

AGN

ARIZONA GAY NEWS

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Issue 2

LAWSUITS FILED ON BEHALF OF MEXICAN TOURIST



Mexican dress designer Jaime Chavez, latest INS victim
Photo Courtesy Bar

SAN FRANCISCO (BAR) - Don Knutson, attorney and director of Gay Rights Advocates, announced January 2 that two lawsuits would be filed immediately on behalf of Jaime Chavez, the Mexican tourist who suffered indignities and injustices at the hands of the San Francisco Immigration and Naturalization Service agents December 29 and 30 at the San Francisco Airport. Knutson told the Bay Area Reporter, "We are preparing a damage action based on what we believe to be an illegal arrest, false imprisonment and defamation of character." A class action suit is being prepared as well.

Chavez, 46, a Mexican national and dress designer of some repute, and a frequent visitor to this country, was on a holiday and delivering dresses to his host and client Patricia Volti. When customs inspectors opened Chavez' luggage, his client's dresses were discovered and Chavez was charged with being a suspected homosexual. Chavez - who speaks no English - was forced to sign a statement in English - acknowledging he was a homosexual. "He was intimidated and terrified," said Knutson; "he was treated like a criminal." INS instructed Mexicana Airlines to hold Chavez in custody.

Chavez was taken to the Airport Hilton and placed under the surveillance of two security guards. He was held incommunicado for 24 hours, with one hired guard sleeping in his room. He was allowed no calls, and neither his hosts nor attorneys were allowed to see him. He claimed he was subjected to a strip search. On Monday, Dec. 31, Chavez was "paroled" into this country, with his passport stamped "Subject to exclusion on the basis of suspected homosexuality." Knutson said he has no idea what this might mean when Chavez returns to Mexico and has to deal with his own government.

The first suit to be filed by Knutson will be a \$1,000,000 damage suit against INS, Mexicana Airlines, the security agency and all individuals and employees involved. At the same time, a class action suit will be filed against the Public Health Service and the INS. The purpose, said Knutson, "is to seek a federal court determination of the legality of the exclusionary process." Gay Rights Advocates have decided to turn the humiliating Chavez incident into a test case. "What we expect from all this," continued Knutson, "are two things: 1. a final judicial ruling with respect to the legality of excluding Gay aliens. They say the law requires them to do it; we say that they (the INS) have no authority to exclude Gay people. 2. We also expect the damage suit will have some deterrent effect on over-zealous immigration officers and on the airlines who have in the past cooperated in sending these people back and imprisoning them.

Knutson also charged that the press reports on recent government actions with regard to Gay tourists were inaccurate. According to stories in local papers, the White House reversed its position on admission of Gay tourists into the United States. Knutson said this was not a ruling but an opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel in the Justice Department. State and local public officials including Governor Jerry Brown, Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Supervisor Quentin Kopp and Supervisor Harry Britt have decried the latest INS violations of human rights of visitors to this country.

Knutson maintained that the various agencies concerned still had options. David Crossland, Acting Director of INS, said he was advised by Justice Department lawyers that he could enforce the law. The ban on homosexuals has been in question since last June when the Surgeon General said homosexuality "was no longer considered a mental disease or defect." "In effect, local INS agents," said Knutson, "were in violation of their own rules that a Gay tourist not be hassled and immediately paroled into the country." Why local gents at the SF International Airport chose to jump the gun on the on-going controversy remains

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX

Sacramento march finalized

SAN FRANCISCO (BAR) - A hopefully massive March on Sacramento for Gay Rights will take place this Sunday, January 13. The march is being organized by a statewide committee, operating as a separate organization from California Human Rights Advocates (CHRA). There are two main purposes for this march. The first is to demand passage of employment protection legislation for Lesbians and Gay men. The second is to protest the increasing violence directed against Lesbians and Gay men throughout California.

The March could not be scheduled for a later date because of legislative deadlines. The bills mention above must move from their house of origin by January 31, 1980, or they will be technically dead. Twenty-five thousand people are expected to turn out for the March.

by Claudia Moomjy

U.S. Ayatollah Supporters Denounce Gays

WASHINGTON, DC (BAR) - Iranian supporters of the Ayatollah Khomeini are distributing anti-Gay literature in the United States. Recently, pamphlets denouncing Gays turned up in Washington, DC. Entitled "Muslims in America support the Ayatollah Khomeini" and signed "The Islamic Community in the United States," the pamphlet betterly attacked the U.S. for its tolerance of homosexuals.

The pamphlet begins with a sharp attack on American moral character. Proclaim the pamphlet's authors, "with at least 10-20 million publically (sic) confessed homosexuals and lesbian perverts as U.S. citizens, the United States and people, in sexually related moral social terms, represents the most morally exhausted and socially diseased (sic) country in the history of mankind. America's so-called greatness is immediately void by its population explosion of homosexuality which stretches from the highest stratas of the U.S. Congress and corporate enterprises, to the lowest gutter of the American street."

The authors conclude: "Ethnically speaking, Americans are social maggots and the United States Capitol (sic) building is an earth-wort (sic) temple in dedication to the material and cultural exploitation of third world people.

News Briefs

G.A.Y. PICNIC THIS SUNDAY

PHOENIX - The Arizona Gay Youth (GAY) group will be holding their first picnic of the year at Madison Park at 16th and Campbell, this Sunday, Jan. 13 at 2:00 p.m. Food, games, fun for all. Meeting Wed. Jan. 16 at A.R.C.

WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!

TUCSON - Contrary to rumors flying that Dale's Graduate bar is for sale, it is a fact that the first mortgage note is for sale, but the bar is NOT. Dale Yount informs us that he is back in full swing at the bar and expects to be for many, many years.

GAY CONFERENCE SET FOR NORTHWEST

MOSCOW, ID (GCN) - The North West Gay Conference has been slated for March 14-16, 1980, in the university cities of Moscow, Idaho and Pullman, Washington. The principal focus of the conference will be on the concerns of lesbians and Gay men in the Pacific Northwest for the new decade.

Twelve areas of interest have been identified as the result of a September mailing by the North West Peoples Alliance, and abstracts for papers, programs and/or workshops are now being accepted. For information about the conference, write the North West Gay Peoples Alliance, P.O. Box 8758, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

ARC SEMINAR SET FOR FEBRUARY 2

PHOENIX - The Phoenix Gay Community Center (ARC) will be sponsoring a Workshop/Seminar on "Relationships" on Saturday, Feb. 2 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Center at 1836 Grand Ave. Everyone is welcome; couples, singles or whatever. The presenters will be two Mental Health Professionals and much of the time will be devoted to questions and answers as well as discussions.

Participants will be asked for a \$3.00 donation with proceeds going to the Center

S.O.A. CHANGES BEER BUST NIGHT

PHOENIX - The Sons of Apollo Motorcycle Club after many years of having their weekly beer bust on Friday nights, is now switching to Saturday nights. The S.O.A. home bar, the Ramrod, will continue to be the scene of the weekly "bust" Saturdays from 9 to 11 p.m.

