

World AIDS Day Observance In Tucson

TUCSON — A series of events will mark World AIDS Day, marking the 17 years of the AIDS epidemic.

This year's theme is "Give Children Hope in a World with AIDS." The following is the schedule of events for the observance in Tucson:

An Observance will take place Sunday, November 30, 3:00 P.M., Catalina High School, 3645 E. Pima. Speakers will include a young woman with AIDS and a local official.

There will also be a bell ringing for the 17 years of the AIDS epidemic, songs by members of the Catalina High School chorus, and a chance for audience members to write messages of hope and memory.

Sponsors of the program include Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SA-AF), Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, Pima County Health Department, Wingspan, and UMC's HIV Resource Program.

An interfaith service will follow the Observance at 4:30 P.M. at the Benedictine Sanctuary, 800 North Country Club. The service is being conducted by the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN).

"This is one of our most impor-

tant events of the year," said Scott Blades, Director of TIHAN. "We are hoping for another good turnout. It really is a very powerful experience, and the setting this year is incredibly beautiful and peaceful. The monastery is a place of hope and faith, of compassion and healing, and it will be the perfect setting for us to join together for World AIDS Day."

During the week of December 1, Catalina High School will be displaying several panels of the national AIDS memorial quilt.

Opening ceremonies are scheduled for Monday, December 1, 9:00 A.M. The public is invited to view the quilt from 9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday. 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. on Friday. A panel discussion will take place Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 P.M.

Other events will take place in the Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham communities.

Local galleries and art venues will commemorate World AIDS Day with "A Day Without Art." U of A Centennial Hall will drape the hall, December 1. Also on December 1, from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., the U of A Center for Creative Photography will darken the galleries and display two works depicting the tabloid press coverage of Princess Diana, who had a strong commitment to AIDS services.

Successful AIDS Vaccine May Be Decades Away

SINGAPORE, Singapore (RHIS) — The development of a successful vaccine against the symptoms of AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, could take decades but will be key to controlling the disease, Nobel Laureate David Baltimore said.

Baltimore said it was extremely unlikely a vaccine could be found to prevent infection by HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), which leads to AIDS, but said it ought to be possible to develop a vaccine to protect against the symptoms of AIDS.

"A good vaccine needn't actually prevent infection, it can prevent disease and that's critically important," Baltimore, president of the California Institute of Technology, said at a lecture in Singapore.

Baltimore, who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1975 for his work on genetics, was appointed chairman of the AIDS Vaccine Research Committee in the United States this year.

He and Robert Gallo, regarded as something of a father figure in the field of AIDS research, are attending a two-day

symposium celebrating the 10th anniversary of Singapore's Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology.

Baltimore said some people infected with HIV have now lived with infection for more than 20 years without developing AIDS.

"We need something that is safe, that will particularly be used widely to protect large populations, that can't have any degree of risk in itself," he said.

Asked how long it would take for a successful vaccine to be developed, Baltimore said it was "more likely to be measured in decades than in single years."

Baltimore said research on primates had shown immunization against a virus similar to AIDS in humans was possible.

Such a vaccine could work with other preventive measures and help to curb the sharp rise of the disease in places like Asia.

"The rate of increase in Asia

Pima County Domestic Partners Update

by Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (ON) — Next week marks the eight month anniversary of the Pima County Board of Supervisors extending health benefits to the domestic partners and dependents of homosexual and unmarried heterosexual county employees.

For those employees, 88 of whom signed their significant others up, the wait continues. The actions by the Supervisors has been put in "legal-jimbo" by the lawsuit filed by the County Attorney's office, to overturn the decision.

That may be changing soon.

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF) has filed a "motion of intervention" on behalf of five county employees.

A "motion of intervention," is a legal maneuver for a person, or persons who have a stake or would be affected in the pending litigation and wish to become a part in the pending lawsuit.

The five county employees, according to court papers, has a domestic partner whom that Intervener has enrolled for medical insurance coverage benefits from Pima County under the plan that is being challenged.

Court papers filed go on to say, "Because this action is the sole proceeding in which the permissibility of that program will be determined, Interveners as a practi-

cal matter will be deprived of any opportunity at all to protect their interests in obtaining medical insurance benefits from the employer covering their domestic partners if Interveners are not able to participate here."

All parties involved in the case, the County Attorney and Board of Supervisors, plaintiff and defendant respectively, have consented to the intervention, according to court documents.

The motion by LLDEF names Pam Liberty as the local attorney representing the five Pima County employees.

Pima County Superior Court Judge Bernado Velasco, who has been permanently assigned to the case, has set January 12, 1998, 9:30 A.M., for the "motion of intervention."

What of the "motion for summary judgement," that the County Attorney must file to get the case to a hearing? According to county government sources, the County Attorney's Civil Division has been "allegedly" waiting for the intervention motion.

The County Attorney's office refused to comment on a date for the "summary judgement motion."

One of the five employees trying to intervene in the case is Damien McNeal. McNeal said he is "amazed, pleased that some kind of movement has taken place in the case. It's been so long."

9th Annual Jerome Beillard 'Festival For Life' Fundraiser Saturday, Nov. 22

TUCSON — The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation will present the ninth annual Jerome Beillard "Festival For Life," Saturday, November 22, at the University Park Marriott Hotel Ballroom.

This event kicks off the holiday season and provides the perfect opportunity to wrap your holiday shopping. According to event organizers have lined up hundreds of unique items to ensure that you find that perfect gift!

The evening begins with the silent auction at 7:00 P.M. and live auction at 8:00 P.M. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Ticket prices include admission to the event, desert buffet and a no-host bar. Brad Holland of TuneSmythe will provide musical entertainment.

KVOA TV's Lupita Murillo and COOL FM's Alan Michaels will emcee the live auction. Five spectacular, designer-decorated holiday trees will be auctioned to the highest bidders. This year's decorators are Rick Crause for Casas

Adobes Flowers, Joe Piazza for Jean Baker, Ethan Allen for IBT's, Long Realty and Brian Bernot.

The silent auction will include wreaths, menorahs, gift baskets, celebrity collectibles, fine art, and other unique gift items. The Festival will also, for the first, feature Paper Prayers — original strips of art that offer prayers of hope and goodwill for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Unframed Paper Prayers may be purchased for a \$10 donation, and framed Paper Prayers will be awarded to the highest bidders in a silent auction.

Parking at the Marriott is free, and valet parking is available for \$3. Tickets are available by calling SAAF, 322-6226 or at the following ticket locations: Borders Books, 4235 North Oracle; Casas Adobes Flower Shop, 7057 North Oracle; Tucson Trunk, 5605 East River Road and Hait on Broadway, 5350 East

UPDATE

Fred Ronstadt Wins Second Count; First GOP Councilmember Elected Since 1985

TUCSON — Republican Fred Ronstadt won the second count of the ballots and will become the Councilmember representing Ward 6.

After the initial count of the ballots election night, an unusually high number of undervote, 17,831 (22.5%), was recorded for the race. It was later discovered there were problems with the ballots being perforated for votes cast.

The Tucson City Clerk ordered a full recount, by hand, of votes cast in the Ward 6 contest. The results were for the second count: Ronstadt (R), 33,619; Alison Hughes (D), 31,746 and Dan Dougherty (LBT), 4,428.

The Tucson City Council approved the results at this past Monday's meeting. Ronstadt, along with Democrats Steve Leal and Jerry Anderson will be sworn in Monday, December 1.

St. Francis Support Group 10th Anniversary Reunion

TUCSON — Come join the St. Francis Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Support Group as they celebrate their tenth anniversary with a Thanksgiving Reunion.

The Thanksgiving Reunion will be held in the center at St. Francis of the Foothills, 4625 East River Road (NW corner of Swan & River Road), Saturday, November 30, 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

A potluck meal at 6:30 P.M. will be followed by sharing and remembering past group social activities. You are also invited to bring in photos, videos and stories from past group experiences.

Please bring yourself and a guest (if you wish) and a dish to share. If attending, RSVP Davey, 886-1208 by November 28.

Over the past ten years the support group has touched many people and has also brought many friends and partners together. The Support Group is an outreach of the Reconciling Program at St. Francis UMC accepting all people regardless of sexual orientation.

AGRA Phoenix Announces Poster Contest

PHOENIX — AGRA-Phoenix Chapter is sponsoring a poster contest for the 1998 IGRA Finals Rodeo to be held, October 22-25, 1998 at the Corona Ranch and Rodeo Grounds.

Judging for the contest will take place at the IGRA Board of Directors meeting Friday, January 16, 1998. All entries must be received by 5:00 P.M., Thursday, January 15, 1998. Entries may be delivered either in person or by mail to "IGRA Poster Contest," c/o Charlie's-Phoenix, 727 West Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013 prior to the deadline.

Entries must be 17" x 22" finished size with the only lettering being "12TH ANNUAL IGRA FINALS RODEO." Exception to the size rule will be made for computer-generated entries made to scale, with the artist able to enlarge the entry if it is chosen. Sufficient space must be left within the design or in a border included in the finished size for dates, hotel information, and AGRA, IGRA and Miller Lite logos.

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

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

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

Coyotes and Lizards Seek Bowlers

TUCSON — The Desert Coyotes and the Lambda Lizards, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian bowling leagues are seeking bowlers.

Both league's bowl at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 West Miracle Mile. The Desert Coyotes bowl on Wednesday's, starting at 9:00 P.M. and the Lambda Lizards bowl on Friday's, starting at 6:15 P.M.

For more information about the Desert Coyotes call 743-9659; Lambda Lizards, 622-2395.

Reveille Holiday Concert Dec. 6

TUCSON — Southern Arizona's premier choral group, Reveille Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC), will present their annual holiday concert, "A Season For Loving," 8:00 P.M., Saturday, December 6, 1997.

The concert will take place at Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church, 2331 East Adams. Included will be a silent auction of items donated by area artists, businesses, and individuals.

The 40-member group will perform many traditional and contemporary holiday favorites as well as time-honored selections from around the world. Artistic Director, James H. Gall, says of the concert, "There will be something for everyone, including a light-hearted take-off on 'The Nutcracker.'"

This concert is the first of three major performances scheduled for the '97-'98. On March 14-15, at Pima Community College West Campus, Reveille will present "Prayers For Bobby" to bring community awareness to the tragedy of suicides among Gay teens and young adults. Then, on May 30, RGMC will usher in the Summer of '98 with "SSSteam Heat," a high-tech, high-touch show at the Temple of Music and Art.

Tickets for "A Season For Loving" are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, or save a total of \$9 for all three shows by purchasing a \$30 season ticket. Raffle tickets for "A Double Deck of Dinners" will also be available through intermission. The winner of the raffle will receive 52 dinners for two...or a complimentary dinner every week for a full year!

For ticket outlets and more information, call RGMC, 617-3100.

Koster Re-Elected To GALA Board

WASHINGTON, DC — Desert Voices artistic director Keith A. Koster was re-elected to serve on the Gay and Lesbian of Chorus (GALA) Board of Directors.

Koster was elected during GALA's quarterly meeting in Washington D.C. Koster will serve a term of three years as the representative of the southwest region and mixed choruses. He current serves on the committees for membership and diversity, in which he serves chair for the Youth Task Force. He has been involved with GALA since 1982.

At the upcoming November board meeting with two youth service personnel will facilitate a dialogue with the board on how to reach out and include youth in the Lesbian and Gay choral movement. At the August meeting, GALA board members awarded a matching grant of \$350 to Desert Voices for their Angels with AIDS commissions that will be premiered June, 1998.

As artistic director for Desert Voices for three years now, Keith vision is to collaborate, premier new works and exposing singer and audience to innovative productions, and reaching out to new communities. The chorus has expanded their repertoire, developed better singing technique and skills and confidently risen to new challenges.

A former high school teach and queer youth service provider, including youth in movement is a strong passion of Keith's.

