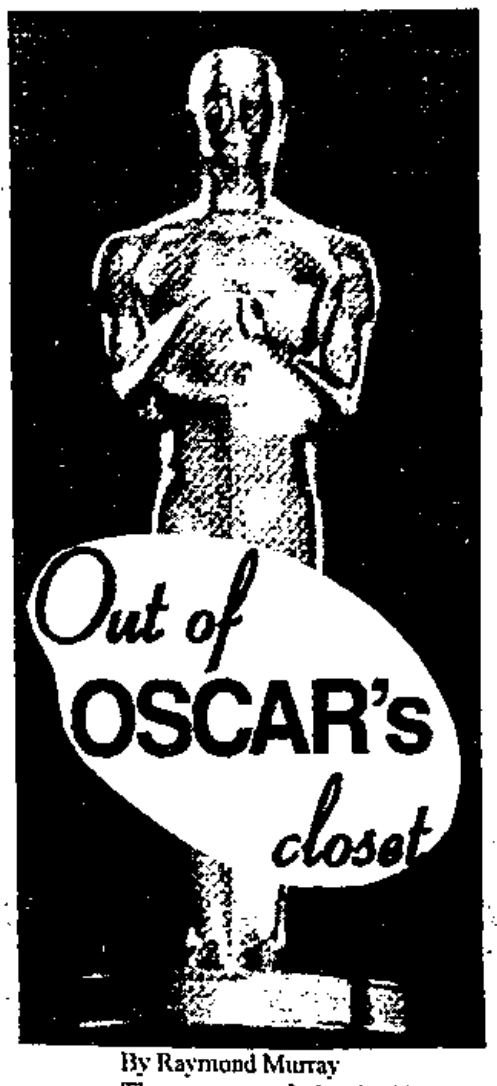
Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER | MARCH 19, 1997 | ISSUE 661



By Raymond Murray

The queer revolution in film has continued unabated in 1996 with an unprecedented number of films -- Hollywood, foreign and America independent productions -- that have featured Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or cross-dressing characters. Although their numbers were great (in comparison to the years past) their depiction and roles were if anything, uneven. Yet because it is becoming the trend to include Gays and Lesbians, even fleetingly, in films, it is time to recognize, celebrate and, if need be, condemn those productions. So with these conditions, we present the First Annual Queer Academy Awards.

1. Best Gay / Lesbian / Transgendered Hollywood Film of the Year:
2. Best Gay Male Character in a Hollywood Film:
3. Best Lesbian Character in a Hollywood Film
4. Best Transgendered Character in a Hollywood Film
5. Best Gay Male Supporting Character in a Hollywood Film:
6. Best Lesbian Supporting Character in a Hollywood Film:
7. Best Independently Made Gay Film:
8. Best Independently Made Lesbian Film:
9. Best Foreign Language Film:
10. Best Film not reviewed by the author but released in 1996:
11. Best Television film: (either Gay-Lesbian themed or written by a Gay or Lesbian):
12. Best Behind-the-scenes work by a Gay or Lesbian in a mainstream film
13. Most Incidental Use of a Gay Character:
14. Best Song:
15. Best Documentary:
16. Worst use of a stereotypical fag in a Hollywood Film
17. Most Homophobic film of the year.

1. BEST GAY/LESBIAN/ TRANSGENDERED HOLLYWOOD FILM OF THE YEAR

The nominees are:

It's My Party (Randall Kleiser - director)
Gay director Randall Kleiser's emotionally candid AIDS drama is both touching and forthright in depicting two Gay men in a complex but loving relationship.

Bound (Larry and Andy Wachowski - directors) A heart-pounding thriller about two women who try to cheat the Mafia out of 2 million dollars and which depicts its Lesbian heroines in the most pulsatingly erotic and attractive light possible. A landmark film.

The Birdcage (Mike Nichols - director)
The Americanized version of the French farce La Cage aux Folles features two men in a loving, committed relationship while the heteros are the ones with family values problems. A wickedly funny comedy to laugh with the Gays not at them.

Twelfth Night (Trevor Nunn - director)
Shakespeare's comedy comes alive in this visually striking film which features lots of transsexuality and crossdressing and enough homoeroticism to keep all queers interested.

Butterfly Kiss (Michael Winterbottom - Director) While not universally liked, this shocking Lesbian-as-killer drama offers an unflinching look at a woman and the bloody road she chooses to take in looking for her woman.

2. BEST GAY MALE CHARACTER IN A HOLLYWOOD FILM.

The nominees are:

Eric Roberts as the AIDS-stricken Gay man who decides to throw a party before his suicide in It's My Party.

Gregory Harrison as Eric Robert's ex-lover who plants a passionate kiss on him in It's My Party.

David Bowie who offers a wacky but delightful impersonation of Andy Warhol in Basquiat, capturing the gawky beauty and trusting nature of the artist.

Jarad Harris who, in I Shot Andy Warhol, also plays Warhol. He looks more like the bewigged pop icon and also captures, albeit in a different fashion, the man who shyly lead an artistic revolution.

John Ritter is a small-town homosexual with a heart of gold, although he is also a bit pitiful because of his inability to come out in Sling Blade.

The openly Gay Scott Thompson plays a suburban family man, who after being caught cruising by the police, comes out to everyone in a rollicking musical number in Kids in the Hall -Brain Candy.

Robin Williams is surprisingly low keyed, while still being both funny and poignant as Armond Goldman, the Gay nightclub owner in The Birdcage,

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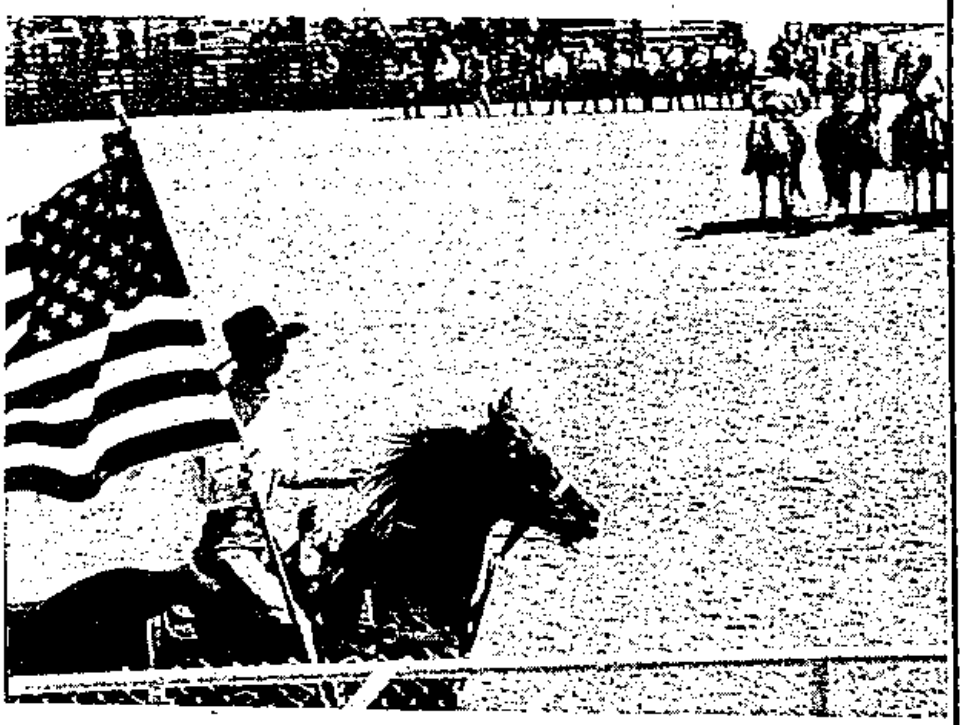
Welcome Rodeo Contestants & Fans



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March 21, 22, & 23, 1997
Tucson Rodeo Grounds
For Information Call AGRA-Tucson *323-0805*

New Bill Would Force Disclosure Of HIV Status

AMA Zapped For HIV Law Stance

WASHINGTON, D.C. (WS) - Republican Rep. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma is seeking support for a bill that would require states to alert people to possible contacts with HIV-infected partners.

Coburn, who is also a physician, said the bill's provisions will protect those who are not infected and speed the delivery of new treatments for those that are.

One of the bill's provisions is the creation of a national HIV reporting system. States would be required to report every new HIV diagnosis to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. Already 26 states supply this information to the CDC, the rest report only new AIDS cases.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), in a written statement, protested the bill would intrude on the authority of trained health professionals and counselors, and do nothing to target individuals most at risk for HIV and AIDS. It also said partner notification is a costly and ineffective method of controlling the disease.

The American Medical Association (AMA) endorsed the "HIV Prevention Act" at their recent medical ethics meeting in Philadelphia. ACT UP considers the measure the closest thing too an AIDS quarantine yet. In rare agreement HRC shares ACT UP's views on the "HIV Prevention Act." While the AMA met in an adjoining hotel, ACT-UP led protesters zapped the meeting.

About 30 chanting demonstrators marched into the mall area known as Liberty Place, loosing a balloon-borne sign reading "Condoms Stop HIV -- Not Forced Testing."

The provisions of the "HIV Prevention Act" that ACT UP and HRC find objectionable include:

mandatory reporting of HIV+ individuals by name to state health officers (a mandate never before required by federal law for any disease and one never requested by the Centers for Disease Control);

mandatory notification of sex partners, including sharing information with other state's health officials (a cost-intensive process that fails to provide partners with the tools they need to protect their health);

mandatory testing of accused sex offenders whether or not they are convicted (a possible violation of the accused civil rights, which will not enlighten victims as to their own HIV status); a statement that it is the "sense of Congress" that states should criminalize intentional transmission (measures which are already in place in every state);

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY FOUR

UPDATE

1997 AIDS Ride For Life April 13-19

GRAND CANYON - Close to 500 bicyclists, family and friends, plus 100 volunteers will gather near the Grand Canyon for the beginning of a remarkable journey, "The 1997 AIDS Ride For Life."

These modern day heroes will begin the 465 mile, 7 day bike ride from the Grand Canyon to Tucson to raise $1,000,000 for Arizona's battle against AIDS. The bikers will sleep in tents at night, pedal up to 90 miles each day, and will have each raised at least $2,000 for one of 20 AIDS service organizations in Arizona.

For more information about this event call, toll free, (888) 765-1050.

Hope, Healing & High Jinks Benefit For PACT

TUCSON - On Tuesday, April 29, the community is invited to attend the third annual "Hope, Healing, and High Jinks," and evening of comedy recognizing the joy and humor in lie, in all its stages.

The event begins at 7:00 P.M. at Laffs Comedy Cafe, 2900 East Broadway. Tickets are $10 (or $20 for priority seating). Guests will also have an opportunity to participate in a live and silent auction of items donated by local businesses ranging from gift certificates to works of art and collectibles.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Tucson AIDS Project, Shanti Foundation, and the People With AIDS Coalition of Tucson. For more information call Matthew, 322-9191.

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Once In A Lifetime Event April 17

TUCSON - This year marks Craig Snow's tenth anniversary as executive director of the Tucson AIDS Project (TAP) as well as his 50th birthday.

For those reasons, Craig will be honored at a dinner and roast with proceeds benefitting the three ASO's. Join in the fun Thursday, April 17 at the new University Park Marriott Hotel as community members share memorable (and hopefully really embarrassing) stories about Craig.

Tickets to the event $75 ($50 is tax-deductible) and include dinner, dancing and lots of laughs. You may also share your own stories, memories and best wishes with Craig in a special printed program.

For more information on tickets or the program, call Jenny at Shanti, 622-7107.

Lesbian Health Fair April 19

TUCSON - The Lesbian Cancer Project of the YWCA of Tucson is excited and proud to announce Tucson's First Annual Lesbian Health Fair which will be held at the YWCA of Tucson, April 19, 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Admission will be free. Plans for the fair include: workshops, food, panel discussions, information booths, drumming and dancing, and free childcare. Workshops will cover topics such as: nutrition, sexuality, relationships and communication, Lesbian parenting issues, menopause, the politics of breast cancer, eastern and alternative medicines and more!

Events will be interpreted for the hearing impaired, and the YWCA is wheelchair accessible. All women are welcome. For more information call 884-7810.

Come Sing With Desert Voices

TUCSON - Does the idea of being onstage with 50 men from San Diego appeal to you? If so and you like to sing, then Desert Voices is the chorus for you.

Desert Voices will be performing "Fairly Tales" at the Temple of Music & Art, June 14, with the San Diego Men's Chorus. Desert Voices will be holding auditions at our rehearsal Monday, March 24, 7:00 P.M., Room 170 at the University of Arizona's School of Music Building.

Interested singers need to call our Artistic Director, Keith Koster, 791-9662, to schedule an audition time. We are a friendly and supportive community chorus dedicated to performing quality concerts and creating a positive force in the LesBi-Gay community. Come join with us in song!

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Reconciling Meeting At St. Francis

TUCSON - 1997 marks the tenth year St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church has been offering a support/discussion group for our LesBiGay community. Next year, St. Francis will celebrate ten years of being a Reconciling Congregation, openly accepting all people as full members regardless of sexual orientation.

St. Francis is invited anyone who was ever involved with the Thursday night Support Group to a meeting, Sunday, April 6, 10:00 - 11:00 A.M., in Room 31 at St. Francis (NW corner of Swan & River Road). The purpose will be to brainstorm ways to celebrate/commemorate the support group and to look at ways it may have impacted or changed their lives.

If you can't attend but have ideas you want to share contact the church office, 299-9063 or Davey, 886-1208.

Benefit Set For Video Production Collective

TUCSON - Pan Left Productions, Tucson's only non-profit video production collective and the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers (AIVF) is pleased to announce a benefit screening, Thursday, March 27, 7:30 P.M.

The event will be held at the brand new U of A Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Building located on the NE corner of Mountain and Speedway. The state of the art screening facility where Unity Crosses Borders, will be premiered. Unity Crosses Borders, a documentary about human rights abuses in Southern Arizona as well as exciting productions dealing with Cuba, aging and new technologies.

There will be a reception with food from Cafe Magrite, Cafe Quebec and the Tao of Foods and Music by Peep Show. A donation of $5 is requested. For more information, call Lisa Wise of Pan Left Productions, 882-4227.

Angel Records Releases 'Sondheim, Etc: Bernadette Peters Live From Carnegie Hall' Proceeds Benefit GMHC

NEW YORK, NY - When Bernadette Peters made her highly acclaimed solo debut at Carnegie Hall in December 1996, critics declared her sold-out performance for the Gay Men's Health Crisis, "thrilling . . . compelling . . .[and] profoundly bittersweet."

Now Peters' electrifying performance comes to life with the release of her first-ever concert CD, Sondheim, etc.: Bernadette Peters Live From Carnegie Hall, recorded by Angel Records. Proceeds from the sale of this album benefit the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC).

Hailed as "one of the top ten concerts of 1996," Sondheim, etc.: Bernadette Peters Live From Carnegie Hall features the Broadway diva at her best -- sweet and sultry, poignancy and playful, and always a showstopper. The recording captures the passion, energy, and scope of Peters' dazzling live performance, showcasing a wide variety of Sondheim classics and Broadway favorites.

