Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Wingspan Moving To Larger Quarters

by Bruce Corey

TUCSON (ON) - That's right, the Wingspan board of directors has decided to move The Center!

Wingspan's old home on Fourth Avenue is just not big enough to meet the growing needs of the community any more. Wingspan's new home will be at 300 East Sixth Street.

The new locations is just around the corner from the current Center, and it is much larger and has several meeting rooms. It is the building that the Shanti Foundation vacating as a result of the upcoming merger of the ASO's.

This move is an important milestone for The Center in many ways. It will allow Wingspan to better serve the community and to continue to grow.

Not only will the increased capacity help us accommodate the growing community demand for more meeting space, it will also allow Wingspan to remain open while private meetings are held, and it offers significant new opportunities to provide additional and expanded services.

Your help and creative ideas are needed now more than ever! This was a tough decision for the board, because the rent is significantly higher at the new location. Wingspan and the board will be challenged to find and increased sources of funding to pay for it.

Additional volunteers are needed to help plan the move, and especially to hello with various aspects of fund raising. If you can spare some time to help, please call to volunteer, 624-1779.

Wingspan will keep you posted as the moving date draws nearer, and as Wingspan begins an exciting new chapter in its history!

Wingspan wants to thank the community for their continued support. The board and members of Wingspan look forward to seeing you in the new Center soon!

Calif. Court Rules Boy Scouts Can Discriminate Against Gays

SAN DIEGO, CA (WS) - A San Diego appeals court has ruled that the Boy Scouts can discriminate against a Gay police officer who was an Explorer Scout.

The 4th District Court of Appeal struck down a July 1994 state superior court ruling in favor of the officer. El Cajon police agent Chuck Merino, seeking reinstatement as an Explorer post leader, had filed suit against the Scouts in 1992.

The crux of the case was whether the Boy Scouts is a business and therefore covered by California's Unruh Civil Rights Act which bars businesses from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and other factors.

The three-judge panel ruled that the Scouts was not a business. "Boy Scouts of America is, in our view, chiefly an organization composed of and promoting relationships which . . . take place more or less outside public view," Justice Richard Huffman wrote.

Merino and his attorney had stressed that the Scouts was a business, and that it used public property for its business. The lower court judge in the 1994 case agreed, citing the fact that the Scouts had over 4 million members that conducted public activities, and it engaged in commercial enterprises like stores selling Scouting equipment.

"I think it's wrong," Merino told local reporters. "You're starting to tell people that you can discriminate against who you want. I don't think anyone can do that, particularly a business that works on public property."

Local newspaper reports noted that Justice Huffman went further than the court's opinion in an opinion of his own, stating that, even if the Boy Scouts were considered a business, they had the right to exclude Gays under their First Amendment right to free association. "Applying the (state's anti-discrimination) act here would suppress (the Boy Scouts') ideas that an avowed homosexual is not an appropriate role model and moral example within Scouting," Huffman wrote.

Merino's attorney, Everett Bobbitt, says they will appeal the case. A similar appeal against a pro-Scouts/anti-Gay appeals court ruling has been pending in front of the California Supreme Court for nearly three years.

Robertson's 'Operation Blessing' A Front For Mining Operations, Pilots Say

NORFOLK, VA (WS) - Airplanes sent to Zaire ostensibly to support televangelist Pat Robertson's tax-free humanitarian organization, "Operation Blessing," were used almost exclusively for Robertson's private diamond-mining operations.

According to two pilots who were hired by Operation Blessing to fly humanitarian missions in Zaire. One of them, Chief pilot Robert Hinkle, said that in the six months he was in Zaire during 1994, only one or two of the flights he piloted were humanitarian. The rest, more than 40 in all, ferreted mining equipment.

"My first impression when I took the job was that we'd be called Operation Blessing and we'd be doing humanitarian work," Hinkle, a former Peace Corps volunteer told reporters. "We got over there and 'Operation Blessing' was painted on the tails of the airplanes, but we were doing no humanitarian relief at all. We were just supplying the miners and flying the dredges from Kinshasa out to Tshikapa."

A spokesman for Robertson first denied the accounts of Hinkle and his English co-pilot, Tahir Brohi, but called the newspaper back to "clarify" his denial. He later said the airplanes were "unsuitable for medical relief."

A written statement from the same spokesperson some time later admitted Robertson's mining company used Operation Blessing planes "from time to time," but that most that air missions in Zaire were for humanitarian or training purposes. "For example, medicine was transported to some 17 clinics in Zaire," the spokesman told reporters.

Hinkle said the statement was "a clear-cut lie."

Throughout the summer and fall of 1994, Robertson's religious news and talk show, "The 700 Club," carried frequent reports of Operation Blessing's activities in Rwandan refugee camps on Zaire's border.

During one broadcast in particular Robertson told viewers a 3,000 foot airstrip had been carved out to assist the refugees. According to reports viewers were never told it was built to accommodate deliveries of mining equipment.

TLGA Announces June Pride Week Events

TUCSON - The Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance is proud to announce its schedule of events for the month of June. As the summer heats up, TLGA is putting together some really cool stuff for our Community.

Join us at the TLGA booth at the Phoenix Gay Pride festival, Friday, May 30 to Sunday, June 1. You can volunteer an hour or two with us, or just stop by to say hi.

Tucson's Gay Pride Week will begin Saturday, June 21 and run through Saturday, June 28. Shirts and caps displaying the "Equality Through Visibility" theme logo will be available beginning in

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY FOUR

Boston Bishop Rejects Dignity

BOSTON, MA (NP) - The Archdiocese of Boston is showing no respect for Dignity -- or for many priests and other church leaders interested in healthy dialogue -- by ordering its personnel not to attend the organization's national conference.

The Boston, Massachusetts chapter of L/G/B/T Roman Catholic group Dignity is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, but the Archdiocese of Boston has advised its priests and other personnel to steer clear of the organization's mid–July national conference to be hosted there.

Archdiocesan Vicar General Auxiliary Bishop William Murphy sent a letter to an estimated 750 priests, bishops and deacons telling them to deny any support or participation to Dignity because "they espoused a position contrary to Catholic moral teaching supported that [sic] moral correctness of sexual relations between two persons of the same sex in a 'faithful and loving relationship.'" The same letter recommended the same response to a conference of married Catholic priests.

Both Dignity and local Catholic clergy are disturbed by the letter. Dignity/USA President Marianne Duddy, who lives in Boston, said, "We certainly did not expect the support of the Archdiocese – I think it's safe to acknowledge that we disagree on certain questions of sexual morality. However, this prohibition goes far beyond a lack of support. It's a clear statement that the Church in Boston refuses to even have dialogue with us." Duddy decried the loss for priests, family members, and sexual minority Catholics themselves, of the remarkable opportunity the convention represents for education about L/G/B/T people.

In defense of the Archdiocese, spokesperson John Walsh said, "No one should be shocked that the Catholic Church continues to stand by its teaching on matters of church discipline, especially on issues of sexual morality. On the other hand, to try and present a picture of bishops and archbishops issuing thundering edicts is wrong. We're just telling people what they should know."

A local priest, speaking on the condition of anonymity, remarked, "Certainly we are all aware of the church's official position, but I find it paternalistic. I mean, what do they think will happen if we go? That we'll be brainwashed? Attendance doesn't equal support."

Perhaps they should take a note from openly Gay British priest Nick Holloway, who's looking forward to receiving communion from Cardinal Basil Hume, head of the Catholic Church in Britain. While Holloway will simply join the line of communicants at a major mass in Westminster Cathedral this month, he'll be wearing a rainbow-colored sash, forcing Hume to at least symbolically recognize the homosexuality he's preached against in the past.

Hume has already complained at

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY FOUR

UPDATE

Reveille Spring Concert Saturday, May 31

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus is winding down its second full season this Saturday night, May 31, with its annual Spring Concert.

Titled "(Not Exactly) Straight From the Heart," it will be a musical perspective on the many aspects of Love, Relationships and Everything in between! The performance will be held in the Proscenium Theatre at Pima Community College-West Campus, 2202 West Anklam Road, Tucson, showtime is 8:00 P.M.

Artistic Director, James Gall, will lead the 20-member-strong chorus through such love-filled number as "Mother, I Must Have A Husband," "Wanted GH/W-/BM/NS/D/S . . .," "Sherry/Jerry," "In The Mood," "My Funny Valentine," "I Will Follow Him" and many more.

Last Sunday night, Reveille held a benefit Beer Bust/Barbecue and a Bachelor Auction at IBT's. Eight handsome bachelors had the nerve to get up before the crowd and be auctioned off to the highest bidder and nearly $700 was raised. The winner of each auction receives a dinner for two with their Bachelor followed by special seating at RGMC's Spring Concert. The Bachelors received a complimentary ticket to Millennium's upcoming production of "Boys In The Band." Many thanks to all the guys who participated, and to Larry Moore (who left Lucinda Holliday at home) for emceeing the event.

Tickets for the festival-seating show are $10 advance; $12 at the door ($8 for PCC students with ID) and are available at Antigone Books, Girlfriends Coffeehouse and Bookstore, Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse, The Pink Motel and Tucson Trunk. The show will be deaf interpreted and wheelchair accessible.

For reservations and more information, call 617-3100.

'The Gay West' Saturday, June 28

TUCSON - Old Tucson Studios, in conjunction with several of Tucson's Lesbian and Gay non-profit organizations, will present The Gay West, a fund raiser for the Lesbian community, Saturday, June 28, 6:00 P.M. to midnight at Old Tucson studios.

Proceeds from the benefit will benefit Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Tucson Lesbian & Gay Alliance (TLGA), Wingspan, PFLAG, Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, Arizona Central Pride, Team Arizona and Desert Voices Chorus.

The evening will include park shows, rides and attractions, a country western dance under the stars, a High NRG dance in the Grand Palace Saloon featuring Wet Dog Promotions, a performance by Desert Voices Chorus, a cowboy cookout and the 100 Families/One Family photo documentary exhibit as well as an information fair presented by the participating organizations.

The event is open to the public. Advance are $10 for adults, $8 for children 4-12 years or $12 adult and $10 child at the gate, call the Old Tucson Studios ticket information line for ticket outlets, (520) 883-0100, extension 0.

Phoenix Pride Festival This Weekend!

TEMPE - The annual Phoenix Pride Festival is set to take place, May 30 through June 1 at Tempe Diablo Stadium.

The event's promoters say that thousands of Gay men and Lesbians will attend and there will be continuous entertainment on two stages. In addition there will be dozens of booths where all kinds of goodies will be available.

There is a $5 per day admission fee or you can get all three days for $12. Take the Broadway Road freeway exit and head west to 48th Street. Parking spaces in the area are often hard to find so be prepared to do some walking.

Tucson Welcomes Men From San Diego June 14

TUCSON - Seventy five members of the San Diego Men's Chorus will be joining Desert Voices at their upcoming concert, Fairy Tales, June 14 at the Temple of Music and Art.

Directed by Chris Allen, the San Diego Men's Chorus, is celebrating its eleventh season and has earned a reputation of excellence through a dynamic commitment to perform new music as well as traditional favorites in men's choral music. As musical ambassadors, the Chorus prides itself in bringing the Gay and Lesbian culture to communities through performances both nationwide with other Gay men's choruses and in San Diego concerts and civic events.

Conductor, Chris Allen moved to San Diego in 1982 from Ohio. Beginning in 1989, Chris started his tenure with the SDMC as Principal Accompanist and Assistant Musical Director. Chris became the conductor for the chorus in 1994. Chris is also the director of the San Diego Women's Chorus and the 1996-97 San Diego Opera Ensemble.

Come enjoy the exciting musical presentations of both the San Diego Men's Chorus and our own Desert Voices. Join both choruses after the concert at the Freedom Ring Dance Benefit being held in the Temple of Music and Art Courtyard, 10:00 P.M. - 1:00 A.M. Tickets for each event are on sale at Antigone's, Tucson Trunk and Girlfriends. Concert tickets are $12; dance tickets are $7 in advance or $10 at the door. For more information, call 791-9662.

ACCESS Tucson Closes For Reorganization

TUCSON - Access Tucson will be closed from Friday, May 23 through Tuesday, June 3 for reorganization.

During this closure no member services or production facilities will be available. Cablecast hours will also be significantly reduced. It is necessary for Access Tucson to reduce services and cut staff due to lack of funding.

People are invited to a general membership meeting to discuss the emergency reduction in services and our plans to continue serving the community. The meeting is Saturday, May 31, 10:00 A.M., Access Tucson, 124 East Broadway.

Tucson Pride Week Calendar Deadline

TUCSON - Just a reminder to any group or organization that would like to have their Pride Week event(s) appear on the official Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance Pride Week Calendar.

The calendar is filling up fast, so all requests must be called in to the TLGA OUTline, 622-3200, Tuesday, June 3. A representative from TLGA will contact you to get full details of your event(s). TLGA looks forward to hearing from you!

SAAF Seeking Volunteer Massage Therapists

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation needs massage therapists to volunteer their services to help people living with HIV/AIDS.

If you are a massage therapist and are willing to volunteer three hours a month, please let us know. For more information and details contact the clinic coordinator, Curt Beall, 299-8586.

AHRF Annual Awards Dinner June 14

PHOENIX - The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) is holding its sixth annual Awards Dinner, June 14 at the Arizona Biltmore.

This year's theme, "Renew your Vows," is in keeping with AHRF's overall goal to protect the security of Lesbians and Gay men throughout Arizona, enrich the quality of their lives, and to safeguard basic American principles.

Each year awards are presented to those individuals and corporations who have demonstrated their belief in and dedication to AHRF's goals.

The Barry Goldwater Human Rights Award is presented annually to the person or persons who by providing his or her name, time, and talent, has made specific noteworthy contributions on the national level towards the elimination of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and an effective response to the AIDS crisis. This year's recipient is San Francisco, California Mayor Willie Brown.

The Barry Goldwater Human Rights Award is presented each year to a company with nationwide presence, which in recognizing the diversity of its employees and customers, has demonstrated a commitment, and taken specific measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and promoting an effective response to the AIDS crisis. This year's recipient is American Express.

The Arizona Human Rights Fund Awards are presented each year to one Arizona corporation/organization and/or Arizona resident who has fulfilled the criteria of the Barry Goldwater Human Rights Award on the state or local level. This year's recipients are Russ Haan of After Hours Creative, and Planned Parenthood of Central and Northern Arizona.

Tickets for the dinner are $135 per person. Tables of ten can be purchased for $1,350 per table. Entertainment for the evening will be Melba Moore. After dinner dance will feature Sistah Blue. For more information call (602) 530-1660.

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IBT's News Gay-zette

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH, 9:00PM
MURDER MYSTERY WEDNESDAY RETURNS
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POLITICS 1997

By MARK R. KERR

It's The 'Ishtar' Of Butts!

The hunt for "Pink Elephants" continues! A federal appeals court in California ruled that a Gay couple, ousted from their elected posts on a county Republican central committee, cannot sue the committee for violating their civil rights. Right, "Don't Ask, don't tell, and don't even **think** about suing!"

The El Dorado (California) County Republican Party removed Paul Johnson and Kevin Wadsworth from the committee allegedly because the couple rented their ranch for a Democratic candidate's fund–raiser. Okay, but did they keep the receipts?

Johnson and Wadsworth, both longtime Republican activists, maintained the committee conspired to oust them because of their sexual orientation. California Republican conspiracies against homos? Sure! Just ask "B-1" Bob Dornan or Governor "Prop. 187" Wilson!

County Republican committee members denied discrimination, with **straight** faces, as a motivation for the vote to oust Johnson and Wadsworth. Though the committee's lawyer was quoted as saying even a biased motivated ouster would have been legal. Even better was a Republican state assembly member from El Dorado County, who allegedly said, "we got rid of those faggots!"

It didn't end in "Smoggy California." The hunt for "Pink Elephant" went to the "Beaver State," Oregon. Yes, the home of two recent notable moderate-Republicans, **now** an endangered species, who recently retired/resigned from the U.S. Senate, the open-minded Mark Hatfield and the open-mouthed and open-zippered Bob Packwood.

In response to openly Gay state Rep. Chuck Carpenter's, R-Portland, moves in the state House on behalf of a job rights bill for Gays and Lesbians, the Oregon Republican party has told him to get off his high elephant. In a widely circulated letter from the chair, Deanna Smith, and the vice-chair, Perry Atkinson of the Oregon Republican Party in which they ask Chuck Carpenter and his colleague Jim Hill to leave their party.

The heart of the letter read, "You are holding this legislature hostage to promote your personal social agenda. . . . You are turning this legislature session into a circus to advance a philosophy that is detrimental to the philosophy of this party and the vast majority of its members.

"Your activities are an offense to the democratic process that has made this country unique and precious, they have also been an embarrassment to the entire Republican Party and especially those Republicans who serve their constituents in public office." Serve constituents, I thought it was to serve special interests!

Carpenter asserts that he represents his constituents, including Gays and Lesbians, and contrasts their experiences of arbitrary firings with "the Republican Party philosophy that all Americans have the right to work without fear of discrimination." So true!

If this trend continues, and it will, the only "Pink Elephants" that Republicans will see will be after a "bender!" . . .

The second week of "Fiferama Follies" is in the can! Testimony began in the trial for the severely indicted governor, J. Fife Whitewash III, R-Future Florencian. Federal prosecutors called their first witness, Joyce Riebel, the Fifester's secretary for 12 years, or 10 according to Fiferama's documents. Riebel was the sole witness for the week.