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GET YOUR MEN OF IBT'S 1998 CALENDAR - Proceeds go to S.A.A.F.

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HOME ON THE RANGE / AGRA TUCSON

by Scott Weidamoyer

Hey Tucson! Another week gone and so much to talk about. Gotta' love the change in the weather. It feels so good to sleep under covers again, all I need now is someone to keep me warm under the covers...any volunteers? Anyway...Back to the article.

AGRA-Tucson held our annual Board and General Membership meetings this past Sunday at the Stonewall/Eagle. Thanks to those of you who attended. AGRA-Tucson had a lot to cover and got a lot accomplished. Item number one was the election of the 1998 Saguaro Regional Rodeo's Grand Marshall. I am pleased to announce that this year, Jim and Elaine Cooper will share the spotlight as Grand Marshall. This wonderful couple has done so much for the Tucson Community that it is hard to decide where to start. So, in short, congratulations to the both of you, and we look forward to working with you at rodeo.

AGRA-Tucson was graced by the presence of Mr. Dan Iverson at the meeting. Dan came down to fill us in on what has been happening with AGRA State and also to see our smiling faces. By now, you should have received your ballots for State and Delegate elections for the upcoming year. One problem, there was a name omission on the ballots for delegates/alternates. Bill Travis' name was omitted so State will be sending out corrected ballots. If you have not mailed in your ballot yet, don't until you receive the corrected one. If you have sent in your vote already, they will be disregarded and only the new ones will be counted. You need to do double work and revote.

AGRA-Tucson is looking for a member from Tucson to represent the chapter on the Audit committee. AGRA-Tucson needs some on the committee that will be responsible for the audit of Tucson, Phoenix and State books. If interested, please contact the AGRA office at the number below.

This is a reminder that the State dinner is going to be held at the T-Bone Restaurant in Phoenix, December 27.

Some other upcoming dates from AGRA-Tucson are as follows:

December 6 - Christmas Party/Show at Hours. December 20 - Christmas Party/Show at Stonewall/Eagle.

Both of these shows will benefit Mr. Eryk Benjamin, a contestant for Mr.

AGRA 1998. Please come out to show your support for AGRA and Eryk. By the way, he is a pleasure to watch, very entertaining, especially when he is trying to get into his Wranglers!

AGRA-Tucson will also be selling tickets for the annual hayride through Winterhaven this year, stay tuned for more information on dates, times and prices.

AGRA is also selling the '98 Entertainment books at \$35 each. Get your Holiday shopping done early this year...the books have many great values as well as a free 30-minute long distance AT&T calling card. Call the hotline for more information.

Well, I guess that is all for this week. A lot of information to cover and I got it all out. I hope you all have a great week and I will talk to you next week.

Until then, remember to keep your pride and always play safe in the saddle.

JAGRA-Tucson Chapter, POB 40894, Tucson, AZ 85717-0894. Phone: 520-323-0805.]

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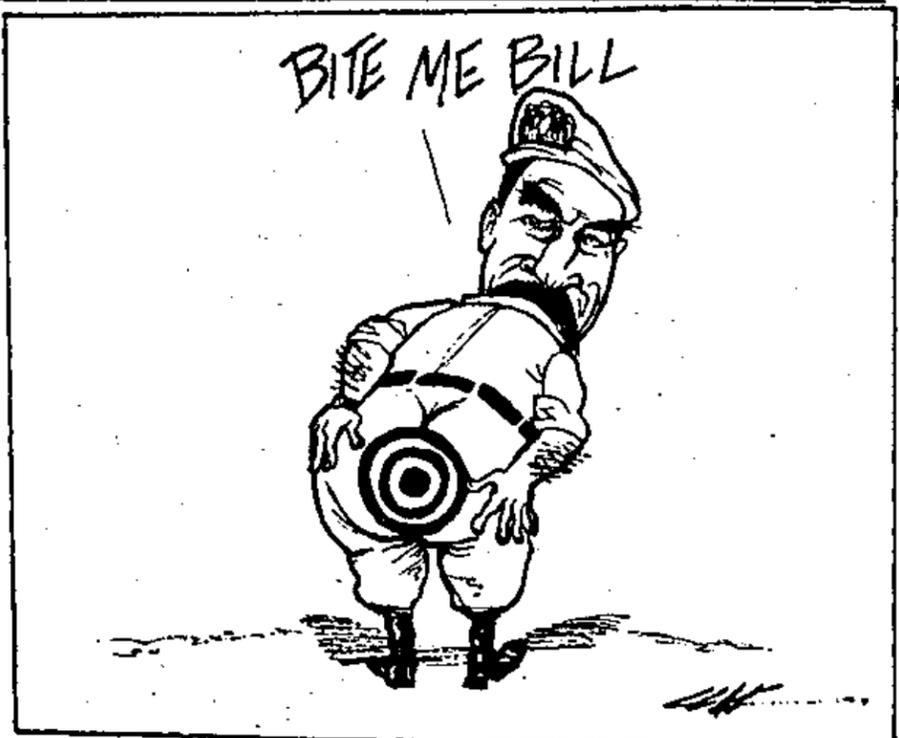
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AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



Media Alert.

Promise Skewity

The recent "Promise Keepers" rally in Washington was, if nothing else, a victory of public relations over professional journalism. Media coverage was decidedly skewed toward the shallow end of the press-pool. At best, both print and broadcast journalists glossed over the Keepers' homophobic agenda. At worst, they supported it.

Promise Keepers was founded nearly a decade ago by former University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney. A notorious homophobe, McCartney championed his state's "Amendment Two" -- a measure which, if successful, would have denied basic civil rights to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual citizens. In published reports, McCartney has further declared that "homosexuality is an abomination against Almighty God." He has regularly made even dimmer statements, such as his contention that Lesbians and Gays are "a group of people who don't reproduce, yet want to be compared to people who do reproduce."

Similarly, in an early interview, Promise Keepers co-founder Dave Wardell announced that he was drawing "a line in the sand" -- to stop homosexuals, "Act Up people" and "the foreign religions coming in here." Under the guise of the Promise Keepers "spiritual" gatherings, featured speakers echo this phobic party line.

At a Promise Keepers rally in Dallas, for example, evangelist Tony Evans defined homosexuality as "immortality in the name of hell." The official Promise Keepers position on homosexuality is that it "violates God's creative design for a husband and a wife that it is a sin."

Not surprisingly, a major focus of the Washington rally was "sexual purity" (i.e., monogamous heterosexual marriage) -- and, by extension, sexual "impurity" (i.e., everything else). In his keynote, McCartney again affirmed the Promise Keepers' conviction that "the sin of homosexuality cannot be excused."

In covering the rally, major wire services at least acknowledged the group's opposition to homosexuality -- though almost in passing. In a story by the Associated Press (AP) (October 2), for example, finally reports that "religious leaders and academics held a news conference to voice concerns about the Promise Keepers' message, a message some say denigrates women and condemns homosexuals." Homosexuals say nothing in this article, however, as none are quoted -- and the issue is examined no further.

What "some say" is not really the point, in any case. What McCartney and his fellow homophobes HAVE SAID is evidence enough of denigration -- but that evidence is missing from the AP story.

Similarly, in an article from Reuters News Service (RNS) (October 4), one of the last paragraphs mentions that "the movement has aroused fear and suspicion among some women, Gays and political moderates who say that McCartney and his followers have a hidden political agenda that is profoundly right-wing." Once again, no Gays -- suspicious, fearful or otherwise -- are quoted in the article. The matter is dropped almost as soon as it is raised.

Significantly, no one needs to "suspect" the existence of McCartney's

homophobic agenda, for it is perfectly clear. That background material was left out of this and most other articles, however, leaving an impression that Lesbian and Gay critics of the Promise Keepers are somehow overreacting -- responding not to the reality, but to a mere "rumor" of threat. In this absence of substantive reporting, public figures like President Clinton were free to "applaud the Promise Keepers movement for its commitment to family" (Associated Press, October 4). No one expected Clinton to seriously explain his support. He was not asked, for example, just how it is that homophobia "strengthens our families."

Perhaps this deference to homophobia and heterosexism reached its most pathetic heights during an MSNBC newscast, featuring Lesbian journalist Donna Minkowitz. Remarkably, she too downplayed the reality of homophobia -- and actually described the Promise Keepers as "a force for good." Minkowitz based her conclusions on undercover work she did for an article on the group, written several years ago for "Ms." magazine.

Even public television's venerated "Newshour" failed to provide an alternative to the rose-colored coverage. One day after the rally (October 6), a "Newshour" segment purporting to "focus" on the Promise Keepers offered little depth and even less diversity.

The report opened with a video review of the Promise Keepers rally, which did (briefly) mention the group's "opposition to . . . homosexuality." This was followed by a five discussion amongst a panel of five "regional commentators," representing major newspapers across the country.

Not one commentator condemned the Promise Keepers' homophobia. In fact, they all seemed to overlook it -- as each found reasons to praise the group.

Patrick McGuigan of the "Daily Oklahoman" argued that the Promise Keepers "are definitely a force for the good." Robert Kittle of the "San Diego Tribune" agreed, and suggested that the group is "part of the spiritual renewal that's going on in this country. . . . a very encouraging trend. . . . It doesn't offend me a lot," Kittle said. "This group is reaching out to all male Americans."

Never mind Gay Americans, Kittle might have added, unless of course they can be "saved" or "converted." The Promise Keepers are indeed "reaching out" to homosexuals in the hope of eliminating them! The media pundits seem unable or unwilling to grasp this point, however simple.

ACTION ALERT! To encourage critical coverage of the "Religious Right," send feedback to:

Peggy Robinson, Senior Producer and Jim Lehrer, Anchor, "The Newshour With Jim Lehrer," 3620 S. 27th Street, Arlington, VA 22026, e-mail newshour@pbs.org copy correspondence to PBS, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698, email viewer@pbs.org, website-http://www.pbs.org;

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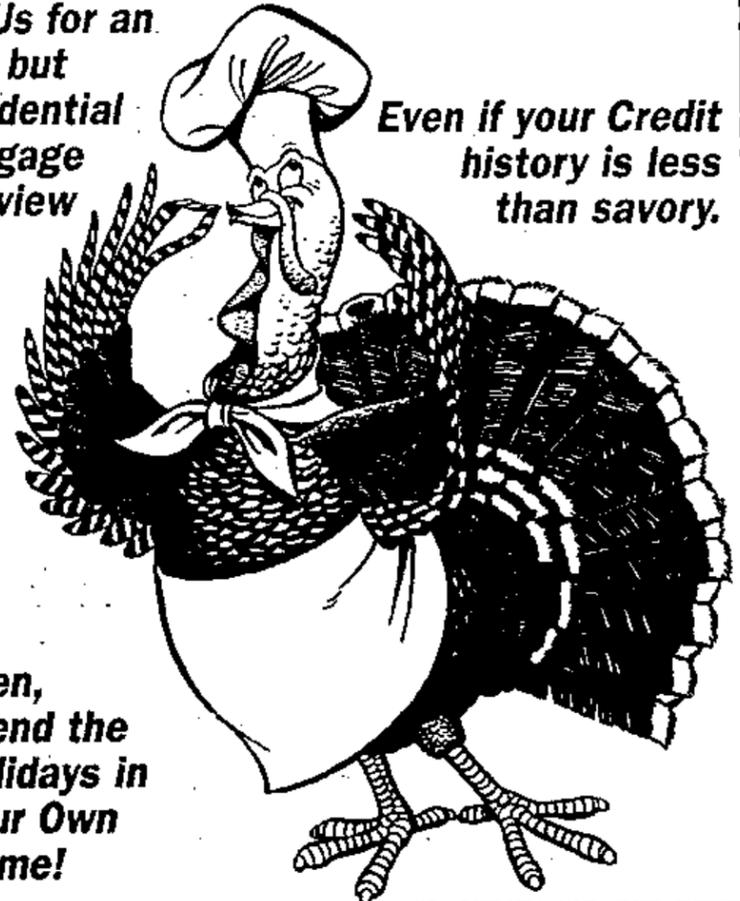
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POLITICS
1997 by Mark R. Kerr

**"We Are Not Breeding,
 But We Are Taking Care Of Them!"**

Don't ask, don't tell and don't adopt! That could be the case for the state of Arizona from grade-school through university campuses and;

Arizona's Republican Guv, Jane Dee-Dum Hull, wants a review of the state's policy that allows foster children to be placed in homes of Gays and Lesbians, but not cohabitating heterosexuals. fire university and college employees (faculty included) who belong to Gay and Lesbian organizations, on the grounds that they belong to groups "promoting illegal activities."