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SEX CHARGES FILED ON PENN REP.

PITTSBURGH (SGN) - A Pennsylvania State Representative who opposed a state Gay Pride Week last June was recently arrested and charged with the rape of a 17-year-old boy, according to the Philadelphia Gay News. Rep. David S. Hayes was also charged with involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, indecent assault and corrupting the morals of a minor. Penalty for conviction on each of the first two charges of 10-20 years imprisonment.

Active in the Pennsylvania legislature since 1968, Hayes was one of the voices raised to condemn Gov. Richard Thornburgh's proclamation of Gay Pride Week earlier this year. Hayes also participates in local civic activities, including the Boy Scouts of America. A trial is scheduled for some time in January. Hayes' office declined to make a statement according to the Philadelphia Gay News.

LILLIAN OLD BUT NOT NAIVE

BOW LAKE VILLAGE, NH (SGN) - The Carter administration has opened more doors to Gays than any previous presidency, but the rocky reception a presidential assistant received when he spoke at the National Convention Project fundraiser Nov. 27 in Washington indicates that many Gays feel Carter has not done enough according to the Washington Gay newspaper *The Blade*.

Add that to the latest pronouncements of the President's mother, Lillian Carter, and it appears, Carter has a rough road to travel.

"I don't know a Gay from a hole in the ground - in my part of the country we don't have 'em," Miss Lillian told a crowd of 250 men here, reported *The Washington Post*. She also related her experiences at a recent fundraiser for the Gay Community Center of Los Angeles: "One kissed me on the back of the neck at that dinner for homosexuals and when one of that other kind came up I was so scared she was going to kiss me I didn't know what to do. I'm old, but not naive."

BRYANT RADIO SHORT ON CASH

HOLLYWOOD, FL (SGN) - The Anita Bryant Radio Show scheduled to begin early this year may be having some financial troubles. In a letter to her supporters Bryant wrote, "I have no money to produce my show. Total cost will be an overwhelming \$2 million to produce and air." Sent as a facsimile of a news bulletin, her letter also reads:

"Facing critical problems in getting radio programs on the air.... My enemies continue to persecute me. Most shows like mine are broadcast free, but because I stand up against homosexuality and immorality, I must pay top dollar.... It makes me mad when shows beg for people like Jane Fonda and refuse to let me even sing my songs or talk about the American family." According to the latest Anita Bryant Ministries newsletter the show will air five days per week across the country.



NEW GAY RESTAURANT TO OPEN IN PHOENIX

PHOENIX - "Aunt Charlies," a new restaurant and cocktail lounge will open its doors to the Gay community on Monday, January 21. The bar and restaurant is located at 214 E. Camelback back will open each evening at 5:00 p.m. and serve food until midnight with the bar remaining open until 1:00 a.m.

Chef Ralph will be featuring steaks, chicken and chops along with an assortment of sandwiches and salads. Formerly known as Palazzo Di Laura, "Aunt Charlies" will be a welcome sight to the Phoenix night life.

GAYS WIELD INCOME POWER

HOUSTON (TWT) - According to a report in *Business Week* recent income studies show that Gays control at least nineteen percent of spendable income in the U.S. As a result, more brand name companies are promoting goods and services in Gay publications. Other companies like Levi Strauss and Warner Brothers, monitor the Gay community for clues for marketable fashion and music trends.

George Terzian, a lawyer with the Greater Gotham Business Council in New York City, said, "It is becoming more apparent to the straight community that there is a lot of buying power among Gays," the *Business Week* article reported.

REPS WRITE INS FOR GAYS

WASHINGTON, DC (SGN) - Another large group of Congressmembers have written to the Immigration and Naturalization Service urging revision of INS laws which exclude Gays. Congressmen Anthony Beilenson (D-CA) and Julian Dixon (D-CA) initiated the letter with Ted Weiss and Henry Waxman, chief sponsors of H.R. 2074 joining in authorship. Eighteen members joined in signing the letter.

Several of those signing the letter are Congressmembers who have not yet co-sponsored the Gay Rights Bill, Rep. Robert Matsui (D-CA), Bruce Vento (D-MN), Vic Fazio (D-CA), and Stephen Solarz (D-NY). Others signing included Representatives Michael Lowery, William Brodhead, Phillip Burton, John Conyers, Robert Edgar, Don Edwards, Pete McClosky, George Miller, Gerry Studds and William Gray.

DISCRIMINATION CASES SOUGHT

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (GCN) - Persons who feel they have been discriminated against because they are perceived as homosexual or as departing from feminine and masculine stereotypes are being sought by the Center for Homosexual Education, Evaluation and Research (CHEER). The group has obtained a grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to study possible violations of the civil liberties of such persons, and the results of the study will be important to protecting the rights of these people. The study will be based on a series of confidential interviews. To contact CHEER researchers, write them care of the National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., Suite 1601, New York, NY 10011.



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"WHEN DID YOU FIRST DISCOVER YOU WERE GAY,
BEFORE OR AFTER THE VILLAGE PEOPLE?"

DIRECTOR ADMITS POLICE NEGLIGENCE

by John Zeh

CINCINNATI - The city safety Director has admitted that police ignored a call for help when a private swim party for Gays was attacked by a mob here in July. "The Police Communications Section simply did not respond in an appropriate manner," Richard Castellini told City Council. "One member made indiscrete comments and did not properly handle the situation. He is no longer a city employee. Lambda Sports was not afforded the degree of police protection to which it was entitled. The group had rented a city park pool closed on weekends. Area residents found out, and erected anti-Gay signs. About 35 people taunted the swimmers and later threw rocks, bottles and debris when a police officer left his assigned post.

The Greater Cincinnati Gay Coalition used the acknowledgement of police inaction as a "perfect example of why we need a Human Rights Ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation." *High Gear*

DANCE!!!!!!!!!!!!

