Observing Tucson And
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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER | NOVEMBER 18, 1998 | ISSUE 748

Tumultuous 'Creating Change' Conference Ends

PITTSBURGH, PA (WS) — If there is one overriding theme participants could take from the close of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) eleventh annual Creating Change conference in Pittsburgh, it is that the Lesbian and Gay community is the sum of many different parts — a rich composite of different classes, races, ages, abilities, passions and political beliefs.

More than 2,000 rights activists and community leaders and organizers attended some 250 workshops which explored topics as diverse as anti violence strategies and coalition building to family issues, spirituality, race relations, fund raising, and what it takes to run effective issue- and candidate-oriented campaigns.

NGLTF and the Federation of LGBT Statewide Political Organizations used the conference to inaugurate planning for the "Equality Begins at Home" campaign, a national effort to strengthen and unite state and local Gay and Lesbian communities. The unprecedented 50-state action is scheduled for March 21 - 27, 1999.

This being a national coalition of grassroots activists and leaders, one of the most pervasive themes running through the workshops was the importance of community organization and "on the ground" alliance building. The election of many pro-Gay Democratic candidates in the last election was attributed to coalitions painstakingly made with labor, women's groups, African-Americans, and others.

Indeed, even where these efforts ended in failure, the process of collecting signatures and organizing activists and volunteers proved and will prove invaluable in the ability of Gay and Lesbian organizations to advance future goals and respond to future challenges.

Given the diversity of participants and the myriad challenges facing the community, it isn't surprising that people attending Creating Change didn't always see eye to eye.

By nearly universal agreement, the vast majority of activists and community representatives attending the NGLTF conference fall on the left side of the political spectrum. Ideas such as pro-active government involvement in redressing economic inequality or ending social repression of minorities are for many inextricably linked to the struggle for achieving Lesbian and Gay equality.

But what was once an intimate group of like-minded activists is growing to encompass more moderate and even conservative points of view. Some grassroots Gay and Lesbian activists have branded many of the larger, mainstream Gay and Lesbian organizations as increasingly non-inclusive, sexist, racist and elitist.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), which is the largest Gay and Lesbian organization in the country, found itself the target of particularly vehement criticism. The HRC's endorsement of Sen. Al D'Amato in the New York Senate Races and the co-sponsorship of the Millennium March on Washington for Equality slated for April 2000 were major sources of discord.

Grassroots groups represented at the conference are angry the announcement for the Millennium March was made without their input. Marches held in 1979, 1987 and 1993 were all the result of a coming together of a diverse group of community representatives. The HRC, the activists charged, announced the need for a march, set a date and arrogantly expected everyone else to fall into line.

The D'Amato endorsement, for many activists, was the last straw. "You claim to speak for the community. Yet you've betrayed women, people of color and poor people by endorsing D'Amato," said Robert Haaland of the San Francisco Tenants' Union to loud applause. "We need to go beyond single-issue decision making. The movement is a multi-issue movement."

Denise de Percin of Equality Colorado said the friction between the grassroots and Washington lobbying groups is what happens to all social movements when the grow. "When you're young and have a common enemy, the goals are clear," she said. "As you get older, more sophisticated and co-opted, things tend to become more contentious."

The debate boils down to two approaches to securing Gay and Lesbian equality. Grassroots, multi-issue alliances versus corporate-model, hierarchical single-issue politics. Some say the movement is big enough to encompass both, but with emotions running at full tilt, finding the willingness to compromise was often hard to come by.

Robin Tyler, executive producer for the Millennium March said the movement needs to focus on broad unifying themes. Job protection and legal rights for families, she said, "affect all races and classes. We have to work around what we agree on and not kill each other about what we disagree on."

Baptist Convention In Texas Splits

HOUSTON, TX (WS) — In a sign of just how deep ideological divisions have become in the nation's largest Protestant denomination, a right wing faction of the Southern Baptists in Texas has voted to break away from the state's established Southern Baptist organization.

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TLGA Donates Over $3,800 Back To The Community

TUCSON (ON) — In a press release, the Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TLGA) expressed their thanks to everyone who made OUToberFEST '98 a success, and to those who attended the event. The attendance made possible the donation of funds to non-profit organizations who support the Gay and Lesbian community.

TLGA held an opening meeting on Tuesday, November 10. The meeting was held to have community organizations present themselves and their financial needs for consideration.

The organizations that were awarded moneys from TLGA were: Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, $200; Desert Voices, $300; Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), $400; KXCI, $500; PFLAG/GLSEN-Tucson, $500 and; Wingspan, $1,100.

According to the press release, these funds came from a portion of the proceeds from the sale of beer tickets on the day of the event. This year TLGA was able to allocate $3,000.

In addition, the press release said that TLGA also instituted two new programs at this year's event that offered non profit organizations an opportunity to raise or save funds at OUToberFEST.

The first was a program that rebate the organizations $20 for providing two hours of volunteer time. Water of Life - MCC, Community Business Association, PFLAG, Wingspan and the Arizona Association of Public Safety Officers participated, with $100 being rebated by TLGA.

The second program afforded Desert Voices, Reveille, Cornerstone Fellowship, Wingspan Domestic Violence and PFLAG the opportunity to staff one beer wagon and the soda booth. Whatever tips were collected were kept by the organization(s) working the station. A total of $511.73 was raised through this endeavor.

According to TLGA, $210 was donated by the group on behalf of event sponsors who had earmarked a percentage of their sponsorship fees to a non profit organization of their choice. Recipients of the moneys were: Water of Life - MCC, Wingspan Domestic Violence Project, SAAF and the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN).

TLGA, in their press release, expressed their pride in able to produce an event for the community, and also to be in the position of giving $3,821.73 to the community TLGA serves.

In previous years, according to TLGA, it had donated $2,101 in 1996 and $2,545 in 1997 respectively.

All other proceeds from OUToberFEST '98 were utilized to produce the event. Expenses incurred this year, according to TLGA, amounted to approximately $22,000. Any remaining funds were held on account to help produce OUToberFEST '99 and Gay Pride Week.

TLGA is also looking for support to take on next year's endeavors. The group will be holding a meeting Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 P.M. at Wingspan, 300 E. Sixth St., to hold elections for Board of Director positions.

Gay Student Wins $40,000 From School District

TACOMA, WA (MNT) — A local high school graduate has won a $40,000 settlement from the Kent School District, alleging it failed to protect him from anti-Gay harassment.

Mark Iversen, now a 20-year-old community college student, and the school district reached agreement last week. Terms of the settlement were announced on November 13.

The lawsuit, filed in July 1997, had been scheduled to go to trial in U.S. District Court in Seattle last week. Iversen was represented by attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union.

Iversen said the money awarded him will be spent on his education, counseling, and donations to groups aimed at preventing violence against Gay and Lesbian high school students. The school district has also agreed to review its anti-harassment policies.

"I am delighted that this issue has been resolved before it had to go to court," Kent School District Superintendent Jim Hager said. "I'm just pleased we can now get on with the education of students."

When Iversen filed his lawsuit in 1997, he said he had endured years of harassment - from name-calling to physical violence at the hands of other students - because he is Gay. He said school officials did not try hard enough to end the harassment.

Though officials did not refute Iversen's harassment claims, they insisted they did everything in their power to enforce anti-harassment policies and to discipline students involved in the beating. At one point, the school district assigned a security officer specifically to protect Iversen.

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

UPDATE

10th Annual 'Festival For Life' Nov. 22

TUCSON — The Tenth Annual Jerome Beillard Festival for Life will take place, Sunday, November 22, 4:00 to 7:00 P.M., at the University Marriot, 880 E. Second Street, making a fine start to the celebrations of the holiday season.

COOL FM's Alan Michaels and KVOA TV-4's Lupita Murillo will be the celebrity emcees for the event.

The Festival for Life offers an opportunity to acquire works of fine art and seasonal decor and gifts at auction, while making a donation to the work of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

Well-known local artists are donating pieces of the work to be auctioned. Designers and decorators are giving their support by decorating trees donated by corporations and individuals, and by making menorahs, wreaths, topiaries and gift baskets.

The designer trees will be on display in the hotel atrium lobby, November 17-22.

The Festival would also not be complete without the Paper Prayers — the traditional Japanese gift of artwork on strips of paper, given to inspire good health.

Join SAAF to honor the memory of Jerome Beillard in this tangible way. Tickets are $25 in advance; $30 at the door (All but $10 of the ticket price is tax deductible). No fee for parking; valet parking available for $3. A cash bar and dessert buffet will also be provided.

Advance tickets can be purchased at SAAF, Antigone Books (411 N. Fourth Avenue), Borders Books (4235 N. Oracle), Casas Adobes Flower Shop (7057 N. Oracle), Rainbow Planet Coffee (606 N. Fourth Avenue), Hair on Broadway (5350 E. Broadway), Rum Runner, (3200 E. Speedway), Tucson Trunk (5605 E. River) and Unique on Central, (2900 E. Broadway).

For more information, call SAAF, (520) 322-6226.

'Early Works' At Wingspan Dec. 10

TUCSON — A photography exhibit, "Early Works" will be shown at Wingspan, 300 E. Sixth St., December 10 through January 2, 1999.

The exhibit is a selection of black and white photographs from the early work of Ronda Stone, Curator of the Wingspan Art Wall and the Director of Equipose Gallery.

For more information about "Early Works," call Wingspan (520) 624-1779.

Shoel/Zelkowski Celebration

TUCSON — Friends and family gathered to celebrate 15 years of love, laughter and happiness shared by Michael Shoel and Donald Zelkowski. Officiating the affirmation ceremony was the Rev. Dr. Linnea Pearson.

The couple began their journey together in 1983 and moved to Tucson in 1994. They operate Ariztical Entertainment Inc., an international video distribution company.

Both Shoel and Zelkowski are active members of both the Community Business Association and Wingspan. Shoel is also active in local theater, starring in many local productions.

City Home Furnishings To Donate 50% Of Profits To SAAF

TUCSON — City Home Furnishings announced that on Friday, November 27, they will donating 50% of the day's profits directly to the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), to mark City Home's first birthday in business.

SAAF, also having completed its first year since the merger of the three major AIDS Service Organizations in Tucson, provides client services and programs to those in southern Arizona who are living with, or affected by HIV/AIDS.

City Home Furnishings offers modern upholstered furniture, hand made lamps, fine hand-crafted home furnishing and other unique gift items, perfect for holiday shopping lists. This Holiday Season, you can help SAAF by shopping at City Homes Furnishings, 5460 E. Broadway Boulevard, #300, 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Arizona Aces Recruiting Softball Players

TUCSON — The Arizona Aces is currently recruiting players for the upcoming Palm Springs tournament.

If interested in playing softball, bring your glove to Ouri Park (St. Mary's and the freeway), Wednesday, November 18, 8:00 to 10:00 P.M.

Sponsors are also welcome. For more information, call Carlos, (520) 798-3390 or Jimmy (520) 792-1674.

Position Open At SAAF

TUCSON — The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) is looking for a Gay Men's Health Project Outreach Specialist.

The position's duties and qualifications are: Gay Men's Health Project Outreach Specialist — Energetic individual sought for half-time (20 hours/week) position to provide outreach, recruitment and health education for Gay and Bisexual men in Southern Arizona.

Applicants should be familiar with Gay bar culture and possess excellent communication skills. Salary range: $8,500 to $10,500; prorated benefits.

To apply, pick up job description and application instructions, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., at 151 South Tucson Boulevard, #211, or call (520) 322-6226 to have them faxed to you. Open until filled. *AA/EOE*

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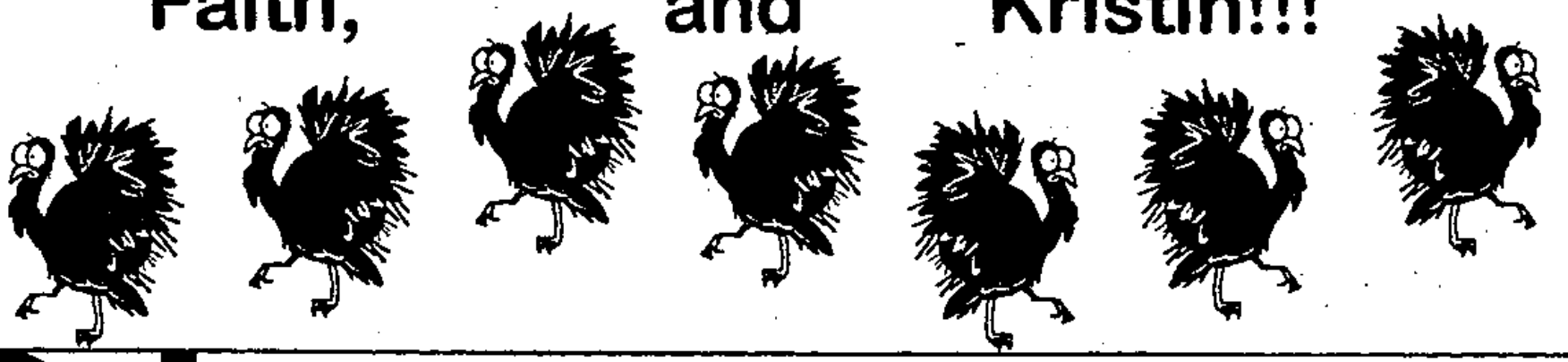

NOV 22

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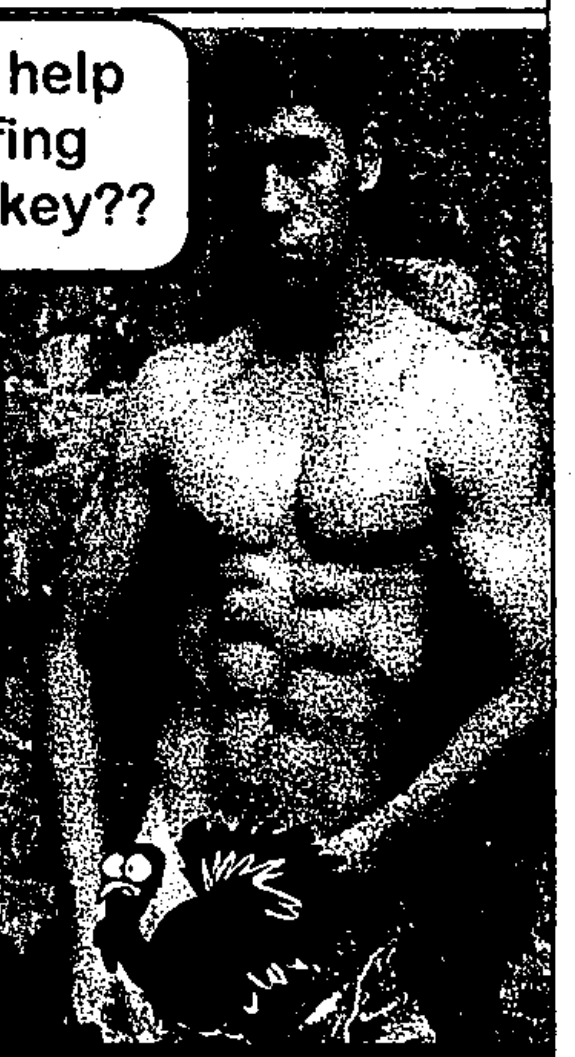

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Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Update

TUCSON — Don your Gay apparel and get into the holiday spirit as Reveille Gay Men's Chorus presents "Gaily We Sing" at 8:00 P.M., December 5. The acoustically-acclaimed sanctuary of Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams Street, will again be the setting for an inspiring holiday performance by one of America's most talented male choruses.