Johnson is also noted for her compassion, when asked, she said she is still willing to work with "queers in the legislature." Look out Mother Teresa! But I digress!

The ideal placement, according to Dee-Dum Hull, is with a "very, normal, stable family." In other words, "a husband, wife and other children." Does anybody have Ward and June Cleaver's phone number?

All this came during the special session of the Grand Inquisition, err Legislature, which dealt with the "tightwads" considering giving money to Child Protective Services. They did! Two legislators voted against the proposal.

One of the two who voted against the CPS funding was Rep. Karen "Family Rights Forever, Gay Rights Never," Johnson, R-Mesa, declared she wouldn't vote it because the problem is, "that children have been placed in the homes of Lesbians and homosexuals."

According to Jim Hart, deputy director of the Department of Economic Security (DES) Division of Children, Youth and Families, it's true, but they don't ask sexual preference. Don't ask, don't tell!

"Sexual preference of the applicant does not disqualify them from being an adoptive parent," Hart added. Now yes, in January perhaps not!

When reached for comment, Hart said there is a critical shortage of foster homes. As of June 30, 1997: 6,065 children were in fostercare; 1,883 licensed foster homes; 4,424 spaces available for children.

Does that matter Rep. Johnson? Of course not! Logic doesn't prevail here! In January, Johnson plans to introduce legislation that would ensure that children taken from their homes and are placed in the "very best atmosphere."

Johnson blathered on in an interview, "they've been traumatized so much, most of the children that they need to be in as well-rounded a home as possible with traditional role models."

"The ideal would be a mother and father. Children need both parents." Like Johnson would now! She has been married five times with eleven kids! Talk about family values!! Breeder!

This is not the first time for the "poster-child" for homophobia. During the last legislative session, "Bible-thumping" Johnson signed on to legislation that would have;

increased the penalty for consensual same-sex relations in the state, from a misdemeanor to a class-three felony; outlawed Gay and Lesbian student groups

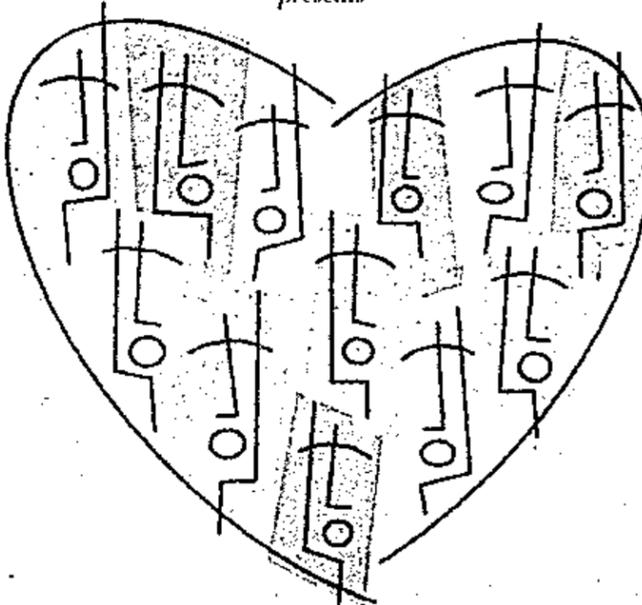
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Hormel Nomination Stalled By Anti-Gay Republicans

by Mark R. Kerr

WASHINGTON, DC (ON) — Two anti-Gay Republican senators have used a little-used procedure to "hold" the nomination of James Hormel, the man who would be the first Gay ambassador.

Hormel's nomination to become the United States' first openly Gay ambassador, to Luxembourg, will wait until 1998. Senator Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-MS, this past week, has put off until next year a vote on the nomination of Hormel.

Although his candidacy for the Luxembourg embassy made it past the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by the homophobic Republican Senator from North Carolina, Jesse Helms, two other Senators have initiated a "hold" on the nomination, stopping it before it reached the Senate floor.

Those Senators, James Inhofe, R-OK, and Tim Hutchinson, R-AR, placed the "hold" on the nomination of Hormel because of his advocacy for Gay rights.

A spokesperson for Hutchinson, Sue Hensley, told reporters the senator, "has some concerns about Hormel's Gay activism."

Hutchinson, a former Baptist minister, had characterized his own successful Senate campaign emphasis as "God, Gays and guns," although that

meant pro-God, pro-guns and anti-Gay, such as attacking President Clinton's efforts to lift the ban on Gay and Lesbian service-members.

Gary Hoitsma, spokesperson for Senator Inhofe told reporters the senator decided to hold the nomination because he wanted any vote on Hormel to be recorded. Ambassadorial nominations are usually conducted by voice vote.

Rumors swirled in the Capitol that Secretary of State Madeline Albright had made assurances that Hormel would remain publicly silent on Gay and Lesbian issues in his ambassadorial post, Senator Inhofe was not informed of these assurances or doesn't believe them.

"The Senator is concerned that this nominee has a long background of promoting a Gay rights agenda and might use this post to promote that agenda," Hoitsma told reporters.

Senator Dianne Feinstein, D-CA, who sponsored Jim Hormel, believes it is too soon to tell if the nomination had been permanently scuttled, according to her spokesperson, Susan Kennedy said in an interview. "We'll pick it up in January and try to resolve whatever concerns the senators might have," Kennedy added.

White House spokesperson, Joe Lockhart, said in an interview that Clinton would fight for Hormel's appointment. "We have no intention of pulling this nominee," Lockhart said.

2002 Gay Games In Sydney

SYDNEY, Australia (NP) — Sydney, Australia has won the first race of the 2002 Gay Games, and the city expects to reap plenty of gold...but not in medal form.

The Federation of Gay Games has announced that Sydney has been selected as the host site for the sixth international Gay and Lesbian Olympics-style competition in 2002, beating out finalists Dallas, Texas, Long Beach, California, Montreal, and Toronto.

It will be the first time the Games have been held in the Southern Hemisphere. More than 10,000 people are expected to participate and another 20-30,000 to visit as spectators, bringing

some A\$100-160-million in revenues for New South Wales (NSW) as a return on a budget of A\$11.5-million — a significantly lower price tag than the mainstream International Olympic Games that will be using the same city in 2000.

While the NSW government welcomed the selection as a much-needed boost for the stagnant economy expected in the wake of the mainstream competition, homophobe Fred Niles, his National Party, and the Christian Democratic Party all continue to object. They've cited both HIV and pedophilia in opposing government financial support of the effort, especially to the A\$75,000 the state invested in support of the bidding process at which Sydney has lost twice before.

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Active support for the games has come from swimming great Dawn Fraser and from discus-thrower Lisa-Marie Vizaniari, an open Lesbian slated for the mainstream Olympics. Sydney's bid also was ranked highest by Joe Clark of "The Village Voice" in his comparison of the finalists published; he said the experience of their past bids showed in their careful planning of details such as disability access, making their bid "superior and worthy."

Clark also cited their multiculturalism and plans to spread the associated Cultural Festival around the sports venues, instead of leaving it a stepchild somewhere else. Clark also, however, labelled their logo design "appalling."

LOS ANGELES, CA (NP) - Several shows of queer interest aced the awards for cable television, including "In the Gloaming," "Drop Dead Gorgeous," and "South Park."

The annual CableACE Awards for the best in cable television were presented in Los Angeles, making winners of some of the programs of interest to Gays and Lesbians that were finalists for the Emmy's.

Although HBO was just as strong as NBC at this year's Emmy's, it used to be that CableACE was all a cable show could hope for -- and that may be again, since the broadcast networks are arguing now that cable should be removed from the Emmy competition. The CableACE awards underscore once again that the cable medium, lead by HBO, isn't nearly as queasy about Gay and Lesbian content as the broadcast networks.

HBO's "In the Gloaming," the drama of a Gay man with AIDS who goes home to his family to die, gained considerable press as the directorial debut of "Superman"-cum-quadruplegic Christopher Reeve.

Losing out at the Emmy's despite several nominations, "In the Gloaming"

Cable Ace Awards

took Best Dramatic Special at CableACE for producers Michael Fuchs, Bonnie Timmerman, Nicholas Paleologos, Fred Zollo, and Nellie Nugiel, along with a Best Guest Actress in a Dramatic Special for Glenn Close, Best Writing in a Dramatic Special for Will Scheffer, and Best Original Score for Dave Grusin -- but still brought no statuette for Reeve, despite critical acclaim for his effort.

Directors who did get a nod included Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato (who also produced) for HBO's "Drop Dead Gorgeous (A Tragi-Comedy): The Power of HIV-Positive Thinking," a melding of the life and stand-up comedy of open HIV+ Gay Steve Moore.

Although critical reception was largely unenthusiastic, the award might encourage more exposure for Moore: back in March, HBO senior vice president Sheila Nevins remarked that, "Drop Dead Gorgeous" is a Gay Lake Wobegon [referring to National Public Radio star Garrison Keillor's saga of a mythical Minnesota town]; and it seems like the offshoots could go anywhere."

Two shows won recognition for their treatment of Gay subjects. Ovation's

"Leonard Bernstein's New York" was chosen Best Performing Arts Special, honoring producer Hart Perry. HBO took the prize for Best Public Affairs Special with "Talked to Death: America Undercover," which in its analysis of the TV talkshow phenomenon heavily featured the so-called "Jenny Jones murder" of open Gay Scott Amedure by Jonathan Schmitz. Its producers were Sheila Nevins, Nancy Abraham, John Parsons Peditto, Ellen Goosenberg Kent, Diane Rosenberg, and Chris Peditto.

Gay icon Bette Midler got her share of Emmys for HBO's "Bette Midler - Diva Las Vegas," and took home some CableACEs as well. The show took "Best Musical Special" for Bonnie Bruckheimer, Marty Callner, Bill Brigode, Doug Forbes, Randall Gladstein, and Midler herself as an executive producer; she also received Best Performance in a Music Special (and she did say at the Emmys that she thought it was the best performance she'd ever given).

As usual, HBO's "The Larry Sanders Show," with its regular Gay character and various Gay and Lesbian visitors (this past season including Ellen DeGeneres playing herself), took Best Comedy

Series. Two additional awards came for directing and writing in specific episodes.

And finally, Comedy Central's "South Park" took Best Animated Programming Series for producers Brian Graden, Trey Parker, Matt Stone, Anne Garefino, and Pam Brady. So popular was the Big Gay episode of this cult favorite that South Park images led off Greenwich Village's annual Halloween parade this year.

'Festival For Life'

Continued from Page One

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AIDS Vaccine

Continued from Page One

brings the number of new infections per year in Asia to a point where it is already higher than any other area in the world," he said.

The rate of increase had tapered off in the United States, Europe, Latin America and Africa, he added.

In 1996, there were some 23 million people living with the HIV virus and about 1.5 million deaths worldwide.

Baltimore said AIDS was rapidly becoming the world's major infectious disease, now only behind tuberculosis and malaria.

He said progress in multiple drug therapy had managed to suppress viruses to undetectable levels in large sections of patients but some people were now failing to respond.

"I don't see any other way of putting (the epidemic) back into its box without a vaccine," he said.

Doctors who have been campaigning to test a vaccine against the HIV virus said earlier they would have a proposal for U.S. government health regulators by next month.