Riebel testified that she kept track of 'Whitewash's 'personal' expenses and many of his financial records. Most were kept in a locked filing cabinet for which only she and the Fifester had a key. She said Whitewash on would make changes to financial statements with a pen or pencil. She would then retype the statement and send it to banks or other lenders at his instruction. Riebel testified she made changes to the statements only at Fiferama's request. Uh-oh!

On her second day on the witness stand, Riebel testified that the Fifester altered financial statements throughout 1990 depending on which bank or lender was involved. Ooh! In testimony, Riebel confirmed that she helped Fiferama prepare financial statements showing him $22 million in debt by 1991. Ouch! Whitewash did not report the full scale of his problems to some lenders, she said. Naughty-naughty!

The defense began their cross-examination of Reibel, a total of one-and-a-half days. Riebel finally relaxed, and tried her best to help her boss.

With the guidance of Whitewash's defense attorney Terence Lynam, Riebel suggested to the jury that Fiferama's various financial statements to lenders were fair renditions of the changing nature of his real-estate assets. Conflicting information, she said, was the result of honest mistakes, oversights, typing errors, or simple changes in his conditions. Sure!

Riebel agreed with Lynam that she and Whitewash may have received incomplete or incorrect information from accountants at Coopers & Lybrand. Oh yes, blame someone else!

The fourth day of the "Joyce Riebel Show" ended with a bang as federal prosecutors pointed out that she once had a joint criminal defense agreement with Whitewash. Ooh! Riebel conceded under intense questioning by prosecutors that in 1993, while a federal grand jury was investigating Fiferama's finances, her "mouthpieces" were working together with the Fifester's on a common defense strategy, if one were needed. And it was Blanche, it was!

Riebel also told federal prosecutor David Schindler that she had sought advice on a finding lawyer from Whitewash and from friends around the same time. After she was reminded of her previous testimony, Riebel admitted that she met with Whitewash's lawyers before she testified before a federal grand jury in January 1994. She also recalled telephoned conversations with Fiferama's defense team as she worked with Fifester's accountants to prepare documents for use in the investigation.

The testimony, forced and elicited from Riebel before the judge adjourned the trial for the holiday weekend, was intended to call into questions Riebel's favorable testimony for her soon-to-be jailed boss. Check please!

The trial resumes today with Riebel on the stand for **even** more questioning by federal prosecutor David Schindler. Oh the carnage! . . .

So it goes for now kids!

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"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away"
Henry David Thoreau

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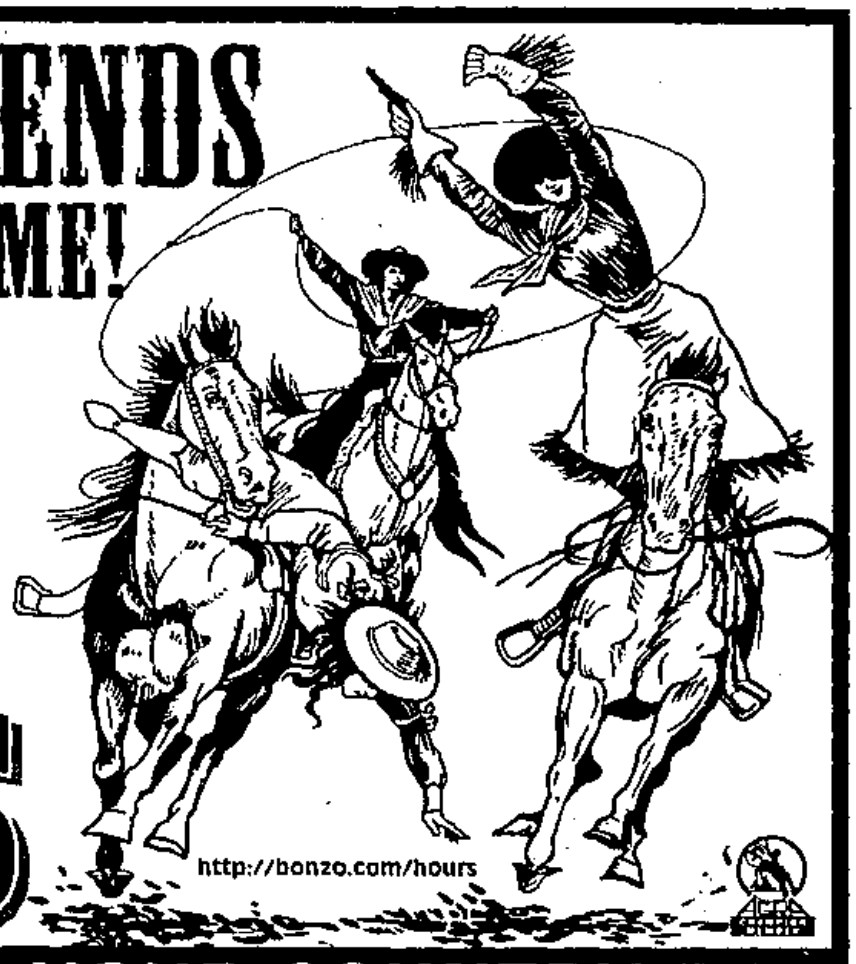

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Columna Abierta. . . . .

by Dr. Eleazar Garcia

¿Qué tál?, Pidiéndoles disculpas por la ausencia de esta Columna Abierta en la edición padada, ya que creí que tenía el material listo para los días de mis vacaciones y no fué así, ya que no contaba que el día martes 20 estaría en la ciudad de Douglas AZ., en la reunión del Consejo Binacional de Salud del Noroeste de Sonora y del Condado de Cochise, la cual estubo buenísima, ya que se presentaron trabajos que se han hecho en una excelente forma ojalá y que así sigan, ya que son muchas las actividades que hay que desarrollar en bien de esa región fronteriza. A la vez nos tocó saludar a un gran número de viejos amigos y colegas que siempre estan pendientes de la salud pública...

Pues tal como les prometí de darles un "por menor" de mi paseo por los pueblos de Sonora y del Rio Bavispe; pues todo aquello muy bello como siempre, y ahora con estas lluvias que hemos tenido un poco adelantadas según los conocedores sobre el clima; unas praderas hermosas, verdes que pronostican bastante alimento para los ganados: y lo mejor de lo mejor es el ambiente político que hay en cada pueblo, da gusto ver que la gente siente interés cívico y sobre todo, que esta muy conciente de las "sinvergüenzadas" y prepotencia de algunos funcionarios públicos que tienen a nuestro México en la situación en que se encuentra; ojalá y que realemente la gente salga a decidir, mediante el voto, a sus servidores administrativos, y sobre todo que exista respeto al voto. Estaremos pendientes de los resultados... Sobre la Caravana del Recuerdo que se venía realizando cada año en el pueblo de Granados, Sonora éste año no se llevó a cabo por "ciertas razones" al igual que las tradicionales carreras de caballos, quitandole lo tradicional (perdonando la redundancia) a las Fiestas en honor San Isidro Labrador, pero eso no interfirió para que la gente de Granados atendieran a los visitantes de la inigüalable forma que siempre los ha caracterizado, agradecimiento muy personal y sincero a las familias Provencio, Barceló, Durazo, por sus finas atenciones... Y que decir de la 2da. Exposición Anual del Maestro de la Fotografía, Octavio; quién a travez de sus obras fotográficas da al visitante, una demostración de las bellezas sonorenses... Además el Maestro Octavio estará exponiendo parte de su colección en el Colegio de Sonora para el mes de junio... Felicidades Octavio!!!.

Y ya entrando en uno de los principales objetivos de ésta Columna Abierta, el de darle información sobre salud. Hay nuevos motivos para la esperanza... Con combinaciones de nuevos y potentes fármacos, los médicos han logrado erradicar el VIH de la sangre de pacientes con SIDA... Por fin una terapia prometedora luego de años de desconsuelo. El médico estadounidense de origen taiwanés David Ho, fué de los primeros científicos que suscribieron el origen viral del sida y el cuarto en aislar el VIH. Mediante la novísima técnica de PCR (una herramienta biotecnológica que hace copias del material genético), el doctor Ho encontró que individuos recién infectados también presentanban grandes cantidades de réplicas virales y un síndrome gripal con fiebre, dolor de cabeza, molestias en la gurganta y malestar general. Después de esto, la carga viral,(cantidad de virus en cada milimetro de sangre) bajaba hasta casi desaparecer y el paciente no mostraba indicios de deterioro. El virus nunca está "dormido". Penetra el cuerpo humano y se ancla en los linfocitos T CD4 para reproducirse y así de esta manera logra una multiplicación impresionante que es atajada eficientemente por el sistema inmunológico todavía sano. Pero escondido en los nódilos linfáticos el VIH sigue produciendo miles y millones de sus copias, durante años... Sin embargo el sistema inmunológico no es tan fuerte como para soportar la presión de la replicación viral. Poco a poco decae y padeciminietos oportunistas se hacen presentes. Una nueva generación de medicamentos trajo algunas esperanzas. El doctor Ho y el doctor Martin Markowitz, reclutaron a dos docenas de hombres en diferentes etapas de la enfermedad y les administraron una combinación terapéutica de fármacos que incluían inhibidores de la transcriptasa inversa y de la proteasa. Hasta hoy, estos voluntarios continúan sin presentar rastros del virus en su sangre, pero todavía faltaba buscar al VIH en semen y nódulos linfáticos y asegurar la erradicación total. Estos datos fueron reportados por el doctor Ho en la conferencia Internacional sobre Sida, realizada en Vancouver Canadá el verano pasado. Sin embargo, lo realmente problemático para países subdesarrollados es el asunto económico. En los EE UU, el precio del tratamiento anual asciende a los 25 mil dolares debido al costo de los medicamentos. En México puede llegar a los 7,500 pesos mensuales. Cantidades que difícilmente el grueso de la población puede pagar. Y esto sólo en lugares con cierto desarrollo, todavía las nuevas terapias están muy lejos de la gente afectada en el continente africano, por ejemplo, donde la situación epidemiológica es verdaderamente desastrosa. Los pacientes que logran salvar la situación económica se encuentran con otras dificultades. Primero, pueden no tolerar las combinaciones y sufrir graves trastornos, es decir, en estos casos es peor el remedio que la enfermedad. Segundo, la disciplina para tomar sus dosis debe ser espartana, pues lidiar con 20 ó 40 pastillas al día es cansado (lo menos) Coordinadas por un horario establecido. La efectividad de los cocteles farmacológicos radica en que el VIH debe desarrollar varias estrategias simultáneas antes de hacerse resistente a los antivirales administrados. La interacción de éstos con otros fármacos puede resultar mortal. Es por eso que la administración debe ser bajo estricto control médico. En relación a los fármacos, los investigadores todavía no saben cuánto durará exactamente el beneficio de las combinaciones. Ni cuáles serán los efectos colaterales a largo plazo de éstas. Ninguno de los pacientes del doctor Ho ha querido abandonara las terapias de combinación después de casi dos años. Ninguno quiere saber si resurgirá el virus al dejarlas. Pero después de muchos años, parece que hemos acorralado al sida y tenemos esperanza. Asi sea... Mientras "sean peras o manzanas" se le recomienda sexo seguro y sobre todo el uso correcto del condón...

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

Ernie Pérez
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FAX: (520) 327-9557

Dr. Eleazar García
SEAHEC
1171 W. Target Range Road
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PERSPECTIVE....

by Mark Landsfeld

DEAR TUCSON:

You're hiking, actually, you're lost. You're lost in the Santa Catalina Mountains just north of town. You've been lost for six days. You're about out of water and there's none to be found.

Your thirst is becoming unbearable so you decide to drink your precious last four-and-a-half ounces of water. You're tired, numb, suffering from exposure, so as you attempt to remove the cap from the bottle you fumble it, and in an instant the water is spilled and gone, instantly stolen by the equally parched earth at your feet.

You're speechless. Crushed. Angry. Sad. Totally confounded. Empty.

Do you know this feeling? Ponder it for a moment . . . I think most of us do.

There are a million reasons why AIDS sucks. One of them is a cousin of such a feeling as described above that visited me today as I read the list of dead people in the Memorial issue of The Observer and learned that friend died. I had had no idea. I had just recently wondered to myself, "Where's Jeff, I haven't seen in a long time."

It would have been enough just going through and remembering so many friends now dead, but enough is enough with this damn disease. I've been filled with this emptiness all day.

Jeff "Chrysler 300" Huntoon wasn't a best friend, we were casual acquaintances that shared an appreciation for old hunks of steel, chrome, glass and rubber. Jeff was way-proud of his Chrysler 300 with is obnoxious fins, vinyl, and gadgets from that Golden Age of the automobile. And he had a great bubbly energy to go with it. It pisses me off that I never got a ride in his pride and joy. Time seemed boundless, and we only bumped into each other every six months or so.

What's difficult here (and I think many of us have experienced this) is that though Jeff and I had a connection and had a great time when we were together, because we weren't "tight," I never got any notice of his death.

It's heartbreaking that for a variety of reasons or fears, family members of Gay men who die young (particularly, I think), often fail to include their friends in customs of remembrance and closure.

We as a community must do better, (in spite of how difficult it may seem), at telephone chains or trees or whatever they're called, to notify everybody we can of a friend's death no matter how peripheral they may seem to us.

How many of us have had the privilege of knowing someone only briefly, but so richly that they changed us?

We are still a community and AIDS is as much with us now as it ever was. Please be involved. People are still dying. And "long term non-progressors" such as myself still live with this disease every day! So in spite of all the good pharmaceutical news of late, let's not forget that there are still millions of people living with this nastiness. Let's not forget to have fun either, but try to create some balance.

While I've got the pen in hand I'll take this opportunity to ask with utmost sincerity that everyone who's eyes pass over these words do something to help those of us with HIV, and those people providing the services we depend on so incredibly.

I'm not rich, so I give my time. I spend my time talking to middle school classes, high school classes, college and university groups, and people recently diagnosed with HIV about what HIV and AIDS are and what it's like to live with HIV. I participate on PACT's Board of Directors and will soon continue on SAAF's as well. While I work full time, I give my time because it's what I have and it's amazingly rewarding to know that I'm being a part of the solution and helping people.

If you're not well of, please give some of your time and talents. Everything imaginable is needed!

If you are well off or please consider writing a check to SAAF.

Public agencies don't merge for the fun of it. They merge out of necessity. These are not easy times. Please, give generously of what you are able. I thank you, and many, many, many silent others thank you as well.

Our Tucson community may not eradicate the disease, but together we can minimize the crisis. Please join with me. Thank you!

Okay, so this wound up being sort of unintentionally uncohesive, but I need to say these things. One last time, please support our new baby - SAAF. And if anyone can tell me anything about Jeff Huntoon, what happened to him and his car, please contact me. My business ad runs continuously in the Observer and has my number on it.

[Mark Landsfeld is an independent landscaper and serves on the PACT Board and soon the SAAF Board of Directors.]

Homophobic FBI Men Censured

ATLANTA, GA (NP) - Richard Jewell is mostly out of the rough, now that the FBI admits that its agents' bias derailed the Olympic bombing investigation.

The world was rocked by the fatal July 27, 1996 bombing at a celebration of the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, but until early this year the explosion's shockwaves were largely Richard Jewell's problem.

Jewell says he was tricked and hounded by the FBI for about three months as the agency falsely assumed that he had been responsible for the bombing with the help of a Gay lover. On May 20, the heads of the FBI offices in Atlanta and in Kansas City, Missouri both revealed that they had received letters of censure for their treatment of Jewell.

One agent received a five-day suspension without pay and two more were exonerated in the Department of Justice's (DOJ) internal investigation. This was far from enough to satisfy Jewell's lawyer, Wayne Grant, who called the light punishment "a whitewash" and said the agents should be terminated.

Former security guard Jewell had at first been the hero of the disaster, finding the bomb and beginning to clear people away from the area around it before it detonated. It was the manner in which he was questioned shortly afterwards that the DOJ said was "a major error in judgment" in an unpublished report supporting the disciplinary actions.

