



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

JULY 24, 1996

ISSUE 627

## AIDS Drug Advances Mean Bad News For Life Insurance Twist

NEW YORK, NY (AP) - A business that allows people with AIDS to benefit from their life insurance policies before they're dead faces a severe profit crunch if new drugs can keep patients alive longer.

The companies, known as viatical brokers, collect money from investors and use it to pay terminally ill people a percentage of the value of their life insurance policies.

But advances in AIDS treatments have made it more difficult to assess life expectancy. Now the companies say they may have to pay less and be more choosy about whose policies they buy, favoring sicker people likely to die sooner, in order to keep giving investors 15 percent annual returns.

"The medical and scientific breakthroughs have complicated the issue," said Kenneth Klein, president of National Capital Benefits Corp. in New York, a leading viatical broker.

Stock in National Capital's parent company has dropped 50 percent since a more promising set of anti-AIDS drugs were introduced this winter. Shares of Dignity Partners Inc. in San Francisco have lost 77 percent, prompting Dignity to suspend purchases of new policies of AIDS patients.

AIDS activists are worried, saying viatical settlements are still important because the new drugs are expensive and have severe side effects, and their long term benefits are unproven. Also, patients need the money to stay well.

The companies, which have been reviled as greedy dealers in death and praised as financial saviors for people with

AIDS, get their name from the Latin word, Viaticum, which in the Catholic faith is the sacrament of communion given to the dying. In ancient times, viaticum meant provisions given to those making a long journey.

The industry started in the late 1980's and grew rapidly to include at least 50 companies that bought roughly \$400 million in policies last year.

Typically, a patient with six months to live or less gets 80 percent to 90 percent. Those with a year get about 70 percent to 80 percent and those with two years get 60 percent to 70 percent. Investors pay the premiums until the person dies, then collect on the whole policy.

Early on, disreputable viaticals took advantage of desperate patients, paying them less than 40 percent and sometimes forcing them to pick up a year's worth of premiums. Some disappeared without paying a dime.

Then patients got smarter and competition grew. Customers now often seek bids from three or more viaticals and take the best offer.

The risk for the investors comes when a patient takes longer to die than expect. Then the policy can become a money loser.

Nonetheless, Brian Pardo, chairman of one of the biggest viaticals, Life Partners Inc. in Waco, Texas, predicts the industry will survive.

"I'm predicting a little softening in the market," Pardo said, meaning smaller paybacks to patients. "Obviously, investors are more concerned now."

## Gays Facing Discrimination At Work Urge OK Of Bill To Protect Them

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - Ernest Dillon suffered through years of taunts and insults to keep his job at the post office, even a bloody beating at the hands of a co-worker who assumed he was Gay, he told a House panel.

He finally gave up after another colleague threatened to kill him.

"Fearing yet another violent incident, I went, trembling, to the staff nurse who told me to go home for the day," he said. "I called a therapist who advised me to get help."

Supervisors didn't help and neither did the courts. A final ruling from an appeals court judge said no federal law prohibits the hostility he suffered.

Dillon and four others who have had similar experiences asked a panel of the House Business Committee to pass a

bill that would ban discrimination against homosexuals in the workplace.

"I could not believe that people were allowed to torment you on the job and get away with it," said Dillon. "The discrimination was so intense it had forced me from my job. It just wasn't fair."

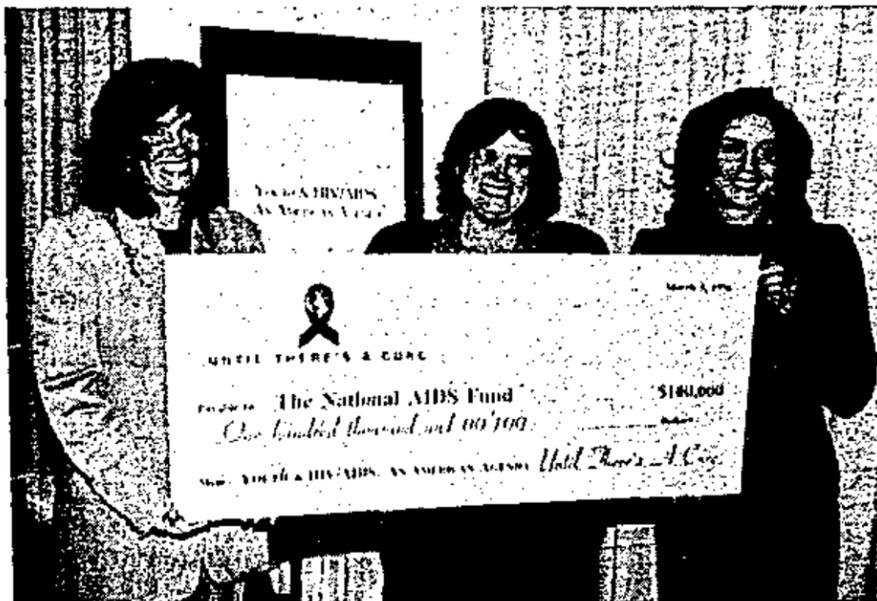
But Rep. Glenn Poshard of Illinois, the subcommittee's highest ranking Democrat, said many fair-minded Americans have legitimate concerns when they argue against outlawing discrimination against Gays.

"I struggle with a faith that teaches me that the homosexual lifestyle is essentially unacceptable and a faith that teaches me at the same time to do justice," said Poshard, who is Baptist.

"If we pass a law preventing

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

## Strong Sales of Bracelet Helps Fight AIDS



NEW YORK, NY - Shown presenting a \$100,000 check to the National AIDS Fund for the White House report, "Youth and HIV/AIDS: An American Agenda" are (l to r) Dana Cappiello, Co-Founder "Until There's A Cure"; Paula Van Ness, President, the National AIDS Fund; and Kathleen Scutchfield, Co-Founder "Until There's A Cure". See related story.

NEW YORK, NY - The Until There's A Cure Foundation is a small grassroots AIDS fund raising organization that raises money from the sale of The AIDS Bracelet.

The Foundation's impact this year has been dramatic, national media and coverage from network news about their story. Behind the coverage, the Foundation keeps its attention focused on the big issue, the challenge of AIDS.

Recently the Foundation unveiled the results of its latest sales efforts when it presented two \$100,000 checks to AIDS organizations committed to vital projects; education and AIDS vaccine development.

For this generation of young Americans, Until There's A Cure innovative education programs to encourage safer behavior, such as the STAR Initiative (Students Teaching AIDS Responsibility). In March of this year the Foundation presented a \$100,000 STAR grant, to the National AIDS Fund. It was one of the largest the Foundation has presented.

The grant to the AIDS Fund was the primary financial support of the White House Report "Youth and HIV/AIDS: An American Agenda." The Report, which was requested by President Clinton, was written and researched by four young people (one of whom is HIV+). The reports expressed the need for innovative AIDS education programs for young people and the importance of encouraging compassion and caring for people living with AIDS.

"The essence of STAR grants is young people reaching out to other young people to prevent the spread of HIV. That's exactly what the White House Report does," noted Patricia Dwyer, Executive Director of Until There's A Cure.

The Foundation also supports AIDS vaccine development, giving grants, such as the \$100,000 grant to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. The Foundation also supported the previous meetings leading up to the conference.

The Until There's A Cure Foundation was founded by Dana Cappiello and Kathleen Scutchfield after their best friend, Anthony Torrieri, died of AIDS in 1992. Both are mothers and entrepreneurs, concerned about the escalating spread of AIDS. Both serve without pay. Founded in 1993, the Foundation is dedicated to raising funds and awareness for AIDS through the AIDS Bracelet, for which they've distributed \$750,000 to HIV/AIDS groups and vaccine development efforts.

For more information about the Bracelet, call 1-800-88-UNTIL.

## Gay Marriage Debate Moves To Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - The congressional war over the subject of Gay marriage has moved to the Senate, where many of the same arguments in the House were repeated.

Senator Edward Kennedy, D-MA, fumed over conservative efforts to push through this bill, labeling it "mean-spirited," "legislative Gay-bashing," and "a thinly disguised example of intolerance."

Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-UT, countered, "I don't know of many issues that are more important," casting aside calls to delay hearing on the Defense of Marriage Act. "There are some values that deserve protection," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWENTY

# UPDATE

## Wingspan Film Festival Needs Volunteers

TUCSON - Wingspan's Film Festival Committee urgently needs volunteers, principally for its fund raising efforts, which have been stalled due to unforeseen difficulties.

The committee is also hoping to find someone to take charge of this work, since the remaining core members are busy with other tasks. All committee members are expected to take responsibility for the success of the festival, and help out wherever they're needed.

Interested persons are invited to attend the next meeting of the committee, July 25, 7 P.M.. For more information call 884-9355.

## Simply Equal Tucson Forms Future Plans

TUCSON - Simply Equal Tucson (SET), Tucson's newest Gay and Lesbian activist group received information about dealing with the increased police activity at the bookstores and parks.

Instead of going through Tucson Police's Internal Affairs office to register a complaint of alleged intimidation or harassment, SET has found out that persons who feel they were allegedly entrapped, harassed or intimidated should call the Mayor and Council offices to register a complaint.

Working through the political avenues available, SET believes that the more complaints from persons that city elected officials hear, the more action taken by them.

Here are the phone numbers of the Tucson Mayor and Council: Mayor - George Miller, 791-4201; Ward 1 - Jose Ibarra, 791-4040; Ward 2 - Janet Marcus, 791-4687; Ward 3 - Michael Crawford, 791-4711; Ward 4 - Shirley Scott, 791-3199; Ward 5 - Steve Leal, 791-4231; Ward 6 - Molly McKasson, 791-4601.

SET is also looking for people to attend the City of Tucson citizen's police academy. For more information call 751-4652.

## Miss Carousel Postponed

TUCSON - Technical problems and conflicting event dates have made it necessary to postpone the "Miss Carousel" (Closet Ball) originally scheduled for July 28, 7 P.M., at the Stonewall/Eagle.

The new date has been set for September 8, at 7 P.M. This not only allows for more time to prepare, but also extends the application dates for contestants to September 1.

Anyone interested in applications or additional information can call Misti Malone at 703-3738 (digital pager).

## Surfing With Cyber-Queers 101, Aug 21

TUCSON - The first of many Internet classes for those who feel they would benefit from a bit of basic know-how about surfing the World Wide Web, will take place August 21, from 7 to 8:30 P.M. at Girlfriends Coffeehouse, 3540 N. Oracle, Suite 126.

Surfing With Cyber Queers 101 will answer questions about the various hardware, software, getting connected, browsers, and the various service providers.

The cost of the class is \$30. To sign up, or for more information, call 624-8792. [See the accompanying story.]

## Womyn's 3rd Friday Final Coffeehouse Aug. 17

TUCSON - Fortys and Better is giving a "Closing" party for a longstanding Tucson tradition, The Womyn's Third Friday Coffeehouse on August 17, from 8 P.M. till ???, at Girlfriends, 3540 N. Oracle, Suite 126.

If you ever attended a Coffeehouse, or even if you ever thought you might, come say good-bye to a Tucson tradition, that mark's its tenth year with this grand finale.

Come sign the guest book. Write of the time you met your partner, fought with ex, or just danced the night away.

Add August 17 to our Coffeehouse memories. [See accompanying story.]

## JODY Awards Honor Dedicated Service

TUCSON - The annual JODY Awards ("The Joy Dedicating Yourself") were held last Sunday, July 21 at the Stonewall/Eagle. The Latino Men's Health Project joined the 1996 JODY Awards to thank the people in our community for making it a better place to live. The evening was an ASO client sponsored evening.

Those honored were Hours, All State Cab, Food for Life, Cornerstone Fellowship, Noemie (El Rio), Cicely d'Autremont, IBT's, Graduate (Richard), St. Mary's Hospice, Sue Egen, Venture-N, Terry Mills, Stonewall/Eagle and The Biz.

JODY was Mistress of Ceremonies who led the group of entertainers who included Ms. Elise Barbara Fox, Ms. Safire Mystique, Ms. Kristen, The Bizzie Bodies, Ms. Diamond Mystique and Miss Gay Tucson America 1996 Felice Renard. Garry Fowlkes was Master of Ceremonies.

## In Memoriam



SID SPENCER

Amethyst recording artist, friend of Tucson's Gay community and our beloved friend, Sid Spencer, was called to begin a new life on the morning of July 17, 1996 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Members of his family and a few friends were with him.

A native Oklahoman, he had recently to Nashville, Tennessee. His final performance was at the Alberta Rockies rodeo on June 29, 1996. He was a champion of Gay rodeo nationwide and performed regularly at many of them. He also performed regularly at many clubs across the country and at events such as Gay Pride Festivals.

Recently named one of the Gay community's most popular performers by the Advocate, Sid had been a regular here in Tucson at many of AGRA's events over the last three years. He often said that Tucson was one of his favorite places to visit and entertain. He had been a feature performer at each AGRA rodeo since 1994. Sid had recorded four albums during his career and was looking forward to singing in Nashville in hopes of securing a recording contract. Many of you will remember his energetic performing style and his ability to charm those who were in his audience.

You may remember, while performing at AGRA's Chile Verde Days two years ago, he graciously accepted a request to participate in AGRA's fund raising effort, called the "Boots and Briefs" auction. This writer, and fan was fortunate to have been in the audience for Sid's last performance. As always he exemplified the dedicated performer and supporter of Gay rodeo that we knew him, in spite of his ill health.

He was aptly known as "The Country Gentleman" and I, for one, never knew him to be anything else. Side, we love you and we'll miss you and we know you're in a better place where you know no pain. Thank you for being you, being there for us and as for those of us who were fortunate enough to know you, we'll never forget you. Until we meet again.