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation Upcoming Fundraising Events

- **Classical Concert #1:** Acoustical guitar concert featuring Roberto Capocchi. Friday, April 18th at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 7:30 PM
- **Laff's Comedy Benefit:** Local professional comedians and ASO clients share the lighter side of living with HIV. Tuesday, April 29th. Laff's Comedy Cafe.
- **10th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza** A zany afternoon of slipping and sliding in America's favorite dessert. Sunday, May 18th at the Graduate

For More Info Call
PACT, TAP or Shanti

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IBT's News Gay-zette

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

IBT'S 5TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS PARTY

Monday, March 24th, 5:00 PM. Followed Immediately by the Local Academy Awards. Join Us for Fun, Friends, Food & Contests

MURDER MYSTERY WEDNESDAY "THE CASE OF THE FRAT BOYS DEMISE"

The Super Slueths who imbibe at IBT's are known for their ability to ferret out the clues and solve the crimes. Can you do it?

March 26th, 9 PM. Solve the Mystery and get a chance to win a VCR.

The Return of HEADGAMES

Tucson's Hottest New Event. Hosted by Bulemia De Havilland. Assisted by Tony from the Bronx. Prizes, Prizes, Prizes.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD. 9 PM.

This man has been know to laugh uncontrollably.

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- Spring Street Fair April 11th, 12th & 13th

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Perspective

by Marylee Pangman

I am writing you to share with you the results of PACT's cutbacks and plans for the future. As you might be aware, the PACT Board of Directors was attempting to cut $11,000 of expenses a month between March and June. PACT felt this would stabilize our current deficit position. Then, as our collaborative fund raising is successful, it will improve PACT's financial position for this fiscal year end.

Making cuts that effect clients and staff is always difficult. With the four programs that lost significant funding over the past 13 months, PACT's ability to fully serve clients was at great risk. PACT needed to attempt to balance the fiscal crisis with our commitment to clients.

To this end the following decisions have been enacted:

Terminate the following positions: Receptionist, held by Sara Hammond, March 7; Property Rehab., held by Cricket Miles, March 7; Program Assistant, held by Janet Smith, March 21; Wellness Coordinator, held by Dan Nunez, half time until April 1.

The Manager of Peer Counseling (Garry Fowlkes) will work half time through June 30, 1997. By this time PACT hopes that the collaboration will be able to develop a plan which will promote the continuation of the Peer Counseling Program. Garry will also continue to carry the responsibility for the Medications Assistance Program.

Finally, the Food for Life Program will be terminated from PACT as of March 31, 1997. Anne Bowen is attempting to find a new not-for-profit sponsor for Food for Life in order to carry out the meal program for people living with HIV/-AIDS.

The Early Intervention Department put together a plan recommending which aspects of the Peer Counseling, Wellness and Buyer's Club to continue. The services will be adjusted as follows:

Peer Counseling - Continuing Services:

Provide one-on-one counseling by volunteers to people living with HIV/-AIDS and their families and friends. These volunteers will be supervised by Garry and Cicely. Provide information and referral from an HIV+ perspective. Promotion of PLUS. Promote importance of early intervention; how to remain healthy. Peer Counselor Support Group.

The peer counseling program will be unable or less likely to provide: Individual Client Advocacy. ACMC intakes (by El Staff). El Rio Intakes. Hospital Visits.

The new volunteer peer counseling training will begin in about two weeks. Dates will be forthcoming.

Wellness - Continuing Services: Wellness Intakes by Volunteer Peer Counselors. Massage Clinic. Acupuncture Clinics. CD4 & Viral Load Tests. Limited Buyer's Club will be continued with staff and volunteer support.

Discounted Service: Wellness workshops and appointments with Naturopathic Doctor.

As we, within the collaboration, develop both the Peer Counseling Manager's position and the Volunteer Coordinator position, PACT will analyze where these positions will fall within the collaborative structure. Therefore Ammie Carpentar will stay during this transition period and then be moving on to new horizons as of the end of April.

The PACT for Life Board of Directors has gone through enormous transition. Of the 15 current board members, almost two-thirds have joined the board in the last ten months. In light of the changing face of AIDS and funding, the board recognizes that we must move into a position of planning for change instead of reacting to change. In order to bridge the next changes in regards to funding and the collaboration, I will be staying on for up to four months at a reduced work schedule. In the meantime, a board sub-committee will commence immediately to make recommendations regarding the replacement of the Executive Director.

In closing. I want to assure you that the provision of quality services to our clients is the primary focus of all of our efforts. A redistribution of job responsibilities among the remaining staff members is taking place so that services will continue to be provided in a timely and high quality manner, even in the face of all of these changes. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the PACT staff or your case manager. PACT appreciates our continuing support as PACT works through these challenges.

[Marylee Pangman is the executive director of PACT.]

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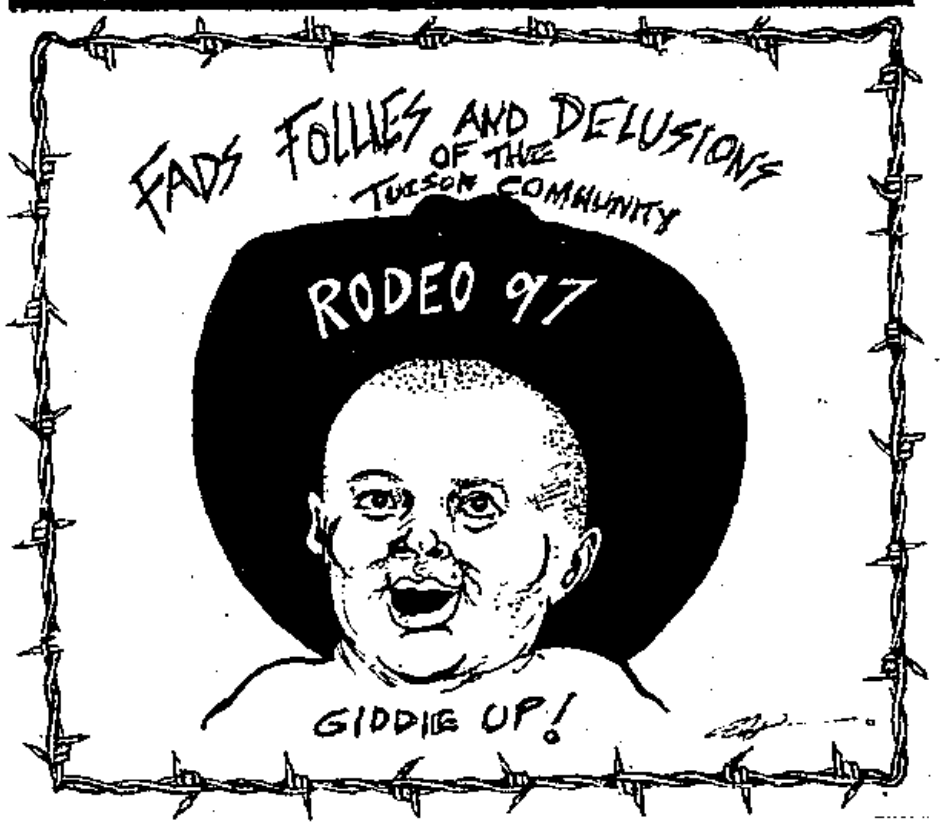
AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



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EDITOR:

I read with interest Paul Lotsof's article "14,000 Queers East of Craycroft," suggesting the need for a Gay bar on Tucson's suburban eastside. But there's a flip side to this argument.

We in the community need to make sure our existing nightclubs remain economically viable. Put bluntly, we shouldn't spread our entertainment dollars too thinly. Why? Because a portion of profits can be reinvested into capital improvements that make our "night out" experiences so much more pleasurable.

Let me give you an example. Dave and Frank have created at IBT's on Fourth Avenue what amounts to our version of a New England town square. Do you see all those banner-style notices of upcoming events? And the magnificent dance floor lighting? And all the recent redecorating? It would be improvident not to secure our future entertainment with the entrepreneurs who've risked venture capital to give us a home away from home.

I live near Broadway and Wilmot. Frankly, I enjoy the drive to places like The Biz, Stonewall-Eagle, The Graduate, Hours and IBT's. Because when I get there. I feel like it's a special adventure and that I've arrived at a "destination resort" -- places to renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

Elise Barbara Fox

EDITOR:

This letter is a follow-up on a letter I wrote some time ago, about starting a club for Big Men and those who like them, also known as "chubs" and "chasers." (Those aren't my personal favorites for terms, but they are popular).

I went to the Girth and Mirth Social in Phoenix, and was given a warm welcome, and told them of my idea of starting a club in Tucson. Well, it's official. I am starting a club in Tucson. Well, it's official. I am starting a Girth and Mirth Tucson Chapter, and if you have any questions, call me at 326-0841, and be sure to leave a name and number if I'm not home when you call! We are going to network with Girth and Mirth, at their monthly social at Country Club Bar and Grill. So, for those of you who called, asking if I got this club going, this is notice that yes, it is up and running. What I want to do is get a nice core group of men together and we can connect with the Phoenix group as much as possible, and have them come to town and visit.

So, to all those nice, young, thin Gays who only hand out with the pretty little boys, look out, because the big boys are coming to town! I was able to connect with the president of the European Big Men's clubs recently, and he offered to help us get started, so, we may be a small group for now, but we are growing. So, please call if you're curious. And to answer the often-heard question, yes, smaller guys are more than welcome. We are a social group. If a woman came to one of our meetings, she would be welcome, too!

On a different subject, I was reading some letters in the Bay Area Reporter, a sister Gay paper from San Francisco, about sex clubs and bathhouses. While we no longer have a bathhouse here, we still have adult bookstores. The issue of safe sex is still a hot one, and unfortunately, much of the sex that goes on in parks and bookstores is unsafe sex. Too often, the more closeted Gay men who don't go to bars wind up in the bookstores and bathhouses, and a lot of Gays pick up on this, and frequent these places. Maybe if these places were Gay owned, free condom would be distributed there.

Obviously, the sex there is likely to be going on for many years to come, as some men prefer anonymous public sex to finding a lover, or more social outlets for their interaction with other men, so why don't we address this issue? I see men passing out condoms in bars. True, it would be unlikely the bookstores would welcome condom distribution in their businesses, but the amount of sex and cruising there is rather high, and they know what's going on in the booths! Maybe at least we could get them to put up some safe sex posters, to remind people to use a condom. All it takes is one unsafe encounter and you could wind up infected. I know people are tired of hearing condoms preached about, but think of the alternative.

In many ways, it's like the anti-smoking ad campaign. People laugh it off, and light up a cigarette. They know it's destroying their lungs, but they don't seem to care! Same goes for unsafe sex. Is it worth it? It's something to think about.

Sincerely, Rev. Andrew Brooks

[The following letters came from The Online Observer]

EDITOR:

Love the on-line format! Former resident of Tucson back in the days of 2520 . . . coming back for spring break with my boyfriend . . . see ya then!

Brad O.,
Dallas, TX

EDITOR:

Hi! It's looking great. You're one of my Bookmarks now . . . too fun!

Terri R.,
Tucson

EDITOR:

Rick H., you will remember me from the times we spent in Bisbee and following that a month or two that I spent in Tucson since we spent a week in Hawaii. Since then I have heard of very little of you and last Christmas found out that you phone service had been changed. No doubt you did not receive my Xmas card and would love to contact you again as this is the nineties. I hope that somehow I will be able to re-contact you if not from your present where-abouts. Matthew G., 3/27 Prince St. Randwick NSW 2031 Australia.

P.S. Hi to all you fun desert people?

Matthew G.,
Sydney NSW, Australia

ACTION ALERT: Support The Hate Crimes Prevention Act

According to the FBI, hate crimes based on sexual orientation are already the third most common type of bias crime -- and they are on the rise. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs documents more than 2,500 reported incidents in 1996, representing a 6 percent increase over the previous year -- while overall instances of violent crime are on the decline.

Yet -- unlike hate crimes based on religion, race, color and national origin -- those based on sexual orientation and gender are not covered by most federal laws dealing with hate crimes. That means that the federal government can only rarely investigate and prosecute hate crimes committed because of the victims' actual or perceived sexual orientation.

When Americans are assaulted merely because of their orientation or gender, the law should be as tough on their assailants as it currently is tough on criminals who attack based on racial or religious bias.

Act now! Urge your U.S. senators and representative to support the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would include hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender among the bias crimes that the federal government can investigate and prosecute. Explain that women, as well as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexuals and Transgendered Americans should be included in the basic protection of existing federal laws that are tough on hate crimes.

Call Congress thought the Capitol Switchboard, (202) 224-3121. Southern Arizona Members of Congress are: Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl. Reps. Ed Pastor, D-CD 2, and Jim Kolbe, R-CD 5. If you aren't sure who your representative is, just ask the switchboard operator. Write to Congress through the U.S. mail as well. Include your name and address, and send your politely worded letter to: The Honorable Jon Kyl/John McCain, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. The Honorable Ed Pastor/Jim Kolbe, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

SAGUARO REGIONAL RODEO

March 21–23, 1997

Tucson, Arizona

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National Reports: Hate Crimes Up 5.6%

NEW YORK, NY (NP) - Reporting of hate crimes against Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals in the U.S. rose more than five percent in 1996. About 40% more targets sought counseling rather than justice; a disproportionate number of assaults perpetuated by police are against Transgendered people.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs released its annual study of bias-motivated assaults against Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered people reported to its member organizations, community-based Gay and Lesbian support services in 14 U.S. locales. The total number of incidents reported increased from 1995 to 1996 by 5.6% from 2,395 incidents to 2,529.

Those incidents range from strictly verbal abuse to murders. As one member hotline staffer said, the individuals reporting the incidents are seeking not criminal justice but counseling services, so there's a distinct disparity between the numbers reported by the community organizations and the numbers reported even by the friendliest of police departments — a disparity averaging 40% overall.

Because the range of reported assaults is so broad, the reports are made entirely by the victims' choice, and there's frequently no way to validate the reports themselves, the value of comparing numbers is limited. Even reports to a single agency can vary widely simply as a result of publicity increasing community awareness of the resource rather than an increase in the crimes themselves.

It's impossible to say how large a change would represent something statistically meaningful, much less to identify what factor caused the change: for instance, the study found June to be the month with the highest number of incidents reported, but -- especially since some other kinds of violent crimes also tend to increase in the summer -- there's little confidence in a conclusion that Gay and Lesbian Pride Month visibility increases hate violence.

Yet despite these limitations, the data is almost unique in representing a large number of otherwise unreported assaults, and it underscores that a great deal of hate-motivated activity continues to be directed at U.S. Gays and Lesbians.

Different communities have different tales to tell. While reporting in the state of Virginia tripled, Phoenix, Arizona's reporting dropped by 60%. Massachusetts' total reporting dropped by 7%, but the number victimized Gays and Lesbians who required medical attention or were killed increased, a trend towards increasing viciousness that many in the field confirm. One-fourth of Massachusetts' reported assaults (40 of 161) took place on campuses, reflecting a general trend that bashers are most likely to be younger men (one-third under age 22 in San Francisco reports). Detroit's Triangle Foundation saw a 30% overall increase in reports, but the percentage of reported attacks by strangers increased even faster (280%, from 5 to 19), which some also believe to be a more general trend.

Sometimes it's difficult to know how to interpret a finding in its local context. For instance, reports of hate activity to New York's Anti-Violence Project were down by 2%, which sounds stable . . . until one considers that violent crime overall in the city have increased by a significant 27%.

Chicago police seemed embarrassed to find that while their figures had shown a 20% decrease in assaults against Gays and Lesbians, the Horizons Community Center saw a 16% increase in its figures -- and the Center counted four times as many attacks as the police. Chicago Police Superintendent Matt Rodriguez appeared at a press conference to beg Gays and Lesbians to, "Give us a chance."