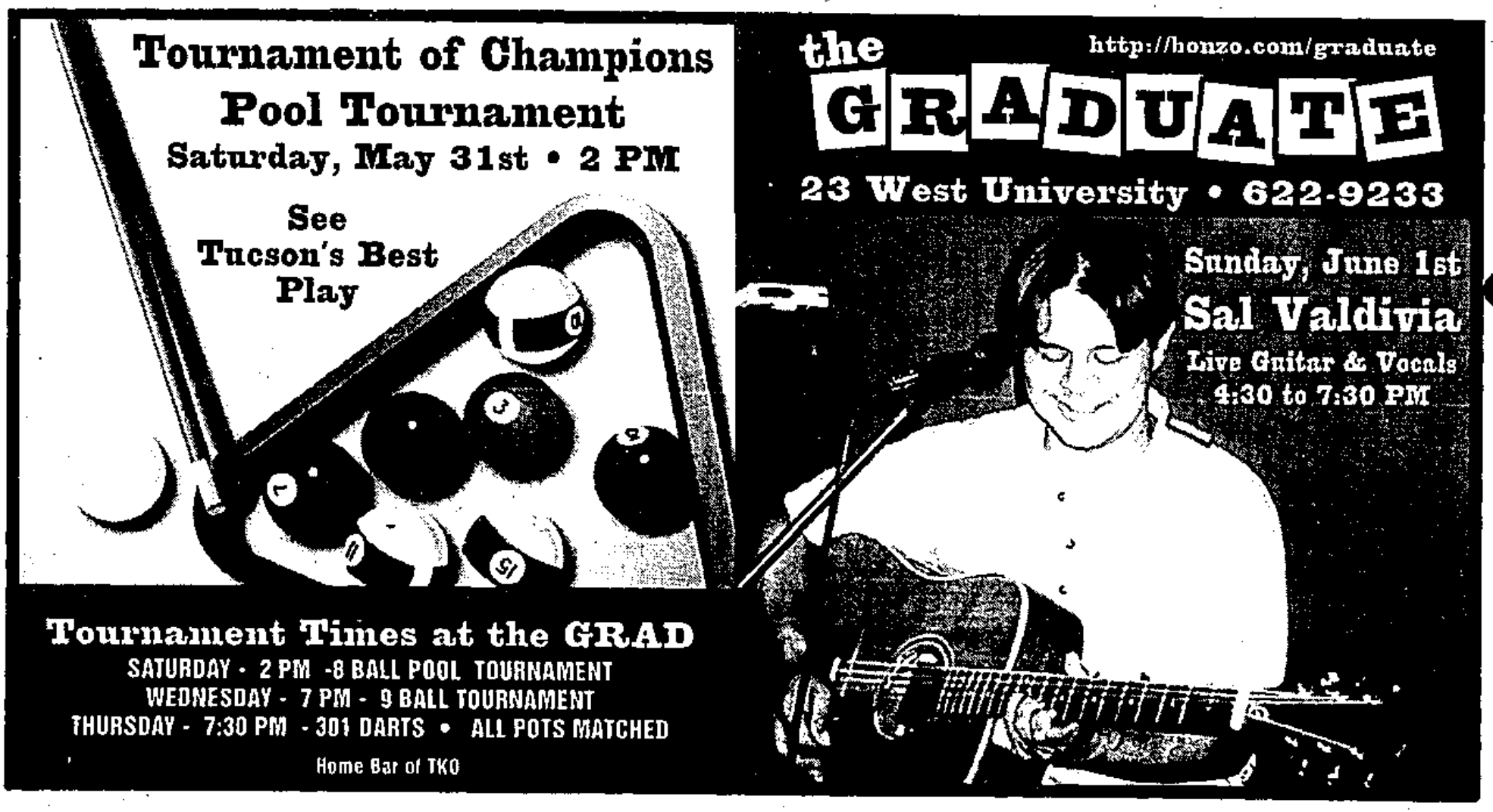
Agents tricked Jewell into being questioned without having an attorney present by pretending they were actually seeking help from him in creating a training film.

For weeks thereafter the FBI investigation was driven by the theory that Jewell was an "enraged homosexual cop-hater," who planted the bomb with a male lover first acting as his co-conspirator and later alerting police by phone.

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

After months of intense observation of Jewell, the FBI finally decided on his innocence, but lost valuable time in the process and the case remains unsolved.

Media coverage of the FBI's suspicions has ended in several settlements with Jewell. There are some parallels suggesting a relationship between the Olympic bombing and the later bombings in Atlanta of a family planning clinic in January and the L/G/B/T bar The Otherside in February.



LETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSL

DEAR OBSERVER:

Jell-O Update. Last week we reported that we had collected over $16,000. It is with pleasure and awe that we report that we have collected $17,554.59 to date. To all the wrestlers, to everyone that sold raffle tickets, and to the 53 businesses and individuals that donated items for our auction and raffle-thank you! Words can not truly express our gratitude.

It is with a little Jell-O on our face that we left one very important wrestler out of our thank you's last week, Edgar Rivera, who raised over $1,600. Te Admoramos. And thank you, Gary Clark, for searching for the photo of Reno Gannon. Our history is important.

And lastly, thank you again to all the bars that produced this great community event and fund raiser: Ain't Nobody's Bizness, Boom-Boom's, the Graduate, Hours, IBT's and the Venture-N.

Sincerely, Matthew Palmer and Jenny Porter, Event Coordinators

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DEAR EDITORS:

After reading the Memorial Day issue of The Observer I was greatly saddened for a couple of reasons. The first thing that saddened my heart was four simple words on the front page of the paper "Continued on page two." Unfortunately the number of our family that we have lost now requires nearly two full pages. As much as it saddens my heart to see this list of friends and loved ones it is also joyful to see that they are remembered and loved. In my heart it is important to remember those that we have lost.

Regrettably I am writing to you add yet another name to the already too long list. Stan Tolenen passed away in June 1995. Stan was a hairdresser here in Tucson for a number of years. When Stan made the tough decision to move in Portland, Oregon, to be close to his son and family, he left many friends here in Tucson. This was quite evident based on the amount of phone calls that I alone received. I realize that it would be virtually impossible for you to keep up with all of our brothers and sisters that have passed away on your own, and that you must rely on the members of the community to assist you in this endless task. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this were the last name to be added to this list. Ahh, to have a dream!

Sincerely, Mark L. McCrory

EDITOR:

My friends, this is about our everlasting but amicable Tucson-Phoenix rivalry.

I know I'm a hopeless case. I'm like the relief pitcher in softball who sits there on the bench until there isn't anyone else. But no matter. But if you've ever driven I-10 to Phoenix, you'll know: white line fever, the road is mesmerizing; so are drag queen contests.

So I wish to thank the organizer of the National Capital Cities Pageant, Jalissa Michaels, owner and curator of N.C.C. Pageantry, for inviting me to be a contestant over the Memorial Day weekend at Phoenix's Holiday Inn on North Central. (Just a footnote: Why can't we have out streets beautifully lined with palm trees like Central?)

This pageant was a whopper of an event: I never have seen so much creative flair; such panache, glitter, glamour, goddesses. If you'd been in the dressing room, you'd have seen the miraculous transformation.

The most scary part wasn't the audience or the judges. It was that hideous section of I-10 just south of Phoenix where all the lanes narrow because of freeway construction improvements and you're steering within inches of concrete barriers.

You're going to love the winner when she visits Tucson in a guest artist spot, Celebrity Star.

The juried panel included a name you'll know: Adrienne Alexander.

I give her special thanks for taking the trouble to present to me, after the show, with a written critique of what I'd done. I'll never win any titles for Tucson but I can't write about it if I don't understand it. So let me encourage you: if you're talented, creative and energetic, chase that pageant rainbow. We need you. A title holder is an undeniable magnet for our AIDS fund raisers.

Let me challenge you folks. I'm one of those George Plympton types: try everything to experience it. I consider myself marginally talented but I can't believe I was the only Tucson representative in what possibly is the state's most dazzling pageant, a national competition covering 18 states and equivalent to the Miss Gay America Pageant. I've seen first-rate entertainers in our city; I wish at least one of you had made the trip. But then, there's always another year. Do consider it a matter of civic pride.

Regards, Elise Fox

EDITOR:

Here is a copy of the response I received to my letter to the President of Arizona Bank, Jim Click, regarding the possibility of domestic partners benefits for their employees.

I don't question the sincerity of Mr. Click's response, but I feel that I must still transfer my funds to Bank of America since domestic partner benefits aren't offered at this time at Arizona Bank.

Patrick Dooley

[The following is the copy of the letter of Mr. Click's response to Mr. Dooley.]

Dear Mr. Dooley:

Thank you for your letter of May 3, 1997 regarding the closure of your accounts with Arizona Bank. I was delighted to hear of your sincere compliments regarding our staff, their cooperative nature and their desire to be of service to you. It is always hard to say goodbye to a good customer and please know that we would welcome your business back at any time you deem appropriate.

Thank you also for sharing your views with me and your belief in what is in the best of interest of Gay and Lesbian Tucsonans. I respect all of our rights as free citizens to champion the various needed causes within our community. It is important that we all stand up for our beliefs and do everything we can to make Tucson a better community for all of us to live in. I respect you for what you are doing and wish you well.

Sincerely, Jim Click, Jr.

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HOME ON THE RANGE WITH AGRA-TUCSON

by Anida Cowboy

Hey Tucson! I hope everyone had a healthy and safe Memorial Day Weekend! The weather was great and from what I hear, some of the parties were just the same. With the summer weather fast approaching, it is time to start looking at the upcoming Summer events. Believe me when I say that the AGRA-Tucson Board is hard at work planning on keeping all of you busy with events throughout the Summer and the rest of the year. Our goal is to be involved in one major ever per month as well as keep very visible in the Tucson Community. I will give you the rundown each week as our plans become more definite.

Our plan for June is to promote and sell tickets for Old Tucson's Gay West that will be held June 28, at Old Tucson Studios. For all tickets that we sell, a portion is donated back to AGRA. So, if you are planning to attend the event, make sure you purchase your advance ticket from any one of the AGRA Board members. They are $10.50 in advance and $12.50 at the gate the night of the event. I know that it is planned to be one heck of an event and I look forward to seeing AGRA Tucson represented in force at the park.

The following weekend, we continue the party with a weekend bash at the Stonewall/Eagle for the July 4 Blast. It will be a weekend to celebrate your Independence with friends food and entertainment all weekend long. You thought Chile Verde Days was fun, this will be just as fun if not better. Why make plans to go away for the weekend, stick around and party with us. We will also be raffling off a TV/VCR combo unit for $1/ticket and 6 for $5. Look for an AGRA representative at the Stonewall or see the bartenders to purchase your raffle tickets.

Attention artists and creative persons! Get your designs ready for the 1998 Saguaro Regional Rodeo Poster Contest! Deadline for submission is July 20. All submissions must be a two color maximum or if a photograph is being used the original negative must be submitted with entry. For more information contact Scott at 792-5653.

Hope you have a great week! As always, remember to keep your pride and play safe in the saddle.

Note: AGRA's General Membership Meeting is June 22 at Boom-Boom's.

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

NEWS FROM P.A.C.T.

by Frank E.G. Gallego

This is part one of a two part article by David Hoover, program manager for Pima County's HIV & STD Program.

WHY YOU NEED TO BE AN AIDS ACTIVIST

This is a crisis time for AIDS treatment in Arizona. Every concerned person needs to know what is happening, and what to do.

What about Meds? Nothing has changed the face of AIDS more than the appearance of protease inhibitors. Some Arizonans are able to get protease inhibitors through their insurance or because they have AHCCCS. Others rely upon the state' AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). The Arizona Department of Health Services has set aside $2.3 million for medications for the upcoming year. Will this be enough to provide those people with medications?

Over 350 people in Arizona used ADAP last year. As many or more will use it again. Fortunately, El Rio Community Health Center, the Ryan White CARE Consortium's Medication Committee, and the pharmaceutical companies have been working together to broker medications through the Compassionate Use Program. El Rio has brought over $500,000 in HIV medications to Pima County.

Unfortunately, we cannot continue to rely on pharmaceutical companies to supply medications for free. There is a strong possibility, in fact, that free medications will soon end.

Meanwhile, the state of Arizona contributes **nothing** for the prevention or treatment of AIDS! ADAP funds come exclusively from federal Ryan White dollars. . . .

I leave you with this in mind, "The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it." - John Ruskin

Get Naked!

(now that we got your attention)

Please sponsor our Drama/Improvisational group so that we can attend a conference in Los Angeles, August 7 through 10, 1997.

Through theatrical performances, our group addresses issues that affect young gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth in our community.

We need your help to raise money in order to learn how to effectively target high school aged youth in Pima County and to represent Tucson, Arizona at this national conference.

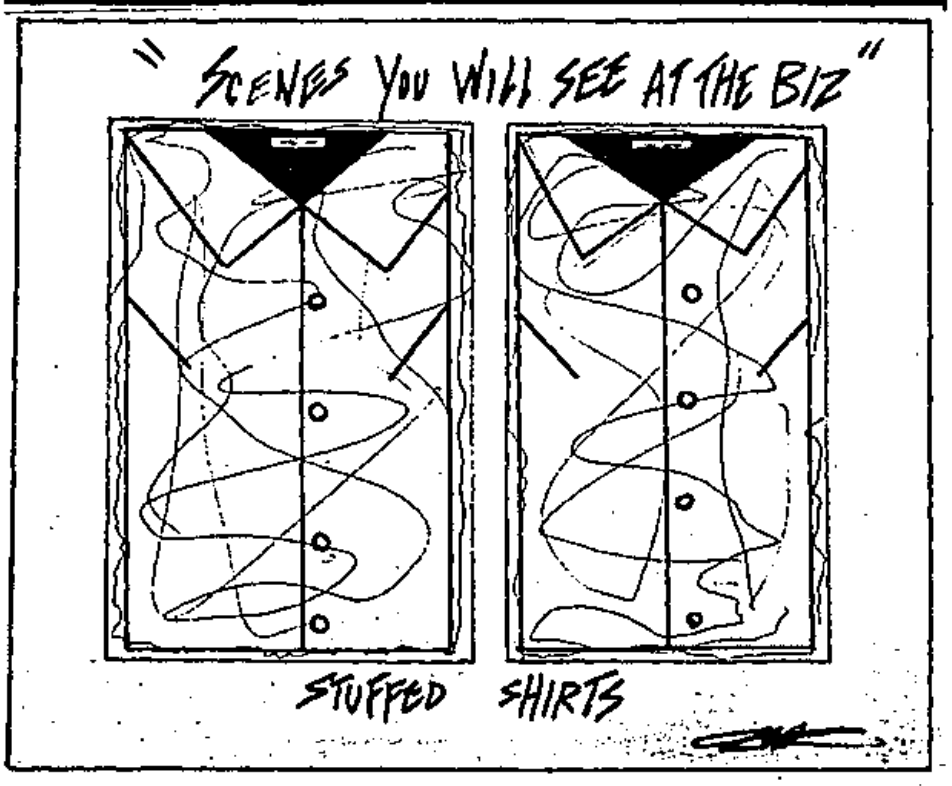
To donate your time, expertise, or money please call Arthur or Omar at 320-5376. Leave your name, number, and address and we will contact you!

Thank you for your help!

QueerVoices

QueerVoices is a project of the AIDS Prevention Collaboration.

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



Officials Regroup In Manhunt For Murderer

CHICAGO, IL (CT) - Frustrated by a lack of leads and declining publicity, law enforcement officials are regrouping in their hunt for suspected murderer Andrew Cunanan.

Cunanan, a 27 year old Gay man from San Diego, is suspected of killing four people in a grisly, cross-country spree. He has most recently been sighted on the East Coast.

The FBI, criticized by some for its slow mobilization on the case, now seems to be hitting its stride. Technicians at the FBI Academy are preparing photos of what Cunanan may look like with various disguises. They will circulate the photos to police and news media across the country as well as all of the Bureau's 56 field offices. FBI Fugitive Apprehension Squads now rate Cunanan as priority #1, and the Bureau has sent notices about the fugitive to 176 countries, in case he tries to travel on his passport.

Officials have conceded that they underestimated the young man's ability to elude them. Since the manhunt began in early May, investigators have learned much more about Cunanan, including his penchant for altering his looks.

"This fellow is a great manipulator," said Chicago criminologist Arthur Bilek. "He seems to have a high IQ. He seems to have a capacity to ingratiate himself and to tell believable stories. But he is not a guy who is accustomed to living on nothing."

Authorities think this may lead to the fugitive's undoing. "He is the antithesis of loners like (Unabomber suspect) Ted Kaczynski, so that personality trait may work for us," said Chicago FBI spokesman Bob Long. "It's likely he is...communicating with someone and not living a hermit's existence."

The FBI is continuing to monitor the credit cards for Cunanan and his alleged victims and tap the phone lines of his friends and family in an effort to track him down.

One veteran federal investigator seemed confident that Cunanan had gone underground: "He will look different when he resurfaces. But just as sure as I am of that, I'm convinced someone will see through his disguise and dime him out by calling the police."

Stress Deadly For HIV+ Men

by Philip Cohen

CHAPEL HILL, NC (NS) - Intense psychological stress could be deadly to people with HIV. A research team in the United States says that a single episode of stress, if it is sufficiently harrowing, can double the rate at which HIV-positive men develop the symptoms of AIDS.

Previous studies of stress and the extent of illness in patients with HIV have looked just once at a large group of people, rather than following patients over time, says Robert Golden, a psychiatrist at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill.

Some of those studies found a link between stress and illness, but it was impossible to separate cause and effect: Patients could equally have been stressed because they are ill, or ill because they were stressed.

"These studies provided a snapshot with stress and disease together. What we needed was a movie to see how the two are really related," Golden says. With colleagues at North Carolina and the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, Golden recruited 93 men with HIV who had not yet showed symptoms of AIDS.

The researchers then followed their progress. Every six months the men's health was reassessed and they were interviewed about the stressful events they had experienced in the intervening months. Events such as the death of someone close or the breakup of a long-term relationship were related as "severe."

Thirty-five of the men developed symptoms of AIDS over nearly four years. The men who had experienced one or more episodes of severe stress were twice as likely to develop further symptoms as those for whom life had gone more smoothly. The more intense the stress was, the more symptoms the men developed.

Golden and his team had reported previously that some of the volunteers showed a reduction in the numbers of certain immune cells found in the blood due to stress. The cells, however, were not those that are killed by HIV.

Their new results, reported in the American Journal of Psychiatry, suggest that this had a real impact on the men's health.