RICK STAMPER

JOSHUA TREE

1. DO YOU LOVE WHAT YOU FEEL - Rufus and Chaka
2. DISCO POWER / HOT LOVER - U.N.
3. I WANNA BE YOUR LOVER / SEXY DANCER - Prince
4. MANDOLAY - Le Favor
5. CAUGHT UP (IN A ONE NIGHT LOVE AFFAIR)- Inner Life
6. I CAN'T HELP MYSELF - Bonnie Pointer
7. SECOND TIME AROUND - Shalimar
8. THANK GOD THERE'S MUSIC - Theo Vaness
9. LOVE'S IN YOU (Remix) - Nightlife Unlimited
10. SATURDAY NIGHT - Arpeggio
11. GOOD TO ME (LP) - T.H.P.
12. HAVEN'T YOU HEARD - Patrice Rush
13. PORTABLE RADIO - Hall and Oates
14. STEPIN' OUT - Gap Band
15. THE VISITORS (Remix) - Gino Soccio

in Tucson **did you know..**

- ...Many people say sex is like riding a bicycle, but Angie said she has a problem with both, she keeps falling off!
- ...Five localites discovered how wonderful it is to run into Ray and Jerry at El Torero restaurant, even though George M. still thinks it was "on the house."
- ...An oldie but goodie. Brent F. and Kevin F. are now into S&M. Instead of whips and chains, they use celery and bean sprouts.
- ...Loretta only had it 7 days into the new year before she forgot the bus schedule.
- ...Stuart S. discovered it costs more to come back from a vacation than to go on a vacation.
- ...What's orange and green and wears a leather strap? Ask JoJo.
- ...With Donald M. out of town, Eddie F. has been driving Monte-Jon crazy.
- ...What well known couple wears shorts to bed when they are mad at each other?
- ...The Phoenix Bird is suffering a bout of Flew. His column will resume next week.
- ...What localite who just purchased a camper now advertises, "If it's rockin', don't bother knockin'?"
- ...Then there is the old punch line, "Pardon me Roy, is that the cat that chewed your new shoes?"
- ...We understand that Buff F. is now in the archives!!!

Bullwinkle

1724 E. McDowell Rd. - Phoenix, Arizona 85006 - 254-0231

VIEWPOINT by Vernon Blume

Yes, dear friends, there IS life after ABC's News Closeup Special hopelessly entitled "Homosexuals" of this past December, an amalgamated hodgepodge confirming choice bits of the worst of misunderstandings that have plagued humankind since the whole hoax of same-sex love inferiority began . . . only on ABC, they reverted to a kind of pop - folksy art to regenerate it! (I forget whether those butterfly glitter people oscillated on behalf of Pepsi or Coke!)

Bergman and Malick ABC producers can't begin to assimilate, but they might as well have spewed forth what they HAD on this program for it couldn't have been much worse. "Parental Discretion" is Right! In amongst the harpsichords, flutes, rotating glass spheres, hideous doll collections, garish paintings (a Garland portrait, of course!) of the male world are the simplistic apartments, trimmings, barrooms and manners of the female world, nicely hued in blues and greys (on a black and white set, yet!) It's gospel by now that women-loving-women are of this Earth whereas men-loving-men are somewhere adrift cavorting, cabaretting and groin-skirmishing in amongst the Neptune stratospheres.

All women interviewed smacked of solidness, pride, togetherness and ultimately, wholeness in love. It's not hard to love these women for their boundless beauty. But where, among the male interviewees, were smidgens of these traits? I didn't detect any (and viewers impounded with the doldrums might as well look forward to still ANOTHER re-run!) Each man was space-cadeting amidst long shots and closeups that suggested Apollo II had finally come back with Martian photos! For clearly, Gay men are terrestrial aliens and ANC had the audacity to bring this off as a TRUISM! (It's noteworthy that the segment entitled "Relationships" abounded with women.) One poor lost bloke equated his Gayness with ART, reinforcing the assumption that only the self-suffering can create. I don't find anyone making any attempts to challenge this or ANYTHING, not here on the ABC Special. And with that program title "Homosexuals," how can one miss getting the phobic pot? It wouldn't occur to anyone to come up with a "Love Among The People" or "Women In Love: Men In Love."

And so, as long as people-labels run amuk and "parental discretion" is advised, I don't see a kind resolution. Parents can now have FUN fearing for their son, who still boogies in the shade.

NGTF responds to "homosexuals"

NEW YORK - In answer to numerous requests from individuals and the press for a comment on the December 18 airing of ABC News Close-up: Homosexuals" the National Gay Task Force has issued the following statement:

"While community response to the program has been mixed, the overwhelming reaction that we have received has been negative. The documentary is being protested for the following reasons:

--Although prefaced by a disclaimer that it represents only a few examples of Gay life, the film itself, through editorialized content, claims to represent a genuine summary portrait of lesbian and Gay life in America. As such, it is harmful and misleading. The title also supports this viewpoint. Rather than being called "One Perspective on Gay Life" or "Gay Oppression," the documentary is simply titled "Homosexuals."

--Lesbians are underrepresented throughout the film, once again promoting the notion that women are insignificant in comparison to men in the Gay community.

--The major portion of the film is devoted to the personal agony suffered by a small number of documentary subjects. Their personal suffering is further intensified by a maudlin and sentimental musical score.

--The film belabors our suffering to the near total exclusion of experiences of pride and power in Gay identity and in so doing reinforces and promotes the traditional notion that there is something unspeakably sad, disturbing and pathetic in the very nature of Gay life. While it is important to recognize the agony of Gay oppression, the ABC portrait has reduced the rich diversity of Gay experience to an unrepresentative and narrow focus.

--When the producers at ABC approached NGTF for assistance in contacting resources within the community, a representative of the producer agreed to allow representatives of NGTF the opportunity to preview the program before broadcast. This was a condition of our assistance. The producer and ABC News refused to honor that agreement, notwithstanding several requests by

CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN

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LIQUID INCENSE

THEATRE

Whose Holocaust?

By Richard Goldstein

It is horrible to think of Jews battling blacks for the title of Most Oppressed, horrible to quibble over whether slavery entitles its victims to as much compassion as genocide. Yet the designation carries an eerie *nachas* (which is what Jews call benefits that are dearly deserved). It accounts for anxiety, provides a locus for feelings of hostility, and gives immense significance to personal suffering.

No wonder homosexuals, whose rights movement has been decisively influenced by the strategies of blacks and Jews, are lining up for their fair share of abuse. For gay people, inclusion in the Holocaust has become a symbol of social visibility. The pink triangle, which was worn by homosexuals in Nazi concentration camps, is now affixed to bluejeans during demos and parades. The National Gay Task Force is urging the President's Commission on the Holocaust to make mention of gay inmates in the monument it proposes to erect in Washington. There have been clashes between gay and Jewish groups in Hartford over the wording of a commemorative plaque. We were victimized because of who we are, say the Jews; you were victimized because of who you choose to be. We choose to express our sexuality the way you choose to express your faith, say the gays. To exclude us from the Holocaust deprives us of our history; without a history, our suffering seems irrational, hysterical.

To replace hysteria with ordinary unhappiness—this, said Freud, ought to be the goal of psychotherapy, and this is what *Bent*, the new play about gays in the Holocaust, attempts to do. It offers a historical framework for what might otherwise be a chamber piece about the inability of a gay man to acknowledge love. It contemplates promiscuity as a response to panic, and fetishism as a response to oppression, in language so self-assured one forgets the unpleasant fact that fantasies arouse. Yet the play's most moving moments involve those fleeting attempts to get beyond the authority of impulse and express emotions we are taught to reserve for members of the opposite sex.