The local morning daily newspaper said of Reveille, "Around 156 Gay and Lesbian choruses perform in the United States and other countries. Fortunately, one the most committed - and entertaining - resides here in Tucson."

The chorus has almost doubled in size since last year. Now with nearly 50 gifted singers, Jim Gall, RGMC's Artistic Director since its inception four years ago, has selected a few morsels from previous holiday shows to reprise with the fuller, richer sound of this year's Chorus.

The program posters promise that the concert will feature "traditional music and classics with a twist". From "Pinkham Christmas Cantata" for chorus, brass and organ, to such offerings as "I Saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus", "Hanukkah in Hawaii", "Tomorrow Shall Be My Shopping Day" and "Ave Maria", the program is sure to delight everyone and to set the tone for a festive holiday season.

The Chorus will be accompanied this year by a harpist, a brass ensemble, percussionists, and the beautiful newly-installed pipe organ at Grace St. Paul's. Reveille's principal accompanist, on piano, is Brent Burmeister.

SILENT AUCTION

And preceding the concert, a variety of art and holiday items will be offered at the silent auction, which will be held in the Fellowship Hall adjacent to the venue. Many artists, craftspeople, individuals and businesses have donated items for the event, so come early, get a seat, and browse the auction looking for that special gift while you enjoy complimentary cookies and hot and cold beverages.

Seating is limited to 425 and last year's performance was nearly sold out, so no doubt tickets will be going fast. Still the most-affordable chorus ticket in town, prices are just $10 for advance sales, students and seniors, $8.50 for 12 and under; $12.00 at the door. Tickets are available from any Reveille member or at Antigone Books and Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse on 4th Avenue, and at Tucson Trunk, River and Craycroft. Or you can order season tickets by calling 617-3100.

Season ticket holders enjoy front-and-center reserved seating at all three major concerts of the season and special invitations to Chorus events. All other seating is festival-style, and every performance is sign interpreted and wheelchair accessible.

BACHELOR AUCTION

Another fun lead-up to the holiday show is the annual Bachelor auction, which will again be held at IBT's on Sunday, November 29, the Sunday prior to the concert. Up to ten handsome bachelors will be up for bid - and the highest bidder wins a dinner for two with the bachelor the night of the show and front-and-center seating at the concert. The bidding will get underway at 9:00 P.M., with emcees Lucinda Holliday and Aija Simone. Raffle items - including a pair of Reveille season tickets - will be drawn throughout the evening. But get to IBT's early for more prize giveaways at the Beer Bust/Bar-B-Q/Karaoke from 4:30 to 7:00 P.M.

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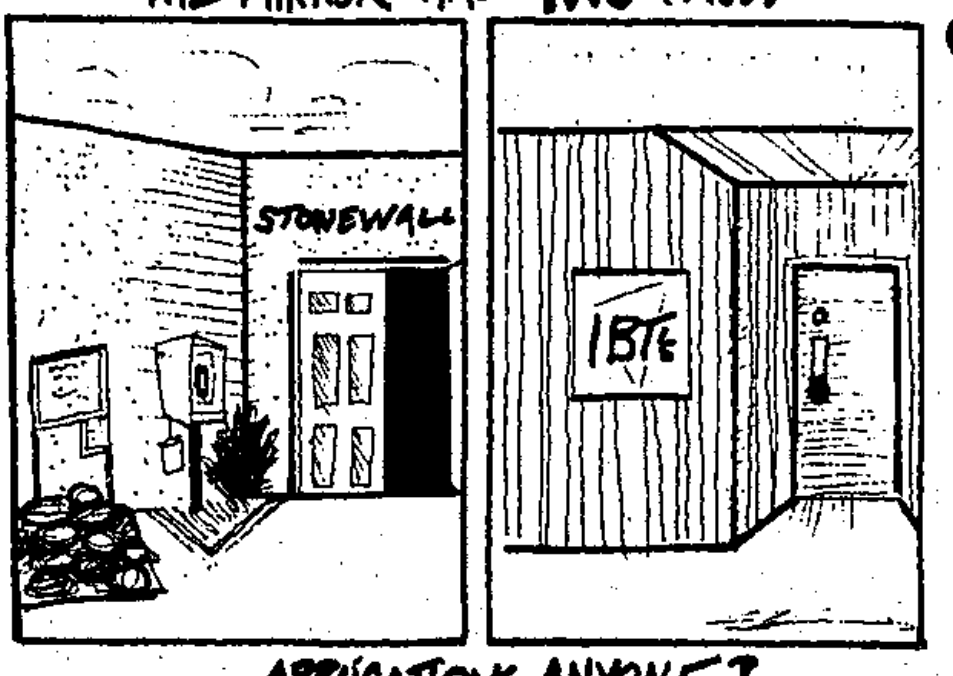
AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



Michigan State House Approves Hate Crimes Law

LANSING, MI (NP) — The Michigan State House voted 57 - 38 to pass a bill to add "sexual orientation" to the categories protected under the state's Ethnic Intimidation Act of 1988, which currently include race, religion, national origin, and gender.

Representative Lynne Martinez' (D-Lansing) bill was supported by 42 Democrats and 15 Republicans, and opposed by five Democrats and 33 Republicans. Its chances may be slim in the Republican-controlled Senate, where there is little time left this session for its consideration.

Martinez cited the widely-publicized beating death of Gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard as an illustration of Gays' and Lesbians' need for legal protections. In addition to the Ethnic Intimidation Act's provisions for enhancing penalties for bias-motivated misdemeanors, Martinez proposes an added $5,000 fine and two additional years in prison for felony hate crimes.

Rep. Thomas Alley (D-West Branch) joined her in arguing for passage, on the grounds that it would help police in tracking hate crime perpetrators. In fact, the measure had the support of several law enforcement groups for that very reason. Prosecutors, civil rights activists, and a number of religious leaders also supported the measure.

Several arguments were raised in opposition to the bill. One was that assaults and murders are already adequately penalized. Rep. Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau) said, "This bill will simply be used to suppress the free-speech rights that we all have," and Rep. Timothy Walberg (R-Tipton) feared it would be used to threaten clergy who speak out against homosexuality from their pulpits. Rep. Alan Cropsey (R-DeWitt) agreed that, "This is really a thought crimes act." He felt it would put the rights of Gays and Lesbians above those of other assault victims. He also charged that since the bill does not define "sexual orientation," it might extend protection to pedophiles -- an argument which is commonly used, although there is now an ample body of law that makes it clear that "sexual orientation" refers to homosexuality, heterosexuality and Bisexuality.

After two women and a male minister had raised objections, Representative Barbara Dobb (R-Commerce Township) confronted them, saying it was hypocritical for them to deny others protections which they themselves already enjoyed. She made a passionate plea for passage, and was congratulated by other Republicans supporting the measure and by the Democratic Speaker of the House.

One-hundred-thirty-four homophobic crimes in Michigan were reported in 1997 to Detroit's Triangle Foundation, Michigan's statewide civil rights, advocacy and anti-violence organization for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender people. Its executive director, Jeffrey Montgomery, was delighted at the bill's progress through the House and intends to lobby the Senate to pass it before the end of the year.

Last week, more than 150 people gathered for a candlelight vigil in Kalamazoo to protest hate crimes and memorialize Shepard. The gathering was organized by several local religious leaders.

GLAAD Lines

Students seek injunction against Salt Lake School Board: Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF), the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) were in court asking for an injunction against the Salt Lake City School Board in an ongoing case seeking equal rights for Gay and Lesbian students.

The case, East High Gay/Straight Alliance v. Board of Education, concerns the October 1995 move by the Salt Lake City School Board to prevent the East High Gay/Straight Alliance from meeting.

At that time, the Board terminated 46 clubs that were deemed non-curricular, in an effort to avoid violating the Federal Equal Access Act, which states that any federally funded school allowing non-curricular clubs to meet on its grounds must also grant access to other clubs, regardless of the club's views.

Since the school board's action, clubs, such as the National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America have begun to meet again on school grounds.

The injunction seeks to force the Board to grant the Gay/Straight Alliance access to school facilities, even as the lawsuit to lift the ban on school clubs continues.

For more information about the case, contact Peg Byron of LLDEF, (212) 809-9585. . . .

New study finds homophobia rising in high school students: A new study conducted by Who's Who Among American High School Students found alarming numbers of young people are still prejudiced against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

The poll, which surveyed more than 3,000 16 to 18 year old students who were recognized for their achievements, found that 48 percent admitted they felt prejudice toward Gay people, an increase of 19% over last year's survey.

Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) commented on the findings: "This startling increase is a wake up call for administrators and teachers who believe they are doing enough to teach their students the values of diversity and respect. These numbers suggest that homophobia is one of the last socially accepted prejudices, especially in our schools. Our schools are failing here."

For more information, contact Jim Anderson, GLSEN communications director, (212) 727-0135, Ext. 136. . . .

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9- CLOSE
THIS THURSDAY
NOV. 19 TH
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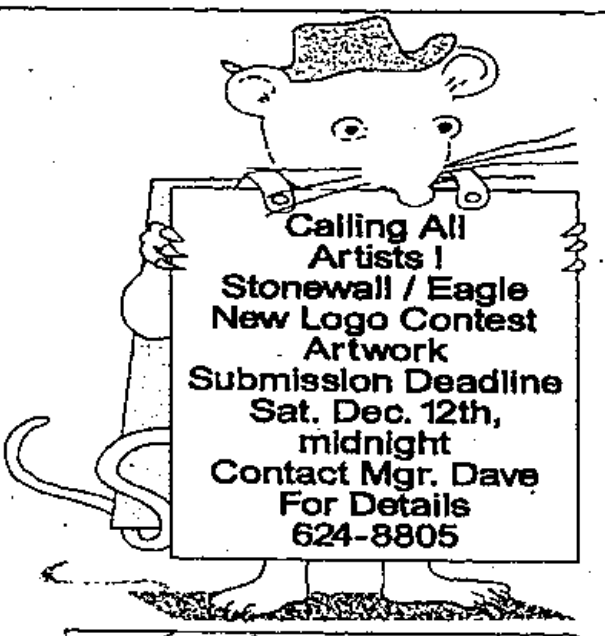
TRAVESTI SHOW



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POLITICS 1998

By MARK R. KERR

"A Shack To You Jimbo, Is A Home To Them"

"It was due to the humidity and the ballots getting fat from the moisture. The telephone lines got crossed. It was the faulty computer connections at the polling machines." With the usual lame excuses from the elections director aside, the last ballots were finally found and counted in Pima County, home of smooth running elections. Subsequent investigations into this year's screw up and the inevitable finger pointing will soon follow. Ah, tradition.

The last political campaign was decided in only nine days, with former state Treasurer Tony West, also known as Pension-Padding Spice, being elected to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), making the board an all Republican body, a first since the 70's. Under the state constitution, the ACC is supposed to protect the interests of the consumers. Don't count on it now, especially with electric deregulation just around the corner, but we digress as usual.

Crapaign '98 is history. Voters across the country have spoken . . . the few that actually bothered to turnout and cast ballots. Did the politicians, pundits and Beltway Breeder Press listen? Voters said "no" to Monica, even though Billy just couldn't. Newt got a big "thumbs down," in the U.S. House contests, with the GOP losing seats. This was the first time, since 1934, a party that controlled 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue gained seats in Congress during a midterm election.

The Republicans didn't make any gains in the U.S. Senate, despite all the predictions otherwise from the know-it-all Potomac press corps. Why?

Perhaps a poll conducted by American Viewpoint, a Republican polling firm and released by the Log Cabin Republicans told the story. Blame the Queers as usual! Not quite, the poll stated that an overwhelming majority of 1998 voters didn't support candidates for public office who shared the views of Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott, R-MS, on Gays. Remember that we have a disease, just like alcoholism or kleptomania, according to Lott. A total of 69% of all 1998 voters, (60% of '98 GOP voters), said they were least likely to support a candidate who agreed with Lott.

So the political pundits, press and the politicians got the message . . . right? Have they ever?

Gloss was it for coverage of the national elections from the media, calling races more than five seconds after the polls had closed. Ballots? Who needed them? For this reporter though, the gubernatorial contest in Minnesota was the race, especially when the media mongrels had to call it for Reform Party candidate and former pro-wrestler, Jesse Ventura. CNN's glamour-guy, Jeb Greenfield, drew the short straw and had to make the announcement, to a silent studio and the faint sounds of dumping. In the proverbial drawers? Depends!