[Philip Cohen is a reporter for New Scientist. This article was reprinted from the Arizona Daily Star.]

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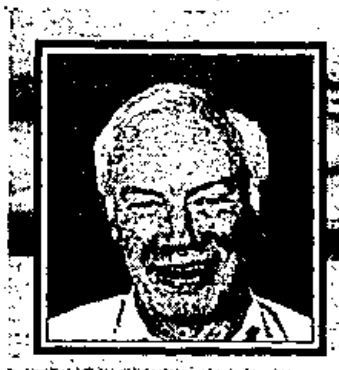

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Viewpoint

By Peter Newton

Studying at Jerry Falwell's University in Virginia didn't lead Marc Adams to the ivory tower; it lead him to his partner and, eventually, to himself.

Characterizing the first 20 years of his life as fundamentalist indoctrination, Adams, the son of a Baptist minister, has come a long way from his upbringing in a small Pennsylvania town--about as far away as you can get both physically and ideologically: the 29-year-old entrepreneur, cartoonist and author now lives with his lover of nine years, Todd Tuttle, in West Hollywood, Calif.

"It's really amazing I'm not locked up in a room with rubber walls somewhere," jokes Adams.

Adams recently self-published his autobiography, "The Preacher's Son,"

"With 'The Preacher's Son' I want readers to understand what it's like to grow up under the banner of fundamentalism," says Adams, who was an early convert to the teachings of the Rev. Jerry Falwell because, as Adams puts it, "he promised to cure me of my homosexuality."

At age 14 Adams sat in Front of his family's black and white television set watching one of the few programs he and his four sisters were allowed to view, "Jerry Falwell's Old Time Gospel-Hour."He knew he had sinful feelings for other boys. So he set his sights on attending Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., which boasts a strict lifestyle code and a hriving "recycling program" for sexual deviants such as homosexuals.

"I was trying so hard not to be Gay My prayers weren't working. I couldn't kill myself. So I decided that I'd do everything I could to attend Liberty," says Adams whose parents refused to pay for his college education because they believed Falwell to be "too liberal."

"If my parents think Falwell is a left-winger you might get an idea of how fundamentalist they really are," he says.

Adams did attend Liberty, where he met the man that would become his partner for nine years, Todd Tuttle. But while the liaison was tantalizing, it was also threatening. Adams said he'd been taught by his parents and other teachers that he would immediately contract AIDS from sex with another man.

"Todd and I went into denial together. We freaked out, trying to pray together and find girlfriends for each other. We were a mess," says Adams. Not long after, Adams started writing what would become "The Preacher's Son" after 10 years of work.

The pivotal moment at Liberty that forced Adams to question the fundamentalist beliefs came one day while he was answering telephones for the college recruiting office. "A Gay publication in California printed the toll-free number for Liberty University telling people to call as often as possible. Gay activists must've had that number hooked up to their computers because Liberty lost $100,000."

Adams' epiphany came in the form of a call he answered from a priest who asked what Falwell was doing to help AIDS patients. "He said he just lost his lover to AIDS and that he was dying. I just spewed the religious rhetoric until he hung up on me," says Adams. "I never considered myself to be a hypocrite until that moment when I hung up the . telephone," says Adams.

Since then, the road from his upbringing has been long and hard. "I'm still teaching myself how not to judge people, because that's what fundamentalism is all about. I'm always reminding myself that there's more beneath the surface--to accept people for who they are."

"To this day, I'm still de-programming," he says, adding that he came out to his family at age 22. They responded with the same religious rhetoric he had turned on the priest.

"One of my sisters still refuses to see me unless I get an AIDS test and show her the results. She thinks just breathing the same air as me might give her AIDS. That should show people the level of ignorance there is in this country," says Adams, who is currently on a national book tour, speaking to groups about his experiences and subsequent triumphs.

Adams and Tuttle are co-founders of Daboize Toys, a mail order company that has been providing original Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay themed greeting cards, books and gifts since 1993.

"The Preacher's Son" is published by Windlow Books, an affiliate of Daboize Toys, which will publish two cartoon books featuring the characters that are already featured in more than a dozen gay publications around the country: "Harold the Bird" by Adams and "CindyGirl, the DownHome Country Lesbian" by Tuttle.

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IT'S NEWS TO ME . . BY STEVE RISLEY

The Dark Side of Cyberspace: The size, scope and popularity of the Internet and the World Wide Web is growing exponentially with each passing day. The amount and diversity of information, the opportunity to conduct business, the exchange of private inter-personal communication via electronic mail (email), and the number of entertainment related sites, including popular "chat" rooms, is keeping pace with that growth.

But there is a dark side to life in cyberspace including, among other things, an alarming rise in the number of incidents of, in the case of one popular chat system, unrestrained on-line Gay bashing.

The Internet began life in the Cold War era of the 60's as an idea for a decentralized communications system that would allow the government and military to communicate in the event conventional systems were destroyed in a nuclear attack. In 1969 the first computer on the "net" was located at UCLA and by the end of the year was joined by 3 others. In the decade that followed they were joined by 100 others, all engaged in scholarly, scientific and military-related pursuits.

By the mid-80's the network split into two entities - one served military needs and the other became the research component. The number of host sites grew to 1,000 during the decade.

By 1990, in a mere 5 years time, host sites had grown to over 300,000, had inter-connected to other international computer systems, the Dept. of Defense began to relinquished central control, affordable home computers capable of accessing the system came on the market and the equivalent of the great Oklahoma Land Rush began - some might say the genie was released from the bottle.

In subsequent years growth in the number of Internet sites exploded:

Year	# of Sites
1991	617,000
1992	1,136,000
1993	2,056,000
1994	3,864,000
1995	6,642,000

Current estimates place the number of sites at the beginning of 1997 in excess of 10 million. The number of world wide users in the 150 countries now inter-connected and collectively known as the World Wide Web is pegged at 40 million, the majority in the United States. The prestigious financial services firm, Morgan Stanley, predicts that by the year 2000 over 160 million users will be on-line.

Like the frontier west in its infancy, the Internet is basically wide open and lawless. With no central authority or inherent system of laws governing it's use or content, and no enforcement infrastructure capable of regulating and monitoring activity, the Internet is basically self-policed. It is up to the individual sites to determine what they wish to post (or allow to be posted) for viewing and what conduct they will allow to take place.

Once the venue of scholarly pursuits, that use for the Internet has become secondary to many other activities including many forms of personal entertainment. The size and number of sites insures that there is something out there for everyone. One of the most popular forms of entertainment are the so called "chat rooms" where people with mutual interests or affinities can gather to interact, share discussion or meet other like-minded individuals. Web sites catering, in whole or in part, to Lesbians and Gays now number in the scores. Among the most popular are sites operated by Yahoo!, Gay.com, WBS, and Backdoor.

Yahoo! Inc., a pioneer and frontrunner in Internet navigation services, operates Yahoo! Chat which includes a large number of individual rooms with a diverse range of topics from sports, current events, and entertainment arts to various rooms for the romantically inclined of every persuasion including Gay rooms and Lesbian lounges. Launched at the beginning of this year and offering access free of charge, it has become one of the most popular chat systems with more than 4,000 people of all ages, Gay and straight, chatting there at any given moment. The overall number of registered users likely totals many times that amount.

Gay.com caters solely to the Gay and Lesbian population, on a good night it will have upwards of 80 separate "rooms", each capable of hosting 25 occupants, and it also offers access free of charge.

WBS is a general interest system with a wide range of room topics including "Members of the Same Sex". It's format allows users to include pictures and graphics along with their conversational entries and it, too, is free of charge. But its system and format is less sophisticated, cumbersome to use, and because it does not employ an automatically scrolling screen of real time chat the thread of conversation is difficult to follow and the spontaneity of real-time conversation and byplay is all but lost. On weekend evenings when other Gay and Lesbian chat rooms are jumping there are less than 20 people in the same sex room on this system.

Backdoor, which employs the same state-of-the-art, easy to use, option laden and real-time chat system as Yahoo! Chat is the newcomer and caters primarily to Gay men. Backdoor's rooms have names such as "Leather", "Dungeon" and "Bear Cave" and is decidedly set up for, shall we say "frank", conversation of a sexual nature. Perhaps because it has only been in operation 2 to 3 months and has not been widely discovered, or because it lacks any rooms for non-sexual discussion topics, there are rarely more than a 20 people throughout the entire system. Access is also free of charge.

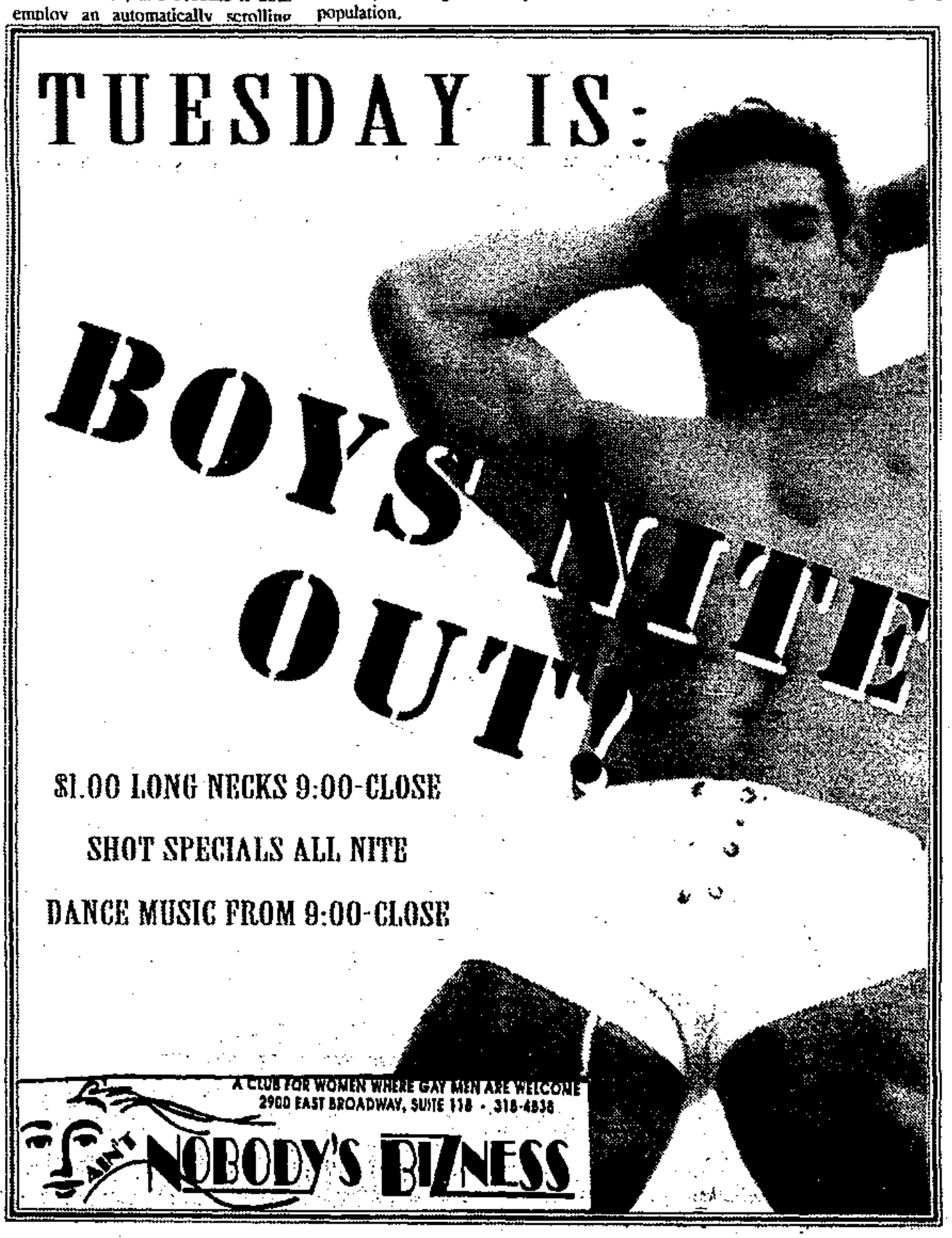
Yahoo! Chat has clearly cornered the market. Visitors to it's same sex rooms come from all parts of the world and although English is the predominant language, it is not unusual to see conversations also taking place in Spanish and French. The ages of visitors generally ranges from 14 to 50 and reflects the diversity of the general Gay and Lesbian population.

But what started out as an easily accessible, exciting, and entertaining (addictive to some) pastime has developed a sinister side - virtual attacks, and out of control on-line gay bashing.

On-line gay bashing takes the form of extreme, vicious and obscene name calling and threats which bashers direct at the occupants of a room. Using on-line names chosen for their offensiveness such as "Fagkiller666", "Hatesfagz2", "Deth2-fagz", and similar "handles", the intimidation begins the moment the basher enters and his name appears in the on-screen list of room occupants. It's not uncommon for all conversation to immediately cease and the cyber equivalent of a chill to settle over the room.

A small example of typical bashing includes exceedingly aggressive and obscene pronouncements hurled at Gays and Lesbians ("DIE AIDS F—RS!) including name calling more villously creative than that encountered in the real world, and descriptive statements of "virtual" action such as "levels shotgun at everyone's head and pulls the trigger", and "tosses hand grenade into the room, then sets fire to the bodies".

The effect is extremely unnerving and upsetting to most and grossly offensive to all. Attacks are sudden, unexpected and range in duration from a few seconds in a "hit and run" assault to a continual barrage by one or more bashers lasting up to



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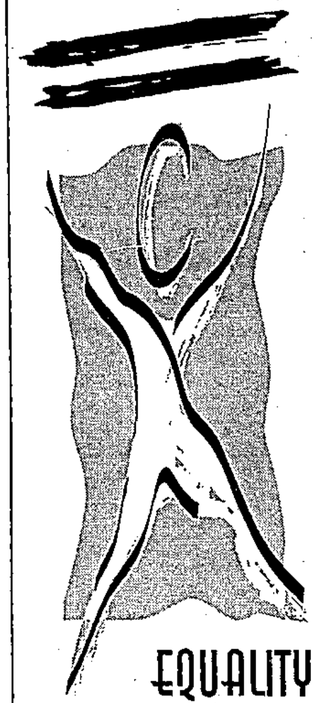

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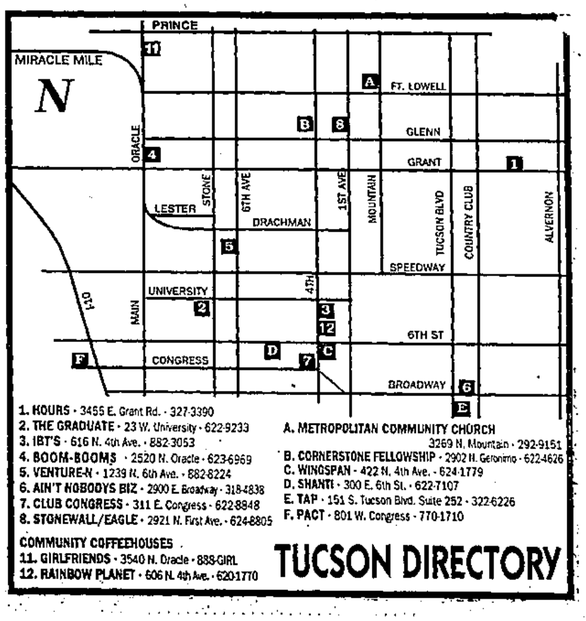

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Go In Good Health

by Rev. Andrew Brooks

This time, I though I would share some of my thoughts with you on a serious subject: Addictions. Addictions come in many forms, including addictions to food. But the ones I want to focus on are the ones most prevalent in the Gay community: Drug Addiction, Alcohol Addiction and Sex Addiction.

First of all, addiction to drugs can start in subtle ways. It is true that drugs work on the pleasure center of the brain. They make you feel good. If they caused horrible pain, do you think many people would use them? Well, in the long run, they do. And no, I am not part of the political "war on drugs," I really don't care for most of what the government is doing, the government wouldn't care less about drugs if it wasn't for the money factor involved.

All too often, I have encountered younger Gay men who use drugs as a party aid. Wow! I can take a drug, party for days, that sounds like fun! Of course, one of the strongest influences in using drugs is associating with others that use them. It's the old monkey see, monkey do analogy. We see our friends apparently having fun on drugs, then we decide to try them.

All drugs weaken the immune system in one way or another. That's something to think about. As Gays, we are unfortunately in a higher risk group for AIDS. Do we really want to do something that can increase our changes of succumbing to AIDS? There is some evidence that if the immune system is strong enough when first exposed to AIDS, it can throw it off. (Remember, not everyone exposed gets sick). Not only that, taking drugs robs the body of nutrients. The body quickly becomes depleted and malnutrition sets in. Have you ever noticed that some people with heavy drug use lose weight, and start to look pale and run down? That is the depletion from drugs setting in.

I know first hand about crystal meth, a popular drug. I had a roommate for awhile, who was using this drug. He was a nice guy, and had a wild sense of humor, but unfortunately, he was also very paranoid, always fearful someone was after him, and had obviously personality distortions from the drugs. He was stealing to support his habit, and as the problems grew worse, I could no longer let him live with me. The last time I saw him, he was very out of it, just having been kicked out of another home, and was trying to sell his music collection so he could have a little money to spend. He left town shortly after that, and I wonder if he is even alive anymore. I miss him. Under the drug problem, there was a nice guy who had just gotten lost along the way.