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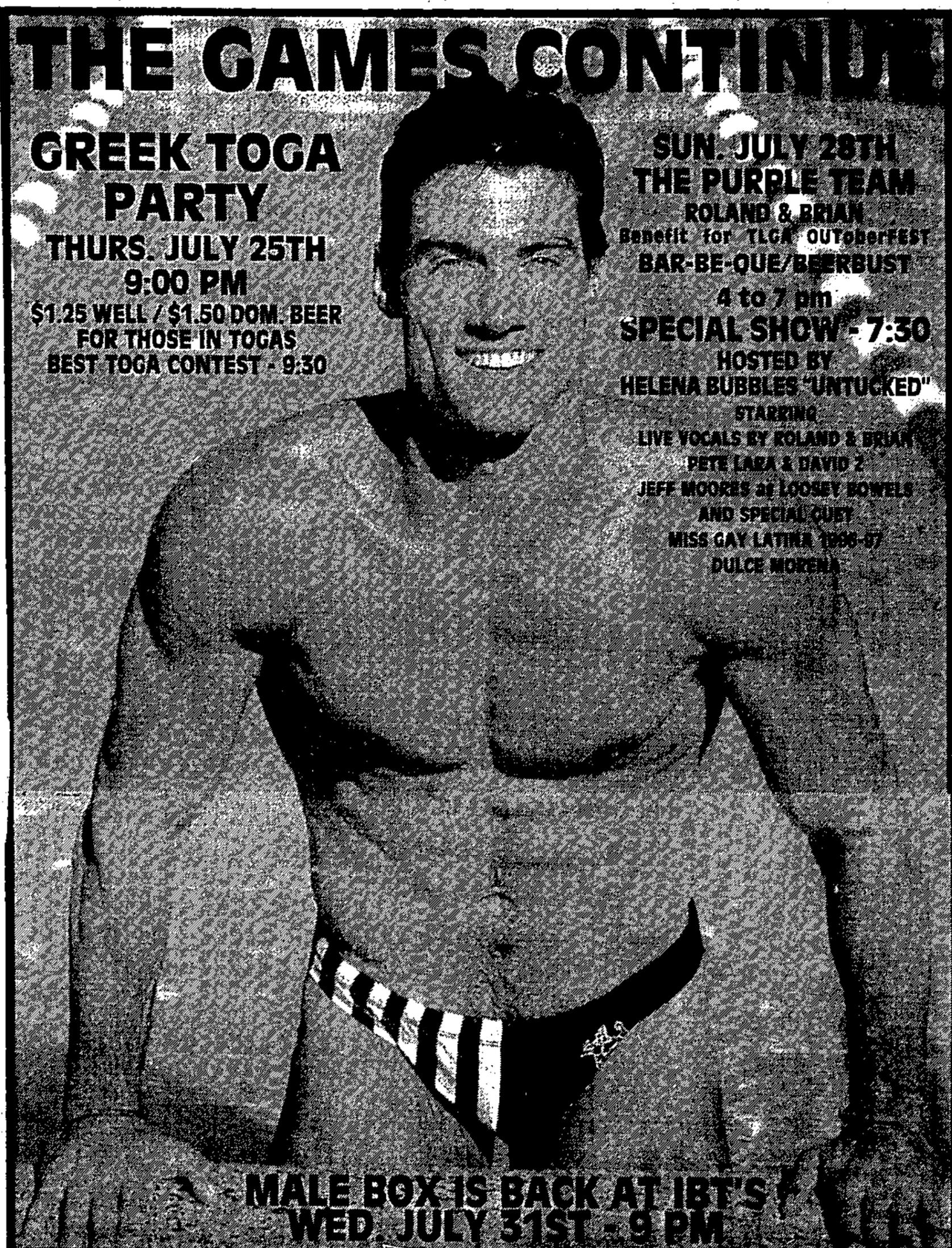
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**A Word From  
Your Pima County AIDS Program**  
by DAVID HOOVER, PCHD AIDS Program Manager



The International AIDS Conference has give us one enormous benefit: hope. For the past fifteen years information about AIDS treatments has resulted in a roller coaster of raised and dashed hopes. Whether it was Compound Q, AZT, or sharks teeth, all came with promises that wouldn't bear the test of time.

Now we have protease inhibitors. Initial studies from the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, and New York University suggest that a combination of AZT, 3TC, and a protease inhibitor such as ritonavir keep the virus from replicating.

Since protease inhibitors have only been in clinical trials for two years and available for general use for four months, many questions remain about how best they should be used. Should they be started early in the life of the virus? Will resistance develop and how can we avoid it? Which protease inhibitor is best for me? Then there is the cost and the ability to juggle 15 pills a day? With all these doubts and questions there is still much to be hopeful about.

Protease inhibitors attack the virus at a different location in the virus than AZT and its cousins. By combining drugs the virus is given a "one-two punch" which results in a drop in viral load and an increase in T-cells, weight, and energy in large numbers of HIV infected people.

I am getting calls from throughout the country about friends who are looking great and feeling better as a result of triple

therapies. Clinical data is weighing in favor of multiple drug regimens. Time will help us understand how to better use these medications.

There has never been a time when it was more important to know you HIV status than right now. Now we have prophylactic treatment (treatment before you get sick) for PCP pneumonik, MAC, CMV and just about every AIDS defining condition. Besides these, we have medications that attack the virus in at least three places. We also have 15 years worth of experience, where we have learned the value of meditation, friends and empowerment as an aid to health. Now more than ever, there is no excuse for not knowing your HIV status.

How sad it would be to have the ability to avoid opportunistic infections and to strengthen the immune system but miss out because of failure to get an HIV test. Knowledge is power. What you don't know can be fatal. Especially if you're a Gay man, it is critical that you know your HIV status.

If you test negative you can take steps to make sure you stay that way. If you test positive you can begin making decisions that will reduce your viral load and enhance the functioning of your immune system. You can also make sure that you get the emotional and spiritual support you need.

Anonymous HIV counseling and testing is available by appointment at the Theresa Lee Clinic and at the Early Intervention Center. You can set up an appointment by calling 791-7676 or 770-1710. HIV isn't a death sentence. We have hope.

[David Hoover is the Program Manager for HIV/STD Services at Pima County Public Health. If you have any questions or concerns he may be reached at the Theresa Lee Clinic, 332 South Freeway, Tucson, AZ 85745]

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TUCSON - According to Observer Cyber-Queer, Annie Schmitt, over 60,000 persons have logged onto the Electronic Observer. On the Observer Home-Page, there is a 'guest book' that people are encouraged to sign in on with their impressions and any thoughts they might have concerning the web page. Here are a few of those that have logged in:

\*\* from a 16-year-old from Mexico City: "I'm a boy gay Mexican... I would like to know people interested in the life gay in Mexico..but, there is a problem, I don't know very well English..then, please write me in Spanish or Italian, I'm a boy very open minded..! So long..!"

\*\* from Albuquerque, NM: "Great to see you're on-line. Now I can read you weekly...You should distribute to the Albuquerque bars!"

\*\* from a 42-year-old Gay male from San Francisco: "Thanks for putting the Observer on-line. I am planning to move to Tucson this Fall or Winter. This way I can check up on what's happening in the community there and learn more before I get there. I visited there this Spring after doing research for a new place to live. Liked it a lot there..climate, culture, the G/L/B/T community. Looking forward to being part of it all. Peace."

\*\* from a 28-year-old Lesbian from Paris, France: "Hi folks! Very nice site indeed. I work as a journalist in a french gay and lesbian press group called Gai Pied. If you feel like it or if you ever need information about the french gay and lesbian life, please contact us."

\*\* from a 51-year-old bisexual: "Love your site and the good work you are doing."

\*\* from a 34 year-old Gay male in Athens, Greece: "I am sending regards to all my friends in the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual community of Tucson and I hope to see them again some time in the future."

\*\* from a 17 year-old Gay male in Tucson: "Kewl page..."

\*\* from a San Francisco Lesbian: "For pet lovers everywhere - Tails of the City (San Francisco) is an on-line pet and pet-related people accessories catalog. Tails of the City t-shirts have just arrived. We also have a "Pride" page so you can outfit  
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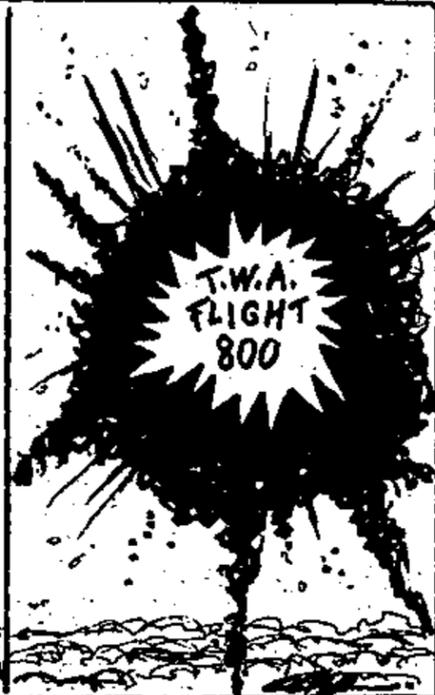
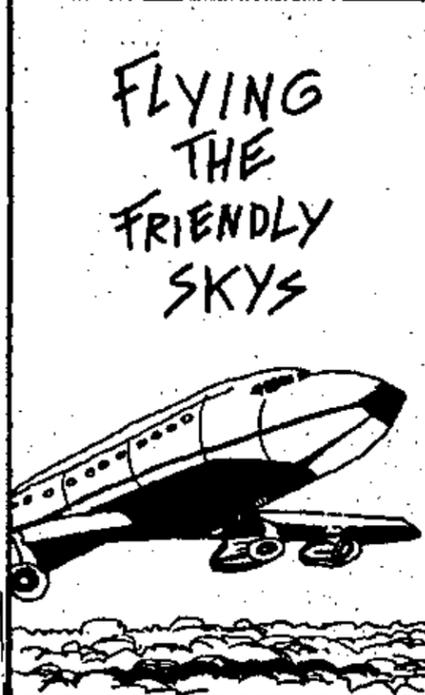
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# Viewpoint

by Fran Westra

## Womyn's Third Friday Coffeehouse

8/15/86 - 8/17/96

We (a small creative group of womyn) began it in 1986 because Ruby's and Colette's were closing. It stayed alive as long as there was a need. I always said the day there were other ways for womyn to meet, network, or just enjoy an evening out in a safe setting the Coffeehouse would close.

Womyn the day is here. There are so many ways for us to get involved, a monthly dance at a church recreation hall is no longer needed, Hallelujah!

Thank you for all the support over the years, for all the love, for all the memories. Especially the memories!

I remember the early days of the Coffeehouse's Open Mike with Martie van der Voort, Jamie Anderson, Anne English, Barbara Mocking, and so many others. I remember our own version of *The Dating Game* with Nancy K., as Vanna White, (yes I know Vanna White doesn't *The Dating Game*, but in our version she did.); the groups that sang Christmas Carols, and the night we danced to the *Desert Rose Country Band*.

I remember the Womyn's Comedy night with Slique Callahan in 1987; the Turkey Baster Skit presented by the Coffeehouse Players, Jamie as the valley girl coed and Martie and me as her mothers Ruth and Naomi, (velcroed at the hip).

So much happened at the Coffeehouse over the years, so many women came out, felt safe, met, broke-up, became friends. We discussed coming out, chronic illness and families. We talked of National Coming Out Day, Feminist Lesbian Activists, Wingspan, and Womyn's land.

The Mother's Support Group started at the Coffeehouse. We heard Gwyn Kirk of the Greenham Common Women. We met Gloria Steinem at a reception held at the Coffeehouse in 1990.



## HOME ON THE RANGE WITH AGRA-TUCSON

by JD WRANGLER

### Rodeo Countdown 227 Days

Howdy all. Another week gone by and whoa! So much space and so little to write, oops, stop, reverse that. So much took place this week, where to start.

July's meetings were held at the Venture-N, and were quite productive. Thanks to the Venture-N for hosting this month's meetings. The August Board and General Membership meetings will be held at the Stonewall-Eagle, August 18, 3 and 5 P.M. respectively.

The Board of Directors and the General Membership has approved a proposal that Terry Delaney has been working on to host the 1998 IGRA convention. Terry will present AGRA-Tucson's bid at this year's IGRA Convention in Omaha, Nebraska this weekend. Everyone is pretty excited about it and hoping for a positive outcome. If things go well, and AGRA-Tucson wins the bid, we'll be able to show what western hospitality really means. Keeps your fingers crossed and a prayer in your heart. Go get'em Terry, the whole organization is behind you.

The Board also appointed Shelly

We saw films and slides. Remember the great exam video?

We attended the concerts of Jamie Anderson, Martie van der Voort and Libby Roderick, to name a few and the biggest Coffeehouse ever, the night in 1989 when over 200 of us were at the Coffeehouse when Alix Dobkin played.

And oh the dancing! First to the D.J. skills of Jeannie Kelley, and then to Sister Jam. Thank you ladies, your music you brought us on the dance floor. Nights of 50's, 60's, and yes disco music. Nights of Country and line dances. Salsa, Rap, Slow, Fast, and always filled with joy.

Who can forget the fund raiser by Judith Weiser, or the incredible music of *Friendly Fire*, live and at the Coffeehouse. Fondly, I think of Carol's Garage Sales and Alien's Craft tables, the potlucks, the game nights, the ping pong games, Yvonne & Liz's decorations, the readings, the poems, the stories (remember my reading from *Fried Green Tomatoes?*), the singing, the laughing, the loving women. I will miss it greatly, I will remember it always.

Thank you for 10 years of the Womyn's Third Friday Coffeehouse. Thanks to all the womyn who bought Season Tickets, gave quiet donations, gave time and gave effort. Thank you to all of you who came month after month after month.

Now come say good-bye. Fortys and Better is giving me a party on August 17, 1996 at Girlfriends, 8 P.M. to close. If you ever attended a Coffeehouse, or even if you ever thought you might, come say good-bye to a Tucson tradition.