Newt's out as Speaker but the Republican impeachment hearings, which Americans just don't want, keep going and going and going in Monica D.C. In fact, the investigation is expanding into other areas. Thong panties? No, Webster Hubbell and fund-raising activities. Kenny Starr is in rehearsals to take his floor show to Congress this week. So will Hank Hyde wrap this never-ending-story by year's end?

Not if the media has its way. Case in point, the Tripp tapes, which were released this week. The Beltway bunglers, print, television and otherwise lapped them up like a case of Ho-Ho's, a purported fave of Linda's. We finally got to hear Monica and Linda speak in the mangled, er edited tapes, to protect our sensibilities. Right! Anyone got a cigar? So what happened? Zippergate became page one news, much to the chagrin of everyone.

Tripp's tapes were so popular in fact that NBC allegedly bought the rights to them and will turn them into a new series, "Deceiving Women." The show will be a new vehicle for Nathan Lane, who will star as the wining, conniving Monica and John Goodman, who will reprise his Saturday Night Live impersonation of Linda Tripp. Delta Burke will also co-star as Monica's mother. Can we say sure-fire hit and Emmy contender?

What about the political pundits; especially those Gays and Lesbians in the velveted corridors of power in our nation's Capitol, Monica DC? Did they get the message? The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) hasn't. They had their proverbial head handed to them at the Creating Change conference held last week though, due to some recent political endorsements (pro-life Republican U.S. Senator, Al D'Amato of New York to name one) and heavy-handed decisions about future political action, (The Forced March on Washington). Creating Change? More like Creating Mayhem!

According to accounts, the backbiting and infighting drove HRC representatives to tears and HRC executive director, Elizabeth Birch to state the criticisms of one particular New York Lesbian political activist, "reminded me of what maggots do in a barrel of rice. When they finish consuming the rice, they begin to consume each other." Maggot Faggots of the World Unite!

It gets better. In a press release from Rich Tafel of the Log Cabin Republicans, from their national office in Monica D.C., stated the former mayor of Tucson, Tom Volgy, a Gay-friendly Democratic candidate, who had issued the first Gay Pride proclamation and was instrumental in the adoption of a municipal hate-crimes ordinance had, ". . . used a two-pronged attack on Kolbe, constantly reminding social conservatives in the district that Kolbe is Gay, and spending time among Democrats linking Kolbe to the extreme right wing GOP leadership in Congress."

Volgy a Gay basher? Get real Dickie! The race showed no signs of life until OUTobertFEST, when Volgy criticized Kolbe for not speaking out against GOP leadership for their stands against Gays and Lesbians, which your polls showed voters rebelled against. Kolbe's campaign slogan: "Your neighbor. Your voice." Where was ours Dickie?

Being Gay was not an issue in the campaign. Being beholden to political action committees and special interests was the issue Dickie!

The national Gay and Lesbian press doesn't get it either. A story on the Daily Advocate web site, dealing with the GOP battle to succeed Newtie, declared the heir-apparent, Rep. Bob Livingston of Louisiana, "is considered to be more mod-

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

North Halstead Renovation Commemorated

CHICAGO, IL (CT) — When plans were announced for an elaborate plan to refurbish North Halsted Street, the main strip for Chicago's large Gay and Lesbian community, the uproar over the original proposal almost brought down the effort.

Critics of the city plan said recognizing the Gay community in such a way was immoral. Neighborhood community groups said the plans presented "too Gay" a theme, implying straight residents and families were unwelcome. Even some Gay residents complained the plan enforced "ghetto-ization."

The plan was scaled back and the community was granted a greater say in the design. This past Saturday, after months of nearly continuous effort, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley commemorated the completion of the beautification plan to the cheers of delighted residents and business owners.

"This has been a labor of love," Daley said to an enthusiastic crowd. "I knew from the beginning it was about fairness – fairness to this community. I am thanking you for what you (the Lesbian and Gay community) have done for North Halsted Street for many, many years."

Members of the North Halsted Area Merchants Association, Gay and Lesbian leaders and local dignitaries celebrated the project's completion as a testament to cooperation. "There was a lot of controversy surrounding this program," Roger Hickey, owner of Cell Block Tavern, said. "It turned out much better than people expected."

Gold-stained Art Deco pylons circled with Gay-pride colors mark every block. The pylons will be illuminated in a ceremony next week. Floral planters and 180 newly planted trees line the widened sidewalks along the seven block expanse.

After delivering his remarks, Mayor Daley left the podium and planted a small bush in an immense concrete planter decorated with shrubs, flowers and a 25-foot-high iron trellis that stands at the corner of Roscoe and N. Halsted. The planter-trellis combination is one of 20 that serve as unique street markers in the neighborhood.

Sheldon Rosenbaum, a local merchant, said the changes are a sign to the nation that Chicago is a tolerant and welcoming place for all people. "It is very significant," he said. "It shows who we are."

Dutch Cabinet Approves Plan For G/L Adoption

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (WS) — The Dutch Cabinet has approved a plan to let Gay men and women adopt children, accelerating a push to grant Gay men and Lesbians full legal equality in Dutch law before Jan. 1, 2000.

The legislation, approved last week by top ministers of Prime Minister Wim Kok's coalition government, would restrict the adoptions to Dutch born children. It will likely be submitted to the Dutch Parliament in early 1999.

The proposal prohibits Gay adoption of foreign-born children out of what conservatives say is respect for other countries' laws. Opponents of the reform measure voiced the concern international adoption agencies would stop approving adoptions to opposite-sex Dutch couples unless the provision were added.

The plan limits the right of adoptive Lesbian and Gay couples to those who have lived together for at least three years and who have cared for the child for a full year. It would not require couples to marry or legally register their partnership.

The bill has broad support in the Dutch legislature and is part of a reform effort begun in 1995 which sought to greatly expand the rights of Gay men and women under Dutch law.

A new law took effect on Jan. 1, 1998, permitting same-sex couples to marry and granting them the same pension, social security and inheritance rights as married heterosexual couples.

The Cabinet approval of the reform measure provoked little opposition. The Netherlands is among the most liberal countries in Europe. The Dutch have welcomed Gay men and women to serve openly in the military since the 1970s. Public opinion polls conducted in the Netherlands show a vast majority of people in the country – 70 percent – think Gay men and women would make excellent parents.

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Minnesota Community Up In Arms Over Transgendered Teacher

BLAINE, MN (WS) — Residents are questioning the local school district's decision to hire a transgendered music teacher.

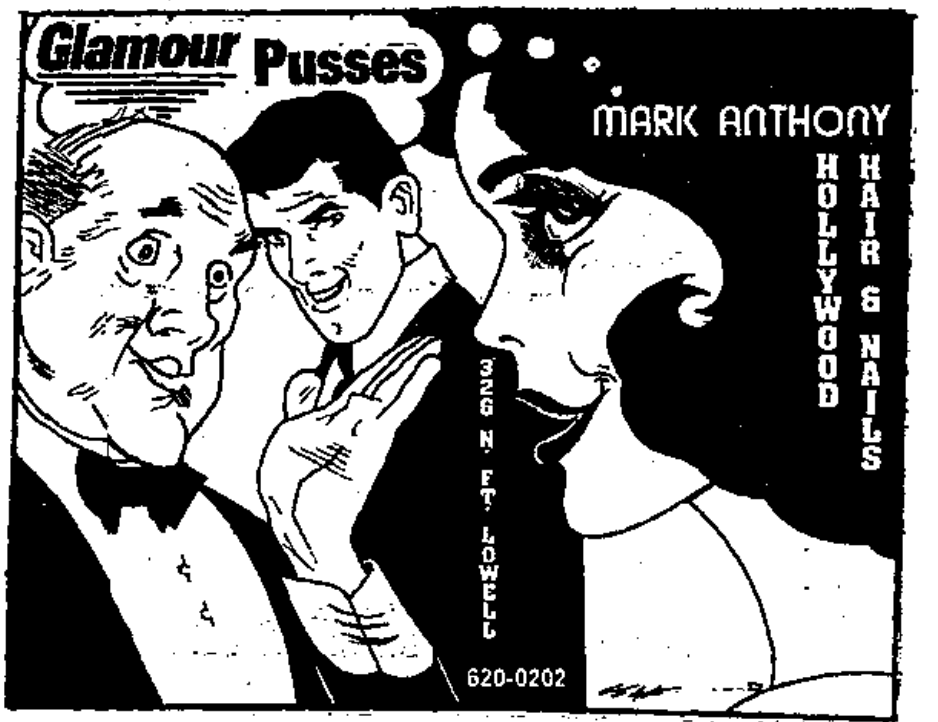
Nearly 400 people gathered to meet the teacher, Alyssa Williams, and hear her story. Williams, who was born a man but plans on having reassignment surgery, was hired in August to teach music at Roosevelt Middle School. Later that month, after a parent confronted the school's principal about Williams's sexual orientation, Williams was put on a paid two-month administrative leave. She was scheduled to return to work last week.

At times the meeting became contentious, with parents yelling at Williams, "You're dividing our community!" Even the school principal showed his frustration by saying, "I'm not comfortable talking about transgenderism; I'm up here sweating." But Williams told reporters, "The insults were coming pretty hard, but I'll get through this. All I want to do is teach kids music. I don't want to communicate any kind of agenda."

MTV Fights Hate Crimes With Program

NEW YORK, NY (WS) — MTV kicked off its new anti violence public service campaign "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence" with a special edition of MTV News' True Life, a weekly documentary series that focuses on young adults.

In True Life: Matthew's Murder, MTV News reporter Serena Altschul investigates Matthew Shepard's murder and examines violence against Gay men and Lesbians across the country. The program premiered Wednesday, November 11.



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OUTlines by Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance

The Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance (TLGA), being of, by and for the Tucson Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community, would like to publicly address the concerns recently expressed in The Observer by Joyce Smith.

Community feedback regarding OUToberFEST or any TLGA function, is always welcomed and does not go unheeded by the TLGA Board.

The TLGA Board is made up of 11 members; volunteers who give their time willingly to provide Tucson with the event we proudly call OUToberFEST.

Over the years, TLGA's reputation for being a fair, consistent and responsible organization has become well known throughout the Tucson community as a result, we have enjoyed increased community participation, support and respect. We did not earn this reputation by being unyielding, or by not listening to the community's concerns. Every year, TLGA changes in response to our community's needs, because we are the community.

TLGA has no wish to impose an "authoritarian" style while producing the OUToberFEST event. The implication that we altered the German word "achtung" to "OUToberFEST" is erroneous. As with any large, organized events, there are rules which must be established and adhered too in order to ensure fair treatment and an enjoyable experience for all people involved. This includes OUToberFEST guest, entertainers, vendors, volunteers and organizers.

The board of TLGA enacts policies through community suggestion, fiscal responsibility and past experience. And the board members perform their duties within these established parameters. This can make us, as individual board members, seem uncompromising or even "power-mad" according to Ms. Smith, or to the people who want immediate change to suit their individual needs. On the contrary, TLGA encourages out board members to exercise their diplomacy creativity in fulfilling their duties. But, no individual board member can change a policy established by TLGA. All decisions are made by an official board vote.

The term "vendor" is used for every individual or organization wishing to have a table at OUToberFEST (per the "head honcho," Mr. Tom Maza).

Please do not be offended by taking the term "vendor" at its literal definition. There are enough issues to deal with when coordinating an event this size without the added concern of what term will be used to describe those people who sell (or don't sell) their goods, services or ideas at OUToberFEST. (Note: Tom wants to call all "vendors" "banana cream pies" next year).

Why must you pay $50 (or more) to have a table at OUToberFEST? One look at the books from this year's event will tell you why. Though most people don't realize it, OUToberFEST '98 cost $23,000 to produce.

TLGA books are, and always have been, open to anyone who wants to see them. All expenses and revenues are accounted for with $3,000 this year of the net beer sales revenues being donated back to the LGBT community. Options this year were also available for non profit organizations to reduce their cost for participating at OUToberFEST '98 by providing volunteers in exchange for part of the vendor fee and volunteers for tips. Not until Ms. Smith's letter, was TLGA aware of any dissatisfaction by non profit organizations.

The suggestions of a community table and bulletin board to post flyers and such is a great idea. We would like to invite you, Joyce Smith, to come to any meeting and offer your suggestions. TLGA appreciates suggestions, but even more, we appreciate participation in the planning and production of OUToberFEST.

We would be thrilled to have more individuals become a part of the OUToberFEST organizing and decision making process, as Ms. Smith proposed in her letter. Unfortunately, even though our monthly meetings are published weekly in The Observer, they are sporadically attended by anyone outside the TLGA board. Imagine, what a spectacular event we can produce if each person with one idea came to just one meeting. TLGA gauges the results of our policies by letters from the community, direct public feedback and phone messages from TLGA's Outline, 622-3200.

What is it all about, Ms. Smith? It's about Pride. Gay Pride, Lesbian Pride and Community Pride. The members of the TLGA board are proud of OUToberFEST '98, and are looking forward to producing OUToberFEST '99.

Come join us. You'll find its a lot more work than you realize and a whole lot more fun than you think.

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Desert Vision

by Rev. Louis F. Kavar, Ph.D

Faith Sharing As A Spiritual Practice

Talking about one's spiritual life with others on a similar path is another important practice for spiritual growth. As vital as this practice can be, it's often neglected and under utilized.

We tend to think of our spirituality as something deeply personal. And it is. However, spiritual depth rarely happens in isolation. Left on our own, we can easily lose our way and get side-tracked along the spiritual path.

In recent years, it has been popular to seek out spiritual teachers. Teachers can be of vital importance in developing a healthy, integrated spiritual life. Great spiritual traditions have developed specific roles for teachers. These roles are generally are accompanied with great respect.