San Franciscans, more than most other citizens, did give their police a chance, reporting assaults more than half the time to the San Francisco Police (SFPD) as well as CUAV -- and generally they did not regret it. About two-thirds of the time, hate victims rated the SFPD response as "courteous."

The exception to that rule were Transsexuals, who in San Francisco -- and nationwide -- appear to be disproportionately the targets of bias assaults reportedly committed by police.

Bank of America Extends Benefits To Domestic Partners

G/L Workers In Chicago Win Benefits Extension

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (WS) - Gay and Lesbian employees can "bank on the lender" in offering domestic partner benefits. Gay and Lesbian city employees in the "Windy City" won a benefits extension as well.

The third largest U.S. bank, the San Francisco-based Bank of America has announced that it will extend benefits to the partners of it's Gay and Lesbian employees. The Bank of America becomes the 17th Fortune 500 company to do so, and maybe the first major U.S. bank as well.

Bank of America spokesperson Dennis Wyss told reporters, "Beginning January 1, 1998, Bank of America will begin offering medical, dental, and vision coverage to what we are calling extended family members -- a parent, a sister or brother, an adult child, or yes, a domestic partner of the same or opposite sex."

Wyss said the company's moved was spurred in part by a recently adopted San Francisco ordinance. The law says businesses with city contracts must offer domestic partners the same benefits given married couples. Wyss emphasized the new law was only a co-factor in the decision. "It's part of our effort to create a workplace where members of our work force are able to do their best work," he said.

Nothing Bank of America had taken a firm leadership role in the banking industry, San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz, one of the architects of the groundbreaking law said, "This is a great example of a responsible business approach to the changing needs of our society . . . It is truly gratifying to see the impact our legislation is having," Katz is quoted as saying.

The new policy will cover all of Bank of America's 80,000 American employees, not just the 9,300 that work in San Francisco. Gay rights advocates say this national spill-over effect is part of what makes the new law so historically significant. . . .

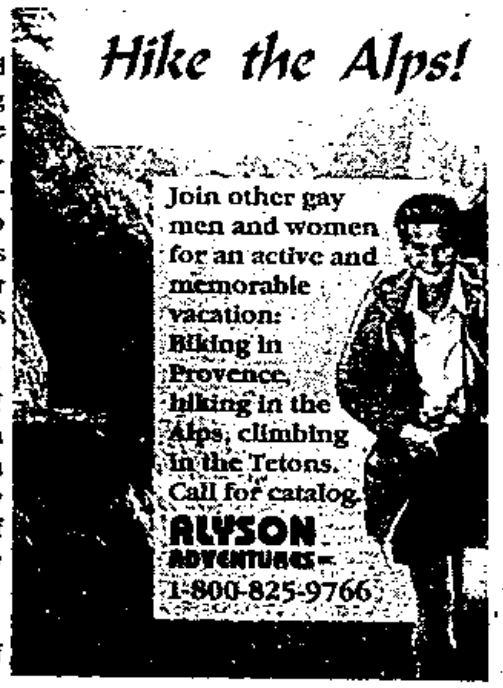
In Chicago, after five hours of chaos and condemnation from opponents, the City Council Finance Committee endorsed a plan to extend health benefits to the partners of Lesbian and Gay city employees.

Local reports said that much of the rhetoric against the plan was couched in religious condemnation. People rose to call the plan "ungodly" and "the doings of the anti-Christ." The fiery comments made by conservative Catholic activist Greg Morow drew most of the media's attention.

With a quaking voice Morow charged current Mayor Richard M. Daley, who supports the council move, with "masquerading as a Catholic." Morow then released Chicago's sound-bite of the day: "Shame on you, Mr. Daley, for supporting an ordinance that would have your father rolling over in his grave."

This was too much for Alderman Edward Burke, who, according to newspaper accounts, thundered back, "We are not here to render a decision about what the father of the mayor may or may not be doing in his grave," he said. "You have no right to pass judgment on anyone's Catholicity."

The measure was then voted on and approved 15-7.



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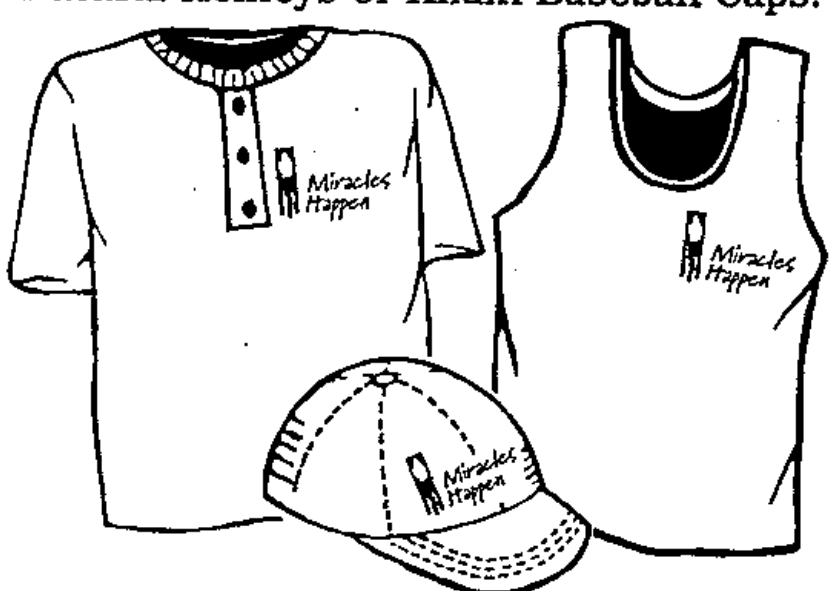

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POLITICS 1997

By MARK R. KIRK

"I'll Take 'Really Bad Drag Shows' For $200"

Will someone shut that man up?! Ah yes, give us a really-dumb U.S. Congressman and the press gets plenty of copy! Case in point, Rep. Tom "Neck" Coburn, R-OK.

In 1996, during the Hawaii same-sex marriage craze that swept Congress, Rep. Coburn stated that "sodomites" don't deserve any rights and that the Bible was right about "sodomites." Fred Phelps must have cheered that one! Also during last year, Rep. "Neck" tried to get people living with HIV/AIDS quarantined. Thankfully Congress came to its senses and quashed that proposal. Just one of a mere few!

Earlier this year, Rep. Coburn, on the floor of the House, actually criticized NBC's airing of the movie, "Schindler's List" for showing all the "nasty" things the Nazi's did during the holocaust. Coburn felt the network should have covered-up those crimes against humanity. Martin Borman must have cheered that one!

Well, Rep. Coburn is at it again. Coburn has introduced the "1997 HIV Prevention Act." Rep. "Neck", according to reports is a physician, claims the bill will protect those who are not infected and speed the delivery of new treatments for those that are. Right!

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) protested the bill would intrude on the authority of trained health professionals and counselors, and do nothing to target most at risk for HIV and AIDS. Winnie Stachelberg of HRC said Coburn's bill is "nothing more than a package of warmed over proposals that have been rejected by the public health establishment and lawmakers which do nothing to assist people at risk." So true, so very true! . .

Wow! U.S.. Senator Robert Toricelli, D-NJ, has become the first member of Congress to officially extend the benefits of the family-leave law to Gay and Lesbian members of his staff. Other lawmakers have done this informally, according to Capitol sources, Senator Toricelli is the first to write it into his office policy. Will McCain and Kyl be next? No way! . . .

Would he have done the same for Candace? Well? One day when Newt Gingrich was a lad, an Atlanta paper reported, Newt "was throwing sticks onto a frozen sticks onto a frozen creek to his Doberman Pinscher, Pride. The dog broke through the ice and went under. Newt ran across the ice, jumped into the freezing water and rescued her." A kinder, gentler Newtie? I don't think so!

"The Speaker's new press secretary is obviously working all the angles," says Roll Call. So true, but wouldn't this be called animal cruelty? Someone called the SPCA now! . . .

It must be the water? It must be the sunshine? It must be Arizona! The following happened last week involving Gov. J. Fife Whitewash III, R-Chapter 7, 11 and 13, really!

For the first time since he was severely indicted by a federal grand jury. (For those playing the home game, the total is 21 counts of providing false information to financial institutions and one count each of attempted extortion and lying in a bankruptcy proceeding. His trial starts May 13. If he's convicted on one felony charge, he's out!). Governor Whitewash acknowledged that he may leave office before his term is up. Now there's a shocker!

Governor Whitewash meet with Arizona Secretary of State Jane "Dee Dum" Hull last week to talk about what would happen if Hull succeeds him. Since Hull is Arizona's first runner-up, she'll take over. Whitewash said of the meeting, "I full expect to prevail. But if something happens, a mishap, at least I will have done the right thing." That would be a first!

This meeting with "Dee Dum" Hall led to speculation around the state Capitol that the Fifester is under pressure to plan for the worst. Hull said Whitewash called her and asked for the meeting. Just like Nixon and Ford during Watergate in July/August of 1974!

In something even Aaron Spelling couldn't dream up, Fiferama announced at meeting of "Blue-Hair" Republicans in Sun City that he will run for a third term in 1998. Quoting the severely indicted Guv, "I'm charging forward. I'm going to finish this term. I'm going to win (in court) and I'm going to run in 1998." I'm appalled! Only in Arizona this warped scenario can happen! . . .

Be afraid, got it! Another week has passed for the Arizona State Legislature, and the statewide hate crimes ordinance is stalled, for the moment.

As previously reported, H.B. 2182, the proposed statewide hate crimes bill had passed the House Judiciary and House Rules committee's and was before the House Committee of the Whole (C-OW). House COW is chaired by the Speaker of the House, Rep. Don Aldridge, R-Lake Havasu City, and he's not let the bill be heard by the committee. Thus the problem.

The bill's sponsor is not giving up! The heroine of this novella, state Rep. Robin Shaw, R-Phoenix, according to her spokesperson, is trying other parliamentary procedures to keep the measure moving through the legislature. Some possible measures including amendment, petition and "strike-everything" amendments. Shaw's spokesperson wouldn't elaborate on the strategy! . . .

Lastly, KVOA-LA-DEE-DAH's "Eyewitless Snooze," broadcasts their daily diatribe thanks to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. On their 3/18, 10:00 P.M. newscast, KVOA broadcast two stories, critical of the Tucson Public Library, for exercising "their" rights under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, (i.e. magazines and the Internet). A slow news day? No! Ironic? This reporter sees it as such! . . .

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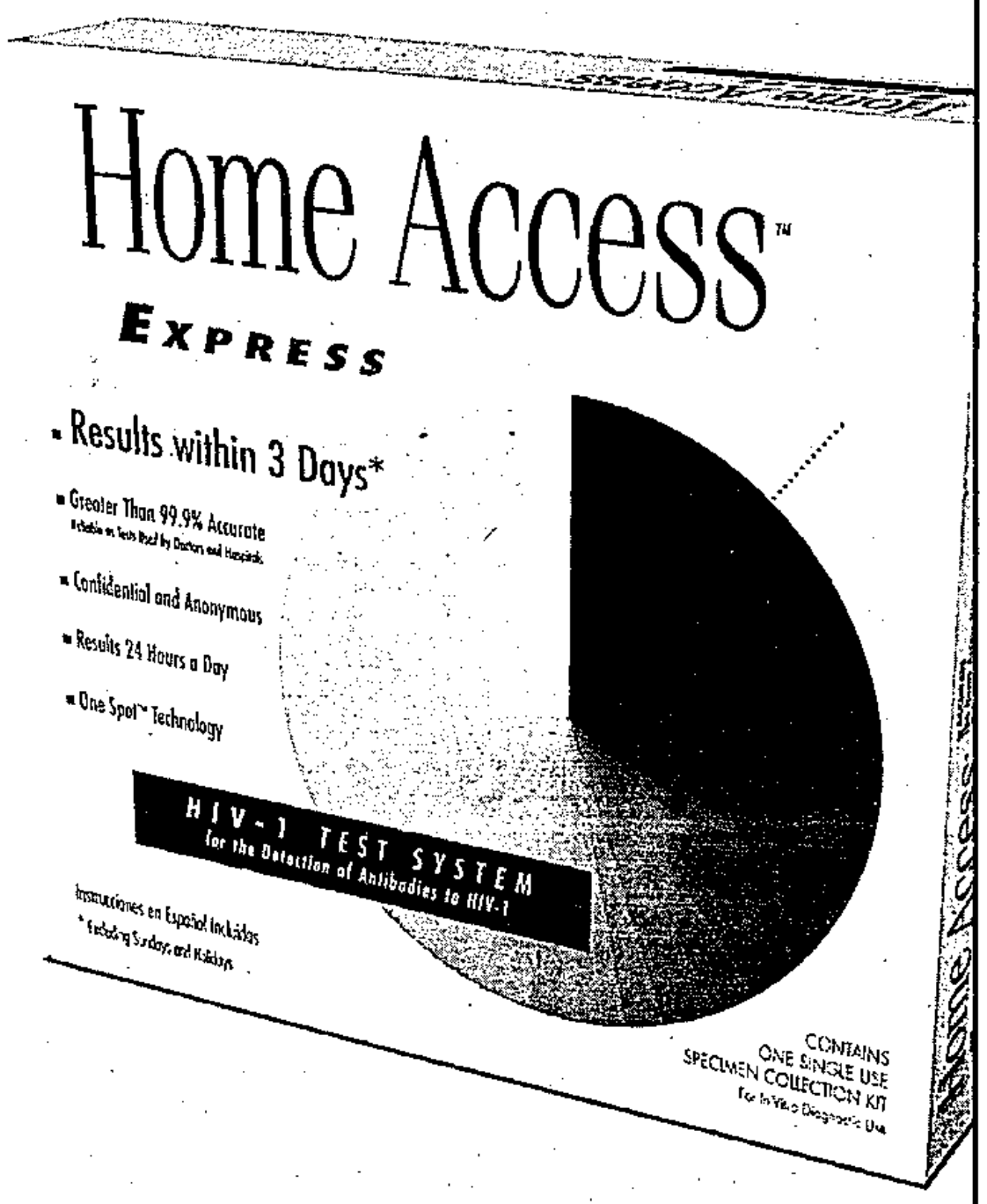

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THE WHOLE MAN
ROBERT PELDHAUS, PH.D.

The Uses Of Juices, Part One

I don't know about you, but vegetables were never high on my list of things that make me happy. They were the things Mom had to bribe me to eat, as in: "You can have dessert if you finish your vegetables." She said it so half-heartedly that I didn't take the importance of vegetables very seriously. It was as if she didn't really believe I needed them either, but that maybe Woman's Day magazine had just taught American mothers everywhere to bribe your kids to eat their vegetables, because they built strong bodies.

Then again, the vegetables themselves were definitely half-hearted, too. They came either out of a can, in which case they tasted soupy and soggy, or out of the freezer, in which case they tasted plasticky and bland. Clearly, no one would actually enjoy eating them. I figured they were the penance Americans did for all the delicious, juicy meat we ate nightly, except for fish on Friday (we were Catholic!). The vegetables you had to finish were only one step removed from garnish, like parsley, which thankfully no one expected me to eat. That's the way things stood for me as an adult, too. As in all other things, my childhood experiences shaped my adult attitudes, and I avoided vegetables in a shockingly self-permissive manner. And since I hadn't died by 30, having eaten very few vegetables, I figured that what they said about the value of vegetables was an exaggeration.