Bent connects most profoundly when it suggests that concentration camps exist in the mind of every man, gay or not; that storm troopers are present in every wayward glance; that homosexuals are forced to deny their love as the price for survival; that the Holocaust itself may be regarded as an extremely candid version of the world's response to deviance. From the first scene—in which the SS enters a gay man's flat to do away with the Aryan he has brought home for the night—we are thrust into another holocaust, in which Jews have only a metaphorical significance, and the real offense is being "bent."

Because this play uses genocide to elucidate the oppression in a gay man's life, and because in the process of vying for the title Most Oppressed it suggests that Jews were treated better than gays at Dachau, it seems fair to ask whether homosexuals are entitled to *nachas* from this particular event. When *Bent* opened in London, to no small outrage from the Jewish community, the playbill included a summary of documentation on which the work is based. On Broadway, we will have to console ourselves with the usual treatise on "Gifts for Theatre Buffs." It is difficult to confirm that incidents like the ones in this play actually occurred: that gay men were forced to brutalize their lovers, that they were given especially repugnant work



Richard Gere (left) and David Dukes: The real importance of "*Bent*" is what it says about representing sexuality on the Broadway stage.

in the camps, that they were deprived of the meager rations granted Jews, and even that they chose to masquerade as Jews, which is the central metaphor of *Bent*, the author's ironic representation of the closet.

Richard Plant, who teaches at the New School, and served as a consultant for this play, says it was indeed possible to effect such a ruse by bribing guards. "All clever homosexuals did what Max does in the play—they changed the triangle." Max (played by Richard Gere) proves he isn't "bent" by performing with a 13-year-old female corpse. In fact, Plant says, camp commanders might require inmates they suspected of being homosexual to perform with prostitutes. If an inmate passed the test, he could be conscripted for labor in a factory. If he didn't pass, there was another recourse: an inmate could agree to castration as the price for his release.

Plant estimates that between 20,000 and 30,000 men wore the pink triangle, most arrested in the mid-1930s. Gays were among the first to have their civil rights abrogated by the Reich. In 1935, the laws against homosexuality were strengthened to single out "sexual vagrants" for "ruthless persecution." To even touch another man in a suggestive way was grounds for arrest. From *Bent*:

Look over there.
Where?
Over there. See him?
Who?
With the mustache.
Yes.
Cute.
I guess.
Think he's a fluff?
I don't care.
Yes. I think he is a fluff... He has fluff eyes. Still, you can't tell... You have to be so careful now.

Arschficker was what "fluffs" were called at Dachau; ass-fucker. Some prisoners reportedly wore an A on their trouser legs, along with the pink triangle. Plant says they were despised by other inmates and were subject to special labor details (such as disposal of bodies). But Raul Hilberg, author of *The Destruction of the European Jews* and a member of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, says, "Homosexuals had a much better chance of survival in a concentration camp." He says there is no evidence to suggest that Jews were treated better than gays, and that "the notion of someone disguising himself as a Jew is preposterous on the face." Most damning is Hilberg's assertion

that homosexuals were highly valued prisoners, and that many *capos*—inmates who administered the barracks and disciplined the others—were gay. Hilberg is opposed to including gays in the monument to victims of the Holocaust. "That would be a travesty," he says. "There was no conduct that could save a Jew. This is a monument to commemorate that particular fate."

It would be interesting to suggest to a gay audience that homosexuals can also oppress, just as it would be interesting to suggest to a Jewish audience that victims of the Holocaust can also victimize. But myths are created to serve needs, and given the imperatives of the late '70s, it is inevitable that homosexuals would come to "need" the Holocaust, if only because it simplifies the immensely complicated process by which they come to feel oppressed.

The real importance of *Bent* is not what it says about Nazi Germany, but what it says about representing sexuality on the Broadway stage. For the first time, homosexual relationships are accorded the right to be ordinary. The gay men in this play behave very much as they might in private, without the benefit of rituals which have always been employed to translate the gay experience to straights. *Bent* is no spanking-allegory by Thomas Babe, no bitch-vaudeville in the manner of *Boys in the Band*. If *Evita* represents one pole of the gay sensibility—the familiar fascination with power and illusion—*Bent* suggests an alternative: humanism as a response to terror. It is most honorable when it drops the historical henna and lets its roots show; when Richard Gere meets his chronically discreet gay uncle in the park, or when he sits in the woods with his lover and puts a coat between them so they can hold hands.

DON'T. If they see us... from the other tents... they're always looking... they could throw us out... for touching... we have to be careful... we have to be very careful.

A word about Richard Gere: Sure, it is courageous for a straight man to play a homosexual. But the real act of courage would have been for the producers to cast a gay actor in this role. An openly gay actor has never played a homosexual on Broadway or in Hollywood. Every time a gay character appears in a film, the studios are at pains to mention the actor's family in the press release; to do otherwise might endanger a career. "Homosexual actors have more problems in America

than in any other country, in terms of having to be circumspect," says Martin Sherman, the author of *Bent*. The real masquerade is a straight man playing a gay man disguised as a Jew.

The producers of *Bent* seem to be aware that they have a hot potato on their hands, not just because of what this play says about the Holocaust, but because of what it says about men. Jack Schissel and Steven Steinlauf seemed worried when I interviewed them last week that the preview audiences were so gay. Steinlauf, who produced *Got Tu Go Disco*, kept telling me that *Bent* has to "cross over"—that is, attract a mixed audience—if it is to succeed.

In order to achieve that fabled mix—"It's a human story," Steinlauf said—the producers lowered the age of the characters so a matinee idol could play the lead. They turned down Robert DeNiro, and waited till Richard Gere was available. A sound strategy; though Joseph Papp turned the play down in 1978—the producers insist he didn't like its politics—Arthur Hiller, the director of *Love Story*, is now interested in the film rights, and Norman Lear is considering *Bent* for subscription television. It all depends on the response of a Broadway audience, and the producers were gratified that a heterosexual journalist who has been sympathetic to gay causes should show an interest in their play (I have often masqueraded as a Jew).

Bent is not an "ethnic" drama exclusively of interest to gay men. In fact, its analysis is freely borrowed from the women's movement, and I noticed that women on either side of me were in tears throughout much of the play. But its message will seem most profound to homosexuals. That this audience should be granted the opportunity to support a theatre of social concern—in the same year Billy Friedkin assaults us with *Cruising*—is justification enough for *Bent*. It is a flawed but powerful play. As to its accuracy, we can assume that some gay men suffered like the characters in *Bent*, but the testimony of gay survivors is hard to come by. Those who entered the United States had to deny their sexuality, or they would have been turned back. Those who remained in Germany were considered criminals until the late '60s, when antisodomy laws were dropped. To this day, Jews, gypsies, and Communists who were sent to concentration camps are entitled to restitution from the German state. Homosexuals are not.