Unfortunately, there are those who freely call themselves spiritual teachers who are nothing more than charlatans. They often snatch onto spiritual sounding things and maintain a warm and inviting profile, encouraging others to follow them. Following them often includes buying their books and tapes and paying for their services. While some of these teachers impart some truth to others, they are generally doing nothing more than fostering a cult around their own ego. Their effect on people is often disastrous.

Why to people fall for these spiritual charlatans? Many people authentically want to know how to make sense of their lives from a spiritual perspective. These false teachers are often very accessible to the public through regular advertising, high-profile seminars, and other promotional tactics.

Spiritual charlatans are can be found using every imaginable spiritual tradition and practice. They generally expect strict following of their teaching for guaranteed spiritual growth as well as significant payment for their services. Many even have a spiritual sounding reason as to why money is due them, frequently stating that financial success is a sign of God's favor with them. Beware.

When looking for a spiritual teacher, it is important to be an educated consumer. Learn the role of a spiritual teacher in a particular tradition you follow. For Christians, completing degrees or certificate programs in the Christian form of spiritual teaching, called spiritual direction, is a formal credential to look for. Authentic American Indian teachers follow tradition as handed from one teacher to another. Buddhist's pass their teaching and tradition by affiliation to monasteries. Jew's study under Rabbis, the title itself meaning teacher. Jewish teachers of the Kabbalah have a strict tradition on how this spiritual heritage is passed to others. The same is true for the Sufi Order, a mystical branch of Islam. When looking for a spiritual teacher, be clear to ask the person to identify how the person was trained. Does their training fit within the tradition they represent? Do they have the appropriate background to know what they are doing?

Further, when exploring work with a spiritual teacher, ask the teacher about her or his own spiritual life. There may be a reluctance to share certain specifics, like experiences of dreams or visions. That is appropriate. A spiritual teacher should tell you how they pray, meditate, and follow their spiritual path. If the person doesn't seem to have an on-going spiritual path, or if they studied it on their own without the benefit of a teacher or some other program to give form to their spiritual life, they probably are not a good teacher.

Untold damage is done to people who follow bad spiritual teachers. People are often preyed on in times of difficulty for their live savings or are forced to give up family and friends for some sort of privileged spiritual insight. People are sometimes led to their death by teachers who are doing nothing more than drawing others to their ego. Many of these spiritual charlatans are expert at what they do. They are con artists and manipulators.

It is important to meet with a spiritual teacher to be sure the person is someone you can work with. Just because the person is spiritual doesn't mean you'll find them easy to talk to. Identify a teacher who is on a spiritual path you want for your own life. Interview the teacher and get to know something about them.

A good teacher will work to empower your growth. There are times when you may find yourself challenged. But ultimately, you will know that the decisions are always yours. This freedom is an important sign of the validity of the teacher. A good teacher will not criticize or condemn you for not following a lesson.

Often, the best spiritual teachers are the ones who are reluctant to accept the title. They see themselves as just another person on a the spiritual journey. They know that it has only been through dedicated work and effort that spiritual growth has happened for them. And they know it is a struggle, even after many years. Such teachers are the ones with real wisdom to share.

Spiritual teachers are not the only source of faith sharing. Being part of an informal group that meets periodically to discuss spiritual things can be very helpful. These groups come in many forms ranging from a well-led Bible study at a local church to a monthly coffee with a few friends who discuss a spiritual book together. Simply talking about one's spiritual life with a trusted friend helps each of us to understand our spiritual journey and maintain our walk along the path.

Spiritual experiences often make us feel isolated. After all, people just normally don't talk about them. But having a context to share the journey helps us to understand that we don't walk the path alone; that other's have similar experiences; that at times, another has gotten beyond the same experience of dryness or the same experience of being confronted by an insight. Sharing with others keeps our feet on the ground as we walk our spiritual path.

[The Rev. Louis F. Kavar, Ph.D., is a counselor and spiritual director in private practice in Tucson. He can be contacted at 290-1591 or by e-mail at LouKavar@aol.com.]

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SEX & SENSIBILITY: Why Some Men Are Losing The Latex

by Eddie James
The Baltimore Alternative

John Travolta, Boogie Nights, disco balls, bell-bottoms - everywhere you look, the signs are painfully clear that the '70s are back. And among Gay men, a small but growing number are not just embracing the pop cultural kitsch of the polyester era, they are also adopting its pre-AIDS, anything-goes mentality when it comes to sex.

Every day, via e-mail and Web site message boards, "cum parties" - private gatherings designed for hooking up with men looking for sex without condoms -are announced in cities all over the globe. The fact that such parties exist in an age where the AIDS epidemic is still a deadly reality is hard to believe. With the major selling points of these parties being unprotected sex and poppers, they seem a relic of the disco era. But regular attendees say that in the latex-covered world of the '90s, these gatherings offer a freedom they haven't experienced since AIDS first stepped onto the dance floor in the early '80s.

The men who seek what they call "bareback sex" - a term that evokes the daredevil world of rodeo stunts -are often HIV-positive and make no secret about it. In fact, most men joining the ranks of the barebacking movement have been positive for years and readily have unprotected anal sex with HIV negative partners. Not surprisingly, the bareback scene is stirring up a lot of controversy.

The number of recent articles and books written on the subjects of Gay male promiscuity and bareback sex could fill a warehouse. Gay pundits such as Michelangelo Signorile, Gabriel Rotello and Larry Kramer have chimed in with books denouncing the emerging subculture of bareback sex, while the barebackers themselves have taken to the Internet to spread their message more subtly. But it's not just the fact that ["V-positive Gay men are having sex without condoms that is fueling a national debate, it is more their emergence as a very vocal, but strangely invisible, subculture and the unsettling gospel they preach.

Although unprotected anal sex is nothing new - men have been doing it throughout the AIDS epidemic - it has only been in the last year or so that men into bareback sex have started to organize. By creating a network of Web sites, newsgroups and mailing lists on the Internet, barebackers in all parts of the world can regularly meet to cruise for potential sex partners in almost complete anonymity.

The bareback scene appears to have started with some ["V-positive men who felt they had nothing to lose in having sex without condoms with other HIV-positive men. They're already infected, right?

In fact, unprotected sex between HIV-positive men is dangerous for a number of reasons. With a number of strains of the *human imunodeficiency* virus floating around, and each one attacking the body in a different way, the risk of being infected with a new strain through unprotected sex is very high. And the more virus you get in the body, the sicker you become. Moreover, this mixing of various HIV strains can make protease inhibitors and other antiviral drugs ineffective, and passing them on to another person, even one already infected with the virus, can make him resistant to drugs that could have helped him. AIDS educators are understandably worried about the effects this increase in risky behavior will have on the epidemic.

COMING TOGETHER ON THE NET

Started by a group of like-minded men who bonded last year on the mega Internet service provider America Online, the Xtreme Sex Web site has played a major role in helping barebackers get organized. Webmaster Pigbotm, a North Dallas software engineer who declines to reveal his real name, says in the site's introductory pages that he wanted to extend the men's newfound sense of community by creating a Web page.

Xtreme Sex doesn't sugarcoat its mission to provide a forum for HIV-positive Gay males interested in unprotected sex. Its banner advertisements have shocking headlines like "Get an Education - Fuck a Student" and "Poz Cum - the Fuck of Death." It's this frankness that has caused many Gay leaders and at least two major Gay newspapers to blast the site.

Chicago's Windy City Times and the Dallas Voice have declared an all-out war against the site, saying that it is leading men to their deaths by promoting unsafe sex. But not all people feel that the site is evil. One HIV-positive member sang the site's praises in a message board posting: "You have helped me in showing me that there is life after all this.... Thank you for once again giving me back the freedom that I felt had been taken away from me."

While Xtreme Sex caters to HIV-positive men interested in condomless fluid exchange, the second most popular hang-out for barebackers on the 'Net was originally designed for men interested in sex with other men, period. Sponsored by the adult Web site Bedfellow, cruisingforsex.com is the official "Web site for men looking to know where to meet men for sex." The site lists places where men can find glory holes and other meeting grounds for sex in every state and every major university. The site also hosts chat rooms, editorials, reviews of personal home pages, and entrapment alerts.

Cruisingforsex.com has also been the target of the police, who regularly monitor postings to the site in efforts to enforce public sex laws. The site states often that it is against the practice of bareback sex in theory, but also says that barebacking is a personal choice and that it doesn't condemn barebackers themselves.

The most shocking thing about this budding subculture is the small but steadily growing number of men who are HIV-negative, but come to both Web sites actually seeking to be infected. Why would anyone seek out the AIDS virus? There seems to be no satisfying answer. Pigbotm, in fact, denies that that is what is happening in most cases. He writes on his Web page that "the majority of these HIV infection requests come from men who are already HIV positive and want to experience some sort of fantasy about being infected."

But the HIV-negative ranks of the barebacking movement are not only made up of those seeking HIV infection. Members of another similarly growing group have no desire to become HIV-positive, but are still flocking to Xtreme Sex's message boards and its members' bareback parties. It's not that these HIV-negative barebackers don't know about the life-or-death consequences of their actions. A surprisingly high number of negative barebackers have already seen a friend or partner die from the disease. They come purely for the thrill of raw sex.

"I do think about it a lot as I'm HIV-negative & plan to stay that way," reads a typical member's posting to the boards at Xtreme Sex. "No one cums in me & the only cum I eat is mine. I bareback top only. My lover died of AIDS. I went through the whole thing, ending in wasting syndrome and a fatal bout with PCP. Barebacking is definitely not wise, but we are looking for a type of intimacy that doesn't frequently happen since AIDS."

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

The slew of articles written on the subject imply that the group of men identifying themselves as barebackers is made up primarily of young party boys in their 20s who are anxious to travel back to a time when the love was free and the party never ended. But this is not necessary true.

On the Queer Bareback list, an e-mail list that boasts over 500 men from around the world as members, barebackers come together to discuss where they can find willing sex partners and to read announcements of area sex parties. Although the twentysomething circuit party crowd is represented, it is men in their 30s, 40s, and *50s* that make up the majority of the participants. And they are not only from Gay Meccas like New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Miami. Barebackers from Phoenix, Knoxville, Dallas, Memphis, Cincinnati -and yes, even Baltimore - have signed on, as well as men from practically every other major city in the country. Barebacking is not even a uniquely American phenomenon, as the presence of men from England, Germany, Holland, Australia and Nigeria would attest.

Besides their dislike of condoms, a common thread that binds the world's barebackers is a deep resentment toward any authority figure, be it the government, the Centers for Disease Control, the police or their parents.

This is especially true when it comes to HIV transmission. "I feel we've been presented a bad bill of goods by the health care community, especially the AMA [American Medical Association] and the pharmaceutical industries," says Brian B., a 32-year-old video store employee from Phoenix. ["I've never quite trusted what was being said about this disease. I came to the decision that the only 'safe' sex was either masturbation or no sex at all and I wasn't about to go for that. I stopped using rubbers 10 years ago. I've been tested a dozen times or so and have always been negative according to the tests."

Brian is not alone. Barebacking message boards and mailing lists have become breeding grounds for conspiracy theories about the government and the medical establishment. Postings often talk of secret studies done in France or other countries that "prove" that pre-cum is harmless and can't transmit HIV and that topping - being the inserter in anal sex - doesn't pose a substantial risk ofHIV transmission.

Despite all the talk about HIV and AIDS on these online forums, most barebackers claim that they aren't concerned with spreading HIV or becoming re-infected, and counter the glut of postings warning about AIDS with glorified tales of their sexual conquests. The stories posted by visitors to the site are lusty, painting a highly eroticized picture of unprotected sex. One such story recounts a wild orgy where a bunch of "poz guys" try to give the "gift" ofHIV infection to a willing group of negative men. In fact, it's the blatant way barebackers flaunt their unsafe sex practices that anger AIDS activists the most. Maintaining condom use as the norm is difficult enough, activists say, without media that glority unprotected sex.

"The message is not as strong as it was," says P.J. Gouldmann, secretary of the People With AIDS/HIV Coalition in Baltimore. "We have all been lulled into a false sense of security by drug companies and the media who are creating an impression that AIDS won't necessarily kill you. But if you bareback, you are really putting yourself in a situation with a very high risk of getting something that isn't going to go away."

RESPONSIBLE BAREBACKING?

Despite their lack of trust in the medical and pharmaceutical industries, some barebackers are in fact concerned with their own health and the health of their sexual partners. Mark J., a medical professional at a hospital in Baltimore, regularly posts messages on the morality of barebacking, stressing that HIV status should be discussed with sex partners.

"There are lots of unknowns about the transmission of HIV, and a large number of *uninformed* men out there," Mark J. recently wrote. "I think that it is perfectly acceptable, if not a requirement, to talk about the methods of transmission and the risks. A young guy new to the Gay scene, living in Podunk, USA, may not have had the access that the rest of us have had to the current literature and science and medicine of HIV. He might just stumble on a bareback Web site or mailing list one day and see all these other guys having wonderful, unprotected sex. If he jumps headfirst into barebacking without understanding the risks, he will be committing suicide."

Messages like this one are routinely met with angry responses from other participants, but although Mark is in the minority among barebackers, he is definitely not alone. In an e-mail message he tells me that as a health care professional, he sees it as his duty to make sure that those who stumble on the bareback message boards, Web sites and mailing lists know exactly what they are getting into.

"There seem to be some poz men who will assume that any man who takes cum in his butt understands the risks automatically, so they don't even discuss the risk with their bottom partners," Mark J. writes. "There are some poz men who will luck without regard for the bottom's HIV status. We barebackers have a duty to inform our partners of the risks. We have a serious responsibility, especially to the younger guys. Barebacking is a lifestyle choice that you make. I'm not telling people not to bareback. Far from it. But I don't want guys to think that if they are HIV-negative that it's not possible for them to become infected. It's'a case of knowing that you are at risk and making an informed choice."