Then things changed. About a year ago, actually. That's when I was at my friend Jo's house and saw her juicer, sitting there regally on the counter. We must have been bored, because I asked her what that white thing on her counter was, and she said, "Oh, it's a juicer." "What?" "A juicer, you know, you take fruits and vegetables and run them through it, and you get juice. It's extremely good for you."

I was feeling quite tired and run down that day, and didn't really have the energy to talk about it any further. But she went on.

"Raw fruits and vegetables are the very best thing for your body, you know. Not canned or frozen, but real produce fresh from the fields, that hasn't been processed or frozen to death. They are the cornerstone of a healthy diet, as even the government is now admitting."

"Really?" I was mildly intrigued. Approaching 40 as rapidly as I was, I felt interested in the possibilities of looking and feeling my best. But I parried. "What exactly is so good about fruits and vegetables? Can't I just take a vitamin?" I startled myself when I heard my voice; yes, I was unmistakably whining! I was thinking how good a grape Wilma Flintstone tasted when I was a kid, and wasn't at all sure I could handle the idea that she was less than the perfect way to nourish myself.

"Raw vegetables have a lot a vitamins, true, and they are natural, not synthetic," she said, amused at the ignorance of my man-child ways. "But equally important, they have all sorts of healthy chemicals in them, some of which scientists don't even understand very well. For example, there are things in vegetables and fruits called bioflavonoids and antioxidants, which are at the very least fun to say. Scientists believe they are very good for you as well, preventing cancer and promoting cell health. The bottom line is, vegetables and fruits were meant by nature for the human body. They have everything we need, chemically speaking. They qualify as actual food, while most of what we so unthinkingly toss down the hatch is processed trash."

I thought for a minute. Somehow, what she said about cell health stuck with me. I could visualize all those little cells making up my body. I knew they needed vitamins, I knew they filled up with toxins when I smoked cigarettes or ate junk food. Somehow I could see them being flushed out and nourished by drinking this concentrated form of nutrition Jo was talking about. Obviously, if my cells are healthy, I am healthy, because my body is made up nothing but cells.

"OK, I'm biting, but that reminds me of my point: why not eat these fruits and vegetables? What's so great about juice? Don't you lose all that good fiber?" "Come on, I'll show you." We actually went to the fridge and got out about a pound and a half of carrots. I cringed inwardly a tiny bit when I saw them and got a slight whiff of vegetably aroma, you know, that earthy, unadorned aroma that is the opposite of a hamburger or a Chips Ahoy fragrance. I said, "Who's coming over, Bugs Bunny?" (I had always been more of a Tasmanian Devil in my eating style.) "Why are you getting out so many carrots? I can't possibly eat all those!"

"No, but you can drink them!" She rinsed them and ran them through the juicer, and they made one nice glass of now sweet-smelling juice. "That's the point: you can drink a lot more carrots than you can eat at one time. Juice retains about 95% of the nutrition in the original fruit or vegetable. So you're getting a lot more nutrition with a glass of juice than by just eating one or two carrots. The juice zips into your stomach, where it's assimilated in a matter of minutes. Here, try this."

Then came the moment that changed my view of vegetables. I tried it. The juice was pleasantly cool and sweet, not like a Hershey bar, true, but unmistakably sweet. It felt good going down, and I felt refreshed and good the minute I drank it. I really surprised myself when I heard myself asking for more!

Jo smiled and said in her most nurturing voice, "Yes, Bobby, you can have more. This time, I'll throw in some celery." She did, and it tasted even better! The celery added a clean, salty flavor, making it even more refreshing. I liked it! I was the world's newest convert to fresh, raw vegetable juices. My energy had already picked itself up to a level many times greater than when I had casually asked her about that white thing on her counter.

I bought a juicer soon after that, and began juicing. You can juice just about any vegetable or fruit, and there's no end to the tasty combinations. (There are some rules, however, and I'll talk about them next week.) Within weeks, I felt and looked better than I had in a long time. Energy was consistently high; friends who hadn't seen me in a few months asked me what had I done to my

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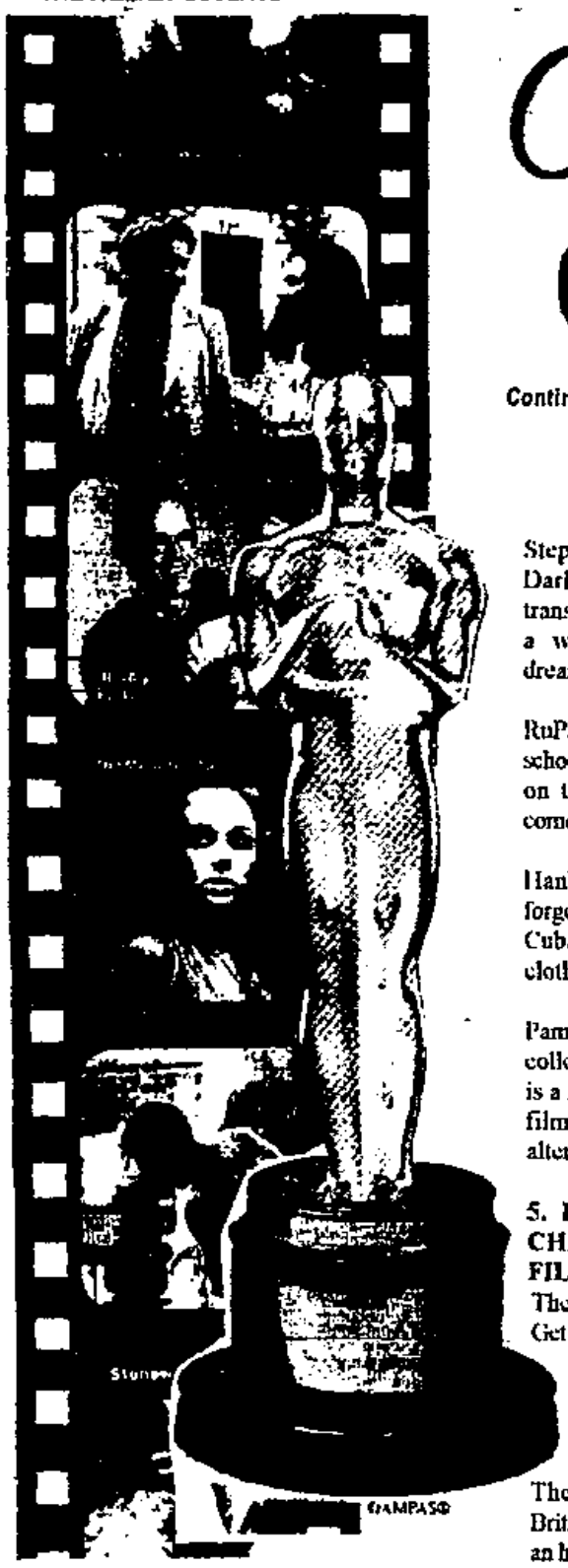
Out of OSCAR's closet

Continued from Page One



3. BEST LESBIAN CHARACTER IN A HOLLYWOOD FILM.
The nominees are:
Courtney Love is mesmeric as the bisexual wife of Larry Flynt in The People vs. Larry Flynt. In the early scenes she claims to have slept with every woman dancer in a strip club and later is seen romping in a bathtub with two other women.

Lili Taylor is ominously real as Valerie Solanas, the increasingly psychotic revolutionary-wannabe who shoots her "tormenter" Andy Warhol in I Shot Andy Warhol. Not a good Lesbian role model, but at least a complex one.

Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon redefine Lesbian sexuality on screen as well as offering the queer public two gutsy heroines in Bound. The two women are strikingly beautiful, the sex scenes incredibly hot and the fact that the queers don't get killed off (a standard approach by Hollywood) makes it a must see by both Lesbians and Gay men.

Amanda Plummer, in a role that makes Valerie Solanis seem like a nun in comparison, is disquietly memorable in Butterfly Kiss in which she plays a woman on the run -- searching for the one woman who showed her love and compassion.

4. BEST TRANSGENDERED CHARACTER IN A HOLLYWOOD FILM.
The nominees are:
Nathan Lane is a quivering mass of sequined hysteria who teaches his lover, "son" and the in-laws what love and family values are all about in The Birdcage. As the diva Albert, Lane is a scream and saves the comedy from any possibility of being offensive.

Stephen Dorff is Warhol superstar Candy Darling in I Shot Andy Warhol. His transformation into the dreamy blonde with a willowy voice and naive Hollywood dreams is startling.

RuPaul returns as Mrs. Cummings, the school guidance counselor who sets her girls on the right path in the underappreciated comedy, A Very Brady Sequel. You go girl!

Hank Azaria takes what could have been a forgettable role and created Agador, the ditzy Cuban houseboy with a penchant for frilly clothing in The Birdcage.

Pam Currier plays Hershey, a former colleague of Snake (Kurt Russell) who now is a renegade transsexual gang leader in the film Escape From L.A. Her voice was altered to sound more masculine.

5. BEST GAY MALE SUPPORTING CHARACTER IN A HOLLYWOOD FILM.
The nominees are:
Get on the Bus - The uptight Randall (Harry Lennie) and former Marine Kyle (Isaiah Washington) are two lovers on the bus to the Million Man March.

The English Patient - Peter Ruhring is a British mapmaker who begins an affair with an handsome young Moroccan. He finds his first Gay relationship "natural."

Shine - Armin Mueller-Stah wonders why his son's piano teacher (Nicholas Bell) isn't married, he later is seen attending concerts with another man.

Mulholland Falls - Andrew McCarthy plays a sleazy but not offensive Gay character in this Chinatown ripoff.

6. BEST LESBIAN SUPPORTING CHARACTER IN A HOLLYWOOD FILM.
The nominees are:
Jennifer Dundas is the openly Lesbian daughter of Diane Keaton in the comedy The First Wives Club. She is seen as attractive, together and opinionated even when mom and her female cronies visit her at a Lesbian bar.

Queen Latifah plays Cleo, a gun-toting Lesbian in the female action film, Set It Off. She is seen as a brash, tequila-swilling bitch who boldly kisses her beautiful lover in front of all.

Swoosie Kurtz and Kelly Preston play a pair of lefty, pro-choice Lesbian activists who kidnap the pregnant but wavering Laura Dern in the abortion black comedy Citizen Ruth.

Charlayne Woodard is a Lesbian undercover cop in Eye For an Eye.

7. BEST INDEPENDENTLY MADE GAY FILM.
The nominees are:
Boyfriends - This vastly entertaining British drama examines the fragile relationships within a group of young Gay men. At times hilariously painful, knowingly funny and unflinchingly on-target.

Man of the Year - The finely sculpted Dirk Shafer both directs and stars in this faux-documentary about a "Playgirl" model and female sex symbol who desperately wants to come out.

Hustler White - Canada's bad boy of queer cinema, Bruce LaBruce takes his camera to the streets of Santa Monica in this sexy comedy about male prostitutes. All kinds of sex is depicted, all except a normal loving one. What's he saying?

Parallel Sons - The love between a rural blond teenager and a black prisoner on the run make this drama both affecting and original.

Stonewall - This fictionalized account of the events that lead up to the Stonewall Riots make for a tuneful, fun and rousing good time. And not a bad history lesson as well.

Frisk - You won't find a more controversial Gay-themed film than this tale of sexual experimentation, self-hate, s/m, murder and teen love. The X-Generation never looked so sick!

The Doom Generation - Gregg Akraki's self-styled "heterosexual film" is far from it -- homoerotism oozes from nearly every scene. A rough and sexy ride through the Southwest.

Toilers and Wayfarers - A sincere teenagers-in-love tale set in Minnesota depicts Gay love as natural, tender and quite romantic.

8. BEST INDEPENDENTLY MADE LESBIAN FILM.
The nominees are;
Costa Brava - A Breezy love story set in Barcelona and featuring two attractive women who play a romantic game of cat-and- mouse. Funny with a great ending.

Everything Relative - A Lesbian Big Chill in which a group of diverse women descend on a country house to relive old times and rekindles still smoldering passions.

Inn Trouble - A comedy also set in a rambling house, but this time, the gals are younger, wilder and much funnier.

The Midwife's Tale - An ambitious drama set in medieval times that deftly explores the forbidden love between a lady and a lowly midwife.

Watermelon Woman - Set in Philadelphia, this, the first Lesbian African-American feature film is a complex tale of a struggling filmmaker and her loves and search for identity.

9. BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM.
The nominees are:
The Starmaker (Italy, Giuseppe Tornatofe - director) - From the director of Cinema Paradiso comes this dark story of a roving talent scout who takes people's vanity to his advantage. One of his victims is a homosexual who aspires to being a star.

Les Voleurs (Thieves) (France, Andre Techine - director) - Catherine Deneuve creates a fascinating Lesbian character -- a hard-living grandmother and philosophy professor who falls hopelessly in love with a much younger woman. Their bathtub scene is tenderly romantic and a wee bit erotic.

Antonia's Line (Netherlands, Marleen Gorris - director) - Els Dottefmans plays an artist and the Lesbian daughter of a intense matriarch who feels men are needed in their lives. The daughter has a finely drawn relationship with another woman.

Celestial Clockwork (France-Venezuela, Fina Torres - director) - An exuberant fanciful comedy that features Adriana Gil as a woman who spurns conventional marriage for a bohemian life in Paris where she finds love in the arms of a wacky woman and a green card in the arms of a cheerful Gay man.

Talk of the Town (Germany, Rainer Kaufman) - Several wonderful drawn Gay characters provide the not-always helpful assistance for a woman who desperately want to find a man. Finding a better collection of Gay men in one mainstream" film would be quite difficult.

10. BEST FILM NOT REVIEWED BY THE AUTHOR BUT RELEASED IN 1996.
The nominees are:
Beautiful Thing -The incredibly real-to-life story of two male teenagers who fall in love is refreshingly romantic and makes for a buoyant good time.

Substance of Fire - This American independent drama about the family struggles within their publishing company features Tony Goldwyn as the Gay son who, with his writer-lover (Timothy Hutton) in tow, attempt to resurrect the business.

Institute Benjamenta - The Philadelphia educated Brothers Quay's dark and twisted live action feature is set in a surrealistic butler school where the older teacher (Gottfried John) falls for a handsome student (Jakob von Gruten).

johns - A Hollywood-produced drama about Gay male hustlers on Santa Monica Blvd. chronicles a day-in-the-life of Lukas Haas and David Arquette. A gritty, funny, quirky tale of friendship and survival.

11. BEST TELEVISION FILM (Either Gay/Lesbian themed or written by a Gay or Lesbian)
The nominees are:
Truman Capote's In Cold Blood is redone with Eric Roberts and Anthony Edwards as the killers.

Losing Chase is Kevin Bacon's directorial debut which is a rich character study of the developing relationship between a emotionally fragile mother (Helen Mirren) and a younger woman (Kyra Sedgwick).

Bastard Out of Carolina - A harrowing tale of a little girl's sexual and physical abuse was adapted from Lesbian writer's..... [Kevin ... help me out on this one!!!]

12. BEST BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORK BY A GAY OR LESBIAN IN A MAINSTREAM FILM.
The nominees are:
Surviving Picasso - The Gay filmmaking team of Ismail Merchant (producer) and James Ivory (director) have fashioned an interesting, if dry, account of the not-so-likeable artist Pablo Picasso.

Marvin's Room - The late Gay playwright Scott McPherson's Off-Broadway play comes alive with Meryl Streep, Diane Keaton and Leonardo DiCaprio in the leads.