Come sign my guest book. Write of the time you met your partner, fought with your ex, or just danced the night away. Add August 17 to our Coffeehouse memories.

O'Brien and Richard Girardi as this year's Rodeo Directors. They will work side by side to have a great rodeo this year. They both bring with them previous experience in this arena and are all psyched up, ready to go.

The General Membership has selected a winner in this year's Rodeo Poster Contest. You will see the 1997 Saguaro Regional Rodeo poster around real soon. Congrats to Pat Terry for her winning entry. She was awarded \$100 for her effort. Pat also donated her prize money to AGRA-Tucson for the poster fund, thanks Pat.

It's time to select this year's Rodeo Grand Marshal. All nominations must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors by the August meeting.

Cindy Chamberlain sent a letter to the Board of Directors announcing her resignation as PR Director. The Board accepted Cindy's resignation and has appointed Darrin Land as interim PR

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PLUG INTO  
THE ENERGY  
OF THE  
COMMUNITY

### WEDNESDAY

2 for 1 Well • 9PM to Close  
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### SATURDAY

\$1.50 Well Drinks • 8 to 10  
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### SUNDAY

BENEFIT BBQ • 4 to 8  
Benefit to send the Grad Team  
to the Gay Games in August

### MONDAY

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9 to Close • \$1.50 Longnecks  
Darts with Natalie • 8:30

### TUESDAY

\$1.50 Well • 9 to Close



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- July 4-7 Whitewater Rvng Sacramento, CA (wo)
- July 7-14 Club Atlantis Manzanillo Mexico, \$699pp... drinks included! (m/w)
- Aug 2-4 Hillcrest Street Fair San Diego, CA (m/w)
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Que tal? saludandoles de nuevo como cada semana, esperando que encuentren en esta columna abierta algo que les interese, y a la vez les agradezco una vez más los buenos comentarios que nos han llegado y seguimos esperando las sugerencias para hacerles de la misma algo entretenida... Queremos aprovechar la ocasión para felicitar a nuestras colegas y amigas; Mtra. Catalina Denman, Antrop. Gilda Salazar, Jill de Zapien e Hilda García por el éxito obtenido en el Seminario de Salud que se llevo a cabo en la ciudad de Tijuana, B.C. el pasado mes; donde se discutieron temas con el objetivo de informar, discutir, y construir un lenguaje común acerca de algunos aspectos analíticos que necesitan ser considerados en la realización de investigación interdisciplinaria y comunitaria en el contexto fronterizo, que están relacionados con la investigación y la acción en género y salud reproductiva... En horabuena!!! Y para continuar con algo en relación a los temas que se trataron en ese seminario, me gustaría compartir con ustedes lo siguiente:

**El SIDA en la mujer - El síndrome de inmunodeficiencia adquirida (sida) es una enfermedad que desde su aparición se catalogó como casi exclusiva de homosexuales masculinos y de adictos a drogas intravenosas. Esto es porque los primeros casos de la enfermedad en efecto se encontraron en estos grupos de riesgo; sin embargo, el número de mujeres infectadas por el virus de inmunodeficiencia humana (VIH) es cada vez mayor. De hecho se ha observado que el incremento en porcentaje de casos de sida en mujeres es mayor que el de casos en hombres. Durante 1990 hubo en Estados Unidos un aumento de 29 por ciento en los casos de sida en población femenina mientras que solo se observó un aumento de 18 por ciento en personas de sexo masculino. De aquí se concluye que**

aunque la prevalencia de casos de sida (es decir, casos ya existentes) es en la actualidad mayor, principalmente en hombres homosexuales y en adictos a drogas intravenosas, mientras la incidencia ( es decir, casos nuevos) es cada vez mayor en las mujeres.

Hasta el momento el hecho de que el mayor número de pacientes con sida sean hombres ha propiciado que exista la mentalidad de las mujeres no contraen el sida. Este es un problema que existe no sólo en la población general sino incluso en distintas comunidades médicas y México no es la excepción. De acuerdo con el Centro de Control de Enfermedades de Atlanta (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés), Estados Unidos, los principales mecanismos de transmisión de VIH en la mujer son el abuso de drogas intravenosas (51 por ciento), la transmisión heterosexual (34 por ciento), por transfusión (8 por ciento), y desconocidos (7 por ciento). En cambio, en México y países de Latinoamérica, la transmisión más común, por cuestiones de educación y de estilo de vida, es la heterosexual

**Tipos de Transmisión - Si se toma en cuenta el tipo de transmisión, es fácil deducir que el grupo de edad más afectado se encuentra en mujeres de edad productiva, económicamente hablando, y reproductiva desde el punto de vista de la gestación, lo cual además favorece un aumento en la frecuencia de casos de sida en niños. Los factores que se conocen favorecen e riesgo de transmisión heterosexual son la presencia de úlceras genitales, parejas no circuncidadas, relaciones sexuales de tipo anal y relaciones sexuales con parejas en etapas avanzadas de la enfermedad. En la búsqueda de otros factores que afecten la transmisión heterosexual se realizó un estudio con 97 parejas de hombres VIH positivos, se les tomaron muestras de secreción vaginal y del cuello uterino para buscar la presencia del VIH y se encontró al virus en 33 por ciento de las muestras de secreción vaginal y 17 por ciento de las muestras de secreción del cuello uterino. Al analizar los factores relacionados con la presencia del VIH, resultó que las mujeres que en su momento tomaban anticonceptivos orales y las que estaban embarazadas tenían con mayor frecuencia el VIH en sus secreciones. Aunque este estudio tiene deficiencias, como el haber efectuado una sola muestra de secreción en cada mujer y no haber investigado cuántas mujeres desarrollaron la enfermedad posteriormente, los resultados sugieren que estos grupos en especial podrían estar asociados con un mayor riesgo de transmisión sexual o incluso de tipo**

vertical - esto es; durante el momento de parto.

La frecuencia de transmisión madre-hijo es aproximadamente de 30 por ciento, la administración de Zidovudina (AZT) durante las últimas semanas de embarazo ha demostrado disminuir el riesgo por esta vía. con respecto a las manifestaciones clínicas del sida en la mujer en general no varían de las observadas en los pacientes del sexo masculino. Al igual que ellos, la manifestación inicial más frecuente es la neumonía por *Pneumocystis carinii* seguida de la afectación del esófago por hongos como la *Candida albicans*, también es frecuente la meningitis por *Cryptococcus*, la tuberculosis, la enfermedad por el citomegalovirus, y el complejo por micobacterias atípicas. Un dato que hace sospechar fuertemente la presencia de deficiencia del sistema inmune es la infección vaginal por *Candida albicans*, resistente al tratamiento. Otro dato interesante es la baja frecuencia de sarcoma de Kaposi. Cuando se llega a presentar esta complicación la evolución es rápida y mortal; además, ocurre más comunmente en mujeres cuyas parejas tienen también sarcoma de Kaposi.

Todavía existe duda acerca si la presencia de cáncer cérvico-uterino es una condición definitoria de sida en la mujer. Se piensa que este cáncer es más común en las pacientes VIH positivas por el hallazgo del virus del papiloma humano (VPH) en el cuello uterino, pues éste puede inducir a las células a transformarse en cancerosas y se encuentra en 70 por ciento de las pacientes con sida; a pesar de este dato, no hay en la actualidad estudios que ayuden a despejar esta incógnita. Con este objetivo, el Grupo Canadiense de Estudio de las Mujeres Infectadas por el VIH inició desde hace un año un proyecto de investigación con 500 mujeres VIH positivas y asintomáticas y 400 mujeres VIH negativas. A todas se les realizan exámenes periódicos para la búsqueda del VPH en secreciones vaginales y del cuello uterino y para detectar la presencia de cáncer cérvico-uterino; los resultados sin embargo estarán disponibles hasta dentro de dos años.

La información acerca de la sobrevida de mujeres con sida no es completamente confiable pues ha sido extraída de estudios realizados en población total con la enfermedad y la mayoría de los sujetos incluidos son del sexo masculino; es además un hecho el que como las mujeres no se realizan la prueba de detección de anticuerpos al VIH

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHTEEN

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Like the military issue in 1993, marriage has suddenly jumped to the top of our so-called "Gay agenda." Despite the range of opinion about the importance of wisdom of fighting for it, the right-wing seizure of the issue has pushed it to the center of our radar screen.

Yet the marriage issue is filled with meaning and potential that begs for more than a simple "pro" or "con" analysis. The debate over marriage illuminates fissures in the body politic and provides an opportunity to examine some normally unquestioned assumptions about society. The debate, in other words, may be as important as the issue itself.



**DR. JOHN D'EMILIO**

First, some background. As recently as ten years ago marriage elicited barely a murmur of interest among us. Instead, a cluster of "family issues" did begin percolating, and by the early 1990's had heated to boiling. These included domestic partnership registration, work place organizing for partnership benefits, and a host of policy matters relating to our right to parent. Marriage ran at the back of the pack.

Then, in 1993, an unexpected court ruling in Hawaii raised the possibility of same-sex marriage there and, because of the Full Faith and Credit clause of the U.S. Constitution, by extension in all 50 states.

Enter the right wing. Having met electoral defeats and court setbacks trying

**PERSPECTIVE....**  
**The Marriage Debate**

by Dr. John D'Emilio

to block protection of our basic civil rights, the right has shifted its line of attack. The pattern was already clear last year. In "Beyond the Beltway," our 1995 survey of state legislation, NGLTF identified family issues as the wedge used by the right to arouse hatred against us.

Marriage is now the heart of their strategy. Through the "Marriage Protection" rally and resolution that circulated in Iowa in February, the bills in 36 states to preemptively strike against developments in Hawaii, and the Defense of Marriage Act in Congress, of which Dole is lead Senate cosponsor, the issue has become a right-wing crusade. From one angle, President Clinton's promise to sign the bill might steal away the political thunder away from the issue, but it also functioned as a slap in the face of our community, and it reinforced the divisive rhetoric of

"traditional family values." His stance may also make it more likely that this extensive piece of homophobic legislation will become law.

Under these circumstances we must respond to the threat at hand. At the same time, we will lose a tremendous political opportunity if we let the right's line of attack shape how we approach our issues. The fastest way of getting to civil marriage for same-sex couples isn't likely to be a straight line. If the issue is relatively new to us, it still seems revolutionary to much of America.

Yet our pressing the issue has opened a fascinating debate. Many journalists, editorial boards, columnists, mainstream elected officials, and ordinary citizens are asking some basic questions: What is marriage actually for? What does it mean to call it the foundation of civilization? What kind of public policies do we need to recognize the same-sex committed relationships that exist in America? What desirable social goals are we trying to foster through marriage, and does same-sex marriage help or hinder that?

Rather than make marriage the litmus test of whether someone is our friend or foe, we can instead productively engage in this debate and shape it to our

purposes. Marriage is only one among a cluster of family issues; the debate about it is really a debate about how a society fosters caring, commitment, and bonds of support among its members. Let's participate in this broad social discussion about family and community, issues that many Americans are struggling with as they look for workable private and public solutions.

Coming out as families and pressing the full range of needs that we have as families are more likely to advance our goals than a single-item plank of marriage.

Rethinking family and community opens possibilities for victories in the short run and creating a more solid foundation for moving on the marriage front in the end.

Of course we need to expend the energy to expose the right-wing's strategy and the dangers of anti-Gay marriage related legislation. But let's not the intensity of their assault sweep us along until we, too, come to believe that marriage is our panacea, that marriage is the issue. A "magic bullet" focus on marriage narrows our opportunities and leaves us standing on the political ground defined by our enemies.

[Dr. John D'Emilio is the director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.]

**NEWS FROM P.A.C.T.**

by Frank E.G. Gallego

The following article is furnished by Anne Malley, Executive Director-Shanti.

Susan Gregory, Shanti's Vice-President and a member of the AIDS Walk Steering Committee, has received two very prestigious awards for her work in the HIV/AIDS community in Tucson. In addition to receiving the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award, Susan was named "Citizen of the Year."

The Tucson's Citizen's "Citizen of the Year Award" is chosen from among the adult/group winners of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award. The J.C. Penney awards go to individuals and groups who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer work in their community. Shanti also received \$1,000 for Susan's volunteer work with us.

For the past four years, Susan has been volunteering 30-40 hours per month with the Shanti Foundation. She and her co-workers at Tucson Electric Power were instrumental in helping Shanti with the renovations of its offices at 300 East Sixth Street. In addition, Susan works tirelessly with the fund raising committee. She's always available to help with all events and is willing and ready to do her part to ensure it's done well.

Susan has given an insurmount-

able amount of time and energy to the AIDS Walk during the past four years. The AIDS Walk has greatly benefitted from Susan's hard work and dedication. The AIDS Walk benefit PACT, Shanti and TAP, and each year it grows both in the number of walkers and in the amount of funds raised for prevention programs and client services. Susan does everything from helping raise the underwriting to setting up the water stations, there is no job too small or big for her.

All of us at PACT, Shanti and TAP congratulate Susan for her work in the fight against AIDS to receive these awards. . . .

I leave you with this in mind, "Love is when each person is more concerned for the other than for one's self." - David Frost

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## THE WHOLE MAN

BY DR. BOB

### How We Block Ourselves

Our ordinary states of consciousness are states of intense (but unconscious) self-blockage. Power Connection Work allows us to get in touch with how we block ourselves, how we deny our full capacity of choice, and thus keep ourselves away from nourishing contact with other people. Here are some major ways we block ourselves.

**1. INTROJECTION.** This is the process of swallowing somebody else's values, attitudes, or ideas whole. When we do this, we have whole lumps of things in us that are not really ours, but someone else's. Then we get confused, and think we have to live up to all these imported ideas, even at the expense of our true interests. For example, a person who is raised in a religion is usually pressured to introject all the teachings of that religion, to swallow them whole without criticizing them, or discriminating among them, as to which are real for him and which are not. Then the person confuses these introjected materials with his own real self, and listens to them as he should really only listen to his natural self. This is a case of someone disowning their power and giving it away to an authority figure. We all do this in many ways. Some of us introject parents, some of us introject lovers, some of us philosophers and psychologists, some of us spiritual teachers. But only your own naturally given body-mind knows what's best for it. To trust that takes faith.