And why would a medical professional who clearly knows the risks involved choose not to use condoms? "I just like the way it feels without a condom," he says. "I know it's not the smartest choice, but I want to enjoy sex to its fullest and achieve an intimacy that I don't get using condoms."

In an effort to help Gay men make informed choices, some AIDS organizations have begun issuing "safer sex" guidelines for barebackers, offering such advice as to withdraw before ejaculation and to use plenty of lubricant. These guidelines have become as controversial as barebacking itself and many say they take away the very thing that makes condomless sex a more intimate experience: the sharing of another man's semen. And many AIDS experts believe that these guidelines will do little to make barebacking safer, even if they are put into practice.

WHY DO THEY DO IT?

The word intimacy comes up often on in online discussions. Barebackers post message after message about the joys of going condom-free and how it is a way of reclaiming some lost right of passage, a concept that is difficult, they admit, for others to understand.

In the June 1997 issue of POZ Magazine, Stephen Gendin tried to explain the appeal of bareback sex to the publication's readers.

"I can't comment on a negative guy's decision to go raw, but for us positive men, the benefits are obvious," Gendin wrote. "The physical sensation is much better. The connection feels closer and more intimate. The sharing of cum on the physical level heightens the sense of sharing on the emotional and spiritual planes.... How do I justify pursuing acts with other positive men that many would describe as callous, even malicious? Am I guilty of skirting the facts in pursuit of pleasure? Or is the reinfection science shaky enough that it's not irrational for positive men to go skin-to-skin? With the risks so hazy and the benefits so brilliantly clear, no wonder riding bareback is all the rage. For me, being infected in the first place is such a doomful event that any act that brings pleasure, even a risky one, is worth grabbing for."

But most barebackers say it is no one's business why they choose to lose the latex. They claim it is an individual choice and that the discussion of HIV and AIDS has no place in the barebacking culture.

"I bareback because I like it and don't give a shit about HIV," writes Gary Bryant of San Francisco when questioned about his reasons for barebacking.

"It's my personal decision and I don't need a bunch of verbal masturbation from guys who are still unsure, or who think their choice not to bareback is universal law," he asserts. "Everyone has their own opinion on AIDS and what they feel are acceptable risks. I am relatively sure that every bottom out there now knows that if he gets lucked without a condom, he stands a very good chance of becoming infected. I don't need to discuss it with anybody. That's the other guy's choice and not my problem."

NO ONE TO TALK TO

Despite claims of greater intimacy, many sexual partners and the frequent parties, many barebackers say they find the experience lonely because of the stigma attached to it. With the Gay community - especially the HIV-positive community who feel that the public will lump all HIV-positive people in with the barebackers - up in arms over their actions, it is difficult for barebackers to open up to anyone other than fellow barebackers.

Joshua C., a 26-year-old graduate student at a local university, has been barebacking for four years and regularly participates in bareback discussion groups on America Online and the Xtreme Sex site.

"I've found the whole experience to be very lonely," he says. "I can only talk about it with other barebackers and most of them are only interested in me for sex. I can't discuss it with my close friends. I think some of them have figured it out based on references that I make, but it is not something out in the open. I can tell them, for example, when I've had a really hot time. But I can't tell them of my fears and anxieties associated with it."

Joshua C. says he fears for his physical safety when going to strangers' houses for sex parties mainly out of concern for the rampant drug use that usually takes place, but he claims to have no fear of AIDS.

"I tested positive two years ago and, to be honest, it was a relief. I didn't have to worry anymore about becoming positive. I could just go out and have fun."

And what about re-infection? "It's all just hype. I am already positive. I might lose a few years, so what."

Chad J., a 36-year-old corporate trainer from Kansas City, Mo. sees many parallels between being a barebacker in the current political climate and the coming-out process. He says the constant pressure to practice safer sex has made sharing his sexual escapades with his friends difficult.

"I have started to talk to my Gay friends, and just like I started talking about being Gay to my straight friends during my first coming out, I'm finding a lot of agreement and support," Johnson says. "Let's face it, nobody likes condoms - it's just some of us have the balls and intelligence to question our programming, and do a little research on our own. I think barebackers need a support group, but I dislike our becoming an isolated subgroup. I'd much rather see us bring real lucking back into the Gay mainstream."

THE COMING BACKLASH

As the movement grows in number and the debate grows in intensity, barebackers are finding that even cyberspace is beginning to find their cause unsettling. The Webmaster for cruisingforsex.com recently took barebackers to task. Known only as "the Cruisemaster," he wrote to visitors of the site: "There's no getting around it. A significant - and by significant I mean a noticeable, purposefully public and nearly organized - number of Gay men are intentionally having unsafe sex. Not just run-o'-the-mill unsafe sex, but humping without condoms -bareback fucking. That, in fact, is old news. As a fad it would by now be tiresome if it weren't so maddening, durable and typical."

He goes on to warn readers that "angry politicians in state capitals and Washington, D.C. will jump on barebacking to justify downsizing and killing programs that help people with HIV, and they won't get much argument from the vast majority of their constituents. Some of us are playing with fire; we're all going to get burned."

But bad publicity is only the beginning of what could lie ahead. Sure, it is only a matter of time before barebacking crawls out of the message boards on the Web and into the national political arena. Once Hard Copy or A Current Affair gets hold of the story, what will happen to government-lunded AIDS programs or the ground we've gained in our struggle for equality?

More unsettling is the very real possibility that, as barebacking becomes more common, a "superstrain" of HIV could be introduced into the population. With all the new strains mutating daily, researchers are already racing to find drugs that are effective.

What will happen if this "new and improved" HIV virus appears? Will anyone be prepared? The answer could be even scarier than the rise of the bareback culture itself.

[Editor's Note: This story won the 1997-98 Randy Shilts Award for Outstanding Achievement, part of the Vice Versa Awards for excellence in the Gay and Lesbian press. It first appeared in the Baltimore Alternative in February 1998.]

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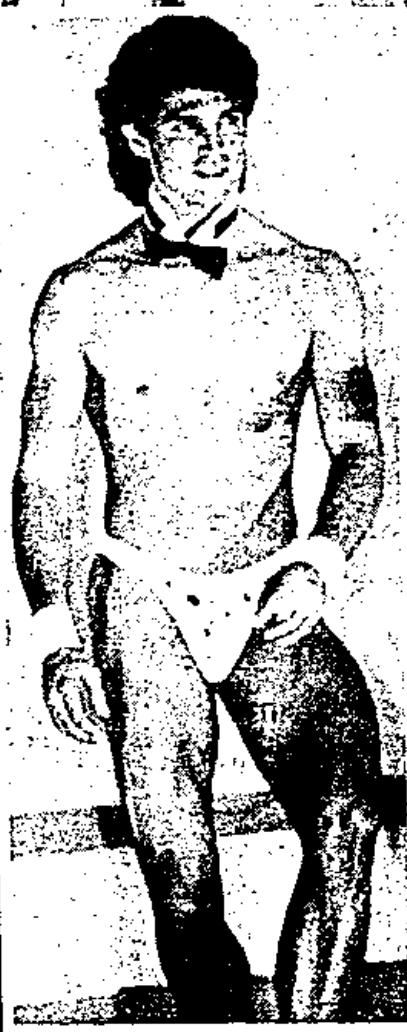

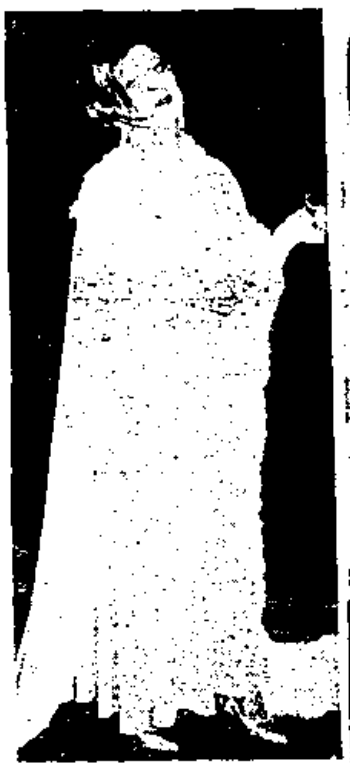

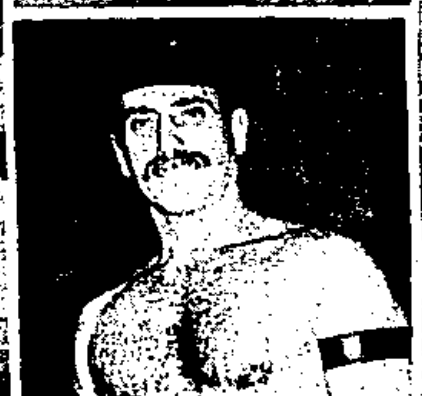

Columna Abierta. by Dr. Eleazar Garcia

Saludandoles como cada semana, deseandoles lo mejor de lo mejor...y sobre todo que se encuentren gozando del buen clima que hemos tenido estos últimos días...

Por ahora hay poco que contarles; sobre todo quiero recordarles que las **Noches Latinas** se siguen "poniendo" a todo dar en el Stonewall por supuesto, se les invita para que pasen un rato alegre en compañía de sus amigos disfrutando buena música a cargo de Eduardo, y sobre todo espere los anuncios que les hará llegar **Salud es Poder**

Además les invito a que en sus tiempos libres lean "Just because I'm latin doesn't mean I mambo" que es básicamente una guía motivacional de Juan Roberto Job; "Para triunfar en las empresas norteamericanas los latinos nacidos en Estados Unidos tienen que dejar atrás la percepción de ser extranjeros. Tenemos que tomar decisiones difíciles respecto a nuestros valores y metas y aprender a mezclar nuestra herencia cultural corporativa estadounidense" afirma. El libro propone una serie de técnicas para que los latinos triunfen en los EE UU. Entre éstas, Job señala las 10 reglas del éxito; evaluar las oportunidades de ascender en el mundo corporativo (educación, convicción, valentía y la bendición), descubrir estrategias para avanzar en la carrera, minimizar los estereotipos latinos negativos; reconciliar la presión entre casa y carrera; mezclar la vida profesional y personal, es decir, sacarle el mayor partido a la herencia cultural latina para crear una mezcla que combine lo mejor de ambos mundos...

También el siguiente artículo creo que es del interés de ustedes: Un estudio publicado en el Journal of Oral and Maxilofacial Surgery revela que roncar puede llegar a ser mortal. Este hábito puede provocar daño en las arterias carótidas, produciendo respiración irregular y que la presión sanguínea se acelere hasta llegar incluso a provocar la muerte por trombosis generalizada. El estudio fue realizado con unas mil personas, 47 de las cuales sufrían desde hace varios años de apnea del sueño, condición en la que la persona deja de respirar por algunos segundos mientras duerme, El hecho de roncar, por lo general no tiene consecuencias graves en la salud pero si se sufre de apnea del sueño -que suele afectar a personas con problemas de obesidad y a hombres de edad media y con problemas cardíacos-, los riesgos de una trombosis generalizada son latentes. Los investigadores descubrieron que el daño a las arterias y el desorden en el aparato respiratorio es más complicado de lo que se creía. "Cuando una persona que padece este mal se queda dormida, la lengua se mete en la garganta, bloqueando las salidas del aire. Al tener problemas para respirar, la presión sanguínea se eleva", manifestó el Dr. Arthur Friedlander, un cirujano oral y autor del estudio. "Creemos que el aumento de la presión sanguínea daña las paredes interiores de las arterias carótidas, situadas a los lados del cuello, lo que resulta en una trombosis súbita y generalizada".

Ya para terminar esta **Columna Abierta**, se reportó Ernie Pérez para hacer extensa la invitación a los voluntarios de **Salud es Poder** para la celebración anual que se llevará a cabo éste Sábado 21 de noviembre en la Ramada #1 del Reid Park de la 22, desde las 12:00 PM. hasta las 6:00PM con una rica carne asada y mucha música a cargo de Eduardo, no deje de asistir y convivir unas horas de alegría y camaradería con los integrantes de **Salud es Poder.**

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

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Regardless of how you "celebrate" the day, there is a good chance that you will get caught up in its activities and forget about the real reason we even have Thanksgiving Day. It is easy for us to forget that the origin of this day's festivities came from the thankfulness of the hearts of new "Americans" hundreds of years ago.. The Pilgrims (as they are commonly referred to) were thankful for surviving their first year on their new land in their new homes. More of their group had died that first year than had survived. But with the help of some native inhabitants and the blessing of the Lord God almighty, that group of hearty, determined individuals survived.

That first Thanksgiving Day was actually a multiple day event. I mean we're talking people who were ecstatic about surviving and bent on giving the glory to God for their welfare! They feasted on deer, lobster, and the bounty of the harvest. Quite different no doubt from our modern day version. Yet through the days of celebration ran the same thread, that of giving thanks to God.

I'm not knocking how we celebrate these days. Goodness, I love a big meal as much as anyone! I'm not even against an entire day filled with football games even though I don't watch them. But what I would really love to see happen and be a part of is the re-introduction of God into our yearly celebration. I want us as a nation to turn to God, acknowledge his blessings, and thank him profusely for his wonderful love. It doesn't have to take all day to do that (although a day filled with praises to our God would certainly please him), but it does take a conscience effort on our part. Before we can begin thanking God we need to recognize and acknowledge all that he has done for us. We need to realize that what we have and how we are blessed is through God and not our own doing. Then, we need to thank him.

So what are you thankful for this Thanksgiving Day? A new job? A roof over your head? Perhaps a healing from illness? Whatever it is, why not set aside some time this year to think about or even list on paper all that you are thankful for. Then go to the one who has blessed you with those people and things and thank him. And if you do, this could turn out to be the best Thanksgiving Day ever!