The Craft - Gay director Andrew Fleming (Threesome) tackles witchcraft and the American teenage girl in this witty horror film.

The Flower of My Secret - Gay director Pedro Almodovai- focuses on a woman's impending nervous breakdown in this unusually serious effort.

The Crucible - Gay director Nicholas Hytner (The Madness of King George) makes his American debut with this drama about the Salem witch trials starring Wynona Rider and Daniel Day- Lewis.

Grass Harp - Gay author Truman Capote's evocative memoir of his childhood stars Edward Furlong as his youthful alter ego.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY TWO

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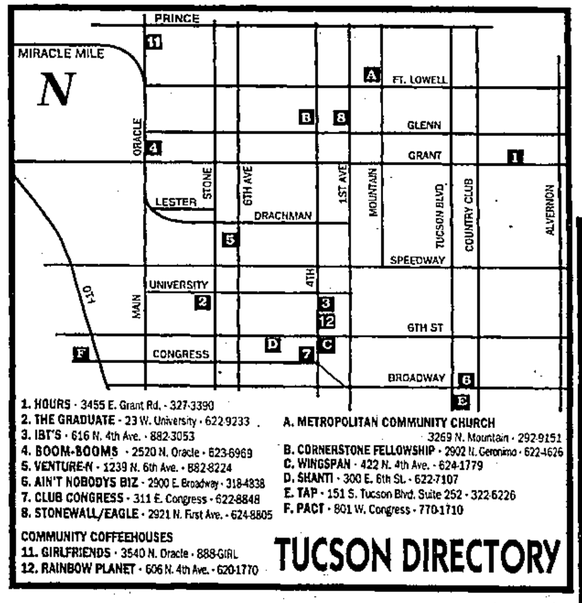

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PACT NEWS

by Frank E.G. Gallego

It is vitally important to look to our community for volunteer help in view of all the drastic cutbacks in funding. Volunteers are said to be the lifeblood of an organization and through the years, PACT has been blessed with concerned and caring citizens who have given, and continue to give, their time, energy, and talents. We are at a very important crossroads and we ask our community for additional help.

There are many volunteer opportunities in reception, housing, logistical assistance, office and clerical tasks, and fund raising to name a few. One only needs to give a few hours each week to help persons affected by HIV/AIDS. The rewards are great. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Aimee Carpentar, 770-1710, or stop by our offices at 801 West Congress.

Positions are still available for volunteer Peer Counselors. We are looking for qualified individuals who are living with HIV/AIDS or have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Individuals should be willing to share their experiences with others living with HIV/AIDS. The training session require a time commitment of four hours per day, three days a week for two weeks. The time commitment after the training is completed will be four hours a week for a minimum of six months. Interested persons contact Garry Fowlkes, 770-1710 for more information and an application packet.

I leave you with this in mind, "The ability of a person to atone has always been the most remarkable of human features." - Leon Uris

AGRA Phoenix Announces Poster Contest

PHOENIX - AGRA-Phoenix Chapter is sponsoring a poster contest for the 1998 Road Runner Regional Rodeo to be held January 16-18, 1998.

Judging for the contest will take place at the organization's General Membership meeting, 5:00 P.M., Sunday, May 11, 1997 at Charlie's, 727 West Camelback Road, Phoenix. Entries must be 17" x 22" finished size with the only lettering being "1998 Road Runner Regional Rodeo." Exception to the size rule will be made for computer-generated entries made to scale, with the artist able to enlarge the entry if it is chosen. Sufficient space must be left within the design or in a border included in the finished size for dates, hotel information and the AGRA, IGRA and Miller Lite logos.

Entries must be received with the artist's name and phone number in the upper right-hand corner of the back of the design. Entries received with the artist's name on the front will be disqualified.

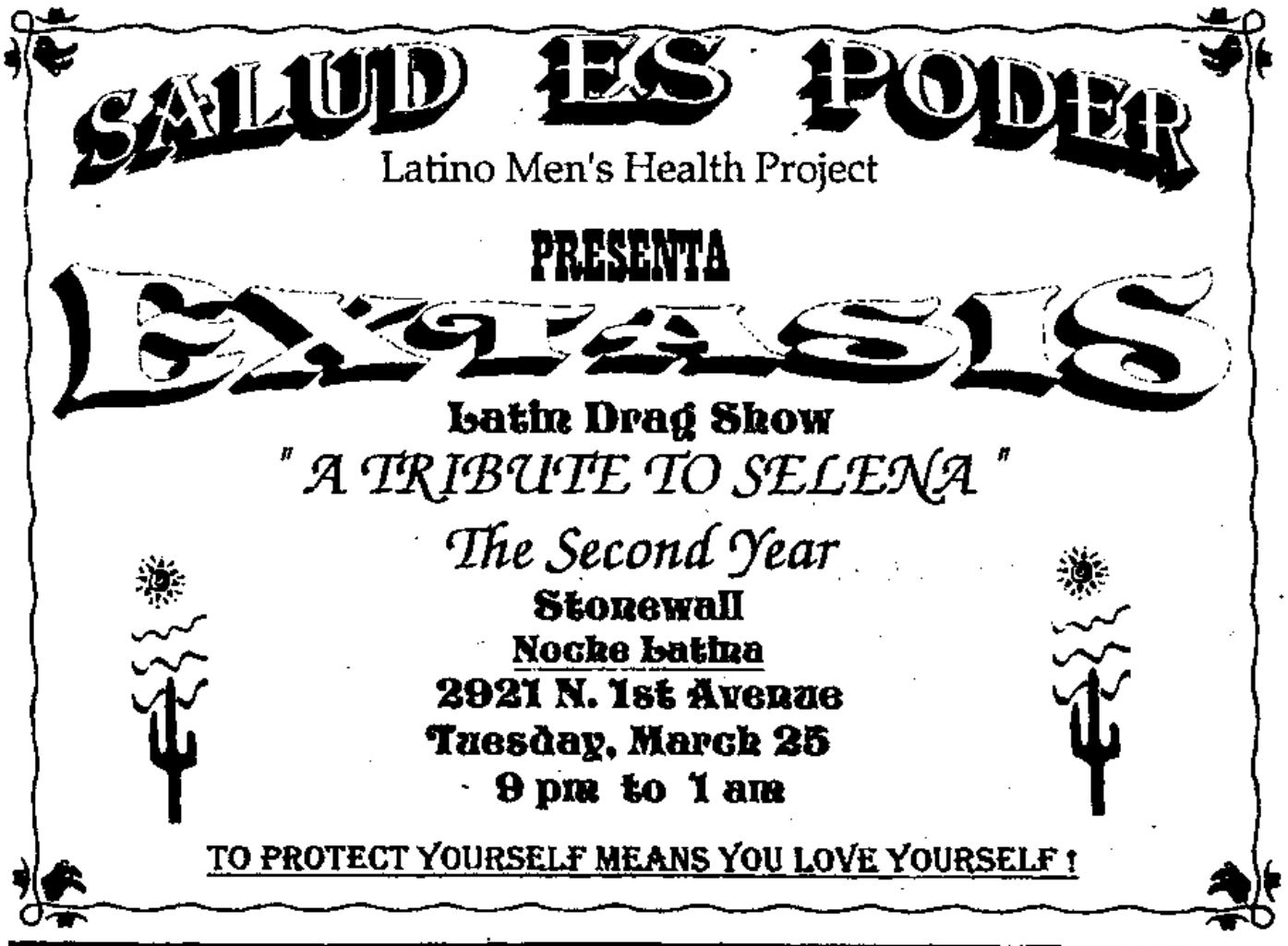
The winning design and original artwork become the property of AGRA-Phoenix Chapter. All other entries will be destroyed unless arrangements are made to have them returned at the artist's expense.

The artist of the winning entry will be awarded a $200 prize. For further information, contact Ed Powers, Public Relations Director for AGRA-Phoenix Chapter, (602) 265-0618.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES - DIVISION OF DISEASE PREVENTION
AIDS, ARC, HIV+ SURVEILLANCE REPORT FOR ARIZONA - THRU FEBRUARY 1, 1997

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	1990 POPULATION	CASES OF AIDS THRU JUNE'96	SEPT'96	JAN'97	DIED	CASES OF ARC THRU JUNE 96	SEPT 96	JAN. 97	DIED	CASES OF HIV+ THRU JUNE 96	SEPT'96	JAN. 97.	DIED
APACHE	66,299	7	7	7	6	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	0
COCHISE	105,671	48	49	52	32	6	6	5	0	39	42	43	5
COCONINO	108,381	36	42	45	28	0	1	1	0	25	23	33	3
GILA	42,845	10	10	11	7	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0
GRAHAM	29,094	9	9	10	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0
GREENLEE	8,617	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
LA PAZ	15,522	8	8	8	6	1	1	1	0	4	4	5	0
MARICOPA	2,399,600	3300	3397	3482	2326	700	694	701	105	1867	1851	1897	178
MOHAVE	116,523	66	67	70	36	7	7	8	2	34	34	36	8
NAVAJO	84,150	15	15	16	9	2	2	2	0	4	5	5	1
PIMA	751,311	1015	1022	1074	700	189	190	193	19	578	592	609	47
PINAL	128,820	63	66	68	42	7	8	8	1	35	37	38	5
SANTA CRUZ	33,340	13	14	15	8	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
YAVAPAI	123,894	51	52	52	35	12	12	12	0	33	33	33	5
YUMA	120,827	54	56	57	29	9	9	9	2	52	51	51	6
UNKNOWN		5	5	5	4	1	1	1	0	110	110	110	3
TOTALS	4,134,894	4702	4820	4975	3276	935	932	942	130	2794	2795	2873	261

** NOTE: ON MARCH 15, 1989, THE OPTION TO RECEIVE HIV TESTING ANONYMOUSLY BECAME AVAILABLE.
AN ADDITIONAL 2862 ANONYMOUS HIV POSITIVE TESTS WERE REPORTED.
THIS REPORT IS NOW ISSUED QUARTERLY BY ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.



A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

In high school I was a history buff. I firmly believed the old saying that you can't know where you are unless you know where you've been, and you can't know where you are going unless you know where you are now.

For most of my life I've heard people ask questions such as: "Who am I?" "Why am I here?" and "What is my purpose in life?" Since the sixties and the popularity of the rebellious young people, a popular and sometimes joking statement people say about someone who is not himself is that the person is "trying to find himself."

Some of the places people "look for themselves" are really radical! People search the stars, look to fortune tellers and spiritism, and to certain mind-altering drugs. They may try rationalizing their existence on a false materialism.

One of the last places many people look is in the Bible. Why? For many reasons, I suppose. One reason may be that we humans like to think of ourselves as being at the top of the heap, of being the ultimate creation, numero uno. To a degree, that is all true, except that we have to admit one thing if we are honest. There is always that nagging little voice that keeps telling us that there is more, that we have looked in all the wrong places for our answers. The Bible tells it "like it is."

God created us, and as our creator, he has a claim on us. We are the best of his creation on this earth, but we really aren't smart enough to keep ourselves out of trouble. Just look at what we've done to each other in wards, how we abuse ourselves with drugs and alcohol, and what we've done to the air, water, and soil of our home, Earth. But our God who made us and who loves us has shown us the way out of all our messes. His son, Jesus, is coming back to Earth one day soon.

One of the most important things Jesus is going to do is to separate those who have loved him and served him from all those who have rejected him. That day will be a day of reckoning, a day of judgment. For those who have chosen to serve God it will be a glorious day, but for all who chose to ignore him, it will be a day of great sorrow.

What I'm trying to say to you, friend is this: If you are trying to "find yourself," the place where you can finally know the truth and at the same time find true peace is in the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. All you have to is recognize him as creator, savior, Lord, and ask him to come into your heart. He is telling you, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

If you would like help on your journey to "find yourself" in Jesus, call us at Cornerstone. Some will be glad to share Jesus with you.

If you are at the AGRA Rodeo this Saturday, stop by our booth and say "Howdy!"

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A Taste of the Water of Life

by Bob Feldhaus — *News from MCC Tucson*

Don't Worry -- Be Happy

If there's anything I've learned from actually reading the gospels, it's that Jesus is a much more interesting character than most people think. He had some truly radical ideas about our relationship to the Force (yes, I went to see Star Wars in THX), or God. His basic intuition was that the Force behind the universe is like a very loving Parent to us. According to Jesus, our unseen Parent (perhaps unlike our visible parents) is always looking for ways to break through our defenses and do Good for us. Sometimes, to hear Jesus clearly, you have to forget everything you think you know about the heartfelt carpenter from Nazareth and listen to what he actually said. Let's eavesdrop a little on the Sermon on the Mount.

Here's Jesus: "That's why I'm telling you: stop worrying about your lives, as to what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your bodies, as to what you will wear [Gay men, take note!]. Isn't life more than just food, and isn't the body more important than the clothes it wears?" What's this, Jesus is advocating a carefree life, and saying the body is important? Reverend Lovejoy never told me that! "Look at the birds of the air. They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Parent feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they are? And which one of you, by worrying, can add one minute to your life-span?" (Matthew 6: 25-27)

These words are so plain, I guess they speak for themselves. Jesus is saying, even commanding, you not to worry about anything, because God is looking after you with the intensity of a good parent towards its young child. The birds wing it, and so can we. Jesus is suggesting that we give up the stress of anxiety, and relax into our already-given relationship with God. God loves you! And intimacy with That One Who Loves is much more nourishing than a life in which you fearfully scramble for every scrap, convinced that the universe either doesn't care or maybe even is actively against you.

"Take a lesson from the lilies of the field, how they are growing. They do not toil or spin, but I tell you that not even Solomon [the richest king in Israelite history] in all his royal robes was dressed like one of these. If God so clothes the flowers of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will God not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So never be anxious and say, 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to put on?'...For your heavenly Parent knows you need all of these things" (Matthew 6:28-30). This is a God who is intimately aware of us, knows what we need, and is eagerly interested in giving it to us. There's no judgment or condemnation in Jesus' words, only a gentle chiding for not having enough faith, or openness, to allow God to provide for us. Jesus is saying, "Don't you realize how important you are to God? Can't you trust in that a little more?" To live by Jesus' words, you don't need to worry or tighten up or have it all figured out, but you do need the ability to trust and relax. Just a little trust goes a long way! God will show you how trustworthy God is, if you give God half a chance.

"Seek first God's reign over your lives, and God's integrity, and all these other things will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). That's the key. Put first priority on your relationship with God, and the kind of justice or integrity that God is showing you, and all the practical details of life will be given to you directly by God. That takes faith, faith that the goodness you sense in Jesus' words might possibly be the way things are, despite all the suffering in this world.

Notice that the good things in life, according to Jesus, are gifts, not something you have to scrounge for, not something you have to manipulate out of the world. Jesus invites us into a relationship in which all is Gift. God wants us to give ourselves, and in return God will give us all that we need. It's an intimacy unlike anything else we're used to, because God has perfect integrity, unlike frail human beings. God will never lie to you or cheat you, never abandon you. This is also the kind of integrity God wants us to show towards our fellow human beings. If you open yourself to God's love, you will know how to love others. That is a life with meaning, and overflowing joy.

"So, never be anxious about tomorrow; tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34). Of course, no "practical" person would ever dream of living life this way. If you live in a universe without a loving God, you must tighten up and worry about so many things! Yet only one thing is necessary: that relationship of love and trust with the Creator. Jesus is advocating a life lived in the present, based on relaxation into the loving arms of God. That's true wisdom.