**2. PROJECTION.** This is probably the most common way to limit yourself. Instead of seeing one of your own attributes in yourself, you unconsciously project it onto something in the outside world. Hard as it is to believe, what we emotionally respond to in other people is about 90% projection. Most of what we see in other people is our own stuff that we have a hard time acknowledging as our own. **THIS INCLUDES BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SELF-ATTRIBUTES.**

For example, think of the person you admire the most. Make a list of his/her qualities. Then ask yourself how many of those qualities are not also your own. (Ask a close friend for an honest appraisal.) The uncomfortable news is that it also works for the negative qualities. Think of the person who has upset you most in the recent past. Write down all the things really get your goat about the person, the real essence of what pisses you off. Wait a day or two, then go back to your list and ask yourself humbly whether these attributes aren't also in you. A good method is to ask honestly, is there anybody I know who would say that I have this attribute? If you're open, chances are someone will come right to mind. The task here is to have compassion for yourself, not blame yourself for the "negative" attribute. See if you can forgive yourself, understand yourself, for having that attribute. Whether it's a so-called "positive" or a so-called "negative" attribute, you need to own it as your own activity. Take your power back. Use the five steps of growth to explore the new dimension.

**3. RETROFLECTION.** This is when you do something to yourself because you are uncomfortable doing it to other people. For example, someone who says he "hates himself" should look for who in the outer world he hates, but feels

uncomfortable saying so. This is the mechanism of depression: anger retroflected against oneself. Always listen for the "-self" ending to indicate retroflection: "I discipline myself" (Whom would you like to discipline?), "I stopped myself" (Whom would you like to stop?), "I could kill myself" (Whom would you like to kill?). This nearly always brings something important up to the surface. Not that you should now go out and kill someone, but to consciously own that the impulse exists, so you can discharge it. Often, talking to the person as if they were sitting in an empty chair works wonders. In the empty chair exercise, you can safely voice your "forbidden" desires to kill, stop, or discipline someone. It's important to notice that, in retroflection, you are tying up your energies in a vicious circle, trying to do to yourself what can really only be done to another.

**4. CONFLUENCE.** Confluence means bad boundaries, or no boundaries. For a good interactivity, between people, both must tacitly acknowledge the difference between them. There is a "gap" between people, in that I am not you and you are not I. I can't control your behavior, and you can't control mine. You can't see my thoughts, and I can't see yours. Healthy people take account of this fact, and are a good sport about the gap. They act freely within their own sphere, and allow others their freedom in their sphere. Confluence is the opposite of this, when the two people want to merge, with no boundaries. They feel the way to be close is to for each to lose self. But merging prevents any genuine interaction from taking place. There is instead simply confusion about who is feeling what, and who is doing what to whom. The only antidote is to begin to acknowledge the difference between the two people, so that healthy interaction can take place. Probably the most common example of confluence is when people fall in love too hard, and can't find the difference between them anymore ("the two shall become one flesh"). This quickly leads to a swamp of helplessness and pain.

Through all four of these methods, the self is weakened because of a confusion about where the self begins and where it ends. The free activity of the self is blocked, because some aspect of our free choice is being kept out of consciousness. I falsely believe either that some of my power is in someone else's hands (projection), or that some of theirs is in my hands (introjection). In retroflection, I try to perform some activity on myself that originally belongs to my relationship with another. This is like trying to hit my right hand with my right hand, or kiss my own lips. In confluence, I deny that there are any distinctions at all between my own domain of choice and another person's. It's the most primitive defense of all.

The antidote to these forms of self-blockage is self-awareness. Each time you become aware of some way you block yourself, you have grown in consciousness and freedom, and are therefore stronger to cope with your real life.

[Robert Feldhaus, Ph.D. is an educator for the Gay community. If you'd like to chat with Dr. Bob about this column or his services, please call 623-1732. Email address is bobby@azstarnet.com.]

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**POLITICS**  
1996  
By MARK R. KERR

**"If You're Not Going To Use Your Other Hand, Would You Please Paint The Ceiling Beige!"**

The Defense of Marriage Act, (DOMA), or S.1740 for those of you playing the home game is still sitting before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The committee chair, Senator Orrin Hatch, R-Utah has stated to reporters that he cannot think of a more important issue that needs to be dealt with. So why has the bill been ramrodded through the Senate as it was through "Newt's Domain?"

Could it be from the possible maneuverings by Senator's Kennedy, Leiberman, and Jeffords, who plan to attach the Employment Non-Discrimination Act as an amendment to DOMA. Many legislators say they're against same-sex marriage, but feel people shouldn't be discrimination against in the workplace. It's put up or shut up time!

Gathering dust and languishing before, count-em four committees in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, H.R. 1863, finally received a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Economics. [See accompanying story.]

All the testimony heard by the committee was in favor of the measure. So did they vote? Nope, only hearings were on the schedule! Gee go figure that!

As reported on last week by this reporter, all six of Arizona's representatives in "Newt's Domain" voted in favor of the unconstitutional Defense of Marriage Act, H.R. 3396 for those playing the home game. That's right, Ed Pastor and Jim Kolbe joined with the lunatics to support this god awful piece of tripe.

Pastor's excuse, he's a Democrat and its election time. Can we say scared! Kolbe, with his moderate to liberal record, stated in numerous interviews that he doesn't toe the line with Newt on social issues. So he didn't join openly Gay Republican Rep. Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin and vote against H.R. 3396. He voted with Newt! Questions, we've got questions Jimbo!

We need to tell our representatives that this was wrong, very wrong! Call Pastor's local office at 624-9986, and Kolbe's office at 881-3588 and register your dismay about their vote on DOMA! . . .

The hero of our long-running, Barbara Cartland romance novella, indicted Arizona Governor I. Fife Whitewash III, R-Default City, is facing many problems in this chapter of our sordid story.

This past week, attorney's for creditors in his bankruptcy suit have tried to file more charges against Fiferama in addition to the 23 count federal indictment. Also, a poll released this past week gave the Fiferama a whopping 22% approval rating. Well, it's higher than Bob Dole's approval rating!

Will Rogers once said, "I don't belong to any organized political party, I'm a Democrat." Well, if Will saw the Arizona Democratic party, he turn over in his grave!

This past week, a memo was sent out from the state party chair, Sam "Ward" Coppersmith to delegates which stated that delegates should toe the line and support the presidential ticket, no fighting over the platform, let the platform committee deal with that, show that Arizona Democrats are "moderate, mainstream Americans," and be very careful (Just say no comment!) about what they say to the media, when asked questions.

Right, the Democratic convention will be the dullest, most scripted infomercial during this long political campaign. Everything will be settled and the most minute detail will be covered. Can we say had copy! What, everyone act and behave like Ward and June Cleaver! You've got to be kidding, Democrats express themselves. Republicans sit their like lemmings! Yes, they make a movie about this, entitled "The Stepford Delegates." . . .

As first reported on here in this column, former Phoenix Republican State Rep. Margaret Updike continues her run as a Democrat for her old seat, one of which occupied by her hubby, Bobby, and the other by our hero, openly Gay Rep. Ken Chevront (D).

Well, according to Melodee Jackson of the Arizona Democratic party, Updike still hasn't been in contact with any Democratic headquarters.

Plus, Maggie has gone to the unions asking for money. Kids, she stated to consider her record. A Republican, pro-right to work, anti-union, pro-business getting support from labor? Questions, you bet we've got questions! . . .

Tucson State Rep. Phil Hubbard, D-District 10; one of the many Democrats who abandoned us and voted for the State DOMA; announced this past week, during the legislative special session that he wasn't going to run after all for another term. Really!

Hubbard stated, with the birth of his child he need's to concentrate on his family. Hubbard, who last year tried to get lobbyist to pay for a speeding ticket, and pay the bill for his wedding isn't running.

So why did he go through the process, getting signatures, etcetera? Put on that ABBA record, "Money, money, money!" and bow your head in tribute! Phil and Carmen, a.k.a. "The Fruitcake Lady" are going! They made such good copy! . . .

Reported on in this column last week was the floating addresses of Democratic County Attorney candidate, Rick Gonzales. The answer was a divorce action filed in September of last year, by Rick against his wife, Julie.

The divorce never materialized, the action is in the inactive file. This reporter asked election officials about the validity of petitions which list two addresses. Needless to say, "Something smells fishy in Denmark!"

So did his challenger, Democrat . . .  
CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHTEEN

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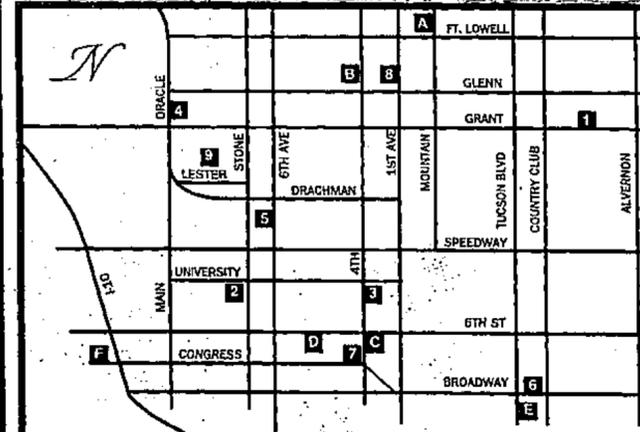
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DEAR EDITOR:

Regarding the Gay Vote, 1996.

Notwithstanding all the "cool headed rhetoric" about voting for Clinton to avoid another conservative appointment the Supreme Court, and about Clinton doing more than any other President for Gay issues, I wonder if the so-called Gay vote, left and right, might be better served by staying home or voting third party in 1996, for the better message it would send to politicians about family and individual values and human dignity.

However, if you believe the so-called Gay community should be made the Sister Soldier of 1996, by Clinton, Inc., over the issue of same sex marriages, then perhaps you will find William Jefferson Clinton the cats patootie in 1996. Clinton will win without the Gay vote, so why not take the opportunity to tell politicians that family values and human dignity aren't political chips to be toyed with in America. Hum?

Rand Knox,  
San Rafael, Ca

DEAR EDITOR:

A special thanks from Jody.

Jody sends a special thank you to everyone that helped make this years J.O.D.Y. awards a success. This year's J.O.D.Y. awards was held Sunday, July 21, at the Stonewall/Eagle.

Jody sends a very special thank you to Jeff of the Stonewall for letting us use the club. We are looking forward to seeing all of you next year.

Hugs & Kisses, Jody

DEAR EDITOR:

I am relatively new to Tucson, and was treated to my first local drag show recently at The Plug.

Originally I found out the cast had four members, two dropped out at the last minute leaving two to run the entire show.

Well, the two, Alotta Whoremones and Eric Hemphill carried off the show beautifully!

I was absolutely blown away by the power and emotion of Eric Hemphill's voice. It flows richly from his throat like hot caramel and caresses the ear of the listener. His versatility and vocal range are astonishing and flawless. He's clearly the best vocalist in this city. I haven't heard any other live vocalists in Tucson; I don't have to.

Alotta was funny, witty, and working hard for the audience, which at some points, was quite disinterested in the show. These shows aren't background noise, and the performers need more respect and attention.

I wanted to commend these two performers for a show well done!

Sincerely, Dan McKay

DEAR EDITOR:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the informative columns written by Dr. Eleazar Garcia.

I am a 33-year-old anglo male,

and a senior pharmacy student at the University of Arizona. I am primarily English-speaking at this point, but do speak some Spanish and have a desire to become a bilingual health professional. Dr. Garcia's columns are helpful to me because they offer me both informative health information as well as a chance to practice my reading and understanding of the Spanish language.

In addition, I feel it to be very important for the Spanish-speaking members of our community to have this discrete forum in which they can receive pertinent and accurate health information.

I believe that sometimes, because of cultural taboos, many Hispanics are reluctant to ask questions or talk about sensitive issues such as HIV infection, safer sex practices, etc., It is for this reason in particular that the Spanish column is such a needed service for the community.

I would like to suggest that Dr. Garcia be allowed more space for his column, even a full page if he has enough content to fill it. The service to our Hispanic community (and wanna-be Spanish speakers like myself) will be invaluable.

Thanks again for producing such a popular newspaper over the years.

Sincerely, Scott D. Harrington



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## A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

No matter how hard you try, you just can't mix green and yellow to produce blue! That may be an obvious statement to you, but it wasn't to me!

Over the weekend we had a party, and I decided that I wanted to have our fountain flowing with blue water, rather than clear. I had seen that effect in a store somewhere and thought it looked rather elegant. There was just one hitch, we had no blue food coloring. We had red and green and yellow, two bottles of yellow, but no blue. No problem, I thought. After all, it's easy to mix green and yellow I used, the water never turned blue! I really, sincerely believed that it would work, and I had a good motive, I wanted to entertain our guests with a little something out of the ordinary, but it just didn't work!

How foolish I felt as I was explaining my problem to one of guests and suddenly realized that the proper formula is to mix blue and yellow to produce green!

There are some absolutes in life that are unchangeable. It didn't matter that I truly believed that mixing green and yellow would make blue. It didn't matter that I tried for quite some time to achieve the result I desired, using various combinations of those two colors. It didn't even matter that I was doing this, not for myself, but for someone else, for the pleasure of our guests. None of those things mattered, because a law of optics says that it's impossible to produce blue from green and yellow.

Jesus stated another absolute in

life when he said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father (God) except through me." (John 14:6) When I was taking some Bible classes some years ago I was taught that the little words in Scripture are very important. One of the more important words in this passage is the word "the." Jesus did not say, "I am a way," he said, "I am the way." This little word "the" indicates exclusivity. It means the only way, not just one of several ways, not just a way for certain people, but the one and only way to get to God the father.