Some people try to say they have their drug problem under control, that they can quit any time? So why don't they? Even "moderate" drug use is still damaging the body. Sooner or later, your body will pay the price for the abuse. In an effort to help, I am going to list some supplements your body desperately needs if you are using drugs. Hopefully, you will find the strength to seek help, and quit using them before you destroy yourself. Don't see it as a failure to admit there is a problem, and get the help you need! Aren't you worth that much?

Those who have used drugs need more Vitamin B complex, since drugs stress the body, and the B Vitamins help the liver. (Also the herb milk thistle, which will help reserve damage from drugs, whether recreational or prescription). The body also needs calcium and magnesium, to nourish the central nervous system.

GABA (gamma-amino butyric acid) which you can get a health food store, aids as a relaxant and lessens cravings. The supplement L-Glutathione aids in detoxifying drugs, and reduces their harmful effects. L-Lithium carbonate aids in relieving depression. L-Phenylalanine is necessary as a brain fuel but should be avoided if you have high blood pressure. (If all these names seem overwhelming, write them down or take this article with you to the health food store). Pantothenic acid, which is Vitamin B5, is essential to nourish the adrenal glands. Vitamin C helps to detoxify the system, and lessen the cravings. Also, take multivitamins and mineral complex. Lastly, Niacinamide is important for brain function. These things will help to replenish the body and undo the damage caused by drug use.

Alcohol addiction can start slow also. First it is just a few drinks, then a few more, then before you know it, you can have a serious drinking problem. Again, the herb milk thistle helps restore the liver. It is said that evening primrose oil lessens the need for alcohol. Those who drink alcohol are robbing the body of magnesium, Vitamin B complex, and the Vitamins C, D, E, and K, and should replenish themselves. It is always best to limit your drinking, and to drink fewer drinks. If you want alcohol, try to use moderation. Of course, there are many forms of help available for those who want to quit.

Sex addiction is more insidious. The damage it does is emotional. Of course, there is also the greater risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Sex addiction is a serious problem. What is the difference between a sex addiction and a normal sex drive? It can be best defined in a matter of degrees. When sex becomes the number one thing in your life, and you need it constantly, it becomes a problem. Cruising becomes very important, you just need that next trick. After a while, having sex no longer is satisfying for you. It is a temporary fix, and soon, you are looking for the next trick. When you don't have sex readily available, you turn to pornography in movies and magazines. The book-stores are always an option, and people soon discover the high amount of cruising and sex that goes on there, and that is an easy outlet.

When sex addiction takes over your life (and Gay men seem all too prone to this) you can never get enough sex. After the current partner goes home, you start thinking about the next one. This can really mess up your life. You pass up opportunities to find a decent stable relationship, and would rather run out and find quick sex. Sex isn't all that hard to find, but relationships take work. Rather than run the risk of emotional commitment, you use sex as a quick escape. Of course, in a Gay community the size of Tucson, word starts to get around. Some people will seek you out, since, they, too, like quick, easy sex. Others will shun you, and make fun of you. No one really should stand in judgment, since none of us are perfect, but all too often we point the finger and say "Oh, look at him, he's such a slut!"

We need to really do some self-examination here. There is nothing wrong with having sex, and Gay sex is certainly fun. But when seeking sex and the need to have sex begins to take over your life, there is a problem. Of course, that much sex can deplete the body, also. The urogenital system needs nourishment, and when we expend that much energy and overuse that system in our bodies, we begin to run down. On a strictly nutritional level, I recommend vitamins, and a Male herbal formula. There are several different versions on the market.

If you find that having sex has somehow become the top priority in your life, maybe it's time you sought some help. The behavior is self-destructive, and self-defeating. For a short while, you feel better, while you are having sex, but when the latest conquest leaves, you start to feel lonely again. Rather than put yourself through that kind of pain any longer, perhaps it is time to seek some help. There are some good books on the subject of sex addiction, and support groups as well. Don't look on it as a failing, just decide to turn your life around, and go in a different direction. Aren't you worth the very best in life? So don't settle for anything less. Quick anonymous sex is not nearly as rewarding as finding a loving, stable relationship, once based on commitment, caring, and communication. Besides, are your tricks there for you when you need someone to talk to? I doubt it.

It's something to think about. Till next time, Go in Good Health.

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

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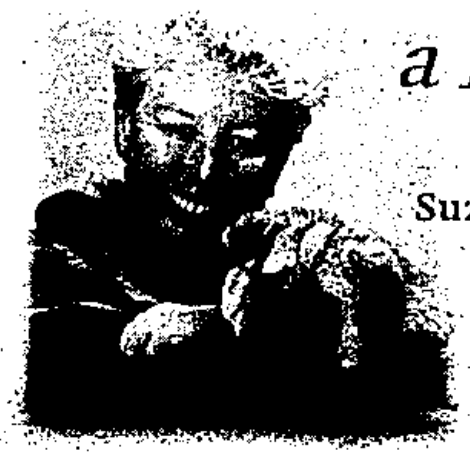

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Oregon Republicans Ask Gay Elected Official To Leave

SALEM, OR (NP) - In response to Rep. Chuck Carpenter's bold moves in the Oregon state House on behalf of a job rights bill for Gays and Lesbians, his party has told him to get off his high elephant.

Is the Oregon Republican Party really willing to throw away their majority in the state House of Representatives to rid themselves of a Gay gadfly? The Gay and Lesbian national group Log Cabin Republicans is circulating a letter from the chair and vice-chair of the Oregon Republican Party asking openly Gay state Representative Chuck Carpenter and his colleague Jim Hill to leave their party. The responses from Carpenter and Log Cabin are being circulated as well.

Carpenter has had to struggle with his own party's lawmakers in an effort to advance a measure to establish protections from workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation, to a degree that apparently offends some party leadership. As Log Cabin points out in their response, should Hill and Carpenter actually leave the party — as they declined to do -- the Republicans would lose their slim majority in the state's House of Representatives, and thereby lose the procedural control exercised by the majority-elected Speaker of the House.

The heart of the letter from Oregon Republican Party Chairman Deanna Smith and Vice Chairman Perry Atkinson reads, "You are holding this legislature hostage to promote your personal social agenda. This is inexcusable. You are obstructing the democratic process in a cynical maneuver based on a selfish view of the goals of the governmental process. What's more, HB 3719 [the job rights bill] is in direct contrast to the Oregon Republican Platform.

"You are turning this legislature session into a circus to advance a philosophy that is detrimental to the philosophy of this party and the vast majority of its members. Your activities are an offense to the democratic process that has made this country unique and precious, they have also been an embarrassment to the entire Republican Party and especially those Republicans who serve their constituents in public office." It closes asking Carpenter and Hill either to lift their legislative blockade or to leave the party.

The grain of truth in the letter is that Carpenter had indeed threatened to join the Democrats in blocking all bills coming from the Senate until the Senate agreed to hear the job rights bill, which was due to die in a Senate committee because of procedures established by Senate President Brady Adams.

Adams will not allow a bill to come to the floor without a majority of Senate votes lined up behind it, and will not allow amendments in the Senate to a bill originating in the House. With some long-intended amendments, Carpenter's bill would have the votes, but without the amendments, it falls just shy -- and Carpenter had been unaware of Adams' rules until it was too late.

However, Carpenter had already apologized on May 14 -- two days before the party leaders' letter -- for his threat to block bills, which he said he'd made in frustration. Previously, he'd had to threaten an unusual procedural move in the House to bust the bill out of a committee whose chair refused to give it a hearing. That brought the business of the House to a halt as the party caucused for the rest of the day before agreeing to move the bill to another committee and a fast track, resulting in its eventual passage by a lopsided 40 - 20 vote.

Carpenter's response first denies the authority of "central committee activists dictating their own narrow agenda under the guise of a party 'philosophy.'"

Carpenter asserts that he represents his constituents, including Gays and Lesbians, and contrasts their experiences of arbitrary firings with "the Republican Party philosophy that all Americans have the right to work without fear of discrimination." He goes on to give several examples from his legislative record of his support of the Republican Party platform and denies having "a narrow personal agenda" as the chair and vice chair implied.

Carpenter closes by saying, "I respectfully decline your invitation to choose between civil rights and my party membership. Instead, I invite you to devote your efforts to broadening the base of our party by working for inclusion, not exclusion. Excluding mainstream voters will only relegate us [the Republican Party] to minority status."

Log Cabin Executive Director Richard Tafel's response, says that, "Those of us who are committed to strengthening and expanding the Republican Party all across the country can only be appalled by the content and spirit of your letter." It goes on to list a series of Oregon Republican lawmakers who have supported workplace protections for Gays and Lesbians either in the form of HB 3719 itself, the federal ENDA, or their own office employment policies, as well as citing the consistent finding of surveys that a large majority of U.S. voters strongly support such protections.

Pointing out the loss of the House majority were the two Representatives to leave as ordered, Log Cabin says, "This fact alone demonstrates the recklessness of your letter, and calls into question the soundness of your leadership." The letter goes on to take the party leaders to task for putting their intolerance ahead of advancing the party, and demands apologies to Hill and Carpenter.

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A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

One of the more creative advertising series, in my opinion, is the one using the Energizer rabbit. He's the one who "keeps going and going and going." Have you seen the latest one? A basketball coach is using the rabbit as a motivational tool for his (obviously) poor team. In one scenario the coach gives his team pink athletic shoes, matching the color of the rabbit. In response, one of the players inquires, "Are these girls' shoes?" (Probably not the effect the coach was aiming for!)

Is this the goal you have for your life, to keep "going and going and going?" Do you think that if you can do this you will somehow have meaning to your life? If so, I have a serious question for you.

What is at the end of all your going and going? The advertisement seems to be saying that the important thing in life is the going. If you were to take your theology of life from this, you would deduce that there is no end to life as we know it. But as we look around us at reality, we can see that no matter how hard we try to keep going and going and going, the time will come for each one of us when this life will end.

And then what? The "Energizer rabbit theology" would have you believe that when life on this earth ends, that is the end. But Scripture tells us, " . . . man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." (Hebrews 9:27)

There are many interpretations concerning this judgment. The best commentary on Scripture, however, is Scripture itself. At the end of the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible, we read about the last judgment: "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which was the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. . . . Then death, and Hades, were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:11-13, 15)

At first reading it appears possible that this judgment is the time when a person's good deeds are weighed against his bad deeds, and if those good deeds prevail, the person receives a good reward. However, upon second reading it is clear that there is only one condition to a person not being thrown into the "lake of fire." "If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." Therefore, this judgment is not about Heaven or Hell but about degrees of punishment.

If good deeds on this earth do not earn a person a place in Heaven, what does? Jesus answered this question when he was speaking with his disciples on the last night he was with them. He said, "Trust in God; trust also in me . . . I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:2, 6)

If you trust in Jesus as the only way to God, you can be assured that when your time of "going and going and going" on this earth is over, you will spend your eternity with God in Heaven.

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PLACE	*Quality Hotel & Suites* *475 North Granada* *Tucson, Arizona*	
TIME	*6:00 PM—Cash Bar* *7:00 PM—Dinner*	
TICKETS	*Non-Members* *Members* *Table of 10*	*$40* *$30* *$350*
DRESS	*Arizona Formal*	

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CALENDAR of upcoming events

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. Special "Girlie Show" goodbye to Bulemia De Havilland as she moves to California. Show features Celia Putty, Virginia Sacrifice, Lucinda Holliday, Bulemia De Havilland, Victoria Du Puis and special guests.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

IBT'S - Underwear Thursday 9:00 p.m. to close with prizes and specials for those in their underwear! (Pant check available).

SATURDAY, MAY 31

GRADUATE - 2:00 p.m. Tournament of Champions pool tournament. See Tucson's best play.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

GRADUATE - Live guitar and vocals of Sal Valdivia 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Don't miss this chance to catch one of the most versatile artists in the West.

IBT'S own Wet Shorts Contest with Tucson's hottest men!$100 First Prize; $50 Second and $25 Third. PLUS Cool off with Rum Drink Specials 09:00 p.m. to closing. The regular Sunday Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust will be for Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

IBT'S - Murder Mystery Wednesday returns with "Murder Under The Big Top" or "The Case Of The Cold Cocked Clown". Solve the mystery and get a chance to win a piece of Ricardo luggage for your summer vacation.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

BOOM BOOMS - Blues Band Tony and the Torpedoes featuring top female vocalist Anna Warr 9:00 p.m. in the "Other Room". $3.00 cover.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

BOOM BOOMS - Zap Productions presents the live country vocals of Billy "D", Kimber and Zane. 9:00 p.m. in the "Other Room". $2.00 cover at the door. Special guest performance by Kenneth Blake as "Reba".

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - The Biz is proud to present "Frenzy"!!! The ultimate drag show! No cover! $1.25 pitchers. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. Hot Latin music follows.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Rare Breed returns! This much demanded band is back. Music starts at 9:00 pm. And doesn't stop until closing. $1.25 pitchers until 10:00 p.m. Cover.

FREE Anonymous HIV Testing at IBT's

Thursday, May 29

8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

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Non-Bar CALENDAR

NOW PLAYING

Millennium Theater final weekend of their production "Greater Tuna" in their theater located in the historic YWCA 738 N. 5th Avenue. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. May 29, 30 & 31. (The Sunday performance is sold out) Curtain time is 8:00 p.m. Tickets at the door are $14.00; $12 seniors and $10 for students. Call 882-7920 for reservations or more info.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Patricia Nell Warren will be in town to talk about and sign copies of "Billy's Boy", her sequel to the gay classic "The Front Runner." At press time, all details were not known, so please call Jerry at 690-9585 to confirm.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Jim, an MSN member who has had many of his photos published in various magazines, will present a slide show on "Desert Wildflowers." For questions about the show, please call Jim at 623-7963. For reservations and directions to the show, please call Bob at 623-1732.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Bears of the Old Pueblo (Bearish men and admirers, guests always welcome) 9:00 a.m. Mt. Lemmon Hike and Picnic! Group will meet at the shopping center at the NW corner of Tanque Verde Road and Catalina Highway and carpool up to Marshall Gulch for a day of hiking and picnicking. Bring along a lunch and plenty of water and have fun with the bears in the pines! Contact intrepid bikemeister Alan or Jimmie at 323-7156 for more information.

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus will present "Not Exactly Straight From The Heart", a musical perspective on the many aspects of love, relationships and everything in between at 8:00 p.m. at the Center for the Arts Proscenium Theatre, Pima Community College West Campus, 2202 W. Anklam Road. Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door. They're available at Antigone Books, Girlfriends, Pink Motel, Rainbow Planet Coffee House and Tucson Trunk. Call 617-3100 for reservations and information. Sign interpreted and wheelchair accessible.

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A Gay Icon Double Feature. Watch Judy & Liza tonight in "I Could Go On Singing" and "Cabaret". For reservations and directions, please call Jeffrey at 791-9674.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Bill invites you to join him as he welcomes his friend, Marsha Sievens, to MCC. Marsha will lift your spirits with her singing. For details and directions, please call Bill at 615-0979.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Tucson Prime Timers invites Gay men over 30 to their monthly Wednesday Dinner at Old Times Kafe at 1485 W. Prince Road (South side of Prince, West of Flowing Wells). 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Tucson Prime Timers (Gay and Bisexual men over 30) will have their regular monthly meeting from 4-6 p.m. at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave. Following the meeting the group adjourns to Caruso's for a social dinner. Members of At-Ease-Again and Cronies Social Club are welcome, as are all mature Gay men. Become a part of Prime Timers, the largest Gay social club in the world.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

A final fund raiser for Hillfoot Gems to go to the National Championships in San Diego. Pool Party at 544 S. 6th. $2.00 to get in. Food and Drinks for sale and there will be raffles plus give aways. Don't miss the fun and help this team to go to the championships, and bring the trophy to Tucson.

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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 - Open at Noon. Happy Hour Noon Noon - 8pm $1.25 small pitchers of draft. Karaoke with Nancy 6-10pm. Blues and Jazz music 10-1.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢. Drink Specials do not apply during special events.

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 8pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Pool tournament 2pm. Steak Fry! Beer Bust 2-6pm $4.75. Stonewall opens at 4pm with Latin music until 9pm followed by High Energy Dance Music.

VENTURE-N - Open 10 a.m. Backside Beer Bust 3-8pm 50¢ draft. $01 Dart Tournament 5pm $3 entry fee. Bert Burgers 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. Trash Disco with Hillary 9pm to close. $1.75 white well 8pm to close.

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. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

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. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon to 7pm. Party with Stephan. Free pool 7 to close.

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

Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7 pm 2for1 well and domestic longnecks. 2-7 p.m. Boys Night Out 9pm to closing. $1.00 longneck Hot dance music.

BOOM-BOOMS - Happy Hour 4-8 daily. Alternative dance music at 9pm. Dart Tourney 8:30. Special prices for all tourney players. $1.50 domestic bottle beer & $1 Cockauckers 8-close.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.50, Domestic $1.75. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

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. All drink specials not available during special events.

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. $1.25 pitchers from 9 to midnight. Alternative music w/Stephanie 9pm to close.