Some doctors have volunteered to test the live virus vaccine on themselves but Baltimore said tests on humans at this stage were unlikely due to the danger of infection.

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Life Is A Drag

By Elisa Barbara Fox

I love U.S. Marines. Because they're crazy. What person in their right mind would take on odds stacked against them? Marines will. If you sent them to Iraq, we'd take out that rogue state within hours and place it under United Nations trusteeship. I guess it's a good thing I'm not president because if I were, the transports would be boarding with Marines and the 82nd Airborne. Army folks, I can't imagine parachuting into battle. I do know this: if we have any prayer of a civilized world, we need to tame these crazies in the Middle East and install democratic regimes. For one thing, I'd like to preserve the only democracy there: Israel. Representative government is more likely to be friendly to us. At least, we can argue our position at the ballot box.

Rudy Galindo is Hispanic. He grew up in a trailer home in a poor family. Rudy is Gay. His sexual orientation makes no difference: he is a world champion figure skater. You should see him glide on ice. It's magnificent TV. When he does doubles, his sister is the partner. Skating is a particularly difficult sport but when properly executed an awesome show.

I mention this because I want to convince you that your sexual preferences are no handicap to what you are and what you can do. Today we are going to talk about civil rights.

Cannons roar. We're at Gettysburg. The President is Abraham Lincoln, a Republican. My great-great father, in Union Blue, is trying to hold together what we decided at Independence Hall in 1787. It's a legacy. I need to hold this into the 21st century. Maybe you'll understand this political vision: the United States of America. We're a nation of immigrants. That's what makes us so special. Our diversity is our strength, our greatness.

I like lawyer jokes probably because I sympathize; like journalist they are among our least loved professions. No one wants to hear bad news. A ship sinks. All aboard perish in shark-infested waters, except an attorney. On the dock, journalists want to know the sole survivor's secret. Why did the sharks ignore the lawyer? The answer: "professional courtesy."

Without law, we have no civilization. In these pages, you'll find the ads of attorneys. If you feel you've been a victim of discrimination, I hope you'll get a "hired gun." They could walk with pride on the wind-swept streets of Tombstone, circa 1880, with Marshall Wyatt Earp, his brother Virgil and the pistol-packing dentist we know as "Doc." Did you ever see the classic Western, "High Noon?" Civility requires commitment, courage and sacrifice.

I guess I'm asking you to be courageous. I don't want to read any more front page editorials in The Observer about why you should hide. Flashback: I'm a soldier. There's no Navy bus in Saigon today. I don't know why. But I have to be at my duty station at Armed Forces Radio & Television. (Do you remember Robin Williams, "Good Morning America?" - that's me.) I'm in uniform but unarmed. I walk through the central market place just as the Cahn Saht Vietnamese "white mice" - civilian police but armed with M-60 machine guns, ours, on their Jeeps - arrive to break up a Buddhist political demonstration. I'm clueless. Why do these people have

brown paper bags with oranges or other citrus inside? The answer: to nullify the expected tear gas. I deserve that American joke baseball cap: it reads "Coup Qualified."

This is why the cannons roared at Gettysburg: the right to petition the government for redress of grievances. In regard to defending the U.S. Constitution, there will be no surrender, my friends. It's 5th and Market, Philadelphia, cobblestone streets. The principles adopted apply to all of us.

I can't tell you how lucky you are to be Americans.

I know what I said but I suppose any girl, especially a drag girl, is entitled to change her mind. I still don't like cover charges for drag shows, and have vowed not to review such. I won't. But I was moved by the personal appeal of Victoria Du Puis. I owe these remarks to her because I like encouraging young talent. They're the future of Tucson entertainment.

Again folks, cover charges are unwarranted for drag shows based on costumes, lip synch, CD's and a bit of rehearsal. We are not talking bands with costly musical instruments and vans to transport them. Try putting a drum set in your trunk!

Playing journalist - a thing I do every day of my life - I got some quotes from Tucson music and auto dealers about what it might cost to put together a band and transport its equipment. All prices are top of the line so it could be done for less. Guitars, \$1,000 each. Drum set, \$3,600. Keyboard, \$5,000. Amplification, \$1,000. Sound system, \$5,000. New van to transport all this stuff: \$18-\$20,000. Grand total for a four-member group: \$36,600. How many dresses or wigs at drag shows do you know that cost this much?

I need to remind you. Play safe. You know that AIDS medical cocktail? I've heard the news: it doesn't make it go away: just chases it into hiding, ready for another guerrilla warfare attack. The only good news. Tucson's community loves all of you.

We'll be with you if you're slipping into eternity to shake hands with angels.

It's a gamble. I want you to cheat him. Mr. Death. This life is like a Tennessee Williams play, "A Streetcar Named Desire." The 900 Perley Thomas series still clatters along tree-shaded rails of St. Charles. Our lives go on. The air compressors have rumbled for decades. It is to be hoped that we can live as long as our mechanical creations.

I didn't mean to sound like an Anne Rice novel because Desire's trolley tracks (lifted but possibly back soon for tourist purposes) won't go where I'm going to take you.

Did you see the piece on TV about Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum's new \$100,000 pollinator exhibit? - bats, moths, hummingbirds. Such things account for production of 80 percent of all flowering plants. Entertainment can blossom too if we encourage the young people who are just starting careers.

It would be a nice idea to expand

the "drag mother" concept and have a roundtable panel discussion among veteran queens, crown holders, newcomers and wanta-bes, sharing makeup and costuming tips and secrets of the stage - with "how to" demonstrations.

You're reading a first-ever concept.

Maybe some bar owner would volunteer the space on, say, a Saturday or Sunday afternoon? A sort of public forum open to any customer interested in the subject. For such a symposium, I have numerous "professors" in mind. Adrienne Alexander would be a natural. She once gave me a brilliant, detailed critique after a Phoenix pageant in which I performed (didn't win; didn't expect to). I also nominate, in no particular order, Mr. Kenneth Blake, Christina De Alexis, Ele JODY, and - I think a newcomer panelist is appropriate - Sabrina.

I have a vision about what kind of symposium this might be: one that's a non-alcohol event so that kids under bar age of 21 could attend.

Bar owners, get out your calculators. Figure what you'd lose in bar receipts (except for selling soda pop). From some social service agency, I'm guessing we could get a grant to reimburse your costs.

I know some good grant writers.

I think of the young adults as "kids." But you bar owners are smarter than me: you recognize that they're your customers of tomorrow.

If you think about it, drag could be an academic discipline.

No college or university teaches this. You've seen them. New queens, flitting like butterflies into our nightspots, anxious that they should look just right. I wish we could encourage them.

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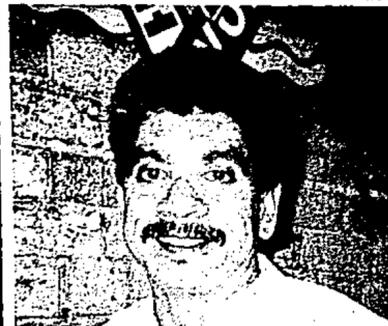
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Columna Abierta

by Dr. Elcazar Garcia

¿Qué tal?. En esta ocasión pidiéndoles disculpas por la ausencia de esta Columna Abierta en la pasada edición.. por motivos de "descanso" por el día de los Veteranos es la excusa; así es que ustedes comprenderán...pero aquí estamos con el mismo animo de siempre escribiéndoles para pasarles los "por menores" y demás cosas que hay que compartir con ustedes... Y como primera información para todos ustedes es la invitación que está haciendo Salud es Poder, para todos los voluntarios y amigos a convivir unas horas para celebrar los tres años de existencia y sobre todo reafirmar los objetivos del proyecto, y la "pachanga informativa" será el sábado 22 de noviembre en la ramada # 40 del parque Kennedy desde las 12:30 pm a las 5:00 pm; donde se disfrutará de una rica carne asada y demás bocadillos como los sabe preparar Ernie y demás voluntarios del proyecto... Sin olvidar las bebidas y todos los detalles para que todo salga bien como siempre. no olviden la cita y si necesitan más información por favor comunicarse con Jorge Rascón o Ernie Pérez al 322-6226 y por allá nos veremos...

Otra invitación es para el X Simposium anual sobre VIH/SIDA que patrocina la Cruz Roja del Estado de Arizona y el Departamento de Servicios de Salud de Estado para el viernes 21 en la ciudad de Phoenix... si necesita más información comuníquese con las personas al final de esta Columna Abierta.

No quiero pasar inadvertido el gran show que se pudo disfrutar el día 11 en el Stonewall con el re-organizado grupo "Fuerza Latina", no cabe duda que se cuenta con algunas personas con grandes cualidades artísticas, y que, algunos de ellos lo han logrado por el amor y compromiso de compartir con la comunidad latina de esta ciudad; BRAVO!!! y deseamos que pronto se den a conocer en todo este histórico presidio y en el resto del Estado... Los comentarios que hemos escuchado es que "el opening" se puede comparar con los "shows" de los grandes grupos internacionales, de verdad, muy sinceras felicitaciones y sinceros deseos que sigan adelante....

Una de las preguntas que me hicieron últimamente es la siguiente: ¿Qué es la carga viral?. Dentro de los descubrimientos en relación al VIH, se descubrió una manera de medir la enfermedad, que consiste en medir más directamente la cantidad de virus que hay en la sangre de una persona infectada por el VIH. Se emplean métodos especiales para detectar el material genético del virus (llamado ARN VIH). En ocasiones, a la cantidad de virus en la sangre se le llama CARGA VIRAL. A medida que la enfermedad progresa, aumenta la carga viral. Es importante mantener la carga viral baja porque nuevas investigaciones sugieren que disminuir la cantidad de virus puede ayudar a vivir más tiempo. Además quiero recordarle que VIRUS es un agente infeccioso, el más pequeño que se ha conocido; y para reproducirse tiene que estar dentro de una célula viva. Y duplicación es el proceso de reproducción de un virus. Y las células CD4 humanas son las células huéspedes del VIH. Llevar una vida sana, con una dieta adecuada y ejercicio puede ayudarle a luchar contra el VIH. En la actualidad, existen nuevos planes de tratamiento de donde escoger. Algunos pueden tener mejor resultado que otros. Algunos se pueden tolerar mejor. Y algunos podrían ser más adecuados para su estilo de vida.

A continuación un mensaje para recordarle que el día jueves será el día nacional para hacer consciencia sobre el uso del tabaco y tratar de dejar de fumar.

¿PORQUE EL TABACO ES COSA SERIA?

♦ Los efectos por fumar son la causa de muerte número uno a nivel nacional, a su vez, es la adicción más prevenible.

♦ Cada trece segundos alguien en el mundo muere por enfermedades relacionadas con el uso del tabaco.

♦ El número de personas que mueren por enfermedades relacionadas con el uso del tabaco es mayor que el total del las muertes ocasionadas por alcohol, accidentes de tráfico, drogas ilícitas, asesinatos o suicidios.

♦ Enfermedades relacionadas con el uso del tabaco son las responsables de una de cada de cinco muertes en los Estados Unidos.

♦ El tabaco mata cerca de 435,000 personas en los Estados Unidos. La cocaína mata no más de 1,000.

♦ Si a lo largo de un año, cada día tres jumbo jets chocaran y no hubiera ningún sobreviviente, entonces un total de 390,000 personas morirían en estos accidentes. El mismo número de gentes murió en 1985 por enfermedades relacionadas por el uso del tabaco.

♦ Los efectos a corto plazo por fumar son: Aceleramiento del ritmo cardíaco, incremento del pulso, mal aliento, dientes manchados, dificultad para respirar, ropa y cabello con mal olor, problemas en la circulación de la sangre y como consecuencia, pies y manos frías, incrementa la tos y las alergias, incidencia más frecuente de gripes, flu y neumonía, inhibe el sentido del olfato y del gusto.