It doesn't matter how much you may disagree with his statement. It makes no difference how much you believe in another way to God. It is irrelevant how hard you try to get to God through your good works, or through your good life or by trying to keep the Ten Commandments. It doesn't even matter how sincere you are in believing something other than what Jesus said. You may try all your life to get to God by another means than through his son, Jesus, but just like I was frustrated in my attempt to make green and yellow make blue, so you too will come to the end of your life without having achieved your goal.

When I finally realized the mistake I had made in trying to produce blue from green and yellow, I felt very foolish, but my mistake made no lasting difference in my life. However, if you are making the mistake of thinking you can get to God by any way other than through Jesus, your mistake will cost you your eternal home in Heaven! Don't make that mistake! Believe in Jesus today!

## Mist From The Water Of Life

by Pastor Nita

News From MCC Tucson

Dear friends and family, another week has past and here I am again. There are a couple of items that I need to clear up before continuing with this article.

First, the memorial service for Larry Owens has been put on hold and maybe canceled completely, at the family's request. Second, as many of you know, Mark Elans left this earth last week. As his sister will be out of town for at least another week, his memorial service will be scheduled when possible. We intend to make it so that the announcement will be in The Observer at least the Wednesday before or ten days before the service. This is to allow as many as possible, of this community, to come and give final respects not only to Mark, but to all who mourn his death.

I hope that more of you will come to the worship services and social events sponsored by the church. Come and see for yourself the love and caring that we share. We'll be scheduling a variety of things on the property, 3269 North Mountain Avenue, and others away from the church property.

We're already planning for the OUToberFEST '96. I hope to see many of you there as we'll have a food booth with information pamphlets that let you know what the Bible really says, not what we've been told by those who are afraid of that they don't understand. If you have questions about what the Bible says about the Gay/Lesbian community, you don't have to wait for October. You can call or come by the church and pick up some information that will enlighten you. And with enlightenment, a sense of peace about whom you are, one of God's sweet children.

I do hope that my article last week, coupled with my front page interview in the Saturday, July 13 issue of The Tucson Citizen, didn't offend anyone. Every once in a while I get my ire up and take it out in print and voice. As a member of this community and one of the religious leaders, I have an obligation to speak out against inequality, the denial of our rights to liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We're not asking to be added to the affirmative action groups, only to have equal rights, under the law. We must keep a united front and make our voices and letters and votes be heard and counted. We must show that we're a people to be reckoned with and we won't be silenced!

Okay, off that soap box for now. I will close out for this week. I hope to be kind to yourselves and others. You'll truly find peace and a sense of well-being as you do. I'll be back next week.

**CALL FOR WRITERS**  
 The Lambda 10 Project needs the personal stories and experiences of being gay in a fraternity from gay fraternity men.  
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 Anti-Harassment Programs  
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## Tucson United Against Domestic Violence



Take Lesbian and Gay domestic violence seriously  
 Call for Help

- Help On Call 323-9373 24-hour crisis line (se habla español).
- Brewster Center 622-6437 24-hour crisis line and shelter; outreach counseling 881-7201 (se habla español); for women, children and men.
- Tucson Centers for Women and Children 795-4266 24-hour crisis line, shelter, and outreach counseling (se habla español); for women and children.
- Assistance to Victims of Abuse (AVA) 795-4880 24-hour crisis line, shelter, and outreach counseling; for women and children.
- Tucson Rape Crisis Center 327-7273 24-hour crisis line; counseling 327-1171; for children, adolescents, men, women, couples and families.
- Pima County Victim Witness Program 740-5525 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; call 911 after hours; 24-hour on-site counseling for crime victims (se habla español).

# CALENDAR of upcoming events

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

IBT'S - 9:00 "THE GIRLIE SHOW" featuring Lucinda Holliday, Aja Simone, Belinda DeVilland and special guest Adriano Alexander.

## THURSDAY, JULY 25

IBT'S - The games continue! Greek Toga Party to honor the original Olympics. \$100 first place prize for Best Toga! 9:00 p.m. \$1.25 well \$1.50 domestic beer for those in Toga.

PLUG - Miami Salsa Show and Dance Party with Hostess Christina de Alexis.

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 27 & 28

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Christmas In July Party, More later!

## SATURDAY, JULY 27

GRADUATE - Double Elimination Pool Tournament, 2:00 p.m. Last chance to qualify for the Tournament of Champions coming in August.

VENTURE-N - Beer Bust to benefit the Pet Watch, Inc.

## SUNDAY, JULY 28

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - The Biz is proud to present "La Onda De Tucson". They will play live Tex-Mex from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The cover is only \$3.00. This band will rock the house. Come out and enjoy the music. \$1.25 pitchers 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.

IBT'S - Purple Team - Roland and Brian - Benefit Bar-b-que and Beer Bust 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Special show fundraiser 7:30 p.m. for TLGA OUTDOOR FEST Picnic. Hosted by Helena Bubbles "Untucked" starring live vocals by Roland and Brian, Pete Lara and David Z with Jeff Moores as Lessey Bowles and special guest Miss Gay Latina, Dulce Morena. Mark your calendars.

PLUG - Benefit Bar-B-Que and Beer Bust for the Graduate team to travel to Minneapolis for the Gay softball world series.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. Male Box Nite is back at IBT's. Meet that someone special, play post office.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

PLUG - Miami Salsa Show and Dance Party with Hostess Christina de Alexis.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

GRADUATE - Pool Tournament of Champions. Watch for upcoming ads.

VENTURE-N - Wet 'N Wild Party with "Moooo-Mania III" a fundraiser for the Desert Leathermen Condom Fund. (Water balloons, water guns, even the hose. Use your imagination!

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

The Annual "Roast and Toast..." to benefit the National MPS Society. You won't want to miss this one! Avra Diamond will be on the receiving end this time. Mark this date on your calendar. For more info call 747-7426.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Miss Carousel Ball 7:00 p.m. Watch for more details.

# Non-Bar CALENDAR

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Girlfriends Coffee House and Book Store, 3540 N. Oracle, Suite 126, Movie Night. "Meeting Magdalena" 8:00 p.m. \$2.00

## THURSDAY, JULY 25

Cronies Social Club Mid-Month dinner at Old Times Cafe, 1485 W. Prince Road at 6:30 p.m. Call Richard at 578-0640 RSVP.

GIRLFRIENDS - 7:00 P.M., Game Nite, 40's and better card night.

GTV - All-Live Gay cablecast program #22 of this season begins at 8:00 p.m. on Tucson Cablevision channel 64 (or for cable ready TV's try channel 56). If you would like to participate in the audience be at the studio at 124 E. Broadway by 7:45 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JULY 26

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Pizza party at Bob's house. Bring \$3.00 to help cover the cost of pizzas. It is important to call Bob at 623-1732 for reservations. Guests always welcome.

## SATURDAY, JULY 27

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Board game night. All sorts of games available with easy learning for beginners. A nice way to meet your MSN brothers. Call Denis at 321-1559 for reservations and directions. Guests welcome.

## SUNDAY, JULY 28

Girlfriends Coffee House and Book Store, 3540 N. Oracle, Suite 126, Jam Night, 8:00 to ??? No Cover.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 4 p.m. Triangle Tribe, a support group using communication and relationship skills towards developing feelings of trust, love, acceptance and brotherhood. Call Tom at 318-1650. Guests welcome.

## TUESDAY, JULY 30

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages). 7 p.m. Favorite video film night. "The China Syndrome". This 1979 film stars Jane Fonda, Jack Lemmon, and Michael Douglas who are caught up in a nuclear accident cover-up. Call Les at 690-9565 for reservations and directions. Guests always welcome.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

Cronies Social Club "Classic Oldies" movie night at Leo's. 7:00 p.m. "Rain" a '30s flick starring Joan Crawford will be shown. Call Leo 624-6768 for directions and RSVP.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

The next "Roast and Toast" to benefit the National MPS Society. You won't want to miss this one! Mark this date on your calendar. For more info call 747-7426.

## MONDAY, AUGUST 5

Girlfriends Coffee House and Book Store, 3540 N. Oracle, Suite 126, new open Mondays from Noon until 11:00 p.m. Stop by 7 days a week!

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

GTV - All-Live Gay cablecast program #22 of this season begins at 8:00 p.m. on Tucson Cablevision channel 64 (or for cable ready TV's try channel 56). If you would like to participate in the audience be at the studio at 124 E. Broadway by 7:45 p.m.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Community Business Association, Tucson's Gay Business network is holding a trade fair of Gay and Lesbian products and services at 8:00 p.m. in the Bonzai Boojum Room of the Double Tree Hotel, 445 S. Alverton. There will be entertainment by Desert Voices, door prizes and a no host bar. Featured speaker for the evening will be Tucson Mayor George Miller. There is a \$2.00 donation to benefit CBA. (Admission is free to CBA members). All members of the Tucson Gay/Lesbian community should take advantage of this opportunity to

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# Tucson CALENDAR

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, \$1.25 pitchers. Balsa Sunday! Great music, better dancing and it all begins at 8pm.  
GRADUATE - Happy Hour 4-6 pm all well \$1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢  
HOURS - Moody Marys and Screws \$1.25 w/ 7 pm. Country/Western dance instruction 8-9 pm. Country Dance Music 8 to 1.  
IBT'S - Open Noon to 1 am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm, \$1.50 domestic beer and well. Benefit 8-9-2 and Beer Bust for community organizations 5-7:30pm. Hi energy dancing 8pm to close.  
PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-6pm. BBQ 'Deluxe' with Brian & Michael 4-7pm. 50¢ Beer Bust 4-6.  
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Pool tournament 3pm. Bar-B-Que and Beer Bust Stonewall opens at 6pm with High Energy Music.  
VENTURE-N - Open 10 a.m. Backside Beer Bust 3-6pm 50¢ draft. 301 Dart Tournament 6pm \$3 entry fee. Bert Burgers 5-7, Tuff Staff Teal 4-11pm.

## monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour 2-7 2for1 well and domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Karaoke 8 to 1 am.  
GRADUATE - Open Sun. Happy Hour 4-6pm all well \$1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢ Bring in your VHS movie and they'll play it. (No porno please!)  
HOURS - Open Noon. Happy Hour 12 to 7pm - Well and Domestic Beer \$1.25. 50¢ Draft Beer 7 to close.  
IBT'S - Open noon. Happy Hour 4-6pm, \$1.50 domestic beer and well. 8pm to midnight, \$1.50 32oz pitchers. Retra 80s with DJ Jonathan 9pm-1am.  
PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 6pm. \$1 schnapps all the time. Campy movies with Meese 8pm. Dart Tournament 8:30pm. \$1.50 Longnecks 9pm-close.  
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7:00pm. Party with Brian. Longneck Specials all day & nite. Stonewall opens 9pm NHMG Dance Music. Party with Stephen.  
VENTURE-N - Open Sun. Draft Beer 75¢ 6am - 6pm. Happy Hour Prices 6am - 6pm.

## tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7 2for1 well and domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Karaoke 8pm to close.  
GRADUATE - Open Sun. Happy Hour 4-6pm all well \$1.25, Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢  
HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Schnapps 75¢ 7pm to close  
IBT'S - Open noon. Happy Hour 4-8 pm, \$1.50 domestic beer & well. 9 pm to close Tattoe Tuesday. \$1.25 well and \$1.50 domestic beer for those showing their tattoos. Prizes and surprises.  
PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 6pm. \$1.75 well 8pm to close.  
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7pm. Stonewall opens at 6pm with Latin Music Party.  
VENTURE-N - Open Sun to 1am. Draft Beer 75¢ 6am - 6pm. Happy Hour prices 6am - 6pm.

## wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7. 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Boogie Night. Music from 70s & 80s from 8:00. Beer Bust 7-11pm - \$1.25 pitchers.  
GRADUATE - Open Sun. Happy Hour 4-6pm all well \$1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢. 301 Dart Tourney 7:30 p.m. Singles \$3 entry. Put matched. Double elimination.  
HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm. Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. 80¢ off all call drinks 7 to close.  
IBT'S - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour 4 to 6pm, \$1.50 domestic beer & well. Shows alternating Wednesdays with Male Box Nite. \$1.50 Bud Product Special 9 pm to close. (Specials do not apply during shows)  
PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 6pm. 2 for 1 Well 8pm-1am.  
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7pm. Stonewall opens at 6pm. Corvex and Corvex Gold \$1.50  
VENTURE-N - Open Sun Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-6pm. Corvex Gold \$2 all day/night. Happy Hour Prices 6am-6pm. Backside open 6pm-close. Tuff Staff Teal open 8:30pm.

## thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Karaoke 8pm to close.  
GRADUATE - Open Sun. Happy Hour 4-6pm all well \$1.25 Draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢  
HOURS - Happy Hour 12 to 7pm. Well or Domestic Beer \$1.25. Hahaheh or Corvex \$2.00 8pm to 1am. Country/Western dancing 8 to 1.  
IBT'S - Open noon to 1am. Happy Hour 4-8 pm \$1.50 domestic beer and well. Underwear Nite 10 to 1 - win a pair of Calvin Klein underwear. \$1.25 Well and \$1.50 Domestic Beer to those in their underwear. Hi energy dancing 8pm-close.  
PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 6pm. \$1.75 Corvex and Corvex from 8 to 1.  
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour 12pm-7pm. Peter specials all night long. Stonewall opens 9pm with hot male strippers from Phoenix.  
VENTURE-N - Open Sun Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-6pm. Pool Tournament 7pm \$3 entry fee. Happy Hour prices for Men in Leather 8pm to close. Backside open 6pm-close. Tuff Staff Teal open 8:30pm

## friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7, 2for1 well or domestic beer. Free pool 2-4. Complimentary Hors D'Oeuvres  
GRADUATE - Open Sun. Happy Hour 4-6pm, all well \$1.25 draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢  
HOURS - Happy Hour 12-7pm well or domestic beer \$1.25. Country Western Music 8-1 am.  
IBT'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-6pm \$1.50 domestic beer and well. Pubic Bar with Lessey 9-1. Bunco Party 8 to 1 with DJ David Z.  
PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 6pm with Corvex. \$1 schnapps all the time. \$1 Domestic Long Necks 8-10pm. Bunco music with Dave from Phoenix at 9pm.  
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour noon-7pm; Hot Hors d'Oeuvres 8pm. Stonewall opens 9pm. Hair Stonewall T-Shirt and get happy hour prices all evening long.  
VENTURE-N - Open Sun. Draft Beer 75¢ 6am-6pm. Happy Hour Prices 6am-6pm. Backsideopen 6pm-close. Tuff Staff Teal opens at 8:30 pm.

## saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Pool Tournament 8 pm. Put matched, 1st: 70%, 2nd: 30%, 3rd: 10%.  
GRADUATE - Open Sun. Happy Hour 4-6pm, all well draft \$1.25 draft 75¢ Schnapps 75¢. Pool Tournament 2pm, \$3 entry fee, put matched.  
HOURS - Open Noon. Strawberry & Banana Delights, Pina Colada \$3. Country/Western Music 8-1.  
IBT'S - Open Noon to 1am. Happy Hour noon to 6pm \$1.50 domestic beer and \$1.25 well. Pubic Bar with Lessey 9-1. Bunco 8 to 1 with DJ David Z.  
PLUG - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 to 6pm. Free Pool noon to 6pm. On 3 tables. \$1.50 Well 8-10pm. Bunco music with Dave from Phoenix at 9pm.  
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Happy Hour Noon to 7pm Free pool Saturday afternoon. Stonewall opens 9pm with High Energy Music.  
VENTURE-N - Open Sun. Bunco & Bagels w/81 Moody Marys Sun-morn. Happy Hour Prices 6am-6pm. Backside open 6pm-close. Tuff Staff Teal opens at 8:30pm.

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# SPORTS



## Summer Coyotes No-Tap Bowling League

	W	L	Pins
3 Queens/King	18	6	14316
Hot Dingers!	17	7	15657
Go-Girl's	12	12	14675
Red X's	11	13	15075
The Squealers	11	13	14635
Ah-So!	7	13	11903
Boobs & Tubes	7	17	14557

Average: Mark K., 230; Hot Dingers!, 815. Series: Mark K., 833; Hot Dingers!, 2751. Game: Brian P., 320; Red X's, 1041.

## Summer Lambda Lizards Bowling League

	Won	Lost	Pins
Seven	20.0	5.0	2320
Jam It Hard!	14.5	10.5	3806
Carboyz	13.0	12.0	2438
Bar Bitches	12.0	13.0	2934
Lil Darlings	12.0	13.0	3134
Court Jesters	12.0	13.0	3154
Ab Fab	9.0	16.0	3035

Average: Jam It Hard!, 190. Series Scratch: Jam It Hard!, 781. Game Scratch: Jam It Hard!, 236. Game HC: Bar Bitches, 256. Series HC: Carboyz, 878.

## T.G.S.A. Tucson Greater Softball Association

TUCSON - The Graduate softball team will be representing the Tucson Greater Softball Association (TGSA) at the Softball World Series in Minneapolis, MN, August 20-24.

The team has scheduled fund raisers in an effort to help defray the costs to go to this high competitive tournament. The World Series features over 100 men's and women's teams from across the U.S. and Canada.

The fund raising events schedule is as follows: Saturday, July 27, Car Wash at the Stonewall/Eagle, 1 P.M., \$3 donation. Sunday, July 28, Beer Bust & Cookout at The Plug, from 4 to 7 P.M. Saturday, August 3, Turnabout Show at IBT's, 4:30 to 7 P.M. Prizes will be raffled off, with some ball players participating in this fun event, first in street clothes, then transformed into the opposite sex. Lot's of fun!

A fund raising softball game will be held on Sunday, August 4, details in next week's Observer. Please come and support the Graduate softball team on its way to Minneapolis!

TGSA would also like to express their thanks to Dave & Frank at The Graduate for the Beer Bust & Benefit Show. Also, TGSA wishes to thank Brian at The Plug for the car wash fund raiser this past weekend.

## Shootin' Around Town by Wayne Steele

TUCSON - Here are the results of the most recent pool tournaments held in the Old Pueblo.

Stonewall/Eagle. \$100 pot. First Place - M.K., \$50. Second Place - Charles GL, \$30. Third Place - Larry LL - \$20.



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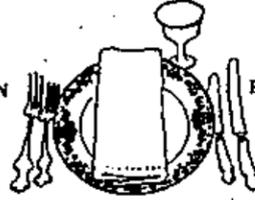


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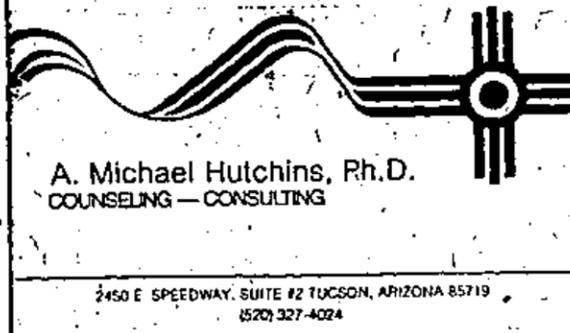


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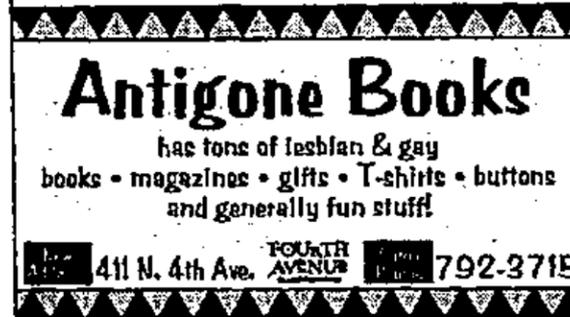
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The magnificent Sun changes signs this week, moving from sensitive Cancer to bold Leo. Our personal mission take on a new, assertive affirming energy and why not? But wait, there's more: Even now, as we begin to feel our personal oats, surprising Uranus opposes the Sun, sparking shocking events that catapult us to greater heights (or depths). Hang on kids, it's going to be a bumpy ride, but an interesting one too.

**ARIES**

**MARCH 21 - APRIL 20**

It's all fund and games for queer Rams. Sun in dramatic Leo heightens creative pastimes. Expect the unexpected and do things in moderation (look who I'm talking to . . .). The face off between the Sun and Uranus can lead you to one (or five) drinks too many and an urge to gamble the farm on dubious risks or for the love of friends. On the other hand, it could also provide the spark of creative genius that you often lack.

**TAURUS**

**APRIL 21 - MAY 21**

Queer Bulls are drawn to home issues with Sun in Leo. Home, relatives and security all come into play. Who said life is dull? The Sun/Uranus aspect throws all these components into the fore and tosses in career issues to boot. It could be something like relocation or having your entire family meet your boss. Will you come out to Mom and Dad? It can be celebration or angst, but what should you care? Live free and affirmed!

**GEMINI**

**MAY 22 - JUNE 21**

Pink Twins are chatty folks. Now with the Sun in Leo, your banter canters. Communication become paramount to your free expression and personal mission. This is great as long as you remember the potential effects of the Sun/Uranus opposition. You'll be tempted to "energize" your surroundings. Do I smell rebellion? So be it. But be prepared to pick of the pieces of your little tantrum next week.

**CANCER**

**JUNE 22 - JULY 23**

Pink Crabs should plan for retirement with Sun in Leo. Will you have enough? The Sun/Uranus opposition may spark some impatience with the pace and amount of your savings. Remember that the grass is always greener, dear friend, so don't reprimand yourself for expensive times past or deny yourself some fabulous future temptations. The idea is to invest properly as well as enjoy the niceties of life.

**LEO**

**JULY 24 - AUGUST 23**

The Sun in your own sign gives all proud Lions the opportunity to enjoy their birthdays as the roaring center of attention. Strut and fret your month on stage cousin and gather in the accolades. Keep in mind that the Uranus/Sun opposition urges you get out of your old skin and emerge new and refreshed. You can shed your earthly trappings but the real change must occur internally for it to have any long lasting impact.

**VIRGO**

**AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23**

Prim, conservative pink Virgos feel mystical and other worldly with the Sun in Leo. Maybe it's because you have found your mantra by volunteering for a good Gay cause. Proud Virgins always feel at one with a serviceable charity but now the Sun/Uranus opposition brings a "roll up your sleeves" liveliness to the effort. The results: Possible changes in the working patterns of your job or a cleaning out of your closet once and for all. Amen!

**THE HOROSCOPES**

**LIBRA**

**SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23**

The Sun in Leo brightens friendships and group camaraderies. This jolly harmony loses a bit of steam though when the Sun opposes Uranus. Gay Libras may have a irresistible urge to tip the scales in the social order and welcome a new group of party hearty, devil may care pals to the mix. Have fun but don't dump the old crowd. If those wild dancin' feet can't wait, but some foot powder.

**SCORPIO**

**OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22**

Career prospects take off like a bat out of hell for all queer Scorps with a game plan. Allow the Sun in Leo to provide insight into the political maelstrom, then make your mark. But the Sun/Uranus opposition entangles career struggles with home issues. It could mean that you'll use a big raise to but new fabulous digs you really can't afford or you'll accept the opportunity to run the Moscow office.

**SAGITTARIUS**

**NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22**

The world is served to you on a platter when the Sun enters Leo. Feast and enjoy, dear queer Archer. It's time to explore vast international opportunities and enjoyments. The interesting thing about the Sun/Uranus opposition is that it may encourage you to cruise the Internet and create a forum for your more insightful and explosive ideas. Lucky fellow traveler, you can explore the exotic and gab at the same time!

**CAPRICORN**

**DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20**

Gay Caps feel warm and tingly when the Sun enters lusty Leo. Sex and intimate merging seem to hit the spot and create a harmony within you. That's the good part. The challenge comes when the Sun opposes Uranus and goads you to greater acts. That's fine if you enjoy being strung up by your patoots but it could become much too much for conservative Goats. Poor dears, try some Spanish fly instead.

**AQUARIUS**

**JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19**

Brave Aquerians will face themselves in the mirror when the Sun enters Leo and then opposes Uranus. The secret throughout this transit is to balance your needs with the needs of partners. With Uranus in your own sign, the urge to boss the course may be almost overwhelming with surprising results. "I need to find myself," you scream. Try looking in another person's eyes.

**PISCES**

**FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20**

Pink Fish can finally feel more at ease on the job thanks to the glorious Sun in Leo. But no sooner do you feel in command and control than the Sun opposes Uranus and makes you question the real basis for your happiness and inner harmony. It's fine to question success but don't upset the applecart on a vague internal voice. Maybe all you need to do is change your diet or exercise to feel refreshed.

*For entertainment purposes only.*

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## Columna Abierto

Continued from Page Six

en forma rutinaria, descubren la infección cuando ya tienen complicaciones de la enfermedad, generalmente en etapas avanzadas. Mientras se elaboran proyectos de investigación para observar la evolución de la enfermedad en mujeres desde etapas tempranas, la recomendación actual es emplear dos antiretrovirales en sus distintas combinaciones si se encuentran con menos de 500 linfocitos CD4. Hasta el momento la medida más efectiva para la protección de parejas heterosexuales, tanto del sexo masculino como el femenino, continua siendo el preservativo.

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

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## AGRA

continued from Page Five

Director. Nominations to fill the position will be accepted and voted on at our August meetings.

A multitude of events have started to open for AGRA-Tucson. Burt from the Venture-N has put AGRA-Tucson on the calendar for every fourth Sunday for a BBQ and IBT's is slotting one for every six weeks.

These activities are starting to get overwhelming and the Board of Directors has put out a call to any and all members who would be interested in helping getting these activities off the ground. Darrin the PR cowboy is holding a meeting of the minds on Friday, July 26 between 7-9 P.M., at Hours. All cowboys and cowgirls are invited to attend and bring any and all ideas to get the Rodeo PR rolling. If you're not able to attend, please call the AGRA-Tucson hotline or get in touch with a Board member for more information.

A big thank you to The Venture-N and IBT's for all their continued support of AGRA-Tucson and hosting these events. It's time to clean out that storage shed, closet and garage. AGRA-Tucson will be having a yard sale at Hours parking lot, August 24-25. Donations of items are badly needed. If you have some items, big or small, you would like to get rid of, call the AGRA-Tucson hotline and arrangements will be made to pick it up.

Well, that's about all for now, it's time to hit the trail for another week of fun in the sun. Keep your vision focused, hearts pure and remember, safety first!

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

## 60,000 Visit

Continued from Page Four

your pet in rainbows. Where to find us: <http://www.tailsofthecity.com>

\*\* from a 27-year-old in The Hague, The Netherlands: "Hello there in America, Greetings from the Netherlands."

\*\* from a 27-year-old Lesbian from New York City: "I am currently planning to move to Tucson (in the spring of 1997), and will be visiting in August or Sept of this year. I would like to view apartment communities while I am in town, and am seeking a Gay/Lesbian agent/manager. If you know of any, please let me know."

\*\* from a Gay male living in Tambov, Russia: "hello. Leider ich schpreche nicht englich."

These are only a few of the varied and interesting messages from all over the world. If you are able to, we urge you to stop by the Electronic Observer (<http://bonzo.com/observer>) and join in on the fun. Read Annie's Cyber Queer column in this issue for more info. If you are still not on-line or anywhere in the computer world, you don't know what you are missing. As Mr. Microsoft, Bill Gates said, "Join us or get out of the way!"