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Perspective

The following letter appeared in last week's issue of AGN. Below this letter is a response from Jack P. Caldwell, Executive Director of Citizens for Constitutional Rights, which has been sent to Mr. Blankenship as well as to the Phoenix newspapers and various organizations in the Valley area.

Editor:

Your editorial criticizing Marines for refusing to work with homosexuals is typical of the shallow and near-sighted thinking that has become too common in our decadent society.

Your attitude of accepting anything and everything as being self-limiting is the chief cause of most of our ills. Like pregnancy and cancer, once the camel gets his nose into the tent he grows and grows.

As a former U.S. Marine, in philosophy as well as service, I am

indeed proud that my present day comrades are still "first to fight" and reject the filth that belies itself with the reference "gay". The fundamental law of God, or nature if you will, was, is now and always will be male-female offspring. All else is incidental and any or all relationships other than his established one should be abhorred.

To paraphrase "Tiny Tim", thank God for the U.S. Marines, and Anita Bryant and bless us all who honor his fundamental law.

DON BLANKENSHIP
Sun City

Mr. Don Blankenship
Sun City, AZ

Dear Mr. Blankenship:

On behalf of the 250,000 Gay citizens of Arizona, we offer you our sincere appreciation for your efforts in furthering the cause of Gay equality. And though we realize this may not have been your original intent, you have unwittingly provided us a great service.

But you may rest easy; you are not alone. Many individuals who are steeped in bigotry, hatred and misinformation regarding anyone who is in anyway different from themselves echo your sentiments. It is indeed unfortunate that zeal such as yours is so grossly misdirected. Any concerned, thinking individual who believes strongly in the Constitution of our great nation would do well to promote unity, love and patriotism, instead of propagating hatred and separatism, such as you have tried to do.

Apparently, you would like to see an American "Master Race" created, based upon uniformity in appearance and viewpoint, we would suggest you might consider that Adolph Hitler, who hated Gays as much as you do, attempted and failed at that endeavor. But our country is based upon diversity in all things, and the right to be whoever you are as long as one does not infringe upon the rights of others. Those who came first to America's shores did so to flee from the very same kinds of tyrannical prejudice and governmental control which you so proudly advocate.

Should you ever be successful in eliminating the minorities, you would find yourself quite alone, since our nation is a majority of minorities. Think it through, and look at yourself, for you too may well fall into minority status. Elderly male individuals of English descent are a minority in this country, and so are racial, sexual and religious bigots. And before you get too involved in your witchhunt against Gay Americans, it would well behoove you to take a closer look around you. If you are at all perceptive, you will quickly discover that a number of your friends are Gay (yes even in Sun City), as well as some of your family members, co-workers at the Sheriff's Department and neighbors, not to mention some of your ex-Marine "buddies." We Gays do, after all, constitute (conservatively) at least ten percent of the general population.

And were you to eliminate Gay people from equal protection under the United States Constitution, would you also wish to free us from the obligation of paying taxes, since you no doubt feel that Gay money is "dirty money?"

Even at this late stage in your life, you might do well to partake of a bit of self evaluation, as your kind of hatred is a conditioned response and is NOT normal!

Our American system is a wonderful thing. Wonderful because it affords a bigot to stand on a soap box perpetuating malicious, hateful untruths about someone else. And even more wonderful when an otherwise disenfranchised minority can band together, work within the system, overcome the malicious, hateful untruths, prove their worth to their fellow Americans, and become recognized as respectable and worthwhile contributors to the American way of life. And as a result of the efforts of people such as yourself, we Gay men and Lesbian women are beginning to stand up for ourselves and our rights, and we will not be stopped.

Again we thank you for your help in making others aware of just how much homophobia can hurt the American society. Should you wish to enlighten yourself on the subject at hand, please feel free to contact us. We are everywhere.

Jack P. Caldwell
Executive Director
Citizens For Constitutional Rights

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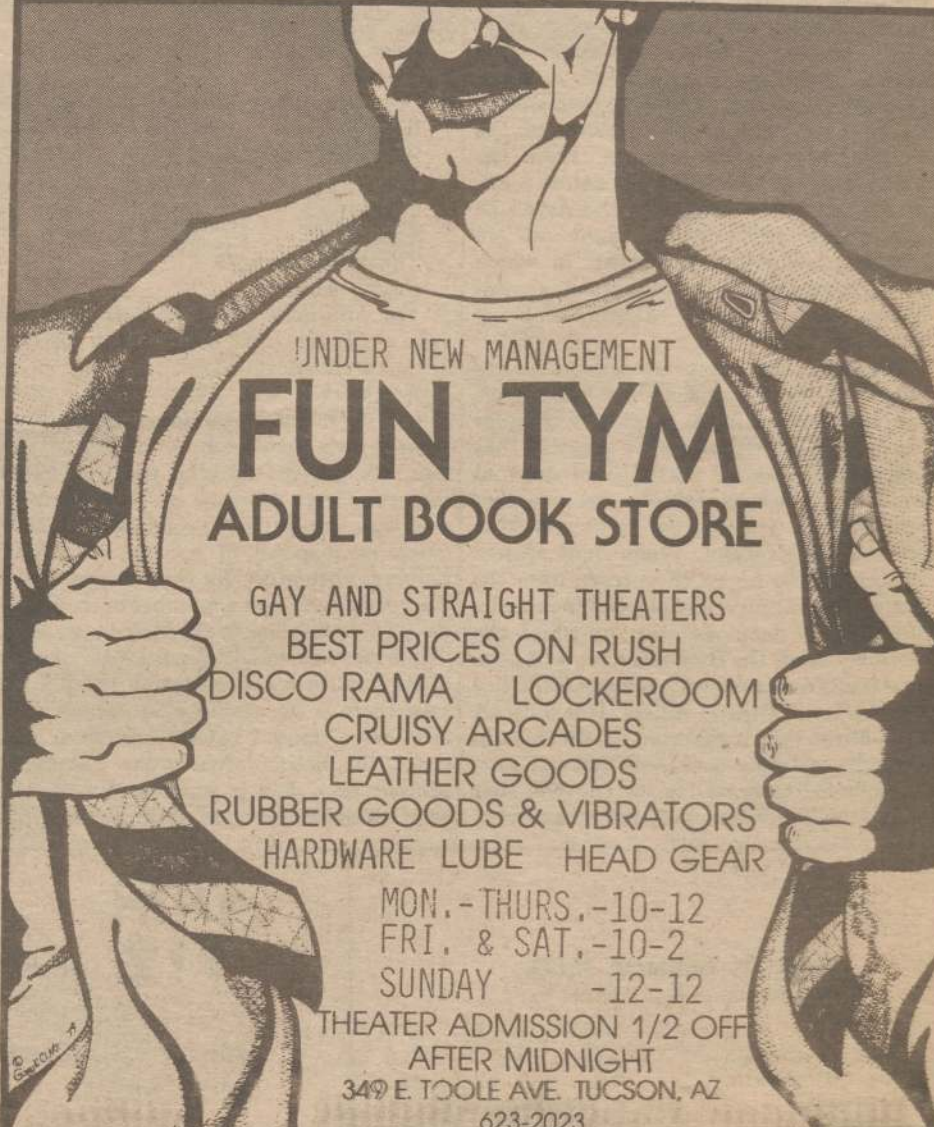
TOURIST - CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