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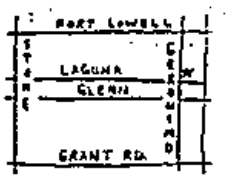

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HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

Dreamy Neptune "squares" hard-hearted Saturn this week, leading us into delicious temptation and rapping our knuckles with a ruler afterwards. This sado-masochistic tango may do the trick for some of us, but for the rest here's a piece of advice; Choose your desserts wisely.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20
Proud Rams trot along their merry way in their career, oblivious to the hungry pin stripped sharks lurking around the corner. Lunch is served when stern Saturn squares foggy Neptune. Examine the personal compromises you make for the corporate prize. Sometimes all we need is a small dose of reality to get us back on the right track, stronger than ever.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21
Neptune square Saturn unleashes an inner dilemma for all expansive Gay Bulls; The more you learn, the less you feel you know. Continue to drink heartily from the well of knowledge even if it tests your inner equilibrium and makes you intellectually tipsy. How else will you achieve affirmation and a strong sense of self? Just remember not to drink and drive.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21
Just when you thought it was safe to jump in that hormonal hot tub, Neptune square Saturn throws in a tray of ice cubes. If your current social group no longer fulfills your deep inner needs, don't fret; Sociable pink Twins soon find a balance between the yin and yang. You'll entice a few hot prospects into the water after all. Use body warmth alone to keep the tub raging hot.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23
Pink Crabs may be at odds this week when dreamy Neptune collides with meany Saturn. Which needs your attention more - business or personal relationships? Partnerships appear to be on course but even a small breeze can your careen your catamaran now. Pay attention to the small details cousin and don't trade love for money (unless of course you're into that kind of thing).

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23
Even energetic Gay Lions feel a little weary when nebulous Neptune squares diabolical Saturn. You may have to curtail your more expansive wanderings now but take heart; eventually you'll move full steam ahead on any plans. Saturn is simply handing you a road map so you can find the shortest route. The secret is to plan an escapade with someone very energetic.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23
Foggy Neptune knows no limits and parties with reckless abandon while Saturn hands you ear plugs, a house robe and fuzzy slippers. Perhaps its best to chug a lug a warm glass of milk until this transit blows over. Proud Virgos go the distance when they are aroused. Now, however, it is advisable to cool your ardor and allow saner minds to prevail. That is, until next week!

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23
Foggy Neptune square stubborn Saturn is a lesson building transit. (Lucky you...) Gay Libras may be trying to balance partnerships with family expectations - now to no avail. If relatives are unable or unwilling to accept you for who you are, Saturn gives you the green light to do what is necessary to attain happiness and personal affirmation. Heck, make it a lavender light.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22
If work becomes more of a burden than usual, blame it on disheveled Neptune square implacable Saturn. Granted, being a rat on a treadmill may have it's monetary rewards but who wants to work when the inner artist cries for attention? Proud Scorps need to speak up if they want a little free time to emote and create. Hey but what's your motivation?

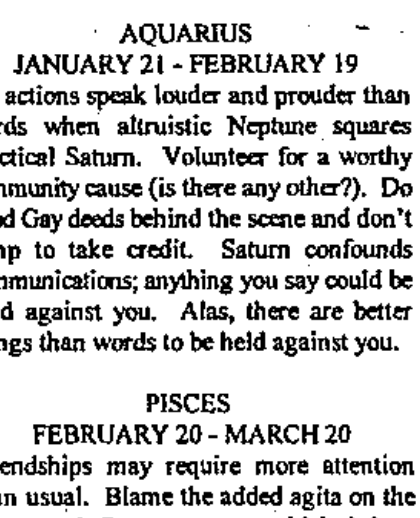
SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22
Putting your money where your mouth is could have some unanticipated consequences when clueless Neptune squares solid Saturn. Gay Archers should get the party bill in advance or at least count the empty bottles at the end of the evening. At any rate, you may find that fun costs much more than anticipated. Oh what the heck; keep partying until you get it right!

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20
You look fabulous. So why change who you are because of some moth-eaten family opinion or prejudice? Mystical Neptune square uncompromising Saturn motivates all proud Goats to heed the motto; "To thine own self be true and others will simply have to adjust." Solid Saturn puts you in the drivers seat. Rev up your engine and clear a path for yourself.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19
Let actions speak louder and prouder than words when altruistic Neptune squares practical Saturn. Volunteer for a worthy community cause (is there any other?). Do good Gay deeds behind the scene and don't jump to take credit. Saturn confounds communications; anything you say could be held against you. Alas, there are better things than words to be held against you.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20
Friendships may require more attention than usual. Blame the added agita on the Neptune / Saturn square which brings friends to your door in droves without cab fare. It may be that your current social circles do not mesh with your values and personal aspirations. If that is so, Saturn recommends that you either change your tune or your randy band.

For entertainment purposes only. For best results, read both your Sun sign and Ascendant. For a free calculation of your ascendant, send birth date, time, place name of this publication and SASE to: LICHTENSTEIN, P.O.B. 1726, Old Chelsea Station, NY, 10011.



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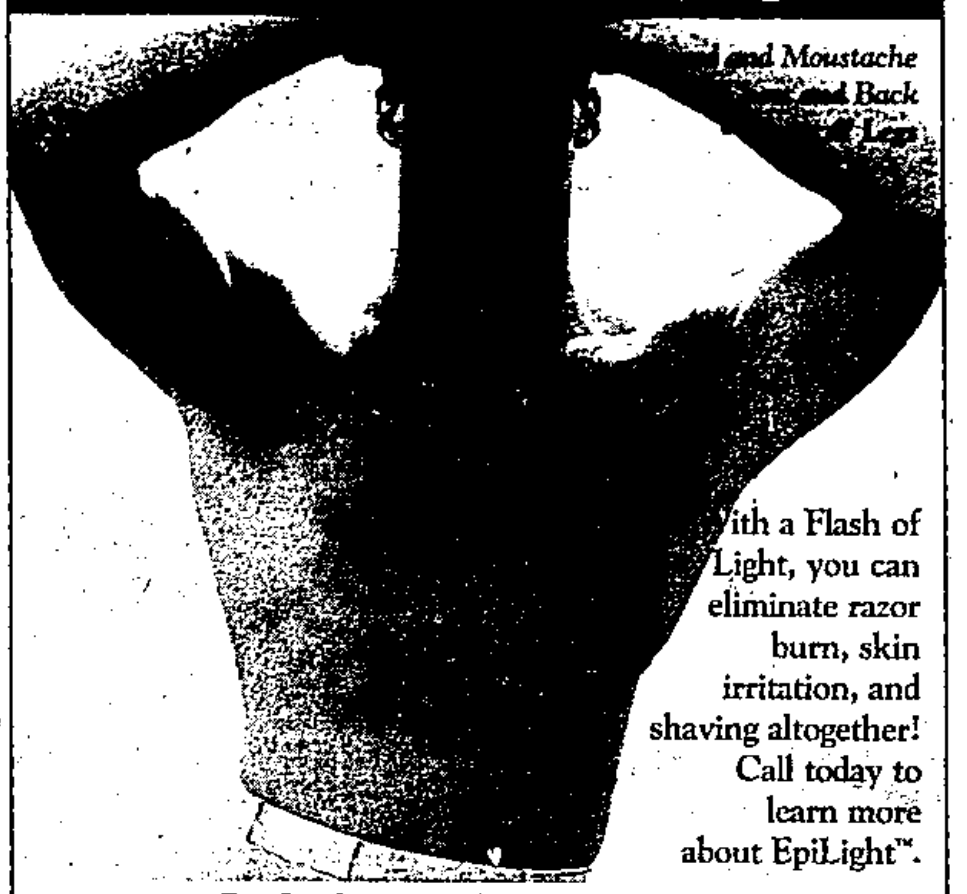

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- censored your reactions or opinions to avoid conflict?
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- changed your decisions about activities, social/family contacts in anticipation of your partner's abusive reactions?
- been kicked, hit, shoved or had objects thrown at you or around you?
- been threatened with being "outed" if you do not comply with your partner's demands?

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SUPPORT GROUPS FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SAME-GENDER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Gay Student Wins

Continued from Page One

The ACLU and the school district released a joint statement saying both the ACLU and Iversen acknowledged the school district had a model anti-harassment policy. The ACLU and Iversen also recognized the district's "ongoing and dedicated commitment in responding to student-to-student harassment issues and promoting diversity awareness."

The school denied that a beating incident in which Iversen was assaulted by a group of eight teens in front of a crowd was bias-related. But to press the issue, said the district, would be a waste of valuable school resources. Settling, said the district, was the most cost-effective means to end the dispute.

"We are all happy a settlement has been reached," said Alice Iversen, Mark's mother. "We are proud of our son for coming forward with the lawsuit, to try to make changes to protect other children."

Chicago Foundation Fined For Firing Lesbian Employee

CHICAGO, IL (CST) — The Chicago Commission on Human Relations has ordered the Inner City Horticultural Foundation to pay $13,000 in damages to an employee fired because she is lesbian.

Fawn Hook had been hired to work for a gardening program with kids, but the executive director fired her when he learned she is Gay because "he was afraid to have her go on out-of-town trips with the children and said that he was worried about her influence on them," the commission said.

More Gacy Victims?

CHICAGO, IL (NP) — A former police officer who withheld information rather than delay the execution of convicted serial killer John Wayne Gacy, has advised police that there may be still more victims in Illinois than the 33 young men they had known of previously.

The former officer, now with a private security company, says he saw Gacy out digging with a shovel late at night in 1974. Although the location has been kept secret while police investigate, it is one which had a role in Gacy's past, and a ground-penetrating radar device has revealed anomalies which might represent as many as six bodies there.

POLITICS

Continued from Page Six

erate and Gay-friendly than Gingrich," Huh? The news item goes on to list the voting records of Gingrich, Livingston and two contenders for post of House Majority Leader on bills of concern to Gays and Lesbians. Impressive? Forget it.

According to the story, Livingston signed a pledge stating that his office has a written policy of non discrimination in employment with regards to sexual orientation. Moderate? Bobby voted the wrong way on all eight of the measures that came before the 105th Congress. Moderate? The Human Rights Campaign gave Bobby an 11% rating in the 104th Congress. Moderate? He got a zero rating in the 102nd and 103rd Congresses. Moderate? Get real!

Elections are supposed to send a message? Aren't they? . . .

So it goes for now kids!

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"Now, That's Entertainament!" An Intimate Look At Tucson's Nightime Entertainment Scene

by Elise Barbara Fox

Hey kids! Tonight is Wednesday. That means show time at 9:00 P.M. at IBT's. Performers and would-be stars can competition, $50 is the grand prize. "Putting on the Lips" at IBT's is hosted by Victoria DuPuis and/or Felice Renard or Bunny Foo-Foo.

I've told you once upon a time why they're such delightful performers and hostesses. Victoria: so slim, so pretty, so talented. Also, need I mention Miss Gay Tucson America? Felice: noted for her Marilyn and Liza impressions and recently crowned as Miss West Coast NCC (but if I haven't gotten the title exactly right, I'm sure she'll forgive me because she's still the queen.) Bunny Foo-Foo: NCC crown holder and entertainer extra ordinaire. I sat home the other night watching ice skating gals, and I can't imagine that any of them were as entertaining as back-flip Bunny, you go girl!

As most of you know, arts and crafts shows in Tucson often have a juried panel of distinguished judges who know the field. So does "Putting on the Lips." So, come on down, compete or just cocktail. In this swirling cast of who's who in Tucson's Gay Community, IBT's definitely is the place to be on Wednesday nights.

Can't make it this Wednesday? A week from today Tucson's "Queen of Comedy," Miss Lucinda Holliday, recently crowned as Queen of Gay Pride '98, hosts "The Girlie Show" at IBT's.

In other drag news, Dani Bordello's benefit for TIHAN, Sunday, November 8, at the Stonewall/Eagle raised nearly $250 and a box of food to help those who are less fortunate. It had an all-star cast: Shaundriana, who was Queen of Gay Pride '97; Miss Regina Reed, recently crowned as Miss Desert Diva NCC '98; Miss Faith, Miss Desert States NCC '98; Miss Christina De Alexis. Miss Jade/Adrian, Miss Sabrina Crawford, and an up and coming performer who prefers to remain anonymous.

Speaking of Sabrina, I hear she's been working Phoenix and doing quite well for herself. It's appropriate when leading performers from our town get to play the "big city up north."

Anyway, that's the news for now. And remember, Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgendered, or Straight, we are all in this together. It's our world: ours to share. Be good, play safe.

LETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSL

EDITOR:

Thank you Arizona Central Pride and royalty: Daddy Wayne, Big Ernie Mendoza, and Mr. Pride, Carl Gommer. Thank you to Charlie's in Phoenix, Mimi-Rae-Rose, and Mr. Steven Rossi. You made me feel quite at home and treated me with dignity and respect. You opened your hearts and homes to me and I left Phoenix glowing. I am looking forward to working with all of you again. Words cannot express my gratitude.

Sincerely
Thom Baile
(a.k.a. Sabrina Crawford)

DEAR OBSERVER AND COMMUNITY:

I would like to convey our gratitude to Dani Bordello and friends for donating proceeds to TIHAN from their November 8 show at the Stonewall/Eagle.

In addition to a great show, over $250 was raised (along with lots of cans of food) to ensure that our HIV+ CarePartners and their families will enjoy a nice Thanksgiving dinner this year.

I especially want to thank the performers: Christina de Alexis, Shaundriana, Faith, Jade/Adrian, Regina Reed, Sabrina Crawford, and of course Beth and Dani, as well as Redlight Productions. Our gratitude also goes to David Zinke and the Stonewall/Eagle for hosting the benefit show.

Last, but not least, thanks to everyone who came out and supported this benefit. On behalf of all of us at TIHAN, thank you for your continuing support of people living with HIV/AIDS.