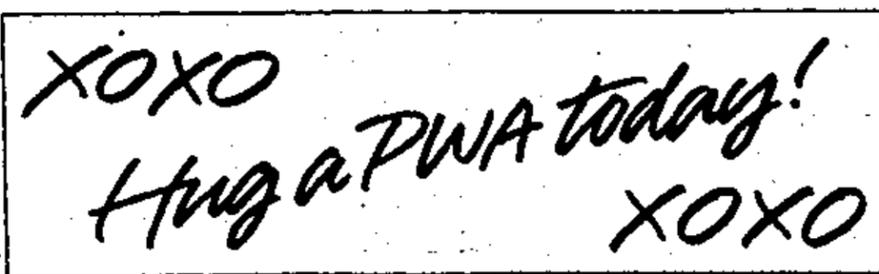
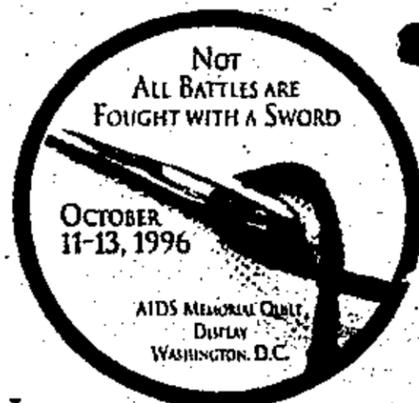
## POLITICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

Barbara LaWall challenge them in court. According to campaign officials, LaWall received advice from an out-of-town lawyer, who advised against challenging. Huh? So where's Clarence Darrow when we need him! . . .

Something a little blind to end with. What race for Judge has one candidate possibly bowing out because of illness in the family; one who tried to get petitions for another race counted in their tally, and had someone sign the back of all the petitions; and the incumbent, whose petitions could be thrown out like a "house of cards?" . . .

So it goes for now kids!



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NOTICES

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

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social gettogether the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 890-9565 for information and a newsletter.

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

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

DR. BOB'S EROTIC DISCUSSION GROUP for Gay and Bisexual men. A confidential setting in which to discuss all aspects of our erotic lives, from safer sex to masturbation to menage a trois. Many heads are better than one! Wednesday nights. Call Robert Feldhaus at 623-1732.

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? The Gay Young Men's Project is now looking for volunteers for the project. We need people who want to help create a positive social change for young Gay men as well as reduce the risk for HIV infection. For more information please call the Tucson AIDS Project at 323-8226.

"EVOLVERE" a transgendered Support Group open to all T.V.'s, C.B.'s, T.O.'s & T.S.'s. Dedicated to all our brothers and sisters. Offering our help and support in every way we can. Meetings held on 4th Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. Call 864-0541.

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

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

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

THE NEWS 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 861-4582 for more information or sign up.

DR. BOB'S INTIMACY SKILLS GROUP for Gay and Bisexual men. If you want more closeness in your life, you need to learn the skills that allow for intimacy. This group is a place to learn and grow quickly! Monday nights. Call Robert Feldhaus, Ph.D. at 623-1732.

CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 3rd Monday at St. Paul X Catholic Church, 1800 N. Camino Rio Decade in the Wine Room at 7:00 p.m. For more info call Ernie 721-3003 or Anna Marie at the Parish office 645-3573.

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

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE (TLGA) meets every third Thursday at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Avenue at 7pm.

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND. Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 864-7063.

TIAM, 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 299-8647.

THIRTTYSOMETHING 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 fee.

FRONT RUNNERS OF TUCSON meet for fun runs Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Group meets in front of the Hinnel Park Library (East side), and Sundays at various times and places. For more information call Mitch at 328-3535

FACT - People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson, 801 W. Congress. Office hours 8 to 5 M-F (8-7 Wed); Support Group meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Call 770-1710 for info.

SHANTI FOUNDATION OF TUCSON Help us help others in giving emotional support to persons with HIV and AIDS and their families, friends. Contact us Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 300 E. 9th Street, 623-7107. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 578-8800 or write P.O. Box 36284, Tucson, AZ 85740-0284. All replies confidential.

LIVING WATERS FAMILY CENTER new meeting in the front building of MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Worship services on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. Counseling provided for couples and individuals. For more information call 795-7288.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call information and referral about Alcohol 861-1794 in Tucson info about special groups for Gays and Lesbians.

YOUNG AND GAYT Lesbian and Gay youth 22 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 422 N. 4th Avenue from 3 to 5 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1778.

THE TUCSON CHAPTER OF PRIME TIMERS INTERNATIONAL invites Gay or Bisexual men over 30 years old to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men who are or wish to be involved in Gay community activities, issues and organizations. Call 877-7483 and leave your name and phone number. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday, 4-6 p.m. at Wingspan, 422 N. 4th Ave.

TUCSON AIDS PROJECT (TAP), 151 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 252 (The Bread-near Center Bldg.). Direct services for persons with and affected by HIV/AIDS prevention education programs. Business hours, M-F, 8-5, 322-6226. AIDS Hotline: 326-AIDS.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL Call information and Referral 861-1794 - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

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

GAY OR BISEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Tuesdays 8:30 - 9:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-8977 Tucson. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 422 N. 4th Ave., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space, Volunteer Opportunities, board meetings every 2nd Sunday (open sign), 8:00 p.m., information 824-1778.

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 32. Call the church at 299-9063 for information.

NOTICES

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

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

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

L.S.S., EX-L.S.S., GAY LESBIAN, BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7pm. 320-1319 for information.

RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL every Sunday at 2pm at St. Francis in the Foothills for anyone who likes to play and have a blast call Darryl 866-1208 for more info.

ARIZONA/SONORA PROYECTO, S.I.D.A. - AIDS INFO LINE 842-3933. Also seeking volunteers who are bilingual (Spanish/ English) and are interested in presenting information about AIDS to Spanish groups in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Early Intervention Center, 801 West Congress, Tucson, AZ 85745. 770-1314.

ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION (AGRA) TUCSON CHAPTER. Interested? Call 323-0805 or write AGRA/Tucson, P.O. Box 40884, 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. 323-8655. Leave message.

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Advertisers welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9343, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

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

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 578-9020

COCHISE COUNTY LESBIANS AND GAYS. P.O. Box 818, Bisbee, AZ 85803 / (902)432-6391. Rap Group, Youth Group, Social and Political Events.

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, call the Bears Hotline (320)733-8408, write 1830 E. Broadway #124-403, Tucson, AZ 85719, or come to our general meetings the second Friday of every month. Location listed on our hotline.

TUCSON ROOMMATE LOCATOR SERVICE Men and women welcome. Office 574-2272.

"LAMBDA CAR CLUB, A social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving collectible vehicles. Call Rich 318-0540.

LESBIAN AND GAY ALANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2840 E. Thomas, Phoenix. 800 561-8850 or 800 948-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Needs readily. Write to P.O. Box 883, 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 Marie at 866-7264. Call CRONIES 866-7264.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 8:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Greenway (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Jeff or Art (320)782-9138.

SUN COUNTRY NATURISTS: Social Nudist Club for men and women. Write to Sun Country Naturists, P.O. Box 43772, Tucson, AZ 85733-3772

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 869-7288.

NAME ME: Long-haired Gay male pump network. Photo, 3 MFC's to join. Box 221, Station B, Ottawa, CANADA, K1P6C4

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP meets at St. Philips in the Hill Episcopal Church on alternate Mondays. Call David, 323-7843 for more info.

"AT RISE AGAIN", a men's discussion group meets at Wingspan at 7 p.m. every Tuesday. No meetings in July or August. 422 N. 4th Ave.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 328-6737.

DEBERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Church rehearsal Monday evenings at 7 pm at Ueda School of Music Rm #102. For information call 791-8923.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3681 N. Campbell Ave. 8564, Tucson, AZ 85718.

PERSONALS

BIRDERS! Seeking Lesbians and Gay men for day birding outings; also Gay men for overnight on birding tours. Gene 626-8108. 630

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION El eres hombre que tiene sexo con otros hombres y quieres ayudarnos a entender y apoyar los programas para Los Latines, Manas para una entrevista exorbitante confidencial al 322-6226 y preguntas por Ernesto. 629

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. 629

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TOWNHOUSE, 2BR/2BA, appliances, patio, carport, no pets, lease/sec. deposit, 9650/mo, Harrison/Old Spanish Trail area, 781-1292. 629

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1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH GUEST HOUSE. Nichey near Fort Lowell. Water & gas paid. \$300/mo. Avail. Aug. 1st for 1 to 3 months. 628-8725. 620.

VARIOUS CENTRAL TUCSON LOCATIONS. 1 & 2 bedroom apartments from \$325 - \$485. Clean, private, quiet. Many extras. 845-8022. 629

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ADULT CARE, ASSISTED LIVING. My home currently has room for one male adult. Please leave message 867-3862. I will return all calls. 628

EMPLOYMENT

GAY ESCORT SERVICE IS EXPANDING TO TUCSON and is looking for quality and dependable men 18-30 to join our group of escorts. 328-1416. 628

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PART TIME SECURITY. Neat appearing. Call Brian at the Plug, 623-8888. 627

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ONE TO SHARE a 3-bedroom home with pool and jacuzzi. \$225/mo. plus 1/3 utilities. Must be employed, responsible and have references. Speedway/Craycroft area. Call Lloyd or Marc at 745-3618. 627

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MASSAGE THE WAY YOU LIKE IT WHERE YOU NEED IT. Sensual, therapeutic full body Swedish massage for all men. Comfortable and private in home studio. Professional, experienced and discreet. A memorable full hour for \$35.00. By appointment only. Rick 299-1782. 625

QUALITY MASSAGE. If you want quality instead of price, call the longest running professional massage therapist AD in the Observer. Marc offers a unique style including Tantric massage. 13 years experience. By appointment 861-4582. 628

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Advertisement for Jungle Red Gifts featuring 'I-3 PERSONAL LUBRICANT SLICK AND LONG LASTING FOR SALE BUT MAKE ON THE DATE, MAKE OF WHOLE IN BOTTLE, 7.99 NEW THIS IS 10 FOR 75.00' and 'WE ALSO CARRY NON WATER BASED LUBRICANTS FOR...'

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Advertisement for 'Our Club is YOUR Club... PRIVATE ROOMS OR LOCALS GYM-SPA-POOL-STEAM ROOM-ETC. \$5/Overnite membership \$30/Yearly Club membership \$200/Gym membership (Unlimited use) Use it. FLEX COMPLEX 1517 S. Meek Canyon Hwy. 271-9011'



## Surfing with Cyber-Queers

by Anne C. Schmitt

http://  
com

It's the Dog Days of Summer. Hotter than Hell! And not having air conditioning makes my computer angry, it's crashing more than at other times and just plain grumpy. I go through this every year. It's one of the "rewards" of living in Tucson in the summertime.

But, onto to more positive cyber babble. There are several new pages coming to the Online Observer this next week. The Community Business Association is adding a Members Page with listings of Business and Services represented by members of our community. Many have email or web pages linked to their listings, so check it out. You may find just what you're looking for.

The AIDS Walk '96 page got delayed until this week because I got swamped with work and just didn't finish it yet. But look for it going online this weekend complete with the option of online registration.

There are more sections in the works for the near future including a page for the Tucson Pageants. As far as regional Gay sites on the Internet we're making a great impression. Over 60,000 people have seen it so far and we're growing monthly in the statistics. [See accompanying story.]

This month's list of international visitors to the Online Observer include: Canada, United Kingdom, Greece, Australia, Sweden, France, Singapore, Netherlands, Italy, Mexico, Japan, Germany, Brazil, Portugal, Belgium, Spain, Norway, Malaysia, Finland, Chile, Ireland, Iceland, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, South

Korea, Hong Kong, Argentina, Switzerland, and Denmark.

There are also visits from U.S. Government sites around the world. And, these aren't just one or two visits from these countries, over a thousand each from Canada, U.K. and Greece, 500 from Mexico, 700 from Singapore, 77 from Thailand, and 450 from Japan.

Beginning on August 21, we'll be offering the first of our Internet Classes for those who feel they would benefit from a bit of basic know-how about surfing the World Wide Web. Hardware, software, Internet Service Providers, getting connected, browsers (especially Netscape Navigator) and tips and tricks for finding what you want once you're out there in cyberspace.

Surfing with Cyber Queers 101 will be held *Wednesday, August 21*, at Girlfriends Coffee House & Bookstore from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. You'll leave with a nice fat information packet and we'll have one of our computers set up for demonstration and hands on time. It's \$30 per session and limited to 12 people per class so that we can make sure everyone gets what they came for.

To register call 624-8792 or stop by Girlfriends, 3540 N. Oracle, Suite 126, for a sign-up form. They will have a sign up sheet for several upcoming dates (the first and third Wednesday of each month) and you can get in on the next class if this one is full, we'll even call to remind you that it's coming. Let's all get connected, it's a great world out there!

## HIV Negative Support Groups Gain Favor Among Youth

NEW YORK, NY (NYT) - With a growing sense of urgency that their voices be heard by the young, support groups for HIV-negative men are gaining a respect long denied them by members of the Gay community, the New York Times reported.

In cities across the country, negative support groups, overcoming initial resistance and sometimes open hostility from other Gay men and women, are giving people a forum to discuss guilt, fear of infection, safe and unsafe sexual practices, and their feeling of isolation from a community geared to those who are HIV positive.

The prevailing view held by most in AIDS care and research is that despite promising new treatments, a cure for AIDS isn't yet within reach. Given the spike in new infections among young people, keeping another generation of Gay

men from being ravaged by the epidemic should be one of the Gay community's top priorities.

"There was a time when if you talked about being HIV-positive as a bad thing, it was seen as stigmatizing to someone who was HIV-positive," Troy Masters, who is HIV-positive, publisher of LGNY is quoted as saying. In that environment, there was a certain protected and elevated status given to someone who was HIV positive. "It was cool to be HIV-positive, and it shouldn't be."