unclear. Knutson sensed it was either their deep-rooted homophobia or an attempt to "settle a score" for the embarrassing position they found themselves in last June when they detained Carl Hill, the Gay English journalist who was wearing a Gay Pride Button. (AGN, 29 June 1979)

by Paul Lorch

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Your Marc in the Stars

Capricorn: December 22 to January 19

Avoid a personality clash with some sort of authority figure. This is the time when your chances of seeing eye to eye with anybody about practically anything are very slim. Travel arrangements or finances could be likely topics. Don't trust secrets with anyone, keep them to yourself. Later toward mid-week social life is worthwhile. You'll have less activity, more luck and better results. News will come that will brighten your prospects. The new moon brings a promising long range outlook. Steer a very cautious course in connection with personal finances. Count your change and watch possessions.

Aquarius: January 20 to February 18

The picture looks brighter for career or financial gains. Try to maintain an open mind about different matters. Try to keep costs down. There are various pitfalls waiting to trip you up now. If you stay out of the limelight you'll come out a winner. Valuable pointers, given in confidence, make financial resources available to you. The New Moon trends favor putting your efforts on solid and reliable ground. You're in the mood to gain attention but the planetary trends dont favor it. If you do be prepared for annoying interference.

Pisces: February 19 to March 20

Try to avert a clash over others resources. Don't expect those closest to you to help you to advance your current hopes and wishes. They have their own problems to settle. People who are important to your ambitions, take a second look at them before you leap. Social life is lively and enjoyable. The New Moon shows that your plans for the future include a built-in dependability factor. Stay clear of distracting people.

Aries: March 21 to April 19

Get an early start and take advantage of your energetic mood, because you could get into a showdown situation with your mate or other key ally. You do have some semblance of sensible organization. You'll be tempted to give free rein to exaggerated expectations. Keep with in practical guidelines or your work or health affairs might suffer. Respect the opinions of others and overall results may surprise you. The New Moon puts the spotlight on new beginnings where business affairs are concerned. Take advantage of excellent ideas to boost your prestige.

Taurus: April 20 to May 20

You're liable to find yourself at loggerheads with someone close over this weekend's project; avoid a showdown. Loved ones might resent your preoccupation with business. This is not a good interval for romance. Stick to reality. Distant interest and financial matters, possibly interrelated, may cause concern. Good news comes your way connected with someone close to your heart. Details take more time than expected. The New Moon provides the impetus to get current plans off the ground. Your farsighted outlook and sense of responsibility will help to make arrangements foolproof. Don't say yes or no to invitations.

Gemini: May 21 to June 20

Try to avert a clash over money with a loved one. Public relations and marital interest show an unfortunate trend now. Your expectations of others are much too high now. If they fall short, disappointment is your problem. Financial aims with regard to home interest are likely to be wide of the mark. Bring actions within practical guidelines. You can translate ideas into profitable actions. The New Moon continues its financial theme, but it isn't clear sailing. This is not a good time to try to impose your opinions on others.

CANCER: June 21 to July 22

There might be some sort of a showdown in regard to a marital or family difference; if so it clears the air for progress. Avoid snap decisions or hasty conclusions concerning loved ones and/or money matters. There is a tendency to overreact to news or exaggeration in connection with others, by phone calls or correspondence. Don't put anything in writing. Watch your health. The New Moon heralds a very busy period with a strong accent on decisions favoring daily activities, short journeys or other important relationships. Protect mutual assets; defer borrowing or lending.

Leo: July 23 to August 22

The price is right regarding a purchase or transaction. A tension-generating marital or family situation may have you on edge. A financial condition may be a contributing cause of strain. This is not the time to be indulgent where expenditures are concerned. A medical or dental bill will be more than you anticipated. This is an auspicious time to seek a raise or set the stage for it. The New Moon heralds a productive cycle where your employment interests are concerned. Be ready to make adjustments.

Virgo: August 23 to September 22

A lively trend brings a chance to get your ideas across to others. However loved ones or money create problems. Mental resourcefulness and patience will come in handy. Be conservative. Someone has your interest at heart sheds new light on things. This is a delightful period where ties of affection are concerned. If single get out and circulate. The New Moon shows that mental rapport is a strong attraction, if someone new enters your life. If attached, you can firm up an existing relationship.

Libra: September 23 to October 23

You can get more mileage out of a fortunate domestic and/or financial trend this week. You'll run the gamut between satisfaction and frustrations with the accent on the latter. Loved ones are irksome. Correspondence, news, meetings or messages can keep you busy. Trust facts only. Take advantage of an unusually good financial or domestic development. The New Moon shows that you should give some serious thought to home, family or property matters. Luck is with you if you move swiftly but surely.

Scorpio: October 24 to November 22

A fortunate trend provides you with plenty of freedom of action and the chance to say whatever is on your mind to a good effect. Personal financial affairs are emphasized with a tendency to listen to advice that's too good to be true. Keep a firm grip on financial affairs. Promote your interest, but be sensible. You have more luck and less chance for personal failure. The New Moon helps you to make a long-range decision that is a more promising and secure future.

Sagittarius: November 23 to December 21

Be very cautious with friends and money. It's a good idea to stay on the sidelines. The workweek finds you in a rather reckless mood; you could get in over your head in a business deal. Avoid all risks in connection with business or finances and concentrate on confidential help. The New Moon continues the financial theme. There are likely to be some mix-ups in communications, but don't let that botch up your future weekend plans.

Sacramento sheriff seeks aid

SACRAMENTO (BAR) - The Sacramento Sheriff's Department has asked help from the Gay communities in solving the murder of William Gage Johnston, age 51, of Cirtus Heights. On the evening of July 17 at 6:30 p.m., Mr. Johnston was shot to death in his home, and then the home was ransacked and set on fire.

Officers are seeking the following: (1) a man owning a silver Corvette, described as a white male adult, approximate age 25, 5'9" to 5'11", collar length sandy hair, possibly with a beard and a tattoo of a large bird on his left arm between the shoulder and the elbow. The subject was observed leaving the scene in the Corvette after the homicide; and (2) the whereabouts of Bill Franklin, described as 25 to 28 years of age, white male, possibly living in the Reno area. A reward of \$2,500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer or slayers. If you have information please call the Sacramento Bee Secret Witness Program at 442-6221, or contact detectives Steve Reed or Gary Gritzmacher at (916) 440-5057.