[MCC Tucson is a church where all are welcome, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. All are welcome at the 10:45 AM Sunday worship service. For more information, please call the church office at (520) 292-9151.]

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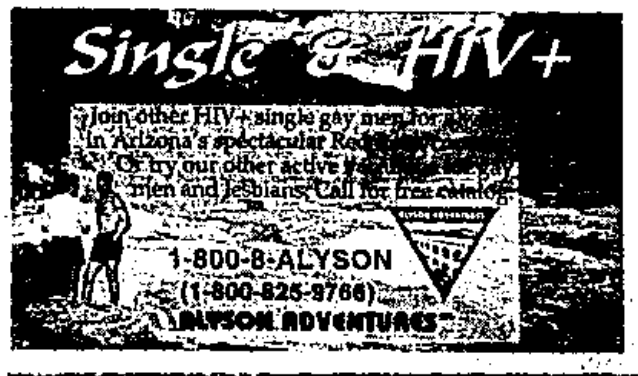

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Columna Abierta. . . . .

by Dr. Eleazar Garcia

¡Hola!, Se les saluda con la misma esperanza de siempre, de que encuentren en estas líneas algo de información y sobre todo respuesta a las preguntas que nos hacen llegar, y se les invita a que lo sigan haciendo... En esta ocación, el tema es sobre la Eyaculación Prematura: Este problema lo presentan un gran número de personas, pero como es usual dentro de los padeciemtos sexuales, son pocas las personas que lo hacen saber, inclusive ni a sus médicos por los tabús que existen en relación a la sexualidad... Pero hay buenas noticias para los millones de hombres que la sufren; el antidepresivo Prozac tiene el efecto lateral que retrasa el orgasmo, y es posible que algún día sea recomendado para la eyaculación prematura. En un experimento, de 46 hombres que no podían tener relaciones sexuales activas ni siquiera por 30 segundos antes de llegar al orgasmo recibieron dosis diarias de 20 a 80 mg. de Prozac. Al final del estudio, todos ellos pudieron tener relaciones sexuales por más de cinco minutos. Además cuando estos hombres dejaron de tomar la droga, no volvieron a sufrir de eyaculación prematura. No es que el Prozac reduzca los deseos sexuales; al contrario aumenta las ganas que hacen eyacular al hombre al incrementar la cantidad de sustancia química que se produce naturalmente en el cerebro y está asociada con el proceso. Además, el Prozac no afecta al estado mental de alguien que no sufra de depresión, padecimiento para el cual es recetado. El medicamento sólo se vende con receta médica. (El estudio fué hecho por el Dr. Roger Crenshaw, de La Jolla, CA.)

Otra pregunta que me hicieron fué: ¿Es cierto que todos los condones no son iguales?

Un preservativo de fantasía puede que no impida un embarazo ni proteja de las enfermedades por contaco sexual.

Hoy se pueden comprar los condones más increíbles para sorprender a la esposa o a los amigos en una fiesta o reunión social. Los hay atados a un palito para revolver el trago, dentro de un llavero, y otros que parecen paletas de dulce. Unos tienen una mano pequeñita en la punta y hasta otros que tienen la forma de nave espacial de "viaje a las estrellas". Usted pensará que todo esto se hace con el afán de bromear y pasar un rato alegre, sin pensar mucho en que el condón tiene por finalidad permitir las relaciones sexuales sin peligro de embarazo o de enfermedades venéreas. Cualquiera que sea su forma, estos condones de fantasía quizás no cumplan su función a cabalidad. Algunos de ellos han sido rechazados por la fábrica y vendidos a las tiendas que han surgido en los barrios de moda de las grandes ciudades como Miami, Nueva York o Los Angeles. Y eso tiene preocupadas a las autoridades sanitarias de Estados Unidos. "Por su aspecto y envoltorio, hay posibilidades de que el consumidor se confunda", dice el vocero de la Dirección de Alimentos y Medicamentos, Thomas Arrowsmith L. "No nos gusta el termino de ^condón de broma^. La palabra condón implica protección. Un mejor término sería: productos sexuales para diversión. Se le recomienda que use el sentido común y siga estas sugerencias:

▸ Lea la etiqueta. Los condones de diversión deben decir claramente que son para eso o tener un aviso de "no usar" en el paquete. Si dice "no usar", simplemente no lo utilice. Si la etiqueta indica "solo para diversión", úselo para eso.

▸ En general, no confíe en los condones que se venden sueltos o dentro de envoltorios curiosos como nueces, tubos de ensayo o llaveros. Los condones de verdad están sellados en celofán esteril o en papel plateado.

▸ Busque marcas de prestigio, la fecha de vencimiento, número de serie y hasta "Made in USA". Si tiene este tipo de identificación, lo más probable es que el producto sea legítimo y sirva para tener relaciones sexuales sin peligro. Pero ni siquiera eso es una garantía de que se puede confiar en el condón ciegamente. Si no existe tal información, haga cuenta de que no debe usarlo.

▸ Compre sus condones en un negocio o una farmacia de prestigio.

Y ya que se aproxima el período de vacaciones por la semana santa; al viajar piense en su salud. No esta por demas el recordarle que incluya condones en su equipaje; y las siguientes recomendaciones:

▸ Use bronceador en abundancia.

▸ Evite los alimentos crudos o medio cocidos

▸ Tome sólo agua purificada

▸ Coma sólo frutas peladas y evite las ensaladas y las hortalizas crudas

▸ Hable con su médico

▸ Hágase vacunar contra la hepatitis A

La hepatitis A es la enfermedad más común entre los viajeros, que se puede prevenir con una vacuna. Ocurre 100 veces más que la fiebre tifoidea y mil veces más que el cólera en los viajeros no protegidos. La hepatitis A es un virus altamente contagioso que produce enfermedades graves del hígado y síntomas de debilidad que pueden durar hasta un año después que ceda la infección aguda. Las personas infectadas pierden un promedio de 30 días de trabajo y a menudo padecen de ictericia (la pigmentación amarillenta de la piel y los ojos), fiebre, náuseas, vómitos, diarrea y pérdida de apetito. También se pueden sufrir síntomas respiratorios, urticarias y dolor en las coyunturas. Se propaga por medio de la ingestión de agua o alimentos contaminados. Las posibles fuentes de la infección incluyen el agua potable, el hielo, las frutas, las ensaladas y los mariscos contaminados. La vacuna Havrix está recientemente autorizada por la Administración de Alimentos y Fármacos (FDA) de los Estados Unidos.

Ya para terminar; se les recuerda que las Noches Latinas de Salud es Poder han vuelto al nuevo Boom Boom, los días viernes desde las 9:00 p.m. y desde luego con la musica de Edoardo, y la presencia de todos los amigos y amigas de Ernie, y espere el calendario de eventos que tiene programado el incansable Ernie....

Por hoy es todo, hasta la próxima semana D.M.

Ernie Perez, Sslud 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

Theresa Mendez, 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 St., Tucson, AZ 85716
(520)795-9756 - FAX: 795-1365

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CALENDAR of upcoming events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - The Biz welcomes 'Peep Show Unplugged' This all-woman band plays blues, country and rock from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Cover only $2.00.

IBT'S - "The Girlie Show" 9:00 p.m. showtime with Lucinda Holliday, Felice Renard and Special guest.

MARCH 21-22-23

VENTURE-N - Get ready for Ides of March '97 here. Tucson's best Spring Leather Weekend. Fun, favors, friendship. Mark your calendars.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

BOOM-BOOMS - Special AGRA Country/Western Night in the "Other Room". $50 western warehouse gift certificate give away. Free drawing for all Bubbas & Bubbettes decked out in their western wear. See y'all there!

VENTURE-N - Beer Bust from 3:00 TO 7:00 p.m. to benefit Pet Watch.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ- The Biz and Fren-Z Productions bring s the best of Latin Divas hosted by Mama Reyna and starring Mz. Gianna, Mz. Jasmine and Mz. Katrina. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. No cover.

GRADUATE - Guitarist/singer Sal Valdivia will be performing here from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. If you haven't caught this act, you are really missing something.

IBT'S - Sunday Brunch, Bar-B-Que and Beer Bust put on by the IBT's Twisters softball team. Jocks galore? Then it's the return of "Headgames" 9:00 p.m. Tucson's hottest new evening hosted by Bulemia DeHalliland and assisted by Tony from the Bronx. Prizes, Prizes, Prizes.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

IBT'S - It's the 5th Annual Academy Awards Party at IBT's and it all starts at 5:00 p.m. Followed immediately by the Local Academy Award. Pick up your ballot for the local awards only at IBT's. Fun, friends, food.

VENTURE-N - 1997 Vinnie Awards. Nominations posted at the bar. Come see if you're one of the 'Lucky' ones!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

IBT'S - Murder Mystery Wednesday. Tonight: "The Case Of The Frat Boys Demise". Solve the mystery and get a chance to win a VCR. 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Easter Sunday Egg Hunt!! The fun starts at 3:00 p.m. You find the eggs and you get the prize. Prizes include 1 golden egg. The hunt goes until all eggs are found. Limit of 2 eggs per person. No cover. Great drink specials during the hunt.

BOOM - BOOMS -Easter Bonnet Dance at 9:00 p.m. $50 Dillards gift certificate give away for best bonnet. Pull out those old silk flowers and ornaments, get toasted and have a great time. $1.75 well and domestic beer for everyone in a bonnet.

IBT'S - Beer Bust and Bar-B-Que 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Bill Harrison and Tom Turner will host. Proceeds go to Reveille Gay Men's Chorus.

FRI-SAT-SUN, APRIL 11-12-13

IBT'S - It's time for the 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair. Mark your calendars and cruise, cruise, cruise!

1997

SAGUARO

REGIONAL RODEO

March 21, 22, & 23

AGRA - TUCSON

(520) 323-0805

SAGUARO REGIONAL RODEO

Friday - March 21, 1997

6pm - midnight

Registration

Dance & Entertainment

Saturday & Sunday - March 22 & 23

7am - 6pm

Rodeo at Tucson Rodeo Grounds

6pm - midnight

Dance & Entertainment

Sunday Night Awards

GET READY FOR THE RODEO

Non-Bar CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 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.

FRI-SAT-SUN, MARCH 21-22-23

Saguaro Regional Rodeo presented by the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA/Tucson) at the Tucson Rodeo Grounds. For more information or to volunteer your services, call the AGRA/Tucson hotline 323-0805

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

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 Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 10:00 a.m. This month, the guys of MSN will go on a shopping expedition to the Casa Grande outlet stores. We'll have lunch there, and when we're done, we'll head off to a member's parents' home for dessert. For details, reservations, please call Bill at 615-0979.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

1. 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.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 6:00 p.m. Ice Cream Sunday is sweet and simple. Just bring your favorite pint or quart of ice cream to share with others. Toppings are provided. Be creative and have fun. For reservations and directions, please call Ray or David at 797-6648.

Girlfriends presents a concert by Mary Waltrovich with Dana Beuilke at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are $7 or $9 at the door.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 6:30 p.m. An Oscar Party! Grab a seat and watch the awards with 20 (or so) jaded movie queens. Gawk at the clothes! Gasp at the hair! Dish the winners! Hey, it's only an awards show-have some fun! For reservation and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

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 (C. W.) at 290-4266 or Donn at 325-4257 for details and directions.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join some of the MSN family at Hours as they sponsor a "Boot Scootin' Night" for the country boy in all of us. Don't know how to 2 Step? Stephen, Bill & El will have you twirling across the floor before the night is over. For details, call El at 881-0672 or Bill and Stephen at 647-3438.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Rainbow Families, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Parents Network, takes the family out for a Spring Picnic and Egg Hunt at 11:00 a.m. today. All Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual parents, partners and family members are welcome. Bring a dish to share, eating utensils, something to grill and colored eggs to hide. Meet at Agua Caliente County Park near the lake. Call Craig at 318-9348 for more information and directions.

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 10:00 a.m. That cowboy theme continues today as MSN hosts a horseback riding event. Pros to novices are invited to join us as we hit the trails for a morning ride. For reservations and details, please call Larry at 795-8125.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Game Night at MSN offers all sort of game activities for the guys. Scrabble, Uno, Pictionary, Card Games, Taboo, and many other games are available for play. Join us for a night of fun! For reservations and directions, please call Bob or Martin at 623-1732.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 2:00 p.m. Join your gay family in Tucson for an Easter Potluck Dinner. The food is good, the conversation is flowing, and we'll even have games available for those who want to play. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

Girlfriends presents Ana Egge in concert at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are $7 or $9 at the door.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

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 321-4367.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

Tucson Prime Timers invites Gay men over 30 to their monthly Wednesday dinner at Mandarin Grill, 505 E. Grant Road (West end of Frys Shopping Center at 1st and Grant). 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Taunya Villicana, account executive at Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., will present 'Investment 101: How to handle your money to meet your long-term goals' at Antigone Books at 7:00 p.m. If you want to buy a house, put a child through college, retire in 15 years, or just get rich slowly, an effective investment plan can get you there. Taunya will discuss how to get started in investing and how to choose the kind of investments that will work best for you. A brief question and answer period will follow and refreshments will be served.

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.

BOOM-BOOMS - Happy Hour daily 4-8pm. $1.25 small pitchers of draft all day, all night. Dance party 8-close.

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

HOURS - Bloody Marys and Screws $1.25 til 7 pm. Pool Tournament 3pm. Country/Western dance instruction 6-8 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1.

IBT's - Open Noon to 1 am. Happy Hour noon-8pm, $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 Well. Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 4:30-7:00pm. Hi energy dancing 9pm to close.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Pool tournament 2pm. Steak Fry! Beer Bust 2pm. Stonewall opens at 9pm with High Energy Dance Music.

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

Monday

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

BOOM-BOOMS - Closed Mondays. See you out at the other bars.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.50 Draft $1.75 Domestic.

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

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour noon-8pm, $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well. 8pm to midnight, $1.50 32oz pitchers. Retro 80s Dance 9pm-1am.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon to 7pm, Party with Stephan. Free pool 7 to close. Stonewall opens 9pm Hi-NRG 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 2for1 well and domestic long necks. Free pool 2-4. Pool Tournament 7 pm. Pot matched. $1 domestic long necks 9pm to close.

BOOM-BOOMS - Free pool 9pm-close. $1.50 domestic bottle beer 9-close.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.50, Domestic $1.75

HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. Schnapps 75¢ 7pm to close. Karaoke 9pm.

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour Noon-8 pm, $1.75 domestic beer & $1.50 well. 9 pm to close 2for1 well/ Miller Lite. High Energy Dance with David Z.

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

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

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7. 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. $1.25 pitchers from 8 to midnight. Hot dance music all request. 9pm to close.

BOOM-BOOMS- Boot Scootin' Country/Western Dance 9pm. 2-4-1 Well 9-close.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.50; Domestic $1.75. 9 Ball Single Elimination Pool Tourney. 7pm, Pot matched.

HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. 50¢ off all call drinks 7 to close. Feb. 19 New Pool Tournament Begins 6pm

IBT's - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour Noon to 8pm, $1.75 domestic beer & $1.50 well. Mystery Night. $1.75 Bud Product Special 9 pm to close. Dance with David Z.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7pm. Karaoke 9pm, Stonewall opens at 9pm. Corona and Cuervo Gold $1.75

VENTURE-N - Open 6am Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-8pm. Cuervo Gold $2 all day/night. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Too! open 8:30pm.