BOOM-BOOMS - Boot Scootin' Country/Western Dance 9pm. Ladies Nite Out with Mary & Nancy bartending (1st & 3rd Wednesdays). $1.50 well & $2.25 call 8-close.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all well $1.50; Domestic $1.75. 9 Ball Single Elimination Pool Tourney. 7pm, Pot matched. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

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 8pm

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. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7pm. College Logo Nite w/Darren 9pm. Karaoke 9pm, Stonewall opens 9pm. Corona & Cuervo Gold $1.75

VENTURE-N - Open 6am Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-8pm. Cuervo Gold $2 all daylnight. 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 - $1.50 well & $2.25 call 8pm to close. Top pop Dance Party 9pm to close.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm all Well $1.50, Domestic $1.75. 301 Dart Tournament 7:30pm. Double Elimination. Pot Matched. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

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. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon-7pm. Party with Peter in the Eagle. Stonewall opens 8pm 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 8:30 to close. Drink specials every ½ hour.

BOOM-BOOMS - Happy Hour 4-8 Country Western in the 'Other Room'. at 9pm. Dance Party with Raymond in the main bar at 9. Watch for the random "Reverse Happy Hour" after 10.

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well $1.50/ domestic $1.75. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

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. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon-7pm; Hot Hors d'oeuvres 6pm. Stonewall opens 9pm. Wear Stonewall T-Shirt and get happy hour prices all evening. Hot Go-Go Boys 10pm to midnight.

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'. Random "Reverse Happy Hour" after 10pm

GRADUATE - Open 9am. Happy Hour 4-8pm, all well drinks $1.50/domestic $1.75. 8 Ball Pool Tournament 2pm, Double Elimination, pot matched. Drink specials do not apply during special events.

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. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7pm Free pool all day. Stonewall opens 9pm with High Energy Dance Music. Hot Go-Go Boys 10pm to Midnight.

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.

Bottoms Appeals Visitation

RICHMOND, VA (NP) - Sharon Bottoms, the Virginia Lesbian whose son was given in custody to her own mother in a celebrated case that reached the state Supreme Court in 1995, was battling back again before an appellate court panel last week.

In August, the last round of this grueling continuing legal struggle, Bottoms appeared to be exhausted enough to give it up, and seemed to have arranged a deal to stop trying to regain custody in order to be able to have her son stay overnight with her in her own home on visitation.

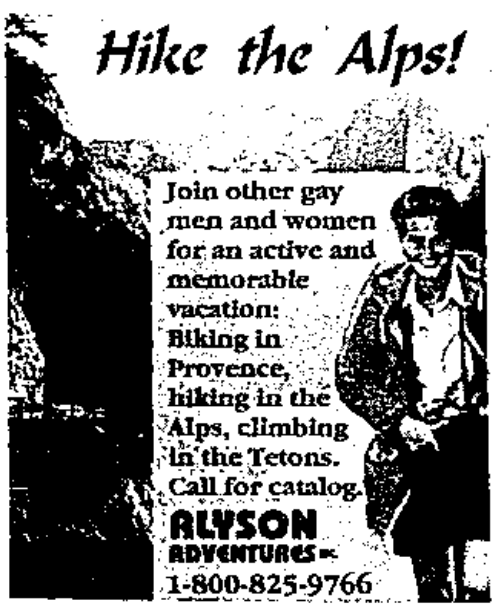
But Henrico County Circuit Judge Buford Parsons, Jr. had his own ideas of how that should be carried out, and not only gave Bottoms substantially less visitation time than previously, but completely barred her partner April Wade from any contact whatsoever with her now 5-year-old son, Tyler Doustou. (Tyler's father has never been a party to the case, and has been vocally supportive of Bottoms' custody). Bottoms is now appealing those arrangements.

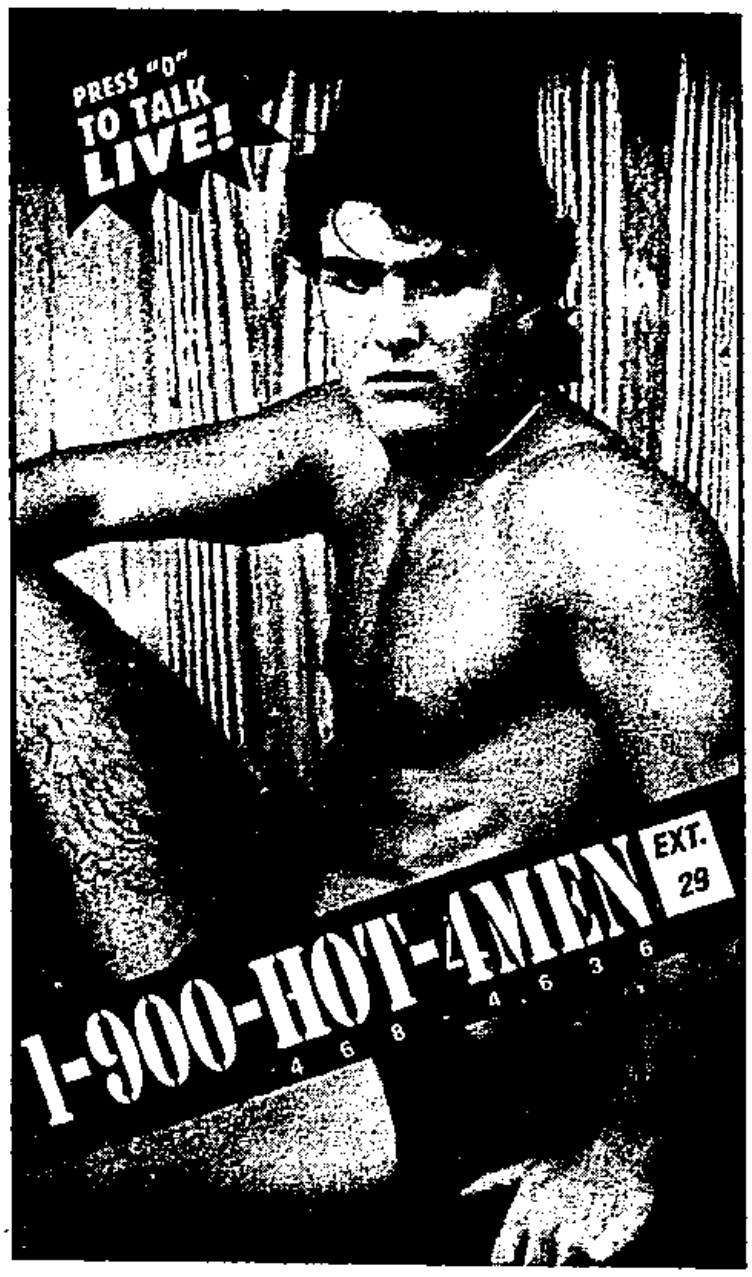
Parsons based his decision on a 1985 Virginia Supreme Court ruling in which a Gay father's child was given in custody to his former wife because he was living with a male partner, and visitation required the lover not be in the house when the child was. Bottoms' attorney argued that the ruling in question had been made regarding custody rather than visitation, while the attorney for Sharon's mother Kay Bottoms argued that Parsons had applied the precedent correctly.

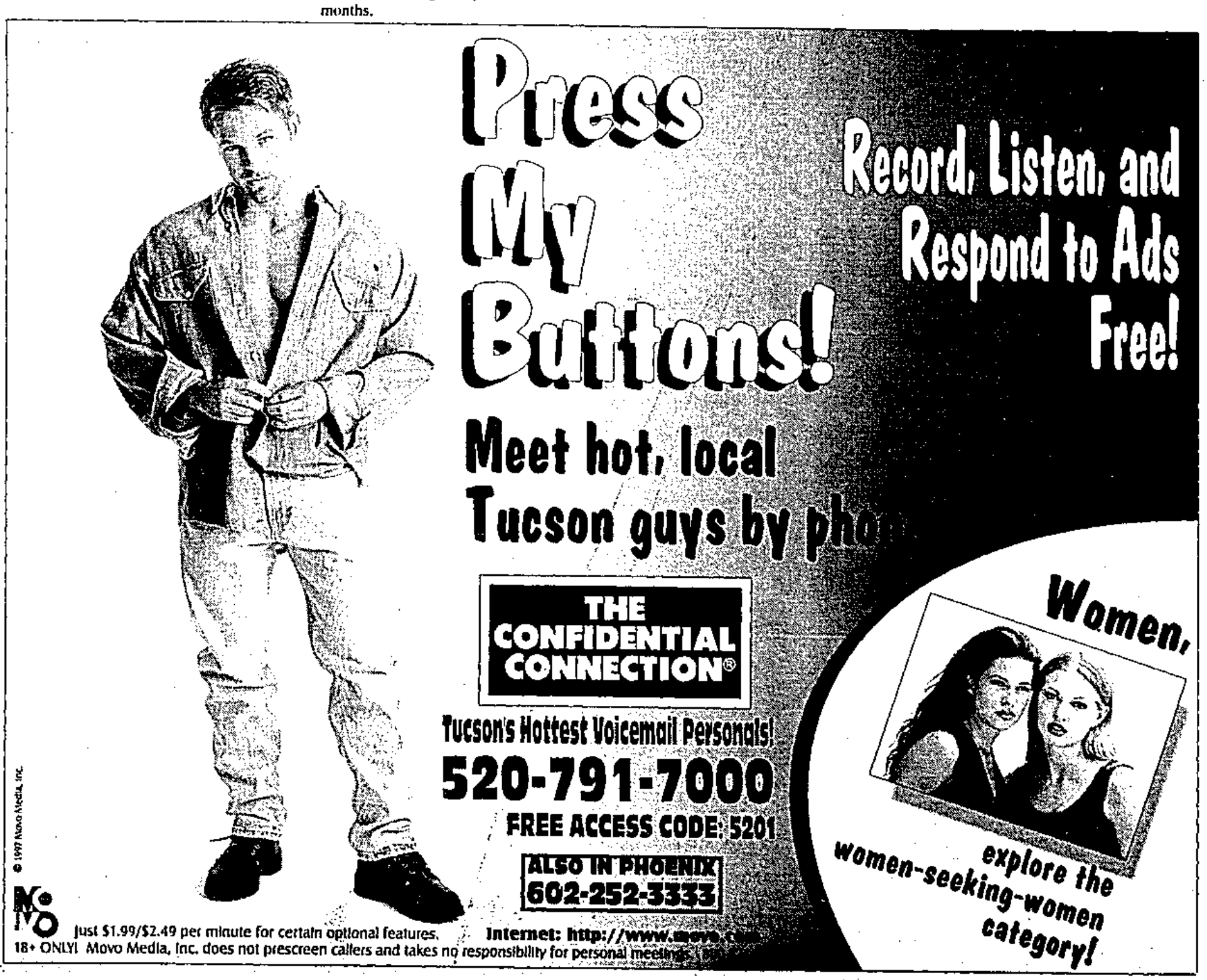
Sharon's attorney claimed further that even if the judge had followed the precedent as intended, the precedent itself was in violation of constitutional guarantees of equal protection under the law -- that if all other visitation situations were considered on a case-by-case basis, so should Bottoms' and Wade's, and he believed the facts were on Bottoms' side. Wade had a close and affectionate relationship with Tyler before he went to live with his grandmother.

A psychologist called by Bottoms' attorney suggested that seeing Wade was important to "demystify" the situation for Tyler. The court-appointed attorney representing Tyler denied having heard any evidence to warrant the 25% reduction in visitation which Parsons had placed on Bottoms in August.

A ruling is expected within a few months.







It's News To Me

Continued from Page Eleven

twenty minutes. On occasion several bashers acting in concert will rotate through the room in turn. As they say, just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water.....

Some chat users temporarily flee the system in horror, others abandon it never to return and online friends are lost forever. If it is possible to activate a system option to "ignore" bashers some room occupants will employ that; others will stand their ground and face the barrage.

Clearly the attacks are designed to accomplish several things - primarily to intimidate, shock, offend, anger and instill fear in Gays, Lesbians and their online friends (it's not unusual to have Gay-friendly straight people in these room). Secondly, they are designed to disrupt and deny use and enjoyment of the room. And lastly, the attacks are calculated to produce lingering aftereffects that continue to cause upset and uneasiness after the attack has ended.

As with other hateful experiences, one of these incidents is enough to last a lifetime. During the first three months of operation at Yahoo! Chat the frequency of attacks was low - one incident of short duration every day or two. As the system began to attract more users the number of attacks similarly increased. During the last two months the number of daily assaults has exploded in both frequency and intensity, and has continued to escalate the past few weeks coinciding with the end of the regular school year. Now it is not unusual to have from 15 to 20 a day.

I've spent a great deal of time tracking and observing bashers on the Yahoo! Chat system (where they primarily operate) and combing through online user profiles. By using a number of different on-line "identities" I have been able to infiltrate public and private rooms where they visit or gather and to collect information about the individuals who engage in this newest form of terrorism directed toward Gays and Lesbians.

During this time I provided all of the information that I uncovered to the company that operates Yahoo! Chat including online names, dates and times of the attacks, and other identifying information I discovered including email addresses.

Additionally, within it's own data files, Yahoo! has the identifying information and the email addresses of every user of their system - it's mandatory to provide that before anyone is allowed to access Yahoo! Chat and they keep all of that information confidential. Their system also maintains a record of all of the fictitious online names that all users, including bashers, create. Yahoo! can easily connect these fictitious names to any user's, again including a basher's; true identity and email address. And they have the capability to block access to Yahoo! Chat for anyone who abuses the system and/or fails to abide by rules in the User's Agreement.

The only information that your fellow chat users have access to is whatever you wish to provide in an online "profile" (if you wish to provide any information at all) that will give other's a fuller picture of the people they are chatting with. The information you can choose to provide includes your true name, the city you are located in, your marital status, the Internet site location if you have your own Website, your age, occupation, and any "likes" or "dislikes". Your email address can be included by electing to have it displayed or not displayed.

Although bashers are predominately male, females eagerly participate in the attacks. Ages range from 10 to 25 but the majority appear to be school age teens who display an alarming propensity for viciousness beyond their tender years. Still, their older fellow travelers in the 20 to 25 age range contribute sufficiently to the general malevolence. As cold and calculated as the incidents are, these people aren't always the brightest individuals in the world and occasionally, by accident, stupidity or in their haste to change identities, they leave a clear trail. Sometimes they inadvertently forget they've included an email address in their user profile enabling anyone, who takes the time and makes the effort, to capture it.

Using an anonymous "mailer", an Internet email service that prevents anyone from retaliating by filling my usual email box with 100's of obscene, unwanted or hate emails, I've sent messages to some of these bashers (with a copy to Yahoo!) informing them that their conduct was a violation of the User's Agreement that all users must abide by, and informing them that I have reported their conduct to Yahoo! Chat.

To my surprise, in a few cases I've received responses from horrified parents who, in the course of checking for messages in the family email box, found my email message and discovered what Junior or Sissy have been doing during the day while mom and dad have been off at work. To their credit, the parents have been apologetic, indicated that punishment was swift and sure, and in one case where Sissy had several of her friends over that day to participate in a bashing party, mom called the parents of the other kids to let them know what their children had been up to.

In other cases it turned out that people had unknowingly been using their roommate's computer and Internet account, and again I received apologies and assurances that steps had been taken to insure it did not happen again.

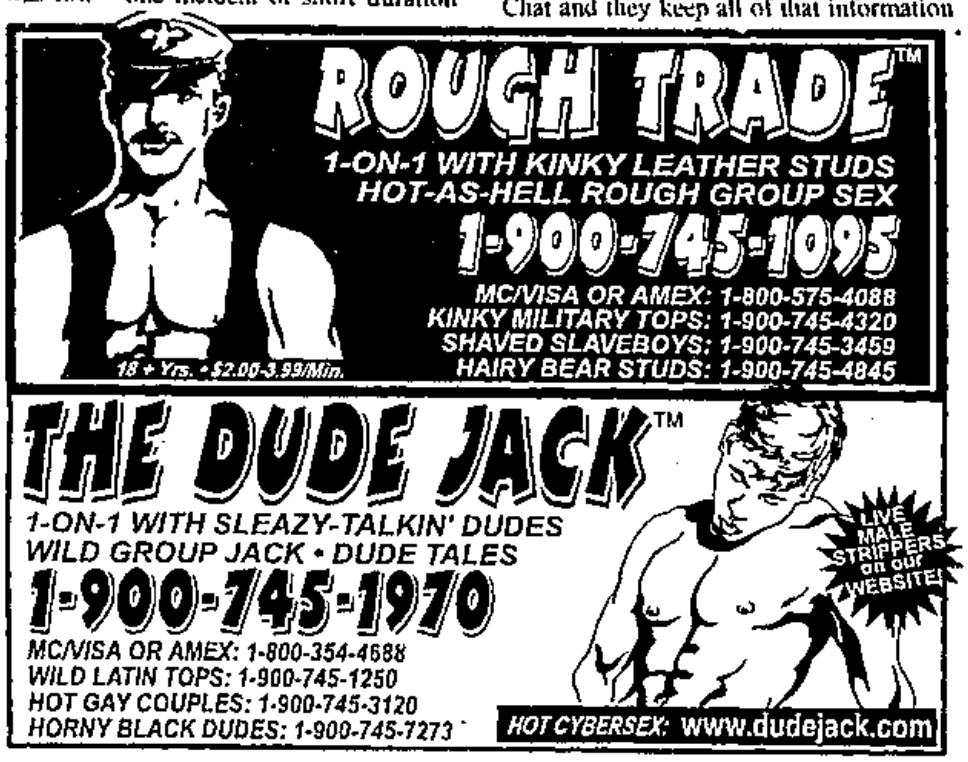
This is just a drop in the bucket. I have only been able to track down a basher in perhaps 2% or less of the bashing incidents I personally witnessed. But there is someone who can identify them 100% of the time and take effective action to put an end to this problem - Yahoo! Chat itself. As discussed above they have the means to swiftly identify a basher and put him out of business immediately.