¿NECESITA ALGUNA OTRA RAZON PARA DEJAR DE FUMAR?

Si así es; por favor llamar a Monica Freebern, educadora para la prevención al uso del tabaco al (520) 287-4722 .

Por hoy es todo, le esperamos la próxima semana, D. M.

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Calif. Gays Cleared from Registry

SACRAMENTO, CA (NP) — Elderly Gay men have found themselves endangered by a law intended to protect children, but — at least in California — the threat has now been relieved.

The state of California moved a step closer to resolving the fallout resulting from Megan's Law and its impact on Gay men. A revision to the law, named for a New Jersey child killed by a convicted molester paroled in her neighborhood and designed to alert communities to the presence of dangerous sex criminals, went into effect last weekend and provides a way for men convicted for consensual sex under now-defunct sodomy laws to clear their names from published lists of past offenders.

The new legislation was supported by state Attorney General Dan Lungren, who drafted the state's version of Megan's Law originally, and signed by Governor Pete Wilson in October. A number of states have put similar laws into effect, but nowhere else has any adjustment been made to address the problem.

When the law was passed in 1995 requiring California's Department of Justice to make 64,000 names and ZIP codes of sex offenders available for public viewing, the department exhumed its old, long-neglected registry and forwarded it to the state capitol. That list included an unknown number of Gay men who had been convicted for having consensual sex as far back as 1944.

According to a news report earlier

GLAAD Gets Last Cut On 'Jackal'

HOLLYWOOD, CA (NP) — The remake of a classic political thriller has brought about The Day of the Pre-release Solution to a problematic scene for the first time in GLAAD's history.

GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, is pleased to have been able to take a proactive role concerning a scene in the new release "The Jackal," stating that it's the first time in the group's ten-year history that they've been able to deal with a problematic portrayal of Gays and Lesbians on film pre-release instead of being left to protest it afterwards.

GLAAD became alarmed when the audience at an early test screening responded with applause when Bruce Willis' master-of-disguise assassin character — known only as "The Jackal" — shot the Gay man (played by Steven Spinella) he met at a Gay bar.

After GLAAD expressed its concerns to Universal Pictures and to "Jackal" producer Sean Daniel, GLAAD's Entertainment Media Director Chastity Bono was invited to preview the final cut of the

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this year on now-elderly Gay men being brought in to their local police stations and warned that their failure to register annually constituted a felony first raised the issue.

Just how many men might be involved and whether or not their inclusion in the complete offenders registry means their names appear in the publicly accessible CD-ROM version of the list is yet to be determined. The amended law also requires the Department of Justice to conduct a study by July of next year to assess the number of obsolete law violators the registry contains.

While Lungren's office maintains that such cases have already been excluded from the CD-ROM version because the crimes were not severe enough, the ACLU is not convinced that is true — they're waiting for the results of the study.

In order to have one's name removed from the registry, a person must first file an appeal with the state Justice Department. Since many of the convictions in question are so old that they have outlived the original court records, a declaration of the circumstances from the applicant will be accepted. If the appeal is denied, the applicant can take the matter to court.

The amended Megan's Law also stipulates that misdemeanor loitering in a public toilet — a characteristic "sting" charge used against Gay men — not be included among the offenses that must be registered.

film. She is satisfied that the version hitting the screens clarifies that the shooting is motivated by the Willis' character's concern for protecting the secret of his identity, not by his victim's sexual orientation.

Co-star Richard Gere, long a supporter of Gay and Lesbian causes, was also personally concerned about the audience reactions at screenings, and told GLAAD he was relieved to have had the issue dealt with pre-release.

Daniel said, "GLAAD's interest in the situation and Chastity Bono's quite insightful articulation of the impact of how we depict things put a healthy and smart frame of reference (around) how the scene should play. She made it clear that she was not calling in any way to position GLAAD as a censor, [but that we] should be thoughtful because we are dealing with issues that carry a lot of weight out there in our culture. That's a good message."

Ironically, the theme of "The Jackal" is about "forces in the world" which send an entirely different kind of message, their goal being to "deliver a public message, soaked in blood, to strike fear in the hearts and minds of those who, for whatever reason, they regard as the enemy," according to the official synopsis.

"The Jackal" is a big budget update and reworking of 1973's "The Day of the Jackal" (based on the Frederick Forsyth best-seller), in which a brilliant international hit man (Willis) has contracted to eliminate a top US government figure, and the head of the FBI (Sidney Poitier), an underground operative (Gere) pulled out of prison for the project, and a square Russian intelligence officer (Diane Venora), join forces to stop him. Michael Caton-Jones directs.



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UPDATE

AT&T Awards \$10,000 To Latino HIV Prevention Programs

SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- The grant-making collaboration between AT&T and the Academy of Friends recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to Proyecto ContraSIDA por Vida (PCPV), a local program of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP) for its Colegio ContraSIDA program targeting the diverse Latina/o queer community members.

dying issues, homophobia, and racism.

"The support of AT&T and Academy of Friends comes at a crucial time as HIV prevention dollars are being reduced while HIV infection rates continue to increase among Latinos, particularly among Gay and Bisexual men who make up 67 percent of Latino AIDS cases in California," stated Joel Reyna, Jr., Director of Local Programs at the NTFAP. Despite these disproportional statistics, PCPV aims to build a healthy community of Latino/a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people in San Francisco capable of resisting HIV through creativity, strength, and education.

Established in 1993, Proyecto ContraSIDA por Vida is a Gay Latino/a organization dedicated to providing a continuum of culturally specific, linguistically appropriate, innovative HIV education and support services to the Latino/a Gay, Lesbian, questioning youth, and Transgender community who are least likely to be reached by more mainstream HIV prevention approaches.

Colegio ContraSIDA, a series of HIV risk reduction workshops with successfully integrate HIV prevention education within the social, historical, and cultural context unique to the Latino/a culture, provides community members outlets for creative expression as they receive HIV/AIDS prevention education messages.

Colegio "courses" includes creative writing, altar-making, video production, quilt-making, fashion design, computer graphics, and photography. HIV/AIDS prevention education is integrated into these classes and provide participants an outlet to explore themes such as religion, family, sexuality, illness, death and

Elton's Song

ATLANTA, GA (NP) -- Publishers are certain that whatever he puts down in words about how wonderful life is (or isn't), Elton John's memoirs will take them down the yellow brick road to the bank.

"If it's a 'kiss and tell' book," one publisher told the press, "the sales potential is absolutely huge. People who buy only one book in a year will buy this one. It will be huge everywhere."

The book in question is the autobiography of openly-Gay pop music superstar Elton John. According to media accounts, at least two major British publishers were engaged in a bidding war earlier this week for what promises to be an instant best-seller, and a spokesperson for one of them said they were willing to offer up to 10 million pounds for such a manuscript, sight unseen.

Reports have John collaborating on the as yet untitled book with Ingrid Sischy, the openly-Lesbian editor-in-chief of "Interview" magazine and a contributing editor with "Vanity Fair," described in one report as the only writer John respects enough to work with him on the manuscript.

David Chalfant, John's literary agent, promises a "reflective and introspective" tome, saying it will be "one of the biographies of the decade." Some commentators have speculated that the unexpected death this year of John's close friends Gianni Versace and Diana, Princess of Wales have lead the singer to contemplate his own mortality.

The book should be ready for publication late next year.

In a press statement issued, John noted that he had been asked several times in the past about writing his memoirs, "but the time never seemed right. In 1997 I celebrated my 50th birthday and a 30-year creative partnership with lyricist Bernie Taupin. These and other milestones, professional and personal in nature, lead me to think that the time has

finally come."

Elton John has sold more than 200 million records worldwide since his first hit, "Your Song," hit the charts in 1970. His "Candle in the Wind 1997" Princess Diana tribute/fund raiser has itself topped the 32 million mark in global sales, surpassing the longtime best-selling single mark previously established by Bing Crosby's "White Christmas."

John Reid, who's managed John's career for some 25 years, told reporters, "I have no doubt that he will deliver an insightful, hilarious and poignant book."

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AIDS INFO UPDATE

Three Drug Combo Can't Erase HIV

NEW YORK, NY (WS) — There's good news and there's bad news from the AIDS front: the remarkably successful combination drug treatments have indeed enabled some people's immune systems to recover to some degree; and while they can't actually completely eliminate HIV or the threat of its developing into AIDS, they seem to have at least prevented the virus' mutation into something the drugs can't combat.

Two separate studies from four different labs being published in the distinguished journal "Science," and a third study forthcoming from yet another lab that will be appearing in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Science," looked at people with HIV who've been treated long-term (as much as 30 months) with the three-drug "cocktail" combination therapy.

These studies feature such leading names as David Ho, Anthony Fauci and Robert Siliciano and labs at the Aaron Diamond Research Center, Johns Hopkins University, the University of California at San Diego, and the National Institutes of Health National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NAIAD).

The upshot is that for now, those infected with the virus will be recommended to continue indefinitely on the expensive, unwieldy and toxic drugs, while researchers will have to discover an entirely new line of attack on the virus in order to achieve a cure.

All three types of drugs in the "cocktail" interfere with HIV's replication, and they've succeeded in many cases in reducing to zero the HIV "viral load" detectable in the blood with now-standard clinical tests. But the three research projects looked for HIV in so-called "reservoirs" where it has previously been found to "hide" without replicating, and found that the treatment in fact does not entirely eradicate HIV from the body.

The studies looked specifically for HIV particles in "resting" CD4 lymphocytes, white blood cells that are part of the immune system's "memory," which lie dormant for long periods until an antigen they're keyed to enters the body. When an antigen triggers the reproduction of the CD4 cells, it has now been found that it

also triggers HIV replication in those cells which have been infected.

That means that even those people without detectable viral load could still have the HIV infection flare up again, suggesting that drug therapy should be continued to keep stopping any viral replication that may recur. Further, the NAIAD study found some evidence that even the "hidden" virus might be replicating to some degree.

The discovery of the "hidden" HIV suggests that a true cure will have to include a treatment that locates and disables HIV that is both hidden inside a cell and not in the process of replicating. No such approach has yet been developed for any infection.

However, since the individuals studied appeared to have healthy uninfected CD4 cells reproducing again at normal to near-normal rates, researchers acknowledged the possibility that some treated people's immune systems might actually prove to be capable of naturally fending off a small recurrence of HIV activity, although there's no way to know that at this time. On the plus side, the current studies offer confirmation that by stopping replication, the current drug treatments have also stopped the virus from mutating significantly, a possibility which had raised fears that the treatments would become ineffective.

At some point, there will be some study of what happens when people come off the drug cocktails. In September there was a widely publicized report of a French study that looked at two people who had been taking ddI and hydroxycarbamide for one year and then stopped the drugs for a year, without showing any so-called "viral rebound" as a result.

Further, larger studies with those same drugs are expected to be reported in the near future.

At a meeting of the Adelaide conference of the Australasian Society for HIV medicine discussed a number of people who had achieved zero viral load scores, but then relapsed into clear evidence of infection. The theory was that these findings were the result of failure to follow the drug regimens and/or viral mutation.

FDA Grants Roche Marketing Clearance For Fortovase

NUTLEY, NJ — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., clearance to market Fortovase (saquinavir), a new and improved soft gelatin formulation of the first available protease inhibitor, Invirase.

Fortovase is indicated for the treatment of HIV in adults in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

"Fortovase represents our commitment to AIDS research and years of dedication from scientists and others at Roche in developing this new treatment option for patients living with HIV and AIDS," said Patrick Zenner, president and chief executive officer, Hoffman-La Roche Inc. "Roche invested considerable resources in bringing Fortovase to market as quickly as possible, because it allows more of the drug saquinavir to enter the bloodstream resulting in an improved level of viral load reduction in patients."

Fortovase will be priced in the U.S. at the wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) of approximately \$5,700 per year.