With love,
Scott Blades
Executive Director
TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network)

DEAR AMERICAN PUBLIC:

I have a lot of feelings that I want the American public to know, to understand and maybe help me understand. Hollywood has made Gay life look like a perverted thing. Automatically they think you're someone who runs around with a dress on, dressed in leather or hanging in a park in the bushes. If you look at a man and if you see a black man or a white man, then you don't see the man but his race. And this is the same thing as sexual perversion. It shouldn't matter if you're Gay, Bi, Lesbian or heterosexual. A person is a person. Being Gay doesn't make you a pervert. It doesn't mean you don't have moral standards. And it's very wrong for someone to try to change someone who was born that way. It's called reincarnation. You go from one life to another life. In that other life you can be male or female. What I'm trying to explain is that in the other life you are female and then you come to the next life as a male, but you still prefer the same feelings as the female in the past life for males. Yes, you are born Gay, and it's normal. But on the other hand, some people as teenagers run away from home, no place to go, nothing to eat, so they turn to prostitution. These people aren't born Gay. In fact, they can be dangerous and mentally unstable. They were made Gay, not born Gay.

And I have something else to ask. For all the Gays and Lesbians, show all the people a good moral value like stop hanging out in the bathrooms like a damn stalker. Show good moral value and respect for other people being if they're Bisexual, heterosexual or Gay. It's time for Gays to show people that Gays are people with good standards. And please, the best policy today is to stay away from prostitutes. Because of their lifestyle they will lie, cheat and steal to get what they want. People like this give Gays, Bisexuals and heterosexuals a bad name.

Buddha Rhama Bless You!

Robert Casey

XOXO
Hug a PWA today!
XOXO

Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Cronies Social Club mid-month dinner 6:30 p.m. at Gandhi Cuisine of India, 150 W. Ft. Lowell. Call 888-7264 if you plan to attend.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Gays and Lesbians United (GLU) will hold their informational dinner at 6:00 p.m. at St. Philips Episcopal Church in the East Gallery. The church is located on the Northeast corner of River and Campbell. All Gay, Lesbian and AIDS groups are welcome. The Mayor's meeting with the G&L Community will be discussed. RSVP to David at 323-7943.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Our monthly Pizza Party will take be held at Les & Jerry's home. 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. Please note: reservations should be made by Thursday, November 15 at noon so we can order the proper number of pizzas (but we do order a couple of extra pizzas just in case this isn't read until the day of the event).

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

10 annual Jerome Beillard Memorial "Festival For Life" at the University Park Marriott Ballroom. Silent Auction at 4:00 p.m. Live Auction 5:00 p.m. Benefits SAAF and features designer holiday trees, menorahs, paper prayers, wreaths, fine art, gift baskets, celebrity collectibles and many unique gifts. Enjoy a dessert buffet, no-host bar and entertainment as you show your support for Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. $25 advance sale or $30 at the door. For nearest ticket outlet or for more information call 322-6226.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Cronies Social Club Lunch Date, Wildcat House, 1801 N. Stone. 1:00 p.m.

1. 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.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. A showing of the little known film "We Think The World Of You", starring Gary Oldman & Alan Bates as lovers in the 1950s. Join us for one or both of these events (but you don't have to help with the newsletter). For reservations & directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Gay Men's Discussion Group 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Emerald City Grill, 509 N. 4th Ave. This group meets in a casual setting to give Gay men the opportunity to discuss what's on their minds. Soft Drinks will be provided. For more information, call Mike Henry at the Gay Men's Health Project, 322-6228.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A fun evening devoted to all things British. Three episodes from some of your favorite series or other British fare will be offered. This event is on the east side of town. For directions and reservations, please call Loren at 733-0072.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:00 p.m. Join your gay Tucson family for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. There's no reason to be home alone on a holiday. Join us, and discover the family you've always wanted. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539. If he's not home, please leave a message, and he'll get back to you as soon as he can.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join us as we have a Game Night devoted to all sorts of games. Play a favorite card game or board game--the choice is yours. If you have a favorite you'd like to play, bring it along, but there will be plenty of games from which to choose. For reservations and directions, please call Perry or Stephen at 321-4387.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join us for a new monthly feature called Classic Cinema. We'll showcase an old movie, along with a cartoon and a short. Tonight's feature is "The Shop Around The Corner" starring Jimmy Stewart as a man who is writing letters to an unknown pen friend. This movie is currently being remade as "You've Got Mail" starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. See the original here, first. For directions and reservations, please call Les at 690-9565.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). TBA Our monthly hike will be held somewhere hikeable today. For details, please call Ron at 327-1052.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Gay Men's Discussion Group 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Emerald City Grill, 509 N. 4th Ave. This group meets in a casual setting to give Gay men the opportunity to discuss what's on their minds. Soft Drinks will be provided. For more information, call Mike Henry at the Gay Men's Health Project, 322-6228.

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Bar Calendar

Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

IBT'S - "Puttin' On The Lips" lipsync contest hosted by Victoria Du Puis and Felica Renard. $50 first prize.

STONEWALL / EAGLE - FREE/Anonymous HIV Testing by Pima County Health Dept. 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - A Black-Out Party at the Biz. Black Russians, Black Sambucas and Jaeger only $2.00 from 9:00 p.m. to closing. Discount drinks for those in all black. Dance music 9:00 to close.

HOURS - A big country party weekend kicks off here tonight with a benefit/fundraising show for Miss AGRA candidate "Panda". Special guests include Annette, David, Marquesa and Theresa Lee. Proceeds go to Hakuna Matata, Southern Arizona Kids With AIDS. Dance and Party all weekend. Country music, country dancing, country videos.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

GRADUATE - Arizona Angels Softball Team Benefit Beer Bust 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Pool Tournament begins at 2:0 p.m. also!

VENTURE-N - Party with the Bears of the Old Pueblo at their Beer Bust on the Patio from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Then at 9:00 p.m. it's time for the annual Mr. Venture-N Contest. Come on by and help pick the winner.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

IBT'S - Benefit Bar-B-Que and Beer Bust for PFLAG from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Also Karaoke on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30. Then, at 9:00 p.m., direct from Hollywood, comedian Mark Davis will take the stage here. Mark has appeared at comedy clubs across the nation and has appeared on television numerous times. Don't miss his great comedy act.

STONEWALL / EAGLE - Session VII Pool Tournament of Champions. Play begins 2:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. Special Girlie Show! Hosted by Lucinda Holliday with Victoria Du Puis, Celia Putty, Ajia Simone, Faith and Kristin.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

STONEWALL / EAGLE - Community Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings. 4:00 p.m. til it's gone!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Latin Night! Tucson's hottest Latin music played by DJ Hill 9:00 to 1:00 a.m. No cover. Lots of drink specials.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

IBT'S - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus 'Bachelor Auction'. It's a great time for you and for a great singing group. Mark your calendars.

STONEWALL / EAGLE - Russian Roulette Pool Tournament. Warm-up at Noon. Play begins 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

IBT'S - 1998 White Party - CD release. Check out the ads. Also don't forget the live Jazz on the patio every Friday from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with the dukes of York.

FRI. SAT. SUN., DECEMBER 11-12-13

IBT'S - Annual Winter Street Fair. Thousands will be there over this weekend as usual. Get in the middle of the action at IBT's - right on the avenue!

WHAT'S BLACK & WHITE & READ ALL OVER?

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TUCSON, ARIZONA

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers. Latin Music 9-1. Shot specials all night.

GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-8 pm all well $1.50, Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢. Drink Specials do not apply during special events.

HOURS - Open 1pm. $2 Bloody Marys & $1.50 Screwdrivers til 8pm. Country music & dancing.

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.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2:00pm. Daily drink specials. Happy Hour 'til 8pm. BBQ 2-6. Hottest sounds in town with DJ Raynman

VENTURE-N - Open 10am, Patio open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm 50¢ draft, 301 Dart Tournament 5pm $3 entry fee (pot matched). Beer Burgers 5-7pm Hides Leather Goods opens at 7pm.

monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour 2-7. Free pool 2-4. 9-Ball tournament 8pm, $3 entry, pot matched. Monday Night Football - 3 screens. $2.00 Cuervo Gold all nite.

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

HOURS - Closed Mondays.

IBT's - Open noon. Martini Monday all day all call martinis's $2.50. Happy Hour noon-8pm, $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well. 8pm to midnight, $1.50 / 32oz pitchers. Extreme dance with DJ Michael 9pm-1am. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Daily drink specials. Happy Hour 'til 8pm. Party with chuck in the evening. Doc's Dart Tourney 8pm in the Eagle. Free pool all day and night.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. $1.75 Well drinks and Longnecks 6am-12:30pm

tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7 pm. Free Pool 2-4pm. Pool Tournament 7:30 pot matched. $1 longnecks for pool players. '70s/'80s dance music 9-1. Shot specials all night.

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

HOURS - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8pm. $1.50 well or domestic beer. Draft Beer Nite 8-close, $2 small/$4 large pitchers.

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour Noon-8 pm, $1.75 domestic beer & $1.50 well. 9 pm to close $1.75 well. Wear an IBT's T-shirt get happy hour prices 9 to close, or buy an IBT's T-shirt for $5 and get a complimentary drink. Extreme Dance with DJ Michael 9pm to closing.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Daily drink specials. Happy Hour til 8pm. Eight Ball pool tourney, warm-up 6pm, play begins 7pm. Latin Dance Party w/ DJ Eduardo 9pm - 1am.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. $1.75 Well drinks and longnecks 6am - 12:30pm.

wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7. Free Pool 2-4. $1.25 pitchers 8-midnight. Dance music with DJ Robyn 9pm-1am. Shot specials all night

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

HOURS - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8pm $1.50 well or domestic beer. Import Night $2.25 8pm-1am

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

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Daily Drink Specials. Happy Hour til 8pm. Karaoke Nite: 9 to close w/Billy Dee in the Eagle. Stonewall opens at 9pm. Hottest sounds in town w/DJ Raynman

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. $1.75 Well drinks and Longnecks 6am-12:30 pm. Cuervo Gold $2 and Cuervo 1800 $2.25 Open to close.

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 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8pm $1.50 well or domestic beer. 75¢ Schnapps 8pm to close. $2 Cuervo shots and country/western dance at 9pm

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

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Daily drink specials. Happy Hour til 8pm. Latin Dance Party w/Eduardo in the Stonewall 9pm to close. Biweekly Travesti Show 10:30pm.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am $1.75 Well Drinks & Longnecks 6am-12:30pm Patio Bar open 8pm. Featurs Bottles $1.75 from 9pm-midnight. Day prices for men in leather 7pm to close. Pool Tournament 7pm-ish. $3 entry (Pot Matched). Hides Leather shop opens at 8:30

friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7. Free pool 2-4. 5:30 - 7 free food. Top 40 dance music 9-1 w/ DJ Hill.

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

HOURS - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8pm $1.50 well and domestic beer. Country Western Music and Dancing 9pm to 1am.

IBT's - Open noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm $1.75 domestic beer and $1.50 well. Live Jazz on the patio with the Dukes of York 5-9pm. Patio Bar 9-1. Dance Party 9 to 1 with DJ David Z. All drink specials not available during special events.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open 2pm. Daily drink specials. Happy Hour til 8pm. T.G.I.F. Free snacks 4:30-8pm The hottest sounds in town w/DJ Raynman 9pm. To close in the Stonewall.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. $1.75 Well drinks and Longnecks 6am-12:30 Snacks served at 5pm. Patio Bar open 5pm. Hides Leather Store opens at 8:30pm.

saturday

AIN'T NOBODYS BIZNESS - Hi energy dance music from 8:30pm to 1am. Drink specials every ½ 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 1pm. Small Pitchers $2 & FREE pool 2-5. Country Western Music all night.

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.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open noon. Daily drink specials. Happy Hour til 8pm. Free Pool noon to 8pm. Stonewall opens 9pm. The hottest sounds in town w/DJ Raynman.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Patio Beer Bust with 50¢ draft 3-7pm. Hides Leather Store opens at 8:30pm. Partnership Cricket Tournament 8:30pm $3 entry (Pot Matched).

Play Safe!

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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. Intermediate or better players only. Grass court Northwest corner Himmel Park 11 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.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian businessmen networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call Greg Hellman 577-8333 for more info.

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE (TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street at 7pm. For more information call 622-3288.

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND. Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 8 weeks. 884-7863.

TITHAN, a coalition of churches and synagogues committed to providing a compassionate response to the HIV crisis, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-8847.

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

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays noon-1pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-5678 or 327-4283.

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

NORTHWEST CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 4th Monday at St. Odilia's Catholic Church, 7575 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 Jr. Joan 742-8969.

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people wanting to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Rhonda at 884-9929, Ext.448 or Emmett 322-6957 (evelan@tc.netcom.com)

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyan@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 8:30pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI. This show alternates with "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8618 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 10th year! (2nd in Tucson).

TRANSGENDER ISSUES: Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) meets on first Mondays for informal discussion of transgender topics. Hosted by Desert Boyz. For information call Gary at 628-9458 or send email to: monkeydyke@earthling.net.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4465.

GAY MORMON, EX-MORMON. New support and discussion group. For information call 529-4588

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS. Individual or group support for Gay, Bisexual and Trans men who are victims/survivors in same-sex relationships. Group meets Tuesdays 7 to 8:30 pm at a confidential location. For information or appointment call 218-2827. Wingspan Domestic Violence Project.

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9628

COCHISE COUNTY LESBIANS AND GAYS. P.O. Box 819, 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 578-9827 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)327-1629 or write P.O. Box 43918, Tucson, AZ 85733-3918, 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 all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the HOTline for info at 888-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8858 or Rosa 968-2384.

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

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

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Lagoma). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9466 or Ray at 749-5247.

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

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

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

SCUBA DIVING CLUB. For information call digital pager 291-0982.

NOTICES

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. 322-6228. AIDS Hotline: 326-AIDS. World wide web: http://www.saaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

FRONT RUNNERS OF TUCSON meet for km runs Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Group meets in front of the Himmel Park Library (East side), and Sundays at various times and places. For more information call Mitch at 326-3568

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 575-8668 or write P.O. Box 36264, 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 and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 564-9284, leave name and phone number.