Yahoo! is informed and fully aware of the problem. In addition to reporting some 70 individual incidents on their system, I have corresponded with them on several occasions discussing the nature, extent and effect of this problem and received replies from their staff indicating that they are clearly aware of the assaults. On many occasions I've located a Yahoo! Chat employee somewhere else on the system and called him into the room to witness that attacks. Still, they have continually failed to address the problem or to effectively respond in any manner to curb or halt the assaults.

These bashers, cybernazis if you will, are very much aware of this and they know they can operate widely, freely and openly on the Yahoo! Chat system and do so without fear of restraint, obstruction or consequence - they talk about it openly, they brag and laugh about it. It's a common topic of conversation in other public or private rooms where they gather to gloat, plan and encourage each other. All the while Gay and Lesbians continue to be on the receiving end of the kind of vile assault that is not tolerated or permitted anywhere else in mainstream society or in any other socially acceptable form of media and communication.

The added insult in all of this is that earlier this year Yahoo! was the recipient one of the San Francisco Cable Card Awards which are bestowed in recognition of outstanding achievement or contribution to the Gay and Lesbian community. Imagine, if you will, the NAACP presenting an award to a large and popular hotel chain that turns out to be knowingly providing meeting and planning space to the Ku Klux Klan.

And then it was now.....



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

HOROSCOPES

BY. C. LICHTENSTEIN

Let's check out energetic Mars in Virgo this week to see where our engines rev and our oomph originates. Mars is the planet of action and what better time to contemplate a little activity during Pride month. Read ahead to see where hot embers can burst into a raging fire for your sign:

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Gay Rams conquer the workplace with Mars in Virgo. Your power of concentration is a force to be reckoned with so plot and plan your way out of a particularly dreary job. Did you look in the mirror lately? Mars inspires you to make that bod as toned and as beautiful as possible. The keyword is moderation; one personal trainer at a time, please.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Mars in Virgo launches your pride performance into an adoring audience. How much fun can a Gay Bull have? I suppose it depends upon how much fun you feel you deserve. It can be an excellent time to kick up those hooves at a pride dance or tap into your inspirational Gay muse and create a masterpiece. Whatever you decide to do, make it magnificent.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

If you feel that the time is right to come out to the family, let the Mars energy give you the courage to carry you proudly forward. There is no time like the present for Gay Twins to breathe free and affirmed. Mars in an all or nothing force that doesn't take no for an answer; compromise is simply not in the cards. Good thing too kid, life is too darn short.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Shake, rattle and roll proud Crab! Your speech packs a punch with Mars in Virgo. Even the most innocuous of remarks can have tremendous reverberations so choose your words with the proper care. Maybe it's time to get involved in any community effort from planting trees to stoking political activism. Howdy neighbor; get involved!

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Queer Lions can become more than a little greedy when Mars is in Virgo. The center of your being, for the time being, is money, honey. This is not a bad thing as long as you keep your value system in the proper perspective. Remember, money cannot buy happiness, although most of the time it seems to grease the way. Love is free although champagne costs.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Mars in your own sign makes you the fabulous center of attention whether you want it or not. It just seems that no matter how Gay Virgos try to hide, the spotlight seems to seek them out. Is glare your color? Why not go with the flow cousin and see where all this activity takes you. Begin new projects now; enthusiasm alone makes even a lousy idea seem inspirational.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Mars in Virgo empties out your closet. Good thing too friend; you can no longer defer happiness and affirmation with all that heavy baggage. Enable the Mars energy to sweep out the old and hearken in the true new lavender you. Queer Libras can also increase their karma points by volunteering for a good Gay cause (is there any other?) Don't just give at the office.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Friends and large social groups provide the impetus; will you be tempted? Mars in Virgo makes even the solitary of Gay Scorps part of the convivial action. Don't be shy and retiring; join in the jolly revelry and be part of the pride parade. If I know Scorpio, you'll probably not only plan the parade but will elect yourself grand marshall . . . or is it grande dame?

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

If your career has suddenly shifted into high gear, blame it on Mars in Virgo. This is probably the best time to make a great impression on bosses and all the sharks in authority. Gay Archers usually like to play corporate politics according to their own rules. Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose this way. Take calculated risks now.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Mars in Virgo may make you more restless than usual. Gay Caps may hanker for either an especially exotic and meaningful vacation or a great global enterprise. I would personally choose the vacation but whatever you decide to do, make it manageable by planning it first and implementing second. There is no stopping a Goat with a mission!

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Is it getting hot in here? Aqueerians are brimming with spice and sass when Mars parks in Virgo. Unleash your beautiful sexual expression and show the world the true meaning of the word pride. But pick and choose your lovers wisely my friend; you don't want to be just another flavor of the month. A girl has to have some respect, you know.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Pink Fish make the most out of relationships when Mars is in Virgo. Use the feisty Mars energy to give partners everything they want . . . and more. You have the inspiration and the impetus to make dreams come true so be generous and magnanimous. Remember, the more you give, the more you will (eventually) receive.

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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ARIZONA

LOVABLE AND HUGGABLE I'm 23 a years old lovable, huggable, Gay White male. 5'9", 145lb, Brown hair, hazel eyes, mustache, goat tee, spiritual inclined, like cats, cartoons, comic, surfing, reading, camping. Looking for a cute hairy men between 25 and 40 with brown hair. If you are fun free and like to cuddle, let's get together. (Bullhead City) ¤22095

SINGING COWBOY I may be only 18 but my heart is in the right place. I seek a nice looking, masculine, respectful man who can treat me right. If I'm treated properly, I'll be able to give all the love I'm capable of giving. Strong morals are important. The ability to sing would be a bonus. (Chandler) ¤1737

FRIENDLY IN FLAGSTAFF I'm a good natured, good looking, 21 year old, White male, seeking friends for hanging out and good times. (Flagstaff) ¤34514

RICH AND GOOD LOOKING My name is Rich. I'm a good looking, 26 year old, Gay White male, new to the Flagstaff area. I have Dark hair and Blue eyes. I'm interested in making friends here, with the possibility of dating and more. If you're sharp and interested, let's get together. (Flagstaff) ¤3618

LET'S HAVE A PARTY This 22 years old Gay, White male, is looking for another guy in his mid to late twenties. I'm 6'2, 170lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and a smooth body. You should like the outdoors, drinking beer and partying. Let's hook up and pour out some cool ones. (Grand Canyon) ¤26466

CYNDI LAUPER SAID SO Hispanic boys just want to have fun. I'm 20, 5'7, 175. I get along with everyone, and just want to have some good times. Call for details. (Kearny) ¤23119

THE SKI BOAT APPROACH I'm a 23 year old, White male who has never been with a man before. A good way for us to get to know each other might be for us to go out on my old ski boat for a day of fun in the sun. (Kingman) ¤34442

IT'S ENORMOUS If you're a hungry, horny, bottom, into size, I'm your man. I'm an extremely well endowed, Single, White male, 46. I'm looking for insatiable bottoms into hot, kinky fun. I'm a vacuum pumper so it gets huge. I also like couples, and more. (Page) ¤34241

ROCKIN' DOWN THE HIGHWAY You might call me a rocker dude. I'm a light skinned, Gay, Indian male, 35, with long, Black hair and Brown eyes. I'm clean shaven and versatile. I like other rocker dudes, into rock music, of course, 18 to 30, who are healthy and have swimmer's builds. (Phoenix) ¤1153

TONS OF TOUCHING I'm new to the Gay scene and don't go about meeting people in the usual ways. This good looking, 37 year old, Single, White male, 5'9, 180lbs, with a tan, hairy body, Blue eyes, and a mustache seeks a clean, safe, discreet male, who doesn't smoke, for a relationship. I love lots of body contact. (Phoenix) ¤1660

ITEM OF INTEREST? I'm just looking to meet some interesting people and have a little fun. (Phoenix) ¤1513

THE VILLAGE VOICE If you like to talk on the phone, you'll love my sexy voice. Let's converse. (Phoenix) ¤1516

THERE'S NO RUSH I'm very new to this so I'd like to meet someone who's nice and not in a big hurry. I'm a very masculine, hairy, White male, 41, 6ft, 260lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, and a goatee. Please call. (Phoenix) ¤1632

HAIR THERE AND EVERYWHERE I seek a relationship with a Hispanic, or White, male. I'm HIV positive, but healthy. I have a hairy chest and legs, and a nice body. (Phoenix) ¤34899

HUNG HERO I'm looking for in shape, well hung, Latino men who want to get together for fun. I'm a good looking, well built, well endowed, White male, 24, 5'11, 185lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. (Phoenix) ¤33399

SEEKS FEM BOY FUN I am looking for a young, feminine boy, in the Phoenix area. If that's you, and you like to have fun, give me a call. (Phoenix) ¤24328

To talk LIVE, in groups PRESS 0 at the main menu.

FIRST TIME EXPERIENCE I've never done it before. I'm looking for my first time experience. My name is Rich. I'm in Prescott. Give me a call please. (Prescott) ¤24569

DOWN TO BUSINESS I'm a young, hot, top seeking horny, masculine, bottoms. Your race and age don't matter. (Tucson) ¤1499

CLUBS ARE WILD I'd like to get together with friends and enjoy life. I'm a nice guy, and rather a homebody. I don't enjoy the club scene very much. I prefer quiet times. If you feel the same way, and are between 25 and 40, let's get to know each other. (Tucson) ¤1339

SMOOTH RIDE I'm a good looking, 33 year old, White male, 6'1, 160lbs, with a smooth body. I'm clean and healthy. I want to meet a top man, in his forties, who is well built, and well endowed, for hot times. (Tucson) ¤33368

HOT SUMMER TIMES I'm looking for young, hot guys, 18 to 25, to have great times with. I'm a good looking, White male, 5'9, 190lbs. (Tucson) ¤33167

PROTECTIVE LAYER OF FUR Do you like a bottom guy who is pretty hairy? Call me. I'm a Gay, Hispanic male, looking for tops, to get down with. (Tucson) ¤26495

ALL TOPS: MOUNT HERE My body is aching for a sizzling good time. I'm a hot, 25 year old, Bi male. I want to meet an older, aggressive top, or couple, wanting to get together for some sweaty action. (Tucson) ¤25253

EXPERIENCED WITH REFERENCES I like young guys. I'm a Gay male, 62, looking for young friends in the area. Sometimes, experience can come in handy. (Tucson) ¤25067

IRON MIKE I'm 34 years old, 5'10, and weigh 155lbs. I love all kinds of outdoor activities, particularly swimming, and hiking. I desire to meet someone my age, or younger. Looking forward to hearing from you. (Tucson) ¤24330

LOOKING GOOD Who's out there? I'm a good looking, White male, 5'9, with Brown hair and Hazel eyes. Wanna meet? (Yuma) ¤1741

BIG BANG THEORY I love to meet other good looking, White males, who are versatile bottoms, who like to get wild. I'm an attractive, extremely well endowed, very horny, White male, 37, 5'10, 170lbs. Let's party. (Yuma) ¤24276

MAN OF THE HOUR Me and my girlfriend want to party with another guy. She wants to watch you and I go at it. I'm a good looking, muscular, White male, 33, 6'2, 240lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. She's a knockout Brunette. We love to party but this will be our first time with another man. (Yuma) ¤34818

SEX IN THE SHRUBBERY This good looking, Italian male, with Black hair and Blue eyes, 6'1, 165lbs, loves the outdoors and sex. ¤1601

LA DOLCE VITA Ever fantasize about a muscular, Italian, bottom? Make it a reality. Call me right away. ¤1623

SLOW STARTER I'm looking for friends in northeastern Arizona. I'm a Native American male, interested in the outdoors and travel. Let's start slow and see where it goes. ¤1027

EVERYTHING'S BIG Maybe I like things big because I just moved here from Texas. I'd like to meet a guy, over 5'8, for friendship and good times. ¤34814

FRIENDS AND MORE I'd like to meet nice guys, 18 to 28, for friendships or a relationship, whichever happens. I'm an 18 year old, White male, 6ft, 200lbs, with Black hair and dark Brown eyes. ¤34399

BLACK JACK This well endowed, Black male, is looking, only, for other well endowed, Black men. I'm 6'4, 185lbs, and in very good shape. ¤26662

HAIR ALL OVER I'm looking for well endowed, top men, with hair everywhere. I guess I want a teddy bear. ¤25737

IT'S BLACK JOCK O'CLOCK Seeking a black, athletic supporter. I'm a 22 year old, Bi, White male, 5'11, 160lbs, with Brown hair, and Blue eyes. I'm not interested in the bars. I want to hang out with a Black male, into basketball, football, hockey, and working out. Let's have some fun. ¤24644

LET'S DO IT I'm a 35 year old Gay White male, 6'2, 195lbs. I'm looking for similar men to get together with and do whatever comes natural. ¤21694

ARIZONA

A FRACTION FEMININE I'm a little shy and bashful so it might take me an extra minute to get to know someone. I'm a White female, 5'5, 135lbs, with long Brown hair and Hazel eyes. I enjoy music, camping, movies, and more. I'd like to meet another friendly female, a little on the feminine side. (Phoenix) ¤1571

BREAK THE ICE I want to talk to womyn in the area. I'm a 23 year old, White female, 5'5, 120lbs, with Brown hair and Hazel eyes. Let's talk on the phone or, maybe, get together for coffee. (Phoenix) ¤34799

HIT IT OFF I've been here for a year so I'm settled but now I'm ready to meet more friends. I like interesting, exciting people who like to do fun stuff. I'm a social drinker and occasional smoker. Shall we hook up and see if we hit it off? (Tucson) ¤1723

TUCSON TWOSOME I'd like to get to know another lesbian with the hope that a special bond will develop between us. I'm a 20 year old, White female, 5'2, 110lbs, with a fun loving personality. I'm outgoing, athletic, love to dance, and enjoy all music. (Tucson) ¤1496

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HIV Vaccine May Never Be Found

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - Despite an extensive and detailed understanding of AIDS, an expert said it is possible that medical science will never find a vaccine that protects against infection from the virus.

Drugs have been found that appear to suppress HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, but researchers still don't know how to make a vaccine that will keep people from getting infected after being exposed to HIV, said Dr. Robert Gallo, co-discoverer of the AIDS virus.

Vaccines now protect against polio, measles, small pox and many other diseases, but HIV presents unique problems, he said.

"We have to say it is a serious possibility that we will never succeed with a vaccine against HIV," Gallo said at a vaccine symposium in Washington sponsored by the Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Foundation.

"Nobody can say that we will (succeed) for sure," he said. "That needs to be said. We have to be realistic."

This problem, he said, has led some people in the World Bank to investigate the possibility of controlling AIDS by treating all of the world's HIV patients with new and expensive drugs that suppress HIV to the point that the virus is undetectable.

"I had discussions with people at the World Bank who are seriously contemplating the possibility of taking the drugs and treating everybody," said Gallo. But he said the discussion was only "exploratory" and that there are no firm plans for drug treatments on such a massive scale.

Gallo said that researchers have put out "an enormous effort" to understand HIV and how it reproduces in the body.

"It is safe to say that we know more about this virus and this disease than we know about any," he said. But Gallo said there are several major obstacles, with no known solutions, that may prevent a vaccine from ever being developed.

* There is no cheap, short-lived laboratory animal that can be infected with HIV for the testing of vaccines. Some monkeys can get a form of the disease, but they are expensive, rare and develop the disease very slowly.

* HIV constantly changes. Often there are a variety of strains within a single patient. To be effective, a vaccine would have to protect against each strain.

* The HIV virus integrates itself into the body, becoming part of the DNA in cells of the immune system. "As soon as you get infected, it starts impairing the immune system," said Gallo. "Once infection occurs, you've got it" and the immune system, which usually protects the body, is itself under attack.

* To be protective, a vaccine has to prime the immune system against a microbe. "We don't know if the immune system could be primed to do that" against HIV, said Gallo.

* Protection may require that every single virus in the body is killed, a trick that is not required of other vaccines. Gallo said, for instance, that polio vaccine merely represses the virus and "then it goes away," preventing an infection. It may take more than this to prevent an HIV infection, he said.

Update: Same-Sex Marriage

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (NP) - Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon signed 112 bills into Indiana state law, and almost unnoticed in that end-of-session snowstorm of legislation was a measure to deny recognition to legal Gay and Lesbian marriages which another state or country may someday perform.

The overwhelming vote of the state House on April 25 convinced O'Bannon to sign the bill, but he remarked that, "It gives you some pause because it's [same-gender marriage] already illegal in Indiana, but it also infers some kind of intolerance in Indiana that should not exist."

The state Senate had approved the bill April 14. Indiana becomes the 24th state to reject recognition of Gay and Lesbian legal marriages performed elsewhere. . . .

Colorado's bill is awaiting Governor Roy Romer's anticipated signature. Last year, he was the first governor to veto a measure against same-gender marriage. . . .