For the young especially, the groups provide an entry into the Gay community that is caring, and that helps them to dissociate being Gay and dying young. Marc David said in an interview that he no longer feels the infection is chasing him down. "It was going to catch me eventually," he said. "I no longer feel that way."

## State Police Crush Bulgarian Gay Group

SOFIA, Bulgaria - Bulgarian Gay men and Lesbians, clustered around the country's first independent Gay publication, "Flamingo," are accusing the state police of illegal harassment and intimidation reminiscent of the Cold War. The state-sanctioned campaign against Gays reached a new level of violence when the magazine's offices were stormed by state police.

Bulgaria was admitted into the International Lesbian and Gay Association in 1990, and has played an active role in strengthening ties between nascent Gay organizations in former Warsaw Pact countries and their more mature counterparts in Western Europe and America.

According to most accounts the efforts initiated by the "Flamingo" group became a part of the country's general liberalization. The group claims greater public acceptance of homosexuality because of its efforts, or as the Bulgarians put it, a wider social embrace of "people with double feeling."

Coupled with wider acceptance, however, are increasingly aggressive police actions by "marauding bands of offi-

cers operating outside the law," according to Angel Bliznachki. Bliznachki dispatched an appeal over the Internet seeking political asylum from "crudely fabricated accusations" levied upon him by authorities in Sofia.

Bliznachki claims police have confiscated card files, correspondence, computer equipment, advertising materials, merchandise, and sealed the center after a rude and "demonstrative arrest" of the magazine's staff. Employees have been coerced, says Bliznachki, into supplying false evidence and confessions. The next day, he says police expanded their raids into the countryside with names confiscated from the magazine's records.

## Debate

Continued from Page One

The Human Rights Campaign told Senate conservatives that if they genuinely oppose discrimination against Lesbian and Gay Americans, they will add an amendment to the Defense of Marriage Act barring workplace discrimination against Gay people.

"A lot of folks supporting this Defense of Marriage Act have come forward and said they're not for discrimination, they're against same-sex marriage," Daniel Zingale, HRC's political director said to reporters. "Well this in effect calls their bluff."

## Discrimination

Continued from Page One

discrimination against Gays in the workplace, does this mean that we as a society are giving legitimacy to the practice of the lifestyle?" Poshard asked.

Employers in 41 states are free to fire any employee because he or she is Gay, said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

State laws forbid on-the-job discrimination in the remaining nine but anti-Gay bias "remains sanctioned by federal law, or rather by the absence of any law prohibiting it," she told the subcommittee.

No one spoke against the bill, named H.R. 1863 after the year President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, at the hearing although opponents were invited to testify, subcommittee Chairman Peter Torkildsen, R-MA, said.

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# NEWSHIP

THE NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST CENSORSHIP NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1999  
NUMBER 73

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## Academic Freedom Survives Court Battle

Nassau Community College in New York won a lengthy battle over a popular human sexuality course when a federal district judge rejected efforts to eliminate the course. Several residents, represented by the American Catholic Lawyers Association, alleged that *Family Living and Human Sexuality (PED 25)*, violates the Establishment Clause by expressing a "hostility to certain religious views" and "constitutes a deliberate disparagement of traditional Jewish and Christian and particularly Catholic, teachings on marriage, procreation and adultery" (*Gheta v. Nassau Community College*).

Rejecting the claim that the course entangles the college in religion, U.S. District Judge Nina Gershon observed that, "Allowing religious groups to dictate the curriculum of a public college would have the direct and obvious effect of endorsing those groups' religious views." Judge Gershon found, "There can be no legitimate state interest in protecting religious persons from views that are 'distasteful' to them...If it were unconstitutional to require students to read books in which concepts coinciding with their religious beliefs came under question, then thousands of college courses throughout the country would be invalidated, including courses on philosophy, history, religion, literature and biology."

*PED 257*, a standard college-level human sexuality course, has been offered since the 1960s and is one of five courses students may



*"There can be no legitimate state interest in protecting religious persons from views that are 'distasteful' to them."*

Nina Gershon  
U.S. District Court Judge

choose to fulfill a health requirement. Subjects covered include anatomy, pregnancy and childbirth, family relationships, gender roles, sexual response, dysfunction, sexually transmitted diseases and sexual violence. Opponents of the course alleged that issues addressed in the curriculum, such as abortion, birth control, sexual behavior and homosexuality, were intended to encourage students to reject traditional Judeo-Christian religious attitudes toward sexuality and to adopt an anti-religious ethic of "sexual pluralism."

Judge Gershon stated that, "The dispositive issue is not whether the course materials contain statements that conflict with the beliefs of certain religious groups, but whether the inclusion of such statements communicates a message of government endorsement or disparagement of religion." She concluded it did not.

The case is the first of its kind.

## NCAC PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of School Administrators  
 Actors' Equity Association  
 American Association of University Professors  
 American Association of University Women  
 American Bookellers Foundation for Free Expression  
 American Civil Liberties Union  
 American Ethical Union  
 American Federation of Teachers  
 American Federation of Television & Radio Artists  
 American Jewish Committee  
 American Jewish Congress  
 American Library Association  
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 National Education Association  
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 People for the American Way  
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 ProChoice Resource Center  
 Screen Actors Guild  
 Sexuality Information & Education Council of the U.S.  
 Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators  
 Speech Communication Association  
 Student Press Law Center  
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Editors: If you quote, please send publication to NCAC

## Other News from the Courts--Not So Good

- The Supreme Court has declined to hear teacher Cissy Lacks' appeal. It is the end of the legal options for the 25-year, award-winning Missouri teacher who was fired for allowing students to use real life language in her creative writing classes (*Censorship News* 72). NCAC and other free expression groups had filed a friend of the court brief on her behalf.
- The Child Pornography Prevention Act of 1996 which bans sexual depictions of anyone who "appears to be" younger than 18, was upheld by the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston--overturning a lower court's ruling that the law is unconstitutionally vague and could prohibit legal adult pornography. A second case is pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California. Since
- this is the first ruling on the constitutionality of the law by a federal appeals court, a differing decision by the Ninth Circuit may prompt Supreme Court review.
- The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Virginia law that restricts state employees from accessing sexually related materials online. Six professors at the state's public universities challenged the law as a violation of their free speech and academic freedom rights by requiring written approval to download or send material with sexual content. To no avail. The court ruled that the state can constitutionally control the work-related speech of its employees, including access to the Internet.

## NEA's Head Whites Out The Story of Colors

Chief of the National Endowment for the Arts, William J. Ivey, created a new controversy when he withdrew funding for *The Story of Colors*, the Mexican folktale for children published by Cinco Puntos Press. Ivey revoked the grant, according to press reports, out of concern that some of the money would be used to support the Zapatista movement in Mexico, with which the book's author, Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos, is affiliated. The publisher denies that the author will receive any grant money or payment for the book. *The Story of Colors*, based on a Mayan creation myth, addresses diversity and tolerance.

NCAC and other free expression groups have urged Ivey to reconsider the decision, which appears to have been based on Marcos's political activities. The groups said that "The decision to revoke this grant is especially disturbing in light of the

## Children's Bodies: What Are We Afraid Of?



L to R: NCAC executive director Joan Berlin, Judith Levine, Barbara Pollack, Leonore Tiefer

At an NCAC panel in New York, author and critic Judith Levine, artist and writer Barbara Pollack, and clinical psychologist and professor Leonore Tiefer explored some of the tensions and contradictions in adult responses to children's sexuality

centering on children's bodies. Today, the visual depiction of young bodies has become a viable marketing device, but, as Pollack emphasized, in the context of private, non-commercial expression, these same images are flashpoints for censorship. Yet, according to Tiefer there is no objective evidence that such images spur sexual abuse of children or that all sexual experiences in childhood are necessarily harmful. Indeed, Tiefer noted, the same anxieties and assumptions that underlie censorship have inhibited meaningful research on children's sexuality.

## Senate Internet Bill Could Backfire

Schools and libraries receiving federal discounts for Internet service will be required to install censoring software on their computers if the Children's Internet Protection Act, S. 97, is passed. Introduced by Senators John McCain and Ernest Hollings, the bill is another attempt to restrict youngsters' access to information. If Utah's experience with filters in schools and libraries is typical, requiring filters won't do much to improve education, according to a newly-released study by the Censorware Project. Among the documents banned by Utah are: the *Holy Bible*, *The Book of Mormon*, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, all of Shakespeare's plays, and *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. The report also reveals that the log files of the censoring software prove that Utah

students are highly unlikely to use the Internet for non-scholastic purposes. At a time when schools and libraries are developing acceptable use policies to encourage youngsters to become discriminating and responsible in their use of computers, free expression advocates are urging policy makers to stop barking up the wrong tree.

## THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

One of the artistic wonders of the world, Michaelangelo's *David*, according to some, is not fit for children to see. To prevent his daughter from glimpsing a model of the nude statue from the school bus, a Connecticut parent had the Shelton school district reroute the bus stop. What does he do, we wonder, to stop the bus from passing Calvin Klein billboards?

### Heather Has Two Mommies and

*Daddy's Roommate* inspired Janie Hill, director of a Texas Christian outreach ministry, to try to oust a city council member who voted to support children's access to the books in the Wichita Falls public library. Hill claims



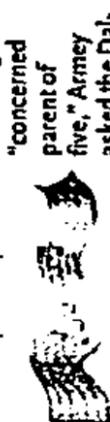
the books "promote homosexuality in violation of God's will and state law." (In Wichita Falls a petition with 300 signatures causes the removal of any book!)

Students who want to read *Rolling Stone* magazine in a high school library in Wales, Wisconsin, must prove they are 18 or have parental permission. The superintendent overruled a committee's recommendation, after a school board member called it "pornographic."

In Louisiana, the St. Tammany Parish Police Jury ordered the local library to restrict access to R and NC-17 rated videos by minors under 17. NCAC wrote that this approach is likely unconstitutional, as well as unwise, and urged a return to the library's prior policy, allowing

parents to restrict their own children's access to material they consider inappropriate. For the full text of our letter to the Police Jury, see our website.

Congressman Dick Armey, the majority house leader, seems to think he needs a little help in his parental role. Acting as a



"concerned parent of five," Armey asked the Dallas Reunion Arena to "take a second look" at a Marilyn Manson show for the "potential negative consequences that this concert could have on our children and our community." The concert was held as scheduled. It is unknown at this time if any of the Armey children attended.

## The Limits of Free Speech

by Wendy Kaminer, NCAC president, excerpted from *Intellectual Capital*, 2/11/99. Full version on our website.

When does intimidating, angry speech constitute an unprotected threat of harm? That was the hard question recently answered by a jury in Portland, Oregon when it leveled a \$100 million damage award against anti-abortion activists on the violent fringe of their movement. *Planned Parenthood v. American Coalition of Life Activists* is a civil action brought by Planned Parenthood, the Portland Feminist Women's Health Center, and five individual doctors against fourteen individuals and two anti-abortion groups, including the American Coalition of Life Activists. The suit was brought under the federal racketeering law (RICO) and the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE).

Defendants were charged with unlawfully threatening abortion doctors, by featuring them on wanted posters and by contributing to a controversial web site, "The Nuremberg Files." It posted pictures of abortion doctors (labeled "baby butchers") and accused them of crimes against humanity, listing their names, addresses, license plate numbers, and their spouses and children's names, when available. Three doctors on the list have been killed: their names were crossed out. The names of those wounded were listed in gray.

The RICO charge against defendants is lamentable. RICO was aimed at organized crime's infiltration of legitimate businesses and should not be used against political

groups. But the FACE charge deserved to be heard by a jury. The Face Act expressly prohibits using "threat of force" to "intimidate" or "interfere" with abortion providers or patients. *Planned Parenthood v. ACLA* thus raised two questions: how should this prohibition on threats or intimidation be construed consistent with the First Amendment? Did the wanted posters and Web site qualify as threats?

Federal courts have held that, in principle, threatening someone with death or serious injury is not protected speech. Like many simple legal principles, however, this one is difficult to apply, in fact. In *Planned Parenthood v. ACLA*, the trial judge instructed jurors that the wanted posters and Web Site were actionable threats if anti-abortion activists should have known that they would be considered truly threatening, given the circumstances (a history of violence against abortion providers.) As the judge explained to the jury, this is an "objective standard" "that of a reasonable person." Jurors were not required to make any findings regarding the actual subjective intent of defendants.

Whether or not this objective rule satisfies the First Amendment is likely to be an issue on appeal. A rule requiring jurors to consider a defendant's actual state of mind is more protective of speech, appropriately: people should not be held liable for threats they did not actually intend to make. It seems clear, however, that in this case, the defendants would have been found liable under a higher standard. Indeed, the jury found malice or ill intent on their part when it awarded punitive damages.

First Amendment advocates are divided over the justice of this verdict. The wanted posters and the Nuremberg Files web site straddle the line between protected political rhetoric and threats of murder. No explicit threats were issued, but, considering the context and a recent history of violence, including the murders of three doctors who had been the subject of wanted posters, the implicit threats were clear. In fact, the FBI offered doctors targeted by the Nuremberg Files round the clock protection and advised them to wear bulletproof vests. One defendant testified that "If I was an abortionist, I would be afraid."

There was no proof of a direct, causal link between the speech and violence against abortion providers; but incitement to violence was not exactly at issue in this case. Whether or not defendants' speech incited violence, it greatly threatened targeted abortion providers. The verdict in this case suggests, in part, that people have a right not to be terrorized, (especially when engaged in constitutionally protected activity), and that the right not to be terrorized may sometimes trump the right to speak.

That is a controversial idea but not exactly a novel one: it is reflected in efforts to prohibit stalking. The Nuremberg Files web site and wanted posters might, in fact, be analogized to stalking, because they explicitly targeted individual doctors. In this case, the difference between general and particular attacks on abortion providers may be the difference between protected speech and vigilantism.

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