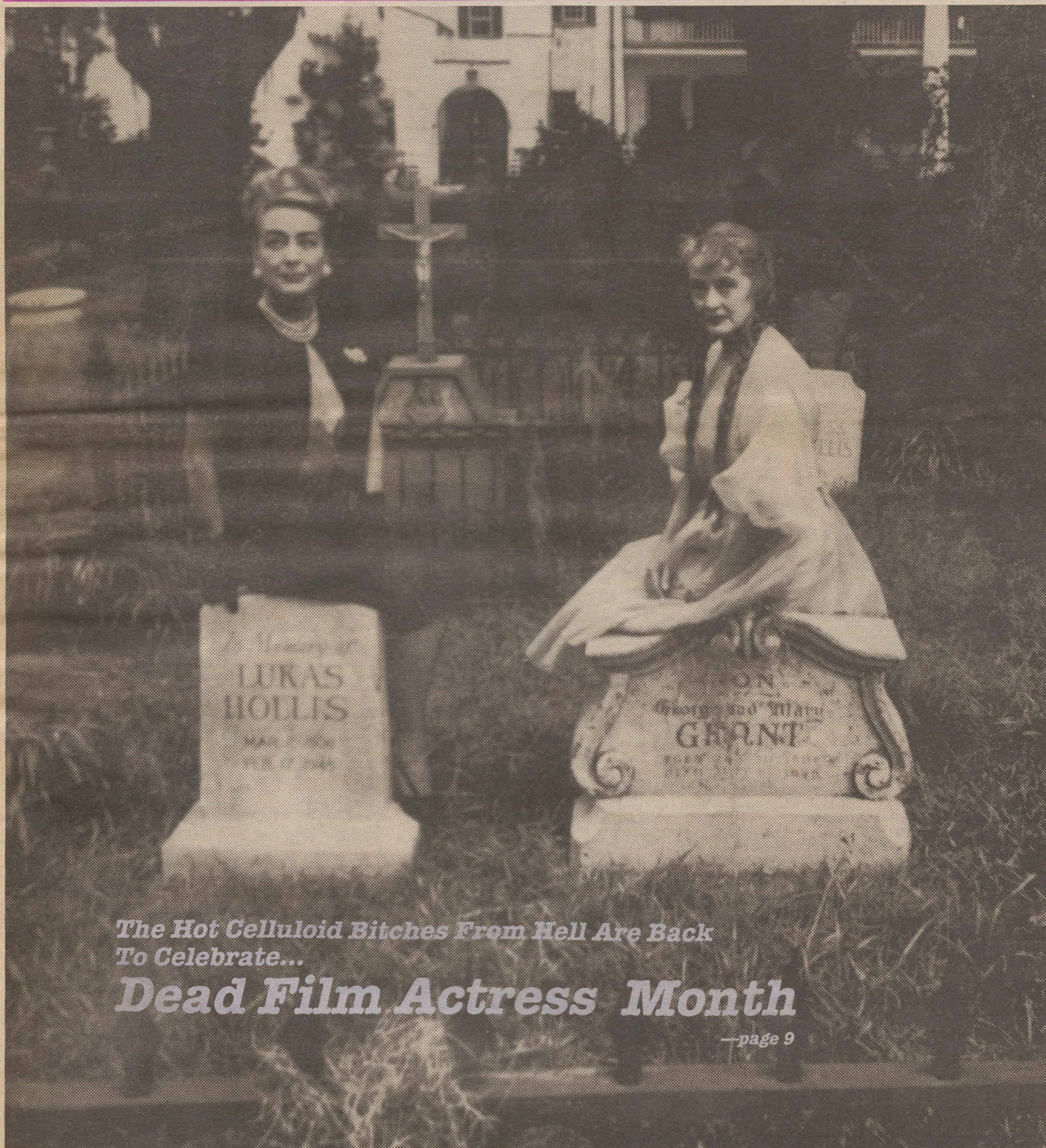




volume 6 • issue 4 • february 16 — march 1, 1990

# phoenix resource



*The Hot Celluloid Bitches From Hell Are Back  
To Celebrate...*

## **Dead Film Actress Month**

—page 9

# G U I D E

R E S O U R C E

## AIDS REFERRAL

**AGAPE Network**  
P.O. Box 15826  
Phoenix 85060  
244-0747

**AIDS Info Line**  
234-2752

**AIDS Referral,  
Counseling & Education**  
508 W. 10th St.  
Mesa 85201  
461-2437  
461-2205

**Arizona AIDS Project**  
919 N. 1st St.  
Phoenix 85004  
420-9396

**Community AIDS Council**  
PO Box 32903  
Phoenix 85064  
265-2437

**Flagstaff AIDS Support  
Group**  
PO Box 183  
Flagstaff 86002  
525-1199

**The Names Project  
Phoenix Chapter**  
PO Box 82111  
Phoenix 85071-2111

**Phoenix Shanti Group**  
1314 E. McDowell  
Phoenix 85006  
271-0008

**Planned Parenthood**  
5651 N. 7th St.  
Phoenix 85014  
George: 277-PLAN

**Sedona AIDS Group**  
525-1199

**Valley of the Sun Coalition  
for PWAs**  
PO Box 16847  
Phoenix 85011  
224-5486

**Veterans Administration**  
HIV Coordinator &  
Educator: Lee Hood  
277-5551 Ext. 164

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Alcoholics**  
963-0984

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Phoenix 249-1257

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Central Office  
Gay Group Listings  
264-1341