Thursday

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

BOOM-BOOMS - High Society Day. $2 Skyy Vodka or Beefeaters Gin Martinis. All day, all night. 70's Trash Dance 9-close.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all Well $1.50, Domestic $1.75. 301 Dart Tournament 7:30pm. Double Elimination. Pot Matched

HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer $1.25. Corona $2.00 9pm to 1am. Country/Western dancing 8 to 1.

IBT's - Open noon to 1am. Happy Hour noon-8 pm $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well. Underwear Nite. $1.50 Well and $1.75 Domestic Beer to those in their underwear. Hi energy dancing 9-close with DJ David Z.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon-7pm. Party with Peter in the Eagle. 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 Too! open 8:30pm

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres. Michael spins hi energy dance music trip, 8:30 to close. Drink specials every ½ hour.

BOOM-BOOMS - "Latina Nacha" in the 'Other Room'. Hot Latin Music with Edwardo at 9pm. Dance Party with Raymond in the main bar at 9.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well $1.50/ domestic $1.75.

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

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well. Patio Bar with Loosey 9-1. Dance Party 9 to 1 with DJ David Z.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon-7pm; Hot Hors d'oeuvres 6m. 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 Too! opens at 8:30 pm.

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODYS BIZNESS - Pot matched, 1st: 70%, 2nd: 20%, 3rd: 10%. Michael spins hi energy dance music from 8:30pm to 1am. Drink specials every ½ hour.

BOOM-BOOMS - Dance to the latest club mixes in the main bar at 9. Boot Scootin' Country/Western dance in the 'Other Room', $1.00 shots of schnapps all day, all night.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well drinks $1.50/domestic $1.75. 8 Ball Pool Tournament 2pm, Double Elimination, pot matched.

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

IBT's - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour noon to 8pm $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well. Patio Bar with Loosey 9-1. Dance 9 to 1 with DJ David Z.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Bitches & Bagels w/$1 Bloody Marys 6am-noon. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Too! Opens at 8:30pm.

HOROSCOPES

BY. C. LICHTENSTEIN

Smell the fires? That's the aftermath of the conjunction of expansive Jupiter with explosive Uranus in early March. When these two heavy hitters collide, the world turns upside down. Check to see where anarchy reigns in your sign. Heck, sometimes it's good to have a little molotov in your cocktail.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20.

If friendships have been the source of surprising awakenings, thank Jupiter and Uranus for making it possible. Proud Rams may have had a rare opportunity to meet unusual and enlightening folks or ascended to the leadership of an extraordinary social circle. Whatever has happened, make the dream last by fortifying platonic bonds. Give as good as you get.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Gay Bulls learned early in the corporate game that slow and steady wins the race. Now however, with the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction, you've been given a significant leg up on the competition. Why ask why dear, queer friend? Take full advantage of the revolution and take your rightful place in the rogues gallery of corporate stuffed shirts. Be kind on the way up.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

The past two weeks might have offered too much of a good thing for travel hearty pink Twins. The Jupiter/Uranus conjunction made you feel like a hostage on a merry-go-round with trips upon trips and no time to recoup. Rest easy now, dear. The planets have settled and so have you. But recall what you have gained from all these far flung enterprises and take it to the outer limits.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Passionate pink Crabs may have gotten a major sexual zetz during the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction. For those "shelled" types, the planets may have given you the outing of your life. (If so, good for you.) For others it may have been the defining moment of who you are in your beautiful Gay soul. Hopefully the corks popped and you got more than one glass of champagne.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Partnerships may have undergone a complete change or transformation during the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction. Proud Lions can be especially generous with possessions as long as they are given the adulation they think they so rightly deserve. Maybe the planets have taught you that generosity alone should be reward enough. Knowing Gay Leo though, I would say not.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Grab your Communist Manifesto and charge the gates! The Jupiter/Uranus conjunction ferments a revolution at work. Gay Virgins may have experienced dramatic changes in their day to day job. Embrace these changes and make them work for you. Who knows? You may find yourself in the position of leading a great Gay cause. If so, prepare to wave the rainbow banner high.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Pleasant pastimes may never be the same for sociable Gay Libras. The Jupiter/Uranus conjunction may have been the one drink too many or the social blunder of the decade. But don't despair; most of America has a twelve minute attention span and the gaffe of yesterday is old news today. Simply learn the limits of your consumption and remember to use breath freshener.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

The Jupiter/Uranus conjunction may have caused dramatic changes in your home. For the most past, these changes were necessary and beneficial. For those that bit you unpleasantly on the butt, try to turn bad into good and learn from the experience. Gay Scorps need to feel totally relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings. The planets are showing you the way.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Old Sagittarian foot in mouth disease could strike in a big way during the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction. Just when you thought you were a charmer, the planets conspire to make your words as subtle as a falling anvil. Let's hope folks are clever enough to get out of the way in time! Pick and choose your words as carefully as you can dear, queer Archer. Then watch the fireworks!

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Penny pinching Gay Goats can be tempted by the greedily gremlins during the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction. The lure of easy money is so tempting that you will risk all to capture it. The problem is that easy wealth is a fallacy (as you well know, bad Cap) and you can loose more than you will gain. There is no substitute for hard work and careful planning.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

If you have never burst upon center stage as a supernova, wait until the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction to feel the thrill. All this planetary impact occurs in your own sign so anything you do has immense impact on your public persona. Aqueerians long to muster the troops and lead them to salvation. Maybe your bugle is ready and you can sound the charge of the pink brigade.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Although you may not feel like fighting hidden enemies now, the Jupiter/Uranus conjunction forces the bastards out into the light of day so you can cut them down to size. In fact, anything hidden or repressed will be forced out into the open. Good thing too, friend. Why not step Out into the light of day and show your true pride colors? The planets now command you to do so.

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 publication and s.a.s.e. to: Lichtenstein, POB 1726, Old Chelsea Station, NY 10011.

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SAGUARO REGIONAL RODEO
March 21, 22, & 23, 1997
Tucson Rodeo Grounds
For Information Call AGRA-Tucson *323-0805*

GYM - GAY YOUNG MEN'S PROJECT

Secrets (Continued)

by Frank Terrero

As Josh turned the corner to his street he saw his father's car in the driveway. He knew that he had been pushing it by staying as long as he did. Now he would have to think of something to say to his dad. His mind raced with excuses and lies. "I could tell him that I was trying out for basketball. He would love that. But, I don't really know when basketball season starts. It might be really stupid. How 'bout, I was late for English and I had to stay after school. No, they don't do after school anymore. Oh, wait that might work. 'Cause then I would have to go to Saturday school. Then I could go meet Matthew. That's perfect. I could tell him that I wasn't feeling real good and that I stayed in the bathroom too long and I was late for class."

His stomach turned and tightened as he opened the front door. The house was quiet and his mother hadn't come back from work yet. She usually went out and bought stuff for dinner before coming home. But, his dad was a little early today. He heard his father's heavy breathing as he slept, coming from the living room. He tiptoed through the house and went to his room. He relaxed a little, put on his stereo on quietly and started to do his homework. "Great," he thought. "No one knows a thing and I won't have to say anything. Perfect," he said out loud to himself.

Later that evening, as the family sat down for dinner his mother said to him, "Josh, your father said that you came home from school really late this afternoon. Where were you?" she asked as she glanced at him with that "don't lie to me" look. "I had to stay late at school. I had to go talk to Mrs. Jack about being late for English this afternoon" he said to them as confidently as possible. He thought to himself, "There, you did it. Perfect set up to be away all day on Saturday." "Why were you late?" his father asked this time. "You're never late. Why this time? Why did she want you to go to her class after school?"

"Here it goes," he thought to himself. "I was sick this afternoon. So, I went to the bathroom. I couldn't leave, you know. I had to finish. So, I was late. But, I didn't want to go to the nurse. So she thought I was lying. So she wanted me to sign up for Saturday school. So I have to go until 2:00 on Saturday." "Till two?" his mother jumped in. "Isn't that a bit much for being a couple of minutes late for class. Maybe I should call her. You know on Saturday it's your brother's birthday and we were going over to his house for a barbecue. I'll call her. I think you should be at your brother's. And we won't be home until after 5:00. I don't want you here all alone all afternoon. No, I will call her and maybe you could do it next Saturday."

Matthew had completely forgotten his stupid brother's birthday. "Why do I want to go and spend all afternoon with someone I don't like and their sucky kids," he thought to himself. But, more importantly, he was very nervous. He had to get his mother not to call the teacher. Now, he had to think up a good one! What was he going to do? "Mom, don't call Mrs. Jack. I'd rather not deal with it. I was sick and I didn't want to talk about it. So, I decided to just be late and deal with it. Anyway, I could use the time to finish my semester project. I can never get on the computer during class. So, just let me go." He tried to sound convincing and adult like. He was hoping that his parents would like the fact that he wanted to go to school and that he wanted to do his homework.

"Just let him go," his father said. "Let's just eat so I won't be late for bowling." His mother glanced over at Josh, raised her eyebrows again, questioningly, and said, "Well I guess if it is between going to school or not, I would rather you go to school. Now tell me why you were sick." Josh could feel himself getting a little angry. He had to control himself but he hated the questions. His mother always asked way to many questions. "Mom. I don't want to talk about it. Is that ok?" "No, it is not ok. Are you still feeling bad?" "No, Mom, I had the runs all right," he lied one more time. "I think it was something I ate. But, I am ok now. I don't feel bad. Really. Can we not talk about it?" he asked once more, pleadingly. "Fine. But next time you are sick you should go to the nurse so you won't be in trouble. It isn't your fault that you had diarrhea," she said again. "And I think a whole day at school is just too much. But, if you want to go, who am I?"

Josh had stopped listening. He was thinking about meeting Matthew and maybe they would hug again. He could still feel Matthew's arms around him. He could still see his eyes staring into his own. He had never felt this rush and this excitement before. He was so anxious to finish dinner and to call Matthew just to hear his voice. "Maybe," he thought, "he will be my first boyfriend." Just as his thought finished the phone rang. His father said, "Dammit, can't we eat in peace?" His father reached for the phone. "Hello?" "Yes, may I ask who's calling?" "Sure, Frances let me get him." A grin crept across his father's face. He raised the phone towards Josh and raised his eyebrows at the same time. "It's Frances."

"Frances? Why is she calling me?" Josh said out loud. But he knew why she was calling. She was the girl from this afternoon. Josh could barely keep control as he reached for the phone. "Hi, Josh? This is Fran. I know what you were doing at the Rainbow Planet today. We need to talk. And we need to talk now." (to be continued)

The Whole Man

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TEN

appearance; had I shaved some facial hair or something? Because I looked younger somehow. I hadn't changed a thing. Except I had drunk a lot of juice, and my cells were humming and happy, swimming in all that healthy nourishment.

[Robert Feldhaus, Ph.D. is a spiritual and psychological counselor. He enjoys working with his fellow Gays and Lesbians more than any other kind of person. For more information about counseling sessions, he can be reached at (520) 623-1732 or email: bobby@azstarnet.com.]

Go In Good Health

by Rev. Andrew Brooks

This time I would like to discuss the health claims of two popular hormonal supplements: Melatonin and DHEA. First of all, Melatonin is a hormone that aids sleep. There are several books in print, filled with wonderful, glowing accounts of what this supplement can do. You can sleep like a baby, and sleep for fewer hours, and feel more rested! But remember, these are hormones, and if you begin to tamper with hormone levels in the body, then you can create significant changes in your body chemistry.

As the body gets older, past the age of sixty-five, hormone levels drop. So supplementation can help. This is why some women get estrogen shots to help with menopause, to deal with the mood swings, hot flashes, etc. But altering hormonal levels is not something to do casually. I know of someone who was taking hormones from Mexico (testosterone) to give him that bulked-up body-builder look, and a bad batch (they use human hormones) gave him HIV!

So if your are going to take hormones, such as drag queens using estrogen, think about what it can do to you, such as water retention, weight game, etc. Despite all the makeup, you are still a man, and taking female hormones is going to alter your body. Women who have had hysterectomies are often given estrogen shots, but this is done under doctor supervision. And side effects should be closely monitored.

There are other sleep aids, that do not involve hormones, such as valerian, chamomile tea, calms forte, and the herb kava-kava which has a relaxant effect. When I tried Melatonin, it worked for perhaps two hours, then wore off, and I could not get any more rest. Personally, I cannot recommend it on the strength of how it affected me, but it does seem to help others.

DHEA is getting a lot of attention, reputed to boost immunity, improve sex drive, reduce body fat, and help with lupus and chronic fatigue syndrome, and help diabetics. DHEA does help some people, such as bolstering DHEA levels in the elderly, which do drop to only ten to twenty percent of what a younger person of twenty produces. However, it has been advised that women with breast of ovarian cancer, avoid DHEA.

DHEA is the "mother of all hormones" because the body converts it into male hormones, testosterone, and female hormones, estrogen. Some people use this product to bolster energy, and to help with weight loss. Studies have shown that DHEA works against obesity by raising metabolism and decreasing appetite and fat storage. This is not a miracle cure, however. If you are a big person, you have to decide whether to accept yourself as big, or work to rid yourself of the weight. (This is a self-esteem issue). DHEA can help, but it won't do everything for you.

As for the claims of bolstered immunity, including use for AIDS patients, I have not seen any studies on this yet. This is going to continue to get attention, I am sure, in the future. There are other products with proven ability to assist the immune system, such as CoEnzyme Q10, which I have discussed before, and will stand behind.

If you overdose on DHEA, it can have a masculinizing effect: oily skin, acne, deepening of voice, and fine facial hair growth, according to Paula M. Zimlicki (a medical writer who wrote about DHEA in New Age Magazine). I would have to say that DHEA has some benefits, but is not a panacea. It is not going to be a cure-all, as few things ever are, but it can help you. However, if you have concerns, discuss them with a health professional with knowledge of this product. Unfortunately, there are a lot of companies that make exaggerated claims about whatever they are selling, saying you will live longer, feel better, have a better sex life, more energy, whatever. But the bottom line for them is money, and profit.

You need to decide what you want for your body, and remember glossy ads and "doctor reports" have long been used to hawk products that are overpriced and produce results less than what you might expect. If you are trying to lose weight, altering your diet is in order. If you are unable to sleep, analyze your diet also, and see if you are taking stimulating substances that may interfere with your ability to rest.

Next time, I will begin an A-Z series on herbal treatments, listed by herb, and the healing effects that they have. You may want to save these articles for future reference. If you ever wish to write to me, and ask health questions, which I will answer in this column, write to me through the Observer. I encourage your feedback. Till next time, "Go In Good Health!"

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

SPORTS

Desert Coyotes Bowling League Spring Standings

	Won	Lost
R.E.D.	17	7
Three's Company	16	8
Hung Hoes	15	9
Two	13	11
Tres Amigos	13	11
Erratica	13	11
Rubber Queens Return	13	11
Smokin Bears	11	13
Straight Shooters	11	13
Triple T & Me	10	14
Stoned Rollers	6	18
Garfield & Girls	5	19

Lambda Lizards Bowling League Spring Standings

	Won	Lost	Tied
Desert Divas	18	5	1
Tastee Buns	16	8	0
Lesberados	14	10	0
Faerie Tails	13	11	0
Rubber Queens	11	12	1
Pink Flamingos	11	13	0

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Out of OSCAR's closet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ELEVEN

Cemetery Man - Gay actor Rupert Everett stars in this creepy but at times delightfully funny Italian horror film

Cold Comfort Farm - Gay director John Schiessinger made two films last year, the insipid An Eye For a Eye and this wonderfully unpredictable comedy about a refined young lady who moves in with her Dark Ages-living farm cousins and becomes determined to make things proper! Jane Austin meets the Beverly Hillbillies!