The approval of Fortovase was based in part on study NV15355 which showed that a significantly greater proportion of patients, who received Fortovase plus two nucleoside analogues, achieved viral load reductions to below the limit of detection (400 copies/mL), as compared to those patients who have received Invirase plus two nucleoside analogues at 16 weeks.

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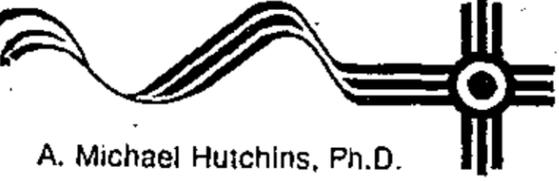
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Are you afraid of change? This week volcanic Pluto begins an excellent aspect to surprising Uranus. This means that there is a possibility of exciting surprises in the next four months that may change our personal landscape forever. I guess it's time to buy that lottery ticket.

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

The brilliant aspect between Pluto and Uranus indicates that proud Rams should be looking beyond their own backyards for inspiration and friendship. The old saying, "Seek and ye shall find," works like a mantra for you now. Revise your old philosophies and seek the advice of worldly of international type folks. Travel not only broadens, it catapults. Watch your head!

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Gay Bulls may wake up one of these mornings and simply not feel like squeezing into that pin-striped gorilla suit ever again. This epiphany by Pluto and Uranus conspires to put crazy ideas in your head about personal fulfillment and it's compatibility (or lack thereof) with corporate politics. Tossing it all away is tempting but poverty is not a Bull strong suit. Marry wealthy.

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Single, sassy Geminis are due for a match made in heaven with the Pluto/Uranus aspect. My crystal ball says that your partner-to-be will be quite different from you either in nationality, age, religion or background. Make yourself available. For those Gay Twins who have found their match, whisk your partner off to some fabulous locale and rekindle the spark. Start a raging fire!

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Sexual sparks fly from surprising directions (such as work). If pink Crabs start eyeing the drone in the cubicle next door, blame it on the heated aspect between Pluto and Uranus. Can work and love mix? Measure the risk before you plunge. Maybe you'll undergo a chance of philosophy about your job. One day you'll wake up and decide to try something totally new.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

The Pluto/Uranus aspect may prove decisive for Gay Lions who demands the entire spotlight for themselves. It may mean that you are showcased for an adoring crowd or it could mean that you'll disenfranchise partners with your constant grandstanding. You don't need a crowd to feel affirmed; sometimes a special audience of one will do. Divas look nice but will sleep alone.

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Proud Virgos face a trade-off between the day to day demands of the job and the sanctity of their homelife when Pluto aspects Uranus. The choice is up to you cousin; how much seepage between lives are you prepared to endure? Use this transit to measure the pros and cons of your current situation. Wise old Pluto may have a way of pushing you in the right direction.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Proud Libras are diplomatic folks at heart. Now, with the magnificent aspect between Pluto and Uranus, you wax poetic and can move mountains with a few choice words. Let yourself be swept up in the pride political movement and get involved in a grassroots march for the community. Ever

HOROSCOPES
BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

think of entering politics? You have my vote.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

It's time to review your value system to see what is gold and what is dross. Gay Scorps have been known to place undue emphasis on the material world, to the detriment of their sense of self and their personal life. Now, the Pluto/Uranus aspect demands that the Material Girl in you makes choices. You needn't dump all your worldly loot; just don't let it own you.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

How about if it were possible to be your true lavender you no matter where you parked your carcass? Living life true to oneself is within reach. Proud Archers undergo a complete transformation during

the next four months during the Pluto/Uranus aspect. The world will look at you in a different, possibly reverential way. Please make sure that your fly is zipped!

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

It isn't often that Gay Caps peer out into the vast cosmos and contemplate their connection to the galaxy. The Pluto/Uranus aspect sparks that degree of inspiration. Your connection to our community is enhanced and affirmed during this transit. It is time to display your pride and get more involved in vital Gay charitable efforts. Your closet will pretty stale.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Aqueerians find that friends and social

groups provide ample incentive for you to undergo a complete and radical make over. Pluto and Uranus conspire to push you Out into the open and into center stage. Good thing too friend; how long can you go on selfishly keeping that fabulous personality under wraps? Peel a little back and let the world have a peek. Wow!

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Sometimes the evil machinations of those who do not have your best interests at heart go awry and give you an unanticipated boost. Lucky pink Fish may cash in on this unexpected turn of events during the Pluto/Uranus transit, so keep an ever watchful eye on opportunities, especially in your career. It's time to stop being a pin cushion for every backstabber.

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.

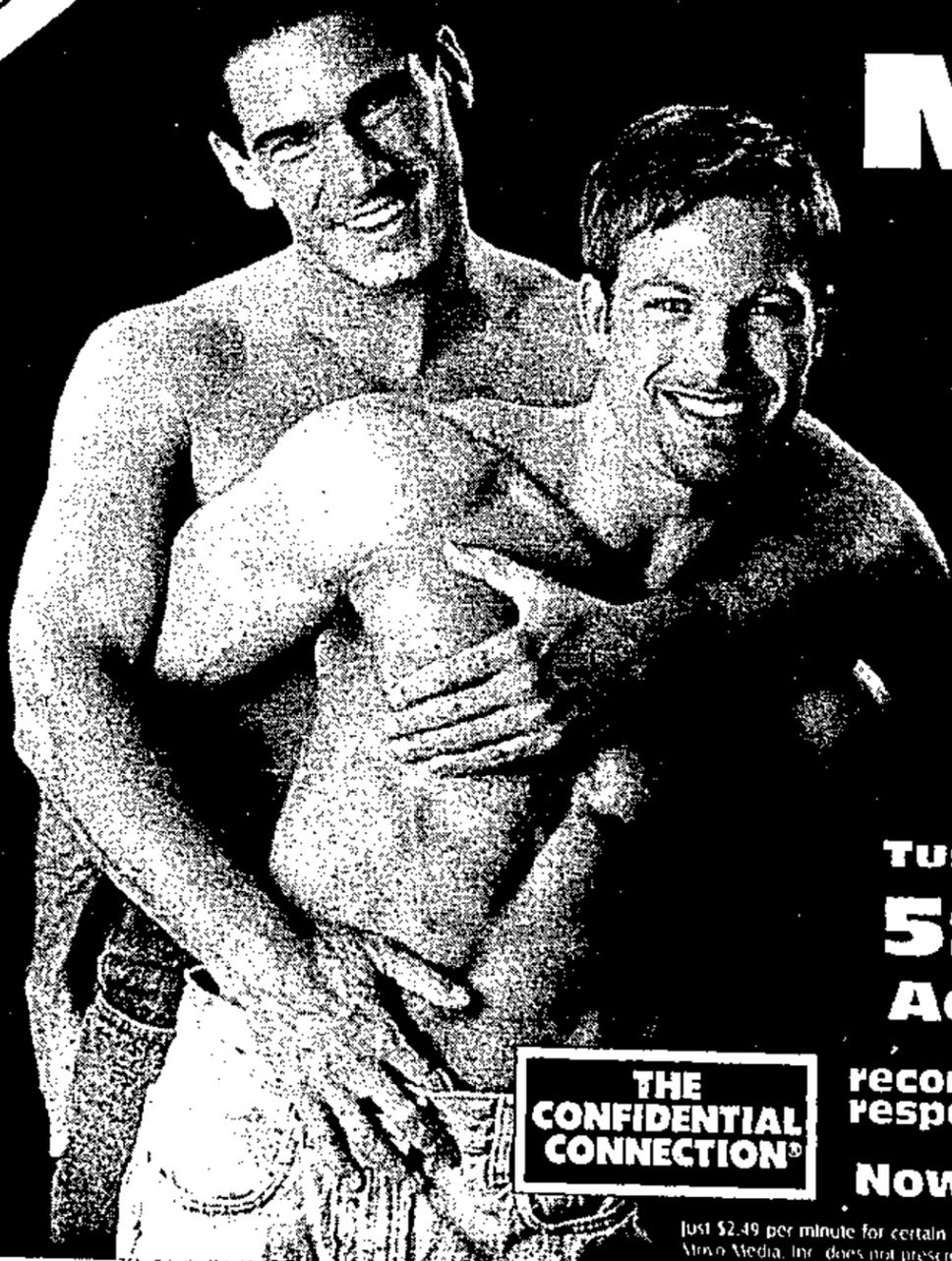
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Adventures Of A Gay Lawyer

by Kevin Isom

I didn't set out from law school to become a Gay lawyer. Like sexual orientation itself, it wasn't a choice. It sort of happened. But I was probably predisposed. Besides, I like explaining the law to people, especially Lesbians and Gays.

For instance, most people don't know how easy it is to change a name. Or how many Gays and Lesbians are doing it these days. These process in Georgia, for example, is fairly simple. A petition to change name is filed with the Superior Court and a notice of intent to change name is published in the legal newspaper, referred to in the statute as the "legal organ" of the county-I kid you not. The total court filing fee and publication cost is about \$124. The only additional cost is, of course, the attorney's fee, which varies according to your lawyers.

After the four weeks of publication have passed, if no objections have been filed with the court, we can't have you changing your name to defraud creditors, now, can we? You and your attorney make a charming visit to a judge for your name change hearing. The hearing is fairly informal, as court proceedings go. You and your attorney go into the judge's chambers, your attorney makes your case briefly, and the judge usually asks you a few questions. Then the judge signs the Order changing your name, and at that moment you have a new name. You usually expect some hosannahs to issue forth, but about the only thing that happens is that the judge looks at you with an expression of "are you going to keep sitting there smiling like a fool, or are you going to get the hell out of my chambers?". At that point, you traipse down to the Records office to file the Order and to get a few certified copies. You'll need them for all those mundane things like changing the name on you Social Security Card and Driver's License.

I'll never forget the name change I did for the life partner of a local psychotherapist, Chris Allers (I obtained his permission before mentioning him in this article, thank you). Chris waited outside in the corridor while his life partner and I went into the judge's chambers. I couldn't tell who was shaking more, Chris or his partner. When the hearing was over, we went back out into the corridor, and I announced, "Christopher Allers, I'd like to present to you Justin Pierce Allers." They embraced and kissed there in the corridor of the Fulton County Courthouse. I nearly cried, and I looked quickly down at my case file. It wouldn't do for a client to see his lawyer cry. It was a Kodak moment.

Another name change was not so happy, but was equally moving. Two of my clients had met each other on the Gay rodeo circuit. They wore matching boots and cowboy hats to their wedding, and a Clint Black look alike sang a country wedding march. On the day of the name change hearing, only one of the two showed up at the courthouse. The other was sick. As the elevator doors closed, the one confided to me that in fact his partner, I think he actually said "pardner", had AIDS, and that they had known that he was HIV+ for two years before the wedding. My heart sank as the elevator climbed to the fifth floor of the court house. There was no embrace this time outside the judge's chambers, but I put my arm around my client as we walked back to the elevator.

Not all of my clients have worn boots, but they've all had their unique sets

of interest and problems. I wonder sometimes whether a straight attorney could truly empathize with them, or for that matter, how many straight attorneys would even know what to do when faced with a Gay couple wanting a post-nuptial agreement? Yup, I've even done one of those. But that's another story for another column.

[Kevin Isom is an attorney and free lance writer in Atlanta.]

Gay Arts Foundation Announces Story Competition

PHOENIX - The Board of Directors of The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation is pleased to announce a Short Story Competition for the Foundation's 1997/98 writing grants.

All stories must present the Gay and Lesbian lifestyle in a positive manner and be based on, or directly inspired by, a historic person or event. One story per author, please.

All works submitted must be unpublished, original, and in English. Adaptations or translations of other works of fiction are not acceptable. All submissions must be postmarked by midnight, May 31, 1998. Stories selected by the judges will be announced in October 1998 and will receive a cash award of \$1,000. (Not limited to a single winner.)