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 Foothills Church, Ina and River Road, Room 43. Call the church at Davey at 886-1288 or Brian at 882-4728 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 2987, 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.

RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL every Saturday 1 to 3 pm at St. Francis in The Foothills for anyone who likes to play and have a blast call Davey 886-1288 for more info.

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (AGRA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 323-6603 or write AGRA/Tucson, P.O. Box 40894, Tucson, AZ 85717.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5455. 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 mailist group open to all -- Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Catalina, AZ 85652.

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 Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9662.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #345, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3209 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 886-9585 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

SOFTBALL - For info on the Tucson Greater Softball Association T.G.S.A., please contact Mary 778-9878 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 proselyting - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 298-0063.

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 322-4220.

"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 at Wingspan on 4th Saturday of each month at 6:30 p.m. 624-1779.

TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, D&S and TV community. Call us at (520)617-4461, e-mail us at http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/5088

TUCSON'S RAINBOW RADIO is now on theair. Operating on 100.1 Mhz Stereo FM. Hours of operation 3:00 p.m. to Midnight. Join us for services to the Tucson Gay and Lesbian Community.

EMPLOYMENT

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Gay/Les/BiTrans Domestic Violence Project. PT. Cover letter/resume to 300 E. 6th Street, Tucson, AZ 85705 747

PERSONALS

NUDE MALE MODELS. Do you need pics for internet? For your boyfriend? Just for the hell of it? Amateur photographer seeks attractive young men to photograph. Male couples welcome. Call 624-2088. 742

www.gayvoice.com - Hot live models / www.gaychatmate.com - Real Matches www.gay-chat.com - Live chat / www.studmail.com - Free e-mail account www.studcards.com - Free Postcards / (888)365-7883 Talk Live with men 18+ 784

CYBER CRUISE - Meet Arizona Gay men and women as well as people all over the U.S. Gay owned. www.mave.com 750

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION
Si usted busca que sean sexo con otros hombres y quieres ayudarnos a entender y apoyar los programas para Los Latinos, llama para una entrevista estrictamente confidencial al 322-6226 y pregunta por Ernesto. 750

If you are a Latino man who is having sex with other men and you want to help us to support and expand our programs for Latinos, call for a confidential interview at 322-6226 and ask for Ernie. 750

HOUSING/FOR RENT

LOVELY ONE BEDROOM DUPLEX, carport, storage, dishwasher. $485/mo. includes utilities. 2 BEDROOM, patio, A/C, dishwasher, $625/mo. 743-1634. 748

FURNISHED STUDIO FOR RENT. Adjacent to house but entirely separate. Own entrance, bath, kitchenette, etc. Central (off Country Club) - across from Reid Park and bus stop. Use of washer/dryer and large brick-fenced yard. $350, utilities included. Available now. Call Nick 323-9805 748.

VARIOUS CENTRAL TUCSON LOCATIONS. 1 and 2 bedroom apartments unfurnished. Clean, private, quiet. Many extras. Mention this Observer ad. 577-6570. 748

ROOMMATES

G/M TO SHARE A 3-BEDROOM HOME with pool and Jacuzzi Speedway/Craycroft area. $225.mo plus 1/3 utilities. Must be employed, responsible and have references. Call Lloyd or Marc at 745-3619. 751

FEMALE TO SHARE TOWNHOUSE. Must love cats. $375.mo. (Negotiable) + 1/2 utilities. 290-6535. 749

ROOM FOR RENT in a duplex near University. $250/mo plus first and last month's rent to move in and 1/2 electric per month. Must install own phone. Will prepare food for $150/mo extra. Call 903-1800. Available Dec. 1st. No Smokers! 749

SERVICES

WM 40s WANT TO PROVIDE HOUSEKEEPING, odd jobs, errands for older males. Negotiable. Reply BW, P.O. Box 27856, Tucson, AZ 85726 751

ALOHA MASSAGE: Strong, gentle hands provide the nurturing touch of Hawaiian Lomi Lomi combined with the long, soothing strokes of "Esalen" massage. Days/Eves/Weekends. In or out calls. Glen, CMT, 907-2551 or Breathglen@aol.com. Open your being to the touch of Aloha and feel your body aglow. 754

PHOTOGRAPHER NEEDS MODELS. Have you ever wondered how you would look in professional photos, or do you need to update your shots? Serious photographer seeks models (all types considered) for NON-COMMERCIAL use in exchange for photos, identities protected and discretion assured. Call Andres at 578-0771 for more information. 749.

PROFESSIONAL RELAXATION! Outside or indoors, enjoy quality legitimate tantric massage with 17 years experience in a remarkable session and feel my strong, gentle hands. (Beware of cheap prices for quality work). Call Marc, LMT, 881-4582. 756

ATTRACTIVE MAN offers very relaxing, sensuous, one-hour massage at a very reasonable rate. Days, evenings, weekends. Michael 584-8243 749

FULL BODY MASSAGE BY MARVIN for men that want that special touch. Sensual and relaxing. Discreet. Skyline/Campbell area. Full hour $35. 299-9651 751

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS
Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Mr. Merle Hudson, 888-7264 in Tucson. 760

FOOTHILLS MASSAGE
Mountain Tranquility (near Skyline & Swan)
Greg Stickroth (LMT)
Tucson, AZ
(520) 469-0522

DESERT OASIS MASSAGE
Relaxing Swedish Bodywork
Gentle To Deep Tissue
MIKE MOORE, CMT
Daily 1pm - 10pm (520) 906-2085

TORTUGA ROJA
BED & BREAKFAST

Baptist Convention

Continued from Page One

The vote by the conservative group to separate from the Baptist General Convention of Texas meant that for the second time in two years, a state organization within the 16-million member Southern Baptist Convention had ruptured over profound differences between conservative and moderate members.

In September 1996, a conservative group voted to pull out of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, creating two ideologically distinct bodies, but the break in Texas is considerably more significant.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas is the largest state organization within the Southern Baptist Convention. Its 2.7-million members are more numerous than several national Protestant denominations. Bill Leonard, a church historian, said the conservatives' decision would register as "an 8.5 on the ecclesiastical Richter scale" among Baptists.

The newly created conservative Southern Baptists of Texas convention is considerably smaller and weaker than the General convention in the state, representing about 150 congregations compared to the 5,700 affiliated churches belonging to its parent. These facts, however, do not detract from the significance of the move.

Moderates charge that since 1979 conservatives have tightened their ideological grip on the national organization purging moderates from leadership positions and from the denomination's six established seminaries. Moderates have begun founding their own seminaries to safeguard what they see as the church's proud tradition of nurturing theological freedom of thought and speech.

A central disagreement between the two factions turns on whether Scripture ought to be considered "inerrant," the absolute and literal truth, or whether its lessons are open to interpretation and the civilizing influences of modern society, as moderates hold.

The leader of the new Texas faction said profound differences over the Bible and a desire among conservatives to make clear, strong stands against homosexuality, legalized abortion and the ordination of women as pastors prompted their move. He said conservatives believed that the General Convention of Texas had taken a "very weak" stand against an Austin congregation that ordained a Gay man as a deacon this year.

Preliminary Hearing In Matthew Shepard Murder Set For his Week

LARAMIE, WY (NP) — Some of the parameters are being determined for the trials of those accused in the bashing death of Gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, which triggered an unprecedented national outcry.

Of the four accused, all but Aaron McKinney have waived their preliminary hearings. His has been scheduled for Thursday, November 19 in the Albany County, Wyoming Courthouse before Fremont County Judge Robert Denhardt, as Albany County Judge Robert Castor agreed to step aside at the request of the defense based on early media coverage of the case. McKinney and Russell Henderson are both charged with first-degree murder.

Court TV has scheduled coverage for November 20 from 9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. (in a week that it's made Lesbian convicted Florida serial killer Aileen Wuornos the subject of its "Trial Story Theme Week"). McKinney and Henderson's girlfriends, Chasity Pasley and Kristen Price, are charged as accessories after the fact and are scheduled to be arraigned December 9 before Wyoming Second District Judge Jeffrey Donnell. Donnell has agreed to requests by the Wyoming Press Association to allow anywhere from 3 - 24 credentialed journalists to have seats in the courtroom for the women's trials, depending on how many seats are required by trial participants, but has barred any electronic equipment from the courtroom.

Calif. Scout Dad Fired

PETALUMA, CA (NP) — Steven Cozza, now 13 years old, drew national media attention when he became an activist seeking equal treatment of Gay boys and men by the national Boy Scouts of America. Two months ago, his ally Dave Rice was fired by the national organization after 59 years in Scouting.

Recently, Steven's father Scott Cozza was advised by a committee of parents of boys in Steven's Petaluma, California troop that the elder Cozza would not be renewed in his position as assistant Scoutmaster when it expires at the end of the year, and Cozza publicly announced his impending dismissal.

The parents said his termination was based on his not being a team player, that some parents did not want him supervising their children, and that he had told Scott not to listen to other troop leaders – but Cozza feels quite sure it's actually because of Steven's work to end the ban on openly Gay Scout leaders, considering that otherwise the parents would not have waited two years before making their complaint. "There's no question about it. Their negative attitude really began when we first inquired about marching in [San Francisco's] Gay pride parade in 1997," he said.

Both the elder Cozza and Rice insist that although they supported his efforts, Scott adopted the idea of campaigning against Scouting's Gay ban of his own choosing. He's gathered more than 25,000 signatures to present to Scouting headquarters in Texas. Both Cozzas intend to continue the struggle. The Cozzas and Rice are all believed to be heterosexual.

HIV/AIDS Community Forum Nov. 18

TUCSON — The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, in conjunction with Abbott Labs are sponsoring a community forum, "HIV Update: Looking Toward 1999."

This forum will take place, Wednesday, November 18, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M., St. Mary's Hospital, 1601 W. St. Mary's Road, Century Room (across from chapel).

A local panel of doctors will review the current state of HIV management and give an update on any new advances in treatment.

For more information on this forum, call SAAF, (520) 322-6226.

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SPORTS

Desert Coyotes League Standings

	Won	Lost	PCT
Helen	8.0	0.0	1.000
Curious George	7.0	1.0	.875
Just Throw It!	7.0	1.0	.875
Dam It II	6.0	2.0	.750
Fourkneecatorz	6.0	2.0	.750
Erratica III	5.0	3.0	.625
Low Ballers	4.0	4.0	.500
Cocktails for 17	4.0	4.0	.500
Eat at Ed's	3.0	5.0	.375
Looney Toones	3.0	5.0	.375
Three Way	3.0	5.0	.375
Pretty Balls	3.0	5.0	.375
Tres Amigos	3.0	5.0	.375
It's In Da Hole	2.0	6.0	.250
Miracles Happen	2.0	6.0	.250
Poppin Fresh	2.0	6.0	.250
Ooops	2.0	6.0	.250
Two	2.0	6.0	.250

High Average: Paul K., 196; Just Throw It, 505; Heather H., 156.

High Series Scratch: Two, 1699; Mark K., 700; Heather H., 542.

High Game Scratch: Heather H., 202; Ken M., 258; Two, 605.

High Series Handicap: Brad H., 739; Heather H., 677; Two & Miracles Happen, 2011.

High Game Handicap: Nancy L., 253; Miracles Happen, 752; Brad H., 285.

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Tucson, Arizona

*That's an ORDER!

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Three strips of bacon on a butter croissant covered with melted American cheese. Add green chili - .60.

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Sliced ham on a butter croissant covered with melted Swiss cheese. Add green chili - .60.

SCRAMBLED EGGS $3.09
Scrambled eggs with onion, pepper and tomato served with American cheese on a butter croissant. Add bacon - .60.

BOURBON STREET BLT $3.09
Bacon, lettuce and tomato served on a toasted butter croissant.

Bagels Plus

BAGEL AND SHMEAR $1.50
Cream Cheese, Apple Butter, Hazelnut Spread, Strawberry Preserves or Peanut Butter.

BAGEL SANDWICH $2.25
Your choice of bagel, toasted with cream cheese, tomato and onion.

Rainbow Specials

BELGIAN WAFFLE $2.75
Thick Belgian waffles smothered in strawberry preserves and whipped cream. Add Bacon - .60

SCRAMBLED EGG COMBO $3.09
Scrambled eggs with tomato, onion and pepper served with three strips of bacon and toast.

Brunch

SUNDAY BRUNCH $4.95
Quiche of the day served with sliced melon and fresh fruit, French rolls, and a blueberry muffin. Includes coffee or tea.

Sandwiches

HILLCREST $3.69
Sliced turkey with tomato, onions and lettuce topped with Valencia green chilies and mayo.

VILLAGE VEGGIE $2.89
Bell pepper, lettuce, pickles, onions and topped with tomatoes, sprouts and American cheese with mayo and mustard.

CLUB MIX $3.59
Triple decker sandwich with ham, turkey, American cheese, pickles, onions, tomatoes and fresh lettuce with mayo and mustard.

DUPONT $3.39
Ham and Swiss cheese served with mayo, tomato, onion, lettuce and topped with pineapple.

RITTENHOUSE $3.39
Turkey Pastrami served with lettuce, tomatoes, onions and Philly Cream Cheese.

Salads

CHEF SALAD $3.95
Fresh lettuce covered with your choice of dressing with ham, turkey, cheese, onions, olives, sprouts, peppers and a French roll.

CHINESE ALMOND $3.75
Fresh lettuce covered with sesame dressing and chicken chunks mixed with almonds and chow mien noodles.

GARDEN SALAD $2.69
Fresh lettuce served with your choice of dressing, onions, olives, peppers, sprouts and a French roll.

Soup

SOUP OF THE DAY $2.95
Soup of the day served in a whole wheat bread bowl. Not available on Sunday.

This symbol indicates a bistro specialty.

Rainbow Planet Coffee House & Bistro
606 North 4th Avenue
620-1770