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Church News



DIGNITY of Tucson



DIGNITY is an international organization beginning its second decade of service to the Gay community and to the Roman Catholic Church. Established in 1969 in Los Angeles, there are over 80 chapters in North America today with affiliate chapters in Australia, Spain, England, Holland, France, Korea, Italy, and Sweden. Each chapter works within its community to provide a support group for Gay Catholics and others in need of such a group and it works to educate the church regarding matters of Gay spirituality, especially as it pertains to Roman Catholics. DIGNITY is not a church itself and it does not seek to separate from the Roman Catholic Church; it is a "caucus" group or fraternal organization working within the structure of the Catholic Church to develop and nurture spiritual growth among Gay men and lesbian women. Further, it is the intent of DIGNITY to lobby the Church to change its policy regarding homosexuality.

In Arizona there is a chapter in Phoenix and another in Tucson. Both are very active with large memberships. Interested persons are invited to attend chapter functions that range from monthly mass to socials and business meetings.

During January, the Tucson chapter will have the following activities: Jan 12...Mass & Pot Luck dinner; Jan. 20...Visitation mass & brunch; Jan. 24...Monthly business meeting; Jan. 25...Game night (cards etc.). For more information call 745-1812 or 297-6340.

MCC

Sunday worship services are at 6 p.m. at the Danforth Chapel on the A.S.U. Campus.

TEMPE We have an outreach to Gay students, however, non-students are also welcome. Prison ministry, hospital and jail visitation, individual and couple counseling are also available. For more information write: Rev. Kay Palin, Oasis MCC, P.O. Box 10272, Phoenix, AZ 85064, PH: 279-5878.

HTCC

A happy, prosperous, healthful new year and decade to all of our friends out there, and to our new friends that we haven't met. We pray God's blessings on each one of you.

Along with the new year and decade, we at Holy Trinity are looking for a new permanent home. Several possibilities are being considered, but the exact place with all our needs fulfilled has yet to surface. We want to give more to the community and as soon as our new home turns up, there'll be lots of new services to the community. So -- everyone keep your fingers crossed for us -- and you.

Lots of new folks keep turning up at our services. We hope you have all been helped in some way. Let us know if you have -- or have not. We love to have you and - Y'all come back, you hear?

The socials after the 7:30 p.m. services every Sunday evening are really being enjoyed by those who attend. They're not fancy, but the company is interesting. It also provides us a chance to get to know you and for you to know us. You'll never know who you missed if you aren't there.

Our main reason for existence is to tell folks that there is an answer to their problems and needs. We believe we have the answer. Jesus Christ through His love heals all kinds of hurt. We hope to see you next Sunday and tell you all about it. Pastor Jim Rice, 323-2424.

MCC Tucson

A little belated, Jean and I wish you a good and prosperous New Year and New Decade.

We have recently returned from a trip back east. We were fortunate to attend a Metropolitan Community Church Worship Service in Toronto, Canada. Christian love and fellowship was prevalent in Canada as well as in the United States. This visit also was a reunion with some of the MCC family that we had met at UFMCC's General Conferences. We are very fortunate as members of UFMCC that wherever we may be we can find people in our church family in a very short period of time whether it be in

the United States or foreign countries. We know "We Are Not Alone."

I personally want to thank the Rev Bern David for filling in for me while Jean and I were on a much needed vacation. Bern did an outstanding job of shepherding the flock.

Truth Chapel MCC of Tucson offers a number of activities for the people of our community. Worship Services, Informal Bible Study, Men's Raps (meets this Friday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m.), Women's Raps, social activities, but most of all companionship, support and fellowship. For more information call 748-8699. Go with God. Rev. "Buff"



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Letters to the editor

EDITOR AGN:

The following is a note I sent to the Connection:

"Dear Dale and Company of the Connection:

Your imagination and caring shown by what you all have done - 'Connection Village People,' Fair, 'Ice Show' and special events should not go unrewarded" You all have my nomination for men of the year! Thank you all"

Love, Ivan - Phoenix

ED NOTE: Hear, Hear!

EDITOR:

I am an older man who was brought out a few years ago by a young Gay. Since that time I have become acquainted with the Gay world and especially with the Gay community in Phoenix. What I have found causes me great dismay.

From my observations, I find that Gay males are interested in only two things: First, and by far foremost, is an erect penis. Second, a wealthy father figure (in other words a "sugar daddy"). I find that Gay bars exist only to make these two searches easier. People in a Gay bar are either "cruising" or "hustling."

By "hustling" I do not necessarily mean sex for money. It could be sex for any one of a number of things: sex for beer, sex for a meal, sex for transportation, sex for a place to spend the night, sex for a gift, sex for an apartment, and so on indefinitely. This situation makes a very poor impression on any straight who visits a Gay bar. In fact, it makes such a poor impression on some Gays that they themselves make it a point to avoid such bars.

Truly, the greatest enemy of Gays, is Gays themselves.

Name Withheld by Request

GREETINGS:

Your kindness in publicizing the "Mature Gays" social evenings is much appreciated.

Dollars speak fully as loud as words, welcome and gratifying though acknowledgement is. Thus this contribution to the expense of producing AGN.

Some Matures from Phoenix

ED NOTE: Our deepest thanks for your kind contribution. The AGN is truly a non-profit endeavor. It counts on our many advertisers as well as contributions such as yours to continue its weekly publication. All proceeds go back into the paper. The more advertising and/or donations, the better the paper. We believe we are doing a valuable service in binding our communities together to form a more cohesive unit. Thanks again for your donation and also a big thanks to our many advertisers who pay their AGN bills to keep us going.

EDITOR:

I would like to make a comment about the food at the Back Pocket. I recently had a chance to eat there and was amazed at the quality of the food. Right away you could tell that it was made from scratch and not prepared from a box of instant anything as is so much the case in most restaurants. It is obvious to me that someone or somebody has taken time and effort to upgrade the food there. Those people are Bill and Rusty, who are from out of town. They seem to care about the quality and preparation of what we eat. And isn't it nice that for once, we don't have to worry about what we eat other than calories.

Congratulations are in order for Bob Bishop for his support in this area and many other areas he has put his efforts to upgrade the Tucson Gay Community. I would much rather put my Gay money into this establishment than a "Jock in the Box" or a "Sambored" anyway. I urge all those people who have not eaten there to try it, you have nothing to lose except gain a few calories. Yours in gluttony

G.N. Clark, Tucson

EDITOR AGN:

The activities of Gay Community Services of Tucson have been restricted because of finances. Finances have been restricted because of an on-going struggle with the Internal Revenue Service.

GCS has applied repeatedly to IRS for "Tax Exempt" status. We have used the language "They" requested, we have used the forms "They" have required and now we are making yet another application.