Mail a neat, double-spaced, typed copy of the manuscript, including the author's name, address and phone number to: The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, POB 45231, Phoenix, AZ 85064.

'Good Things In Big Boxers' Dec. 15 in Phoenix

PHOENIX - Join the Phoenix Bears for their final fund raiser of 1997: "Good Things Come in Big Boxers," Monday, December 15, 8:00 P.M. at Charlie's in Phoenix.

This event is a part of Charlie's "21 Days of Christmas," with proceeds going to the Bill Holt Infectious Disease Clinic (pediatric HIV) at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

The Bears will be auctioning off unique gift boxes contributed by the community and local merchants. If hot "underbears" aren't enough, there will also be drink specials, a 50/50 raffle, and great door prizes!

If you would like to contribute items, even a whole box or would like more information, call 602-345-8755.

West Virginia Entertainment A Drag

CHARLESTON, WV (NP) - The City Council is trying to decide whether drag shows at a Gay nightclub would be more of a drag than the drag they're used to.

The city council of Charleston, West Virginia, like most local government legislative bodies, usually has a wide variety of issues on its docket, but a controversy surrounding what kind of entertainment can be presented at the primarily-Gay Broadway nightclub has the local newspapers describing the situation as "a drag."

Boyd Mynes, owner of the Broadway, wants to bring female impersonators to his club, but the current ordinance

regulating "adult entertainment" in Charleston puts drag shows in the same category as topless dancers and strippers. The City Council voted 13 to 12 earlier to amend the law, but opponents of any change claimed that a simple majority of those present and voting is not sufficient, and that a majority of all 28 elected Council members is required to pass or change an ordinance.

As the local papers editorialized "It was OK for Charleston's theaters to show 'The Birdcage,' a movie about the owner of an establishment featuring men in drag. It was OK for the Charleston Light Opera Guild to put on a performance of 'La Cage Aux Folles,' the musical which inspired 'The Birdcage.' It's OK for men to dress up as women for the annual Funeral Parade that caps Charleston's Stern wheel Regatta. But it's illegal for Charleston's Broadway nightclub to bring in female impersonators to entertain its largely Gay clientele. That makes no sense."

Another Council vote is scheduled at an unspecified future date. Mynes and Charleston's drag proponents are hoping for a 100% attendance record at that ses-

sion, and that at least 14 Council members will agree with the editorials that "While parents probably wouldn't want to take their young children to a drag show at a nightclub, that doesn't make it 'adult' entertainment. These shows don't involve nudity (which would spoil the illusion, naturally), just a lot of vamping and singing. The city ordinance is outdated, and should be changed to allow harmless drag shows."

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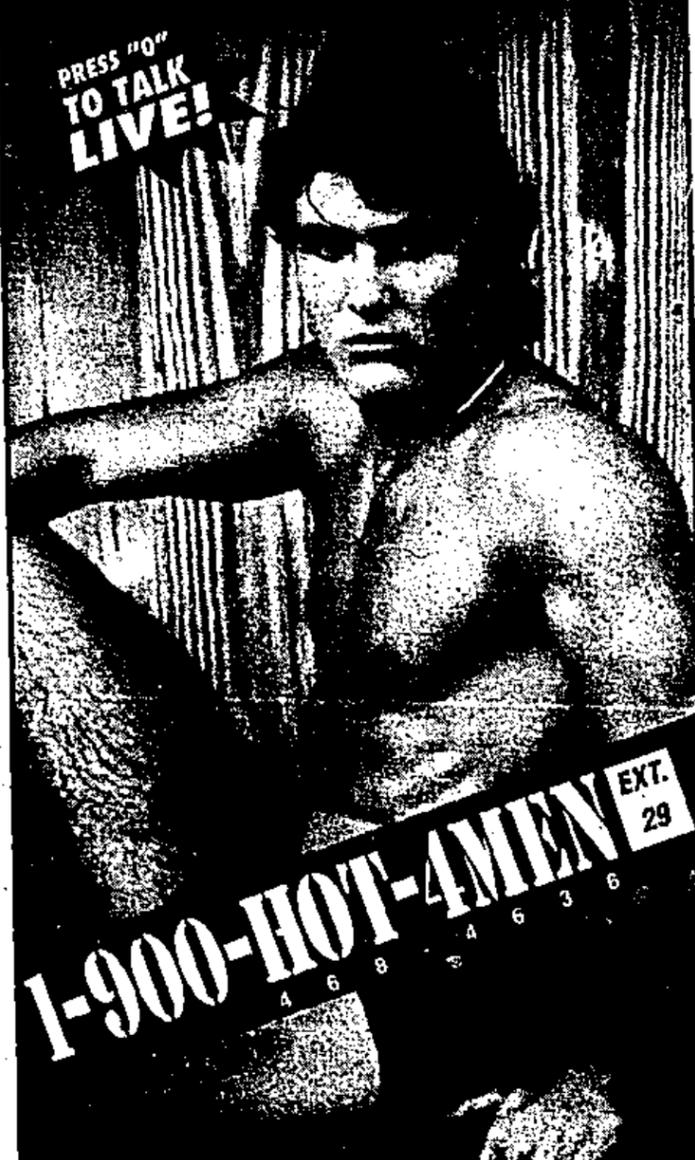
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CALENDAR

of upcoming events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

IBT'S - Male Box Nite returns. Your chance to meet a hot number very discretely, let 'em know what you're thinking. Also win prizes playing Sissy Bingo only at IBT's.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

IBT'S - Reville Gay Men's Chorus will hold its 3rd semi-annual Bachelor Auction starting at 9:00 p.m. Ten handsome hunks will be up for bid. Each highest bidder gets a dinner for two with his bachelor and reserved seating for two at RGM's Holiday Show on Dec. 8. 'Double Deck of Dinners' raffle tickets will be for sale.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - The Biz brings back its White Party. Discounted drinks to those wearing white. Also \$2.75 White Russians and \$3.00 Kahlua & Creme. Hi HRG dance music 9-1.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - The Biz welcomes back KC's Mixx 8-11. Cover. Live Latin and country music. Latin music follows. \$1.25 pitchers 5-10pm.

IBT'S - The benefit Beer Bust and B-B-Q today will be a fundraiser for Reville Gay Men's Chorus. "Double Deck of Dinners" raffle tickets will be on sale too.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Sabrina's Sideshow Spectacular! A benefit for Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). 9:30 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Tuff Stuff Too, the leather shop off the patio here winds up its third anniversary today. Come on out and meet one of the top twelve erotic artists in the world for the past two years - Bobby Cook. Bobby is also well known for his erotic fiction. He'll be on the patio from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. For autographs, photo-ops, prizes and more. Come on down!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

IBT'S - Special Thanksgiving Eve - Homecoming Weekend Girlie Show. Show features Adrienne Alexander, Victoria Du Puis, Regina Reed, Miss Guerra and is hosted by Larry Moore. 9:00 p.m.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Come and see the kick-off benefit show for Children With AIDS who need toys. Hosted by Crystal Abram's with guest stars Selena, Crystal Blake and many guests.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - The Biz will open at 7:00 p.m. with Karaoke. Come sing and dance from 7 to closing.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Thanksgiving Dinner. Turkey with all the trimmings. 4:00 p.m. to ???

VENTURE-N - Thanksgiving Pot-Luck begins at noon. Bring your favorite side dish and enjoy the turkey on V-N.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Bare Chest Contest hosted by Daddy Phillip of Daddy's in San Francisco. 11:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - WORLD AIDS DAY

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Back by popular demand, it's Rare Breed. Live Latin music from 7-11pm. Cover. \$1.25 pitcher 5-10pm. DJ spins Latin music after the band.

IBT'S - Wrap-up Homecoming Weekend with IBT's 1st Annual Chili Cook-off Contest with \$100 First Place Prize plus other prizes.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

GRADUATE - Annual Benefit for "Rudy's Kids" - raises money for toys for the children in the Arizona Children's Home at Christmas.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

VENTURE-N - It's the Sixth (6th) Anniversary for the Venture. Make plans to celebrate with Jim and the staff of V-N.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 & 14

IBT'S - Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair will take place and you know what that means! Watch the calendar and their ads for more details.

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Non-Bar CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:00 p.m. Join the guys for a relaxed Lunch Out as we eat at Landry's at 410 N. Wilmet. Good food, good conversation, and good guys. What better deal can you get at lunch time? For reservations and directions, please call Jerry W. at 298-7415.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A Discussion Group will read a section from the recent bestseller "Conversations with God", then discuss the reading. For reservations and directions, please call Justin or Gary at 792-4224.

Girlfriends Coffee House and Book Store will present Lucie Blue Tremblay in concert. Lucie will be introducing her new CD "I'm Ready". Singing in French and English, the power of her voice will mesmerize you. This one intimate special performance only. 7:00 p.m. Advance tickets \$18. Tickets are available at Antigone's and Girlfriends, 3540 N. Oracle Road.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Cronies Social Club Mid-Month Dinner. Hometown Buffet at 7:00 p.m. All men are welcome.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) presents the ninth annual Jerome Beillard "Festival For Life" at the University Park Marriott Hotel (880 E. Second St.) Beginning at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit HIV prevention education and direct client services for people affected by HIV/AIDS. The evening features a live and silent auction of fantastic holiday items - decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, menorahs, fine art, gift baskets, celebrity memorabilia and other fabulous gift items. A light dessert buffet will also be provided. Brad Holland of TuneSmythe will provide musical entertainment. Advance tickets are \$20 (all but \$5 of the ticket price is tax deductible). Tickets are available at SAAF, Borders Books, Casas Adobes Flower Shop, Tucson Trunk and Hair On Broadway. Admission at the door is \$25. For more info call Jenny Porter at SAAF 322-6226.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Enjoy a video movie night showing of "Family Plot". This Alfred Hitchcock film coasts along in this tongue-in-cheek thriller. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A night is devoted to getting out the MSN newsletters. It's a fun way to help the organization and get to know the MSN guys. Dessert and door prizes are provided. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A Discussion Group will read a section from the recent bestseller "Conversations with God", then discuss the reading. For reservations and directions, please call Justin or Gary at 792-4224.

THURSDAY, NOV. 27 - SUNDAY, NOV. 30

The 11th Annual Arizona Fellowship Run will take place. Four days of food, fun, games, cocktails and camaraderie. Hosts this year are Desert Leathermen, Copperstate Leathermen, Tucson Knight Owls, Tucson Arizona LeviLeathermen, Arizona Rangers and the Leather Lords with a guest cocktail party given by Empire LeviLeather. Run applications are available at Venture-N, 1239 N. 6th Ave. Run donations are \$35 until midnight Friday and \$20 thereafter. For more info call Venture-N 862-8224.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:00 p.m. Happy Thanksgiving. Join your MSN family of choice for Thanksgiving dinner. Bill H. is graciously opening his home for a wonderful holiday potluck dinner. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539 and determine what your contribution to the dinner will be.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Enjoy the 1997 "turkey" movie entitled "Can't Stop the Music". Made in 1980, this feature film debut of the Village People was a hideous musical about a young man (Bruce Jenner) with grand dreams to make it big in showbusiness. Boo, laugh, hiss or cry through this year's "turkey" movie. For reservations and directions, please call Lex at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 9:00 a.m. Get some exercise and enjoy friendship while hiking the David Yetman Trail on the Gates Pass area of the Tucson Mountains. The hike is rated easy. For reservations and directions, please call Jim at 791-7003.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) is conducting its annual World AIDS Day interfaith service of healing and hope today from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Benedictine Monastery, 800 N. Country Club (just north of Speedway) following the World AIDS Day community commemoration at Catalina High School. Members of the Gay/Lesbian and HIV communities are invited to join together to acknowledge the impact of the AIDS epidemic has had upon our lives and our family. For more information call Lynn or Scott at 299-6647.