Florida's bill is awaiting a decision by Governor Lawton Chiles, who's said he's undecided. So many people are trying to help him make up his mind on this and other bills that -- honest -- the gubernatorial fax machine broke. The City Council of heavily-Gay Key West sent Chiles a resolution opposing the measure. This week began with his 2,901 letters, phone calls and e-mail running almost evenly divided, with 1,661 in support of the marriage ban. . . .

In Hawaii, the final state Supreme Court review of "Baehr v. Miike" had been scheduled for June and oral arguments were expected to come in August, but the state has requested a postponement.

The legislature agreed to put a constitutional amendment on the November 1998 ballot which would authorize the legislature to reserve marriage for "one man and one woman" only, and the state hopes to close the potential "window" in which same-gender marriages would be legal for a year or two and then prohibited. . . .

Minnesota's bill (known, like its federal counterpart, as the "Defense of Marriage Act") is well on its way after making it through a House-Senate conference committee last week as a part of the massive Health and Human Services spending bill. After its anticipated approval by both houses, Governor Arne Carlson has indicated he'll sign it. . . .

Wisconsin's state Assembly voted 78 - 20 in favor of an anti-marriage bill, leading embattled openly Lesbian Assemblymember Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) to say on the floor, "I feel like I better speak quickly because I may lose my rights to vote around here. You are literally placing me and citizens like me at risk by the hatred that is stirred up."

The vote followed a six-hour debate that packed more emotion than the preceding five months of legislative session. . . .

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM.

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS.

NOTICES

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

People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (PACT For Life), 881 W. Congress. Office hours MWF 8am to 5pm, Tu 8am -7pm. Th. Noon - 6pm. 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, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 300 E. 6th Street, 622-7107. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8860 or write P.O. Box 34284, Tucson, AZ 85740-4284. All replies confidential.

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

YOUNG AND GAY?
Lesbian and Gay youths 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 422 N. 4th Avenue from 2 to 5 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

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 887-7483 and leave your name and phone number. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday, 4-6 p.m. at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 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 organizations, 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 745-6577 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 624-1779.

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals meet weekly for open discussion 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 299-8063 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. 624-1779.

[redacted]'S, EX-L.D.S., GAY LESBIAN, BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. [redacted] 320-1319 for information.

RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL every Sunday at 4:00 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 GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (AGRA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 323-0305 or write AGRA/Tucson, P.O. Box 40494, Tucson, AZ 85717.

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

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

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

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 578-8926
COCHISE COUNTY LESBIANS AND GAYS. P.O. Box 916, Bisbee, AZ 85603 / (602)432-5561. 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 578-0627 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)327-1420 or write P.O. Box 43818, Tucson, AZ 85733-3818, 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. Pager 388-6643.

"LAMBDA CAR CLUB, A social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving collectible vehicles. Call 293-8454.

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2848 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8450 or Rose 968-2384.

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

CROMES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Merle at 888-7294.

[redacted]SHARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Northwestern Fellowship Social Hall, 2002 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Jeff or Art (520)762-8135.

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

MARE MEN: Long-haired Gay male pen pal network. Photo, 3 IRC's to join. Box 231, Station B, Ottawa, CANADA, K1P5C4

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP of St. Philips in the Hills Episcopal Church meets first and third Mondays. Call David, 323-7943 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 2162. For information call 791-4042.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson with Awareness Project, 3061 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3200 N. Mountain. All sexualities welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 885-8363 for information and a newsletter.$50

SOFTBALL - For info on the Tucson Greater Softball Association T.G.S.A., please contact. Mary 770-0879 or Sadie 318-3415.

NOTICES

TUHAN, 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 299-8447.

THIRTYsomething Society - an exclusive society for single Gay and Bi men in or near their thirties. A social society that offers monthly activities including a monthly outing away from Tucson. Call 797-3118 for more information and a membership bio.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays noon-1pm in UMC Dining Room "F". 325-6478 or 670-1954.

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

CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 3rd Monday at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 1500 N. Camino Pio Decimo in the Rice Room at 7:00 p.m. For more info call Emilie721-2901 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, 3288 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 297-8602 or Sr. Joan 742-8900.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-8063.

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 664-0541.

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. 3B or better players only. Grass court Northwest corner Himmel Park 5:00 p.m. Check it out!

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It's 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 881-4532 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, 1948 E. Lee St. at 7:30 p.m. For more information call the parish office at 327-8015 or Jane Parr at 326-8577.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call Greg Hallinan 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 welcome, passionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 8 weeks. 884-7983.

PERSONALS

ATTRACTIVE BACHELOR NEEDS DATE FOR REVEILLE CONCERT. See me at IRT's this Sunday at 9:00 p.m. You won't be disappointed. 670

MAN TO MAN an introduction service for mature men and those who appreciate them. 322-6969 670.

HUNG TOPS & HOT BOTTOMS. Record & listen to ads FREE. 520-822-1196, 18+ Code 5014. 676

CYBER CRUISE - Meet Arizona Gay men and women as well as people all over the U.S. Gay owned. www.more.com 675

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 estrictamente confidencial al 322-6228 y pregunta por Ernesto. 670

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. 670

HOUSING/FOR RENT

VARIOUS CENTRAL TUCSON LOCATIONS. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments from $325 - $495. Clean, private, quiet. Many extras. Mention this Observer ad. 733-0009 676

ROOMMATES

ROOMMATE WANTED TO SHARE a nice eastside 4-bedroom home near Golflinks/Wilmot. Must be employed, clean and responsible. $290 total. No pets. Call 790 6862. 672

FANTASTIC HOUSE TO SHARE for mature male (35+), quiet, respectful; 2-bedroom, 2-bath in quiet Tucson Blvd. and Elm area. Includes WID, fireplace, large private patio, lots of storage. All furniture provided except 2nd bedroom furniture. Full privileges on all facilities. Move in immediately. Call Jim 325-4778. 671.

CM TO SHARE LARGE 4 BEDROOM HOUSE with private pool, gas grill, big screen TV and more. $295/mo. Includes utilities. 889-7975 or 620-1770. 672

EMPLOYMENT

BOOM BOOMS IS NOW EXPANDING ITS STAFF and is now accepting applications for the following positions: Security; Barbacks; Bartenders; Door Persons & Grill Cook. Experience preferred but will train enthusiastic individuals. Apply in person on Tuesday or call Brian for an appointment. 623-6060. 674

DJ WANTED Stonewall/Eagle, 2921 N. 1st Ave. Apply within. 673

NEED EXPERIENCED DAY SHIFT BARTENDER. Please apply at HOURS, 3456 E. Grant Road with photo. 672

HOUSEKEEPING MAIDS WANTED. Apply in person to Robert, Best Western Royal Sun, 1015 N. Stone. 671.

NIGHT AUDITOR. Hotel experience preferred. Apply in person at the desk. See Peter or Joyce, Best Western Royal Sun, 1015 N. Stone. 671.

MASSEURS

MASSAGE AND BODYRUBS. Appointment only. 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mon-Fri. 577-0673

MASSAGE FOR RELAXATION. Soothing, therapeutic bodywork. Evenings and weekends. Mike 531 0844. 671.

A MAN'S MASSAGE. Release your inner tensions with a one hour sensual, full body massage by Rick. Total body satisfaction for $35.00. 299-1792. 671

WONDERFUL, PROFESSIONAL BODYWORK in the SUN. Holistic therapeutic massage at its best. 15 years experience. A real balance of sensual styles including tantric tailored to meet your needs leaving you feeling euphoric. Call Marc 881-4582. 665.

QUALITY PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE by experienced masseur. Strong, yet very soothing touch. Relaxed, comfortable, private setting. First time introrate! West University area. Call Robert Feldhaus at (520)623-1732 674

SERVICES

POOL CLEANING BY HANDSOME YOUNG MAN. Weekly, bi weekly. Free estimates. Full service, licensed, Gay-oriented. Call me! Robert, 886-8833. 676

CATERING TO YOUR EVERY NEED - Theme Parties, Gift Baskets, Specialty Cakes, Intimate Dinners, Menu Planning. We also make Red Chile and Green Corn Tamales (oh so good, yum.) Call Becka or Craig at Masterpiece Catering 622-4232. 674

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS
Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Mr. Merle Hudson, 888-7284 in Tucson. 680

240-0776

FULL HEAVENLY BODY MASSAGE

GINGER

HOLY UNIONS

318-4614

Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community
OBSERVER

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UK Court Okays G/L Adoption

LONDON, U.K. (NP) - A British Lesbian's adoption of a child who has thrived in her care for years has been approved by the High Court, despite the biological mother's objections.

A British mother's objections to her daughter's adoption by a Lesbian who is in a live-in relationship were rejected by the High Court last month in a ruling recently made public May 21. Although only married couples are allowed to adopt jointly, Justice Singer ruled that there was nothing in the 1976 Adoption Act to preclude adoption based on a prospective parent's homosexual orientation or same-gender relationship.

The High Court noted that objections to adoptions by Gays and Lesbians were generally based on a confusion between homosexuality and pederism. The adoption approved last month is said to be the first of its kind in England or Wales. A Gay man in a relationship had previously been allowed to adopt a disabled boy in Scotland after a ruling last year by the Inner House of the Court of Session there.

The ruling came in the case of W, an 11-year-old girl who has lived with her prospective adoptive mother since 1995 and is apparently thriving. Although the child has been in foster care for several years, her biological mother has wanted to retain the connection of legal parenthood as well as the right to oppose her daughter's adoption by a Lesbian couple. She's said she has nothing against the adoptive mother personally.

There is little legal precedent in the U.K. on the question of Gay and Lesbian adoptions. The only other ruling was an English judge's 1993 approval of a single Lesbian's bid to adopt. The current decision affirms the finding in the Scottish case, so the courts appear to be united in their interpretations that it's the individual circumstances and best interests of the child that need to be considered, not the prospective parent's sexual orientation or relationship per se.

Justice Singer indicated that it was up to Parliament, not the courts, to amend the law if they intended to ban Gay and Lesbian adoptions.

Santa Barbara Approves Domestic Partners

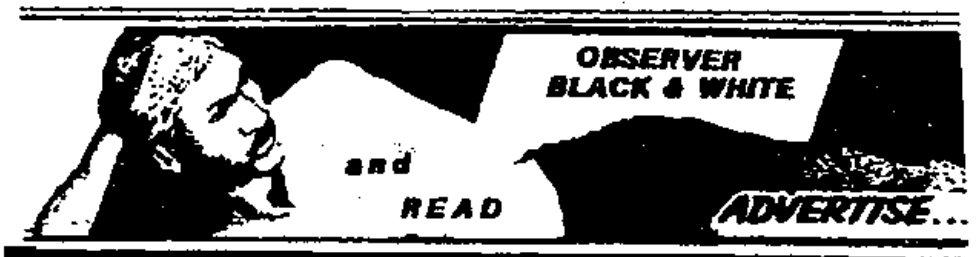
SANTA BARBARA, CA (NP) - A domestic partnership registry -- sans legal or financial benefits -- has been unanimously approved, but the opposition is lining up for a fight.

The City Council of Santa Barbara, California unanimously approved the establishment of a domestic partnership registry, completing considerations begun in late February. For a fee, the registry will allow both heterosexual and same-gender couples over the age of 18 to file for an affidavit that they are each other's "sole domestic partner and intend to remain so indefinitely."

The registry carries no legal or financial benefits. Nonetheless, the registry is opposed by the Coalition to Protect Traditional Marriage and the Citizens for Accountable Government. The latter group had been collecting signatures to place an initiative on the November ballot to affirm that, "The City of Santa Barbara shall not recognize any non-martial relationship as the equivalent of marriage between one man and one woman and shall not grant or mandate legal rights, other privileges, or financial benefits to or for domestic partners without doing the same for all other unmarried persons."

Spokesperson Rolland Jacks believes the registry is discriminatory in extending "special rights" -- despite its being available to both types of couples and offering no benefits -- and is concerned for the possible expense of future letter in favor of the ban - including a petition by the Christian Coalition of Florida with 15,000 signatures stating, "Don't allow liberal judges to legalize same-sex marriages! Support the traditional family and marriage."

Despite the pressure, Chiles' spokeswoman April Herrle told reporters that the governor has yet to choose his action on the bill. "There are a number of legal questions the governor needs answered before he makes a final decision. In the end, it will come down to what he thinks is best, and what he thinks makes sense for the state. We're just not there yet."



Same-Sex Marriage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWENTY TWO

Texas' state legislature is tangled up in trying to close its business by June 2, and any bill not passed by last week is dead for the session. Representative Kent Grusendorf (R-Arlington) attempted to bump the anti-marriage bill several hundred positions up the queue with an unusual procedure, to the disgruntlement of his fellow Republicans and even of the anti-marriage bill's sponsor Representative Warren Chisum (R-Pampa). . . .

California last week defeated in committee its second anti-marriage bill of this session; last year, there were three. . . .

Louisiana's proposed constitutional amendment fell short of the 2/3 majority it needed for approval in the state Senate last week, but can be brought up again at any time.

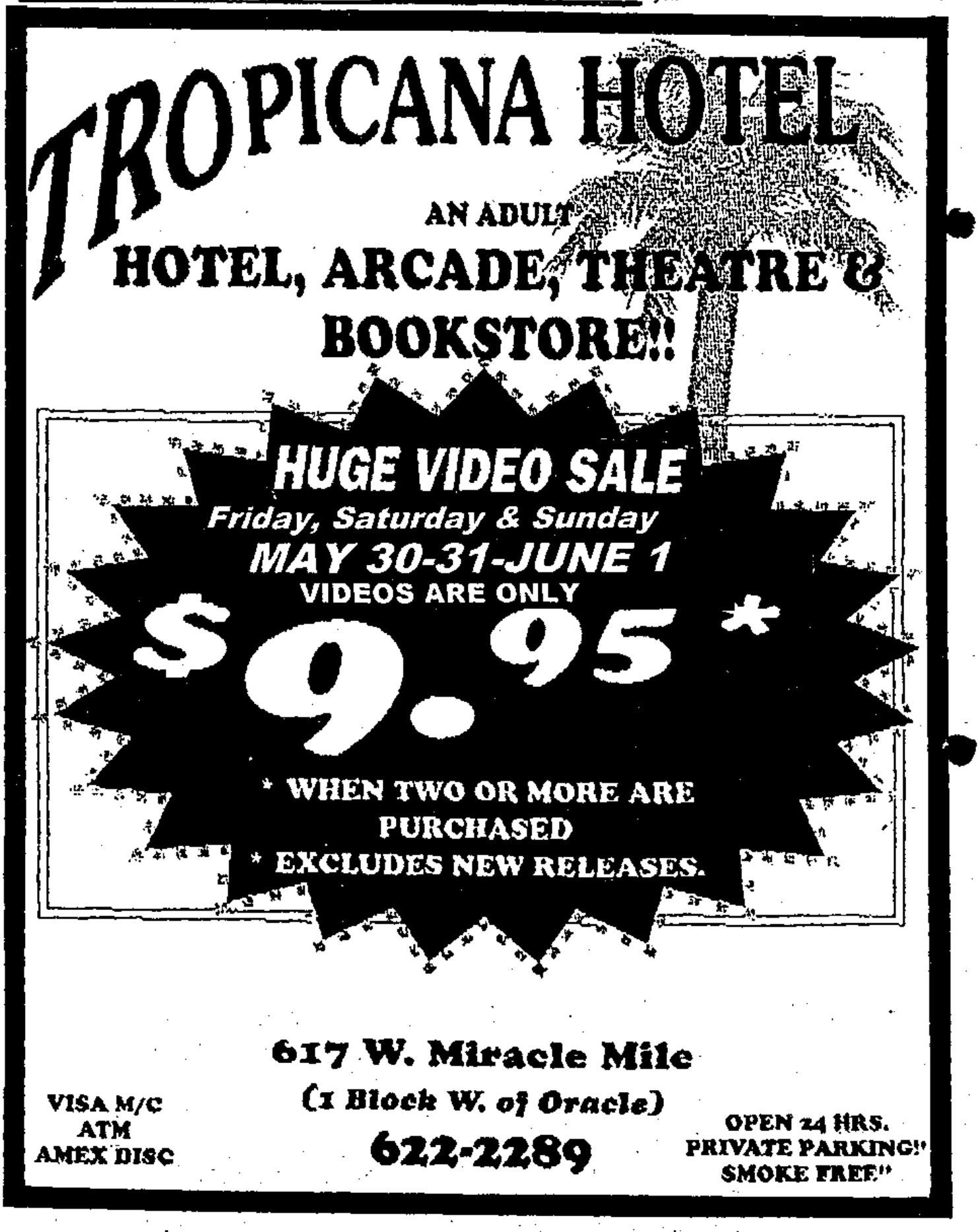
Boston Bishop

Continued from Page One

Holloway's plans for "the use of a sacred place or sacred moment to stage a demonstration." (Hume should be grateful he's contending with Holloway instead of Out-Rage!, the London direct action group which has steadily escalated its protests against the Church of England's views on Gays and Lesbians.)

TLGA

Continued from Page One

June. Organizations that want to schedule events on the Pride Week calendar must get their ideas to TLGA no later than Tuesday, June 3. The Royalty Contest for Gay King and Queen will start at the beginning of Pride Week (rules and details to follow).

The grand finale of Pride Week will be Gay West at Old Tucson Studios. (See an accompanying story). For more information call the OUTline, 622-3200.