"Tax Exempt" status would open the door to various beneficial forms of funding and grants that would permit GCS to meet the growing service needs of this Gay community.

With or without the enviable "Tax Exempt" status, the current Director and Board of Trustees for GCS feel the time has come to accept the risk of possible taxation by generating operating financial resources directly from the Gay community in the effort to build a system of Gay services that meets the needs of our men and women.

We are tired of turning people with bonafide human needs over to general social agencies who will deride that individual on the potential disclosure that he or she is Gay.

When a person is hungry, in need of temporary lodging or health service, they should not be compelled to have the physical assistance with the simultaneous psychological brow-beating.

It would be beautiful if we lived in a society that merely recognized human needs and dealt with them on that basis. Unfortunately we don't because general society still views the homosexual as a biological and emotional mutant subject to eradication or cure.

From now through the next GCS elections in September, a vigorous program of social activities will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN

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- ...It was discovered that Jack G., "Mr. Butch 1964," now has a pink refrigerator and plans to change all his appliances that color.
- ...One would think now that Dave D. has retired he would certainly have time to do a painting for one of his favorite bartenders!
- ...With the reputation of his escort New Years Eve, Dani R. carried no cash or valuables with him.
- ...For some reason Judy Ohhhh has been moving about slowly and humming "Like A Rolling Stone."
- ...For some reason Tony C. has been moving about quickly and singing "Get It While You Can."
- ...It's true that Tall John likes to play 7-14-21!
- ...Daisey H., that ever-sharp Sunday entertainer at the BP last summer, has returned for an engagement last Sunday. Her personal manager was sad to announce, "The reason Daisey didn't do her usual strip is because she's getting too old!"
- ...Coors Ralph doesn't know it yet, but his delicate "China Doll" is really unbreakable!
- ...Why does Space Cadet wonder "Where's Everybody Goin?"
- ...It is a fact that Monte-Jon got drunk waiting for the show music for the Graduate New Years Eve show.
- ...If you want to hear a good story, just ask Turbo Dickie what he was doing washing the bathroom wall at the Book-Cellar Bookstore.
- ...Mark H. has really put a lot of effort into getting everyone done before Joe K. moves to Tucson next weekend. That's not a typographical error Mark, it is supposed to be everyone!
- ...For those following the liquor stock market, it appears J.B. sold his shares of Dewars and invested heavily in J.W. Red Label!
- ...A new restaurant will be added to a local N.W. bar. It will feature "Water-burgers" and "Funnel Fries." Thanks for the tip Della!
- ...By the looks of his neck, Gary C. must have joined the "Save The Leopard" Campaign.
- ...Some, not-so-nice, person said that Bob E. couldn't have given Gary all those hickeys because Bob doesn't have that much wind in him!
- ...George R. has no problem remembering it is a new year. All he does is remember how old he was when he could start drinking in Arizona and how old he is now.
- ...Whv is PPC wearing Francis' chain around his finger?

LETTERS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

implemented to raise funds so that we may expedite needed services to Gay men and women.

We hope the situation with IRS will be favorably resolved but in the interim, we heartedly request the Gay men and women of this community lend moral and material support to GCS. GCS belongs to all of us, we are growing and it must grow. We will survive!

Dale A. McKissack, Director
Gay Community Services of Tucson

NGTF - CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

NGTF. ABC News failed to keep its part of the agreement.

NGTF Co-Executive Directors Charles Brydon and Lucia Valeska stated, "The film is not without merit, however, and we do not in any way want to condemn the courageous contributions made by those lesbians and Gay men who were willing to share their stories with Helen Whitney, ABC and the world. There were a number of powerful and illuminating personal statements made in the documentary. The problem is that in the final result they were buried by the onslaught of visual and verbal eccentricities, highlighted by an incessant barrage of intentionally bizarre musical, lighting and timing effects.

"The experience teaches all of us a hard lesson. Although we must risk unfair treatment at the hands of a much needed, theoretically unbiased non-Gay media, we must also scrutinize and gain control over the uses and product of our energy, openness and courage, which in this case resulted in a portrait of Gay people which at best evokes a tainted kind of sympathy. This is something which we can do without. Further, the community should heed the experiences of NGTF with ABC news. Until we can win assurances that agreements will be kept by ABC, the lesbian and Gay community should exercise extreme caution in all contacts with ABC News."

Individual and group responses to the program should be directed to the network by writing: Pamela Hill, Vice President, News Documentaries, American Broadcasting Company, 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019.

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News Briefs

GAY BARS USED AS FRONT IN SCHEME
NEW YORK, NY (GCN) — Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold has said that 13 men have been accused of participating in a scheme to use several Manhattan Gay bars as "job fronts" to fraudulently collect more than \$185,000 in unemployment benefits. Most of the men are said to be customers of the bars and are alleged to have used 89 pseudonyms based on fake baptismal certificates and other identification in order to receive 1,557 checks from the state Department of Labor.

The alleged "ringleader," John Aitken of Brooklyn is said to have used his managerial position at the Gay bars to falsify past employment records of participants in the scheme so they could apply for benefits. Such bars as John's Joint on W. 41st St. and Copper's Tavern on Second Ave. were infiltrated by undercover agents of the state police during the 18-month investigation. Aitken has been accused of receiving 300 checks under 24 names. Gold said that more than 66 bank accounts were used to handle the large amounts of money.

TRANSPERSON DISAPPEARS WITH SON
SAN DIEGO, CA (GCN) — A arrest warrant has been issued for Gerry Sousa, a transsexual parent involved in a custody dispute over his 10-year-old son, Andrew, following his disappearance with the boy. Custody was granted in June to officials of University Hospital who claimed that Sousa was interfering with Andrew's medical treatment. Sousa in turn, alleges that the hospital sought custody only to give Andrew a kidney transplant which he alleges gives the boy only a 14% chance of survival.

Sousa, 40, has also charged that hospital officials have attempted to have him declared unfit as a parent because he has undergone transsexual surgery. Gerry Sousa is, in fact, Andrew's natural mother.

MARYLAND GCC BURNED AT BENEFIT
BALTIMORE, MD (SGN) — A benefit dance for Maryland's Gay Community Center caused so much damage to the facilities that a benefit fund-raiser will be held to pay for the benefit. Following the dance at Maryland's World Trade Center, Baltimore's GCC was informed that, because of cigarette burns to the carpeting, the group will have to pay \$4,000 to have it cleaned.

According to Richard Anderson, director of the state owned and operated building the carpet suffered over 100 cigarette burns during the dance, too many to repair by clipping off the burned material from the carpet. The dance was attended by over 500 Gays to raise money to support the services of the BGCC. Harvey Schwartz, BGCC president says that the \$1,800 raised at the dance will have to go toward replacing the carpet. Another benefit — this time to raise money for the carpet, is scheduled for later in the month.

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