A Thanksgiving Reunion celebrating 10 years of the St. Francis Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Support Group. The reunion will be held in the center at St. Francis in the foothills, 4625 E. River (Northwest corner of Swan & River), from 8-9 p.m.

TUCSON CALENDAR

Sunday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, \$1.25 pitchers. Latin Music 8-1. Shot specials all night.

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

HOURS - Open Noon. Bloody Marys \$1.75 til 7 pm. Pool Tournament 4pm. Country/Western dance instruction 6-8 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1.

IBT's - Open Noon to 1 am. Happy Hour noon-8pm, \$1.75 domestic beer and \$1.50 Well. Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 4:30-7:00pm. Hi energy dancing 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 2pm. Party with Stan. Complimentary hot dogs. STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open noon. Beer Bust 2-7pm \$1.25 Pitchers, 50¢ a glass. Free hamburgers 4-7 Pool Tournament with Zippertann. Karaoke Night, drink specials to singers.

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

Monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour 2-7 2for1 well and domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Bar/Restaurant Appreciation Night. \$1.00 off on all drinks 8-12.

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 2pm. Happy Hour 2 to 7pm - Well and Domestic Beer \$1.50. 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 80's Dance 9pm-1am. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 4pm. Happy hour 4-7. Drink specials to pool and dart players.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Monday Night Football on the big screen, and Doc's Dart's at 8:30. Free pool all day.

VENTURE-N - 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 long necks. 2-7 p.m. Pool Tournament 7:30 pot matched. \$1 longnecks all night for tournament players. Boys Night Out 9pm to closing. Hot dance music.

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

HOURS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2 to 7pm Well or Domestic Beer \$1.50. 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/ M&B Late. High Energy Dance with David Z.

NEON MOON - Happy Hour 4-7pm. Karaoke with Billy D. \$1 off drinks to singers.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Happy Hour til 8pm.

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

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7. 2for1 well or domestic beer. \$1.25 pitchers from 9 to midnight. Alternative music w/Stephanie 9pm-1.

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

HOURS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer \$1.50. 50¢ off all call drinks 7 to close. Feb. 19 New Pool Tournament Begins 6pm

IBT's - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour Noon to 8pm, \$1.75 domestic beer & \$1.50 well. Mystery Night. \$1.75 Bud Product Special 9 pm to close. Dance with David Z. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Happy Hour 4-7. 2for1 7-10. Retro Dance Music all evening.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Happy Hour til 8pm. Karaoke Nite: Drink Specials to singers. Stonewall opens at 9:00 p.m.

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

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Karaoke 8:30 pm to close. (New time)

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 - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2 to 7pm, Well or Domestic Beer \$1.50. Corona \$2.00 9pm to 1am. Country/Western dancing 8 to 1.

IBT's - Open noon to 1am. Happy Hour noon-8pm \$1.75 domestic beer and \$1.50 well. Underwear Nite. \$1.50 Well and \$1.75 Domestic Beer to those in their underwear (pant check available). Hi energy dancing 9-close with DJ David Z. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 4pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Drink specials to pool and dart players.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Happy Hour til 8pm. Latino Nite.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-8pm. Pool Tournament 7pm \$3 entry fee. Happy Hour prices for Men in Leather 6pm to close. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Tool open 8:30pm

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres. Hi energy dance music 8:30 to close. Drink specials every 1/2 hour.

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

HOURS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm well or domestic beer \$1.50. Dance Music Mix 9-1am.

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$1.75 domestic beer and \$1.50 well. Patio Bar 9-1. Dance Party 9 to 1 with DJ David Z. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 4-7. Country/Western Dance Party 9pm to close.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Happy Hour til 8pm. Hors d'oeuvres 5pm. Wear a Stonewall/Eagle T-shirt and 1/2 price all night.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Draft Beer 75¢ Bar 6am-8pm. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Tool opens at 8:30 pm.

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Hi energy dance music from 8:30pm to 1am. Drink specials every 1/2 hour.

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, Piña Colodas \$3. Dance Music Mix 9-1.

IBT's - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour noon to 8pm \$1.75 domestic beer and \$1.50 well. Patio Bar 9-1. Dance 9 to 1 with DJ David Z. All drink specials not available during special events.

NEON MOON - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 4-7. Star Traxx 9:00 p.m. \$2 Cover for the show only.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open noon. Happy Hour til 8pm. Free Pool all day.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Bltches & Bagels w/31 Bloody Marys 6am-noon. Happy Hour Prices 6am-8pm. Backside open 5pm-close. Tuff Stuff Tool Opens at 8:30pm.

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NOTICES

NOTICES

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

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)327-1620 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910, or come to our general meetings the second Friday of every month. Location listed on our hotline.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, A social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving collectible vehicles. Call 298-8454.

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Elia 581-8850 or Room 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

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

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 8:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Gerónimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Jeff or Art (520)762-9135.

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide fighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrianna at 888-7298.

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

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP of St. Phillips in the Hills Episcopal Church meets first and third Mondays. Call David, 323-7943 for more information.

"AT EASE AGAIN", a men's discussion group meets at Wingspan at 7 p.m. every Tuesday. 300 E. 6th St.

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 from 6:30 to 9:30pm at Army Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9682.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 211 (The Broadmoor Building). Office Hours 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 322-6226. AIDS Hotline: 326-AIDS. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

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 328-3555

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36284, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. 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 300 E. 6th Street from 3 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 50 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 687-7493 and leave your name and phone number. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday, 4-8 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St.

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 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

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

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., 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 discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the Footfalls Church, Swan and River Road. Room 32. Call the church at 290-9063 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, 300 E. 6th St. 624-1779.

L.O.S., EX-L.O.S., GAY LESBIAN, BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. 7pm. 325-1319 for information.

RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL every Sunday 3 to 5 pm at St. Francis in The Footfalls for anyone who likes to play and have a blast call Davey 688-1208 for more info.

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (AGRA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 323-0805 or write AGRATucson, P.O. Box 40094, 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. 322-5655. Leave message.

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

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

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

SCUBA DIVING CLUB. For information call digital pager 291-5602.

BISEXUAL INFORMATION/SUPPORT GROUP for women and men. Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. 624-1779.

GAY VOLLEYBALL ON SATURDAYS. Competitive play. BB or better players only. Grass court Northwest corner Himmel Park 10:00 a.m. Check it out!

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

THE JOHN HANTEN MEMORIAL GROUP, a Catholic support group for Gays and Lesbians, meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1948 E. Lee St. at 7:30 p.m. For more information call the parish office at 327-6015 or Jane Perri 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 Hallman 577-8333 for more info.

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE (TLGA) meets every third Thursday at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street at 7pm.

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

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

THIRTYsomething Society - an exclusive society for single Gay and Bi men in or near their thirties. A social society that offers monthly activities including a monthly outing away from Tucson. Call 787-3116 for more information and a membership fee.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays noon-1pm in UMC Dining Room "F". 325-6676 or 670-1954.

ANDHONY HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson. Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

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

COCAINE ANONYMOUS

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

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

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Brenda at 884-9920, Ext.448 or Emmett 322-6057 (evaken@ix.netcom.com)

FACE TO FACE - HIV+ Social Organization. Meet new friends. Call Dale at 320-9106 for information.

AZdyes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyran@theriver.com and request guidelines.

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast each 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI. This show alternates with "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show.

PERSONALS

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Si eres hombre que tiene sexo con otros hombres y quieres ayudarnos a extender y apoyar los programas para Los Latinos, Hama para una entrevista exclusivamente confidencial al 322-6226 y pregunta por Ernesto. 698

If you are a Latine man who is having sex with other men and you want to help us to support and expand our programs for Latines, call for a confidential interview at 322-6226 and ask for Ernie. 698

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TUCSON BLVD. & ELM: 1 bedroom guest house for rent. Available at the end of November. \$575/mo. Includes all utilities and more. Please call for details 327-9199.

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ROOMMATES

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Informing the Community The Observer The only weekly Gay newspaper in the southwest P.O. Box 50733, Tucson, Arizona 85703-1733 (602) 622-7176



HOLLYWOOD, CA (WS) — Vice President Al Gore broadly praised Hollywood executives for producing the television show "Ellen," saying the ABC sitcom had forced Americans to confront their attitudes and prejudices about Gay men and Lesbians.

In a speech to the Hollywood Television and Radio Society, Gore said that television had the potential to reshape public attitudes and pointed to the long-running series "All in the Family" as an example. The working-class bigot, "Archie Bunker," he said, forced viewers to confront their own racial and ethnic prejudices, proving the medium a vehicle for positive social change.

"And when the character Ellen came out, millions of Americans were forced to look at sexual orientation in a more open light," said Gore.

Gore's aides, unsure of the public's reaction, debated right up until the speech was delivered over whether to include the reference to the controversial television show, which stars Ellen DeGeneres.

Though Republicans are fond of bashing Hollywood for political gain, Clinton and Gore have been careful not to antagonize an industry they view as a powerful ally.

While Gore in 1996 criticized the industry's fondness for "mayhem and commercialism," and while many TV executives remain openly hostile to the television rating system, the Vice President made every effort to cast Hollywood's influence in the best possible light.

"Few communities in this nation

Gore Praises 'Ellen' In Hollywood Speech

care as deeply about social and ethical issues," Gore told the powerful Hollywood audience. "You not only reflect who we are, but form our national - and increasingly our world - consciousness."

Reaction to Gore's address was swift. The Vice President was roundly criticized by conservatives for his comments.

Gore's remarks to an entertainment group in Hollywood have been warmly welcomed by representatives of national Gay organizations, and were the latest in a series of moves the vice president has made in cultivating gay support for his expected run for the White House in 2000.

In addition to hosting an event at the vice presidential mansion for Gay activists and accepting an award for protecting AIDS funding from budget cuts, Gore has made a number of public appearances in which he has spoken strongly in favor of advancing Gay civil rights. Last month Gore spoke at National Gay and Lesbian Task Force dinner telling the mostly Gay audience "It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face Gays and Lesbians in this country are not narrow, special interests, they are matters of basic human and civil rights."

According to news reports, none of these comments have generated as much controversy as the vice president's praise for the "Ellen" TV show. Lorraine Voles, Gore's communications director, denied that the speech was intended to solicit cooperation from either Gays or the entertainment industry.

Former vice president Dan Quayle, who made headlines in the 1992 campaign attacking television's "Murphy Brown," told reporters, "I'm always surprised to hear politicians promoting the agenda of Hollywood elites. . . If there's anybody whose agenda needs promoting, it's the middle-class American family."

Larry Tate, the new head of the Christian Coalition said the vice president was guilty of "craven pandering to the Hollywood left . . . for money and support" and said the vice president's expressed views were "way out of the mainstream."

The Human Rights Campaign's Elizabeth Birch said Gore's comments reflect he "is far more in touch with the vast majority of Americans" than the Christian Coalition. She said while she thought the move was good for him politically, she doesn't believe that is what motivated him. "My consistent experience of the vice president is that he cares about this issue and that he wants equality and fairness to operate."

Will A Presidential, Public Apology Be Needed For HIV/AIDS Care In The Future

NEW YORK, NY (WS) -- In an editorial in the Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, assistant editor Demetrius James Porche urges nurses and other health care professionals to make an ethical assessment of the current state of AIDS care and treatment.

Porche poses a series of questions that he says members of the medical community should be asking, including whether current access to treatment, levels of research funding, and eligibility criteria for study participation meet ethical standards.

Porche also asks whether women and children are receiving treatment and research benefits at the same levels as men, and urges nurses to do everything they can to ensure that a move similar to President Clinton's recent apology to the subjects of the Tuskegee syphilis experiment is not eventually needed for today's HIV/AIDS patients.

Individual and collective political action, patients' rights advocacy, pressuring pharmaceutical companies for drug development, and active community membership are all steps Porche says have been suggested for nurses to affect HIV/AIDS research and treatment trends.

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