13. MOST INCIDENTAL LUSE OF A GAY CHARACTER
The nominees are:
Faithful - A miserable Cher walks up to a Gay couple who are admiring a Rolls Royce. She chimes in that owning such a car won't bring them happiness -- then she gets in the car and drives off.

She's the One - Hope (Maxine Bahns), is a free-spirited modern woman who casually tells her new husband that she, at one time, had been intimate with her female best friend.

Mrs. Winterbourne - Miquel Sandoval plays Shirley MacLaine's well-meaningGay Cuban butler whose "Mary Poppins"-like demeanor is shattered when his boyfriend (unseen) dumps him thereby leading to a suicide attempt.

14. BEST SONG.
The nominees are:
"Lesbian Seagull" - in Beavis and Butthead Do America - Yes, fly, Lesbian seagull, fly!

"I'm Gay!" in The Kids in the Hall-Brain Candy - with Scott Thompson coming out to family and neighbors in a extravaganza musical number that rivals Monty Python's "Every Sperm is Sacred."

15. BEST DOCUMENTARY.
The nominees are:
Celluloid Closet - Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's provocative and educational film version of Vito Russo's seminal book includes clips from 122 films and interviews with several Gay personalities and actors who played Gay. Required viewing.

Paris Was a Woman - Greta Schiller (Before Stonewall) takes us back to the Paris of the 1920s and focuses on the many women artists (primarily Lesbian) who were living there.

16. WORST USE OF A STEREOTYPICAL FAG IN A HOLLYWOOD FILM.
The nominees are:
Independence Day - Harvey Fierstein is the queeny fag used for comic relief in this blockbuster film. As he whined, called mom and his analyst worldwide audiences laughed and Gays winced.

The Rock - A swishy queen hairdresser is sent in by the FBI to cut the hair of the dangerous Sean Connery. When Connery makes his break, he squeals with horror and when both he and Connery share an elevator, the cowering stylist says, "Do you like your haircut?" An offensive use of a Gay stereotype for comic relief

Two Days in the Valley - This interesting independent feature has a queeny black man who helps the protagonist but then completely disappears from the rest of the film.

Maybe ... Maybe Not - This German comedy features the straight man as handsome and masculine and the homos as fawning nellies who just want to be close to him. Ouch!

17. MOST HOMOPHOBIC FILM OF THE YEAR.
The winner is:
Sleepers - This hyperventilating dreg takes the position that homosexual rape is so horrendous that the killing of the man responsible is not only justified but defensible in a court of law. The film could have, like Boys of St. Vincent, shown that the rapist was acting out anger and confused emotions rather than an expression of sexual pleasure. But the film make a decisive point of telling us that the smarmy Kevin Bacon had sex with men both inside and outside the reformatory. His murder, instead of being mourned, is seen as justified revenge and even a cause for celebration.

▼▼▼▼▼▼

Few of the mainstream films had Gays or Lesbians in the lead, preferring to simply add them as "colorful" supporting characters. As is almost always the case, Independent films (films mostly made by Gays and Lesbians had a much better look into the subject and characters, although one had to seek out these films -- except for film festivals, a short run at the Loft, screenings on the or on home video, although with the exception of The Birdcage, all were seen in supporting roles. In addition to the big budget films, there has been an explosion of independently funded films that delve much deeper and infinitely better with queer issues and concerns.

[Raymond Murray is President of TLA Video, author of "Images in the Dark: An Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Film and Video (Plume/Penguin; 1996) and director of the Philadelphia International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival].

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NOTICES

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

People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (PACT ForLife), 805 W. Congress. Office hours M/W/F 8am to 5pm, Tu 8am -7pm. Th. Noon - 8pm. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Call 770-1710 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, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 300 E. 9th Street, 622-7107. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

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

LIVING WATERS FAMILY CENTER now meeting in the Rose building of MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Worship services on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. Counseling provided for couples and individuals. For more information call 795-7268.

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

YOUNG AND GAY?
Lesbian and Gay youths 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 422 N. 4th Avenue from 3 to 5 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1778.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS INTERNATIONAL invites Gay or Bisexual men over 30 years old to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men who are or wish to be involved in Gay community activities, issues and organizations. Call 887-7493 and leave your name and phone number. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday, 4-8 p.m. at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 252 (The Broadmoor Center Bldg.). Direct services for persons with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Prevention education programs. Business hours, M-F, 8-5. 322-6228. AIDS Hotline: 326-AIDS.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
For information on human service oreganizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

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

GAY OR 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 745-6977 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 624-1778.

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 32. Call the church at 299-0063 for information.

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

CAMELBACK BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (CBPA) OF PHOENIX For information and membership write: CBPA at P.O. Box 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP addressing a full spectrum of issues, problems and situations. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesday 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave. 624-1778.

L.D.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 PROYECTO, S.I.D.A. - AIDS INFO LINE 882-3933. Also seeking volunteers who are bilingual (Spanish/ English) and are interested in presenting information about AIDS to Spanish groups in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Early Intervention Center, 801 West Congress, Tucson, AZ 85745. 770-1314.

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

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

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

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all -- Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 64-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

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

COCHISE COUNTY LESBIANS AND GAYS. P.O. Box 818, Bisbee, AZ 85603 / (602)432-5591. Rap Group, Youth Group, Social and Political Events.

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO -- a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)733-9409, 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 298-9454.

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 661-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 603, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Merle at 868-7264.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 8:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Jeff or Art (520)762-8155.

LIGHTING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7296.

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

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP of St. Phillips in the Hills Episcopal Church meets first and third Mondays. Call David, 323-7043 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 #102. For information call 791-9662.

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

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

NOTICES

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9585 for information and a newsletter. 559

SOFTBALL - For info on the Tucson Greater Softball Association T.G.S.A., please contact. Mary 770-8979 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 givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 298-9063.

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 322-6228.

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

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

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

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

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

THE JOHN HANTEN MEMORIAL GROUP, a Catholic support group for Gays and Lesbians, meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1846 E. Lee St. at 7:30 p.m. For more information call the parish office at 327-6015 or Jane Perri at 326-6577.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call Greg Hollman 577-8333 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 sidecompassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 594-7063.

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

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

LESBIAN/GAY/BI OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays noon-1pm in UMC Dining Room "F". 325-8678 or 670-1954.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson, Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7678.

CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 3rd Monday at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1800 N. Camino Pio Decimo in the Kino Room at 7:00 p.m. For more info call Ernie 721-2003 or Anne Marie at the Parish office 885-3573.

COCAINE ANONYMOUS
"The Fruits Of Sobriety" particularly for Gays and Lesbians (but everyone is welcome) meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Hotline: (520)326-2211

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 4th Monday at St. Odilia's Catholic Church, 7570 N. Paseo Del Norte in the Parish Hall Conference Room (Bldg. North of the Church) at 7:30 p.m. For more info call Mary 297-9602 or St. Joan 742-8900.

AGRA will be holding a press conference Friday, March 21 at 8:00 a.m. at the back gate of Tucson Rodeo Grounds.

PERSONALS

As of 3-15-97, I, Chuck Brady, am no longer responsible for any debts other than my own.

MAN TO MAN an introduction service for mature men and those who appreciate them. 322-6969 563

CYBER CRUISE - Meet Arizona Gay men and woman as well as people all over the U.S. Gay owned. www.move.com 685

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION
Si eres hombre que tiene sexo con otros hombres y quieres ayudarnos a extender y apoyar los programas para Los Latinos, llama para una entrevista extrictamente confidencial al 322-6228 y pregunta por Ernesto. 660

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 322-6228 and ask for Ernie. 660

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VARIOUS CENTRAL TUCSON LOCATIONS. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments from $325 - $495. Clean, private, quiet. Many extras. Mention this Observer ad. 733-0009 685

ROOMMATES

GM TO SHARE LARGE 4 BEDROOM HOUSE with private pool, gas grill, big screen TV and more. $295/mo. Includes utilities. 889-7875 or 620-1770. 655

UPSCALE 2 BR, 2 BALUXURY APARTMENT TO SHARE WITH GM. A/C, pool, Jacuzzi, club room, spa, Results Fitness membership, top floor. $318/mo. Includes utilities. Phone and cable extra. Sunny, 571-0930 664

MATURE MALE ROOMMATE (35+), QUIET, RESPECTFUL, wanted to share expansive 2 bedroom, 2 bath house near quiet Tucson Blvd/Elm area. House includes W/D, fireplace, large patio and lots of storage. All furniture provided except person's own bedroom furniture. Full privileges on use of all facilities. Call Jim, 325-4778. 660

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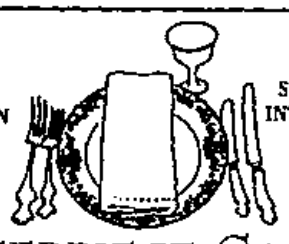

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TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Open Division Gets Fourth Team

Thanks to the dedicated effort of Shane A., Dan F., and League Commissioner, Mary O., the open division now has the required four teams as required per the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) which covers Gay softball in the U.S. and Canada.

The fourth team allows TGSA to send an open division representative, usually the season ending double elimination tournament champion, to the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) this August. This year's GSWS will be held in San Diego, California.

The new team is co-sponsored by Best Choice Realty Co., and the Venture-N. Getting the team together is made even more special since it is a women only team. In a refreshing sign of league unity, the team decided to compete in the Open Division, instead of the Women's Division, which has five teams already. Thanks again to all involved in getting this team together.

The March 16 Women's Division schedule saw the Biz Team beat Girls' Night Out, 12-4. Jeanette's pitching and Chris S.' triple contributed to the Biz victory.

The second game saw Team Tucson post a convincing win over the Lavender Laces, 26-1. Paced by the excellent hitting of Jan J. and Debbie L., Team Tucson scored 20 runs in the second and third innings to pull away.

In Open Division play, the Venture-N beat the new team on the block, Best Choice Realty, 9-2. Shane A., V-N coach, would like to congratulate his team on its first win. Elsa M., BCR coach, commented that the team likes the good competition and are having fun playing in the Open Division. She feels good about her team and looks forward to improving as they get a bit more practice and games under their belt.

In the final game of the evening, the Arizona Aces used Joe S' sixth inning grand-slam to break open a close game and defeat the IBT's Twisters, 11-3. Twisters coach Robert S. liked the way his team settled down defensively after allowing 7 runs in the first inning. The inability to string hits together has hurt the team so far this season. Robert is confident that that aspect will come together soon.

Thanks to the fans who showed up to support their favorite players and teams.

In other news, the IBT's Twisters will hold a team fund raiser burger/beer bust at IBT's this Sunday, March 23, 4:00 - 7:30 P.M. Thanks to Dave and Frank of IBT's for their generosity in supplying the main dish and beverages. Team members will supply the side dishes.

If other teams would like to schedule fund raisers, please contact Commissioner Mary O., 770-9979, to avoid booking conflicts. For league info, contact Mary O.

MARCH 23 SCHEDULE

4:00 P.M. Lavender Laces vs. Hill Foot Gems
5:00 P.M. Team Tucson vs. The Biz
6:00 P.M. Girls' Night Out vs. Hill Foot Gems (Double header)
7:00 P.M. Team Tucson vs. Girls' Night Out (March 9 makeup)
8:00 P.M. Best Choice Realty vs. IBT's Twisters
9:00 P.M. Venture-N vs. Arizona Aces

All games at Freedom Park (29th Street, between Swan & Craycroft)

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Declining AIDS Deaths Bolster Hope, But Do Not Signal End Of AIDS Fight

by Christine Lubinski

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) delivered two pieces of good news regarding the AIDS epidemic in 1996, a significant decline in AIDS deaths for the first time in the epidemic, and a slowing trend in the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS.

It would appear that this good news is directly linked to access to quality health care, improved AIDS treatments, and stable housing. The good news further validates the urgency to improve access to health care for all Americans living with HIV/AIDS, and the need to invest in research efforts to discover a cure, vaccine, and even more effective treatments to arrest replication of this terrible virus.

Unfortunately, the bad news is that there is not equal access to the continuum of care people with HIV/AIDS require to remain alive and healthy. Thus, as in 1995, AIDS continues to ravage communities of color and women, populations which again represent the fastest growing groups of new AIDS cases. According to the CDC, in 1996 African Americans accounted for a larger proportion of AIDS cases, 41 percent, than whites for the first time. Additionally, women did not enjoy a decline in AIDS death rates, but instead experienced a three percent increase. The proportion of AIDS cases among women also increased so that in 1996 women accounted for 20 percent of newly reported AIDS cases.

The statistics released, welcome and grim alike, underscore the need for a concerted national effort to remedy the appalling inequities that exist in access to federal HIV prevention programs and health care, inequities which significantly contribute to the spread of HIV. Increased efforts are needed to educate all Americans, but particularly women and people of color, about the reality of HIV transmission. Increased efforts are needed to communicated the unique manifestations of HIV infection in women. HIV prevention messages must involve open and honest communication and must take into account social, cultural and gender issues that are all too often ignored in prevention efforts. Better research on the nature of HIV disease in women and people of color is critical, as are appropriate treatments.

And, finally, the federal government must fulfill its responsibility to safeguard the public health, both by adequately funding HIV prevention, care and research programs and by guaranteeing adequate and equal access to quality health care for all Americans. The Medicaid program, which today provides health care services, including prescription drugs, to over 53 percent of Americans with HIV/-AIDS, must be maintained and strengthened.

Our nation is at a crucial moment in the first against AIDS. As the numbers indicate, we have made incredible progress on several fronts. However, so much more remains to be done. AIDS Action calls upon the public health community, with crucial support from the federal government, to act quickly and assertively to ensure that the new hope touches the lives of all people affected by HIV/AIDS.

[Christine Lubinski is the deputy executive director of the AIDS Action Council.]

New Bill

Continued from Page One

and withdrawal of Medicaid funds from any state which fails to enact the "HIV Prevention Act's" requirements. Opponents of the bill see such measures as usurping the authority of local public health officials.

Other provisions include:

disclosure of children's HIV status to potential adoptive parents;

a requirement that insurance carriers who perform HIV tests advise applicants of their results;

permission for medical professionals to test patients before performing procedures;

and a call for states and medical associations to develop policies on HIV+ health-care workers who perform invasive procedures.

When reached for comment, HRC legislative director Winnie Stachelberg summed up the "HIV Prevention Act" as, "nothing more than a package of warmed over proposals that have been rejected by the public health establishment and lawmakers, which do nothing to assist people at risk."

To ACT UP protester Jennifer DePiero, the "HIV Prevention Act" is even more insidious. DePiero told reporters, "The Coburn bill is the closest thing we've seen to quarantining people with AIDS."

Protesting along with ACT UP was the "One Day At A Time" group, as well as an organization called Us Women, who took particular issue with an AMA endorsement of mandatory testing of pregnant women. Spokesperson Dawn Acero contrasted this with AMA's opposition to mandatory testing for health workers and said, "It's clear now that mandatory testing of pregnant women or infants is just one part of a larger plan by the religious right to abandon public health practice in favor of controlling the lives of women, people of color and people with HIV."

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- Henry David Thoreau