**American Gay Atheists**  
Phoenix  
3003 N. Central Ave.  
Ste 121 Box 211  
Phoenix 85012

**Eagle-US West**  
PO Box 36702  
Phoenix 85067  
244-1278

**Feminist & Lesbian  
Activist Coalition**  
967-2570  
276-5840

**Gay Alliance of Northern  
Arizona**  
Info & Referral Line  
PO Box 183  
Flagstaff 86002  
252-1199

**Lesbian & Gay Community  
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234-2753

**Parents & Friends of  
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PO Box 37525  
Phoenix 85064  
942-0417  
AIDS related: 939-7807

**Phoenix Pride Planning  
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PO Box 5948  
Phoenix 85010  
631-0350

**Relationship Discussion  
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870-9597

**The Women's Center**  
PO Box 26031  
Tempe 85282  
496-9931

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Phoenix 85001  
957-3476

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Phoenix 85067  
968-7184

**Lesbian & Gay Academic  
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A.S.U.  
Tempe 85287

**Lesbian & Gay Community  
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241-4230

**Los Amigos Del Sol**  
PO Box 27335  
Phoenix 85061  
843-1329

**Our Gang Bowling League**  
PO Box 12131  
Scottsdale 85267

**People Exchanging Power**  
5821 N. 67th Ave. Ste  
103-276  
Glendale 85301  
848-8737

**Phoenix Gay & Married  
Men's Assoc.**  
PO Box 47811  
Phoenix 85068  
435-0828

**Phoenix Gay Youth Group**  
PO Box 1075  
Mesa 85211

**Phoenix Lesbian & Gay  
Youth**  
Artie Michals  
938-3932

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Dan: 268-5827

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Phoenix 85001

**Peter Hudson: 225-8509  
Pam Holt: 249-1910**

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**Independent Tavern  
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Phoenix 85067  
253-3285

**Coalition For Immediate  
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PO Box 33233  
Phoenix 85067  
246-8277

**Arizona Democratic Party**  
254-4179

**Arizona Republican Party**  
957-7777

**Human Rights Campaign  
Fund:**  
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715 W. Portland  
Phoenix 85007

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248-7921

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Phoenix 85023  
843-5993

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841-5414

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Mesa 85201  
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Phoenix**  
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Paradise Valley 85253  
840-8400

**Gentle Shepherd**  
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Phoenix 85046  
996-7644

**Healing Waters Ministries**  
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Ste A-10  
Phoenix 85008  
244-1577

**Oasis (MCC)**  
2405 E. Coronado  
Phoenix 85008  
244-0747

**Restoration Church of  
Jesus Christ**  
1-800-677-RCJCC

## SOCIAL GROUPS:

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Tempe 85285-6601  
921-4025

**Brethren Mennonites  
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Glendale, 85312

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Phoenix 85036  
258-2556

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Scottsdale  
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Phoenix  
258-9477

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Scottsdale  
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Phoenix  
266-0875

**Charlie's**  
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265-0224  
727 W. Camelback

**Cruisin' Central**  
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Phoenix  
253-3376

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946-9303

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Phoenix  
271-9011

**Gentry**  
4523 N. 16th St  
Phoenix  
274-1288

**Incognito**  
2424 E. Thomas  
Phoenix  
955-9805

**Little Jim's 307**  
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Phoenix  
252-0001

**Nasty Habits**  
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Phoenix  
267-8707

**Nutowne**  
5002 E. Van Buren  
Phoenix  
267-9959

**Preston's**  
4102 E. Thomas Road  
Phoenix  
224-5778

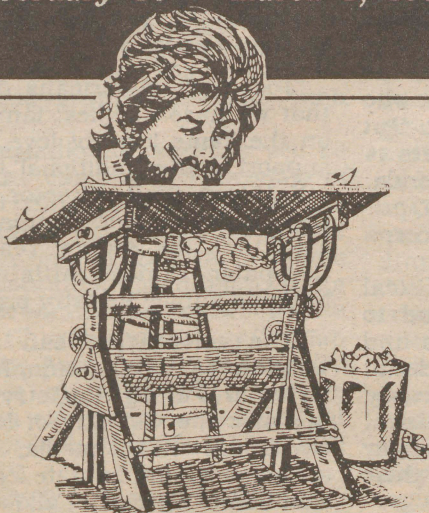
**Talk of the Town**  
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248-0065

**Trax**  
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Phoenix  
254-0231

**Wink's**  
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265-9002

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**phoenix resource**

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# Crossing the threshold...



Opportunities in life are endless...except for those touched by AIDS the opportunities seem few. With one diagnosis, they can lose their jobs... their homes...their families.

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## EDITORIALS...

### Bucking Gay Activism

Bj Bud

There is no doubt about it...I can deny the truth no more. "Gay political activist" Ed Buck is *news*.

Whenever Buck calls a press conference, the media shows up. More gays and lesbians, nationwide, know who Buck is than can identify the president of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Why is Buck so newsworthy? In 1987, he headed a successful campaign to recall Arizona's Governor Evan Mecham. That is to say, Buck succeeded in *organizing people* to acquire enough signatures to schedule a recall election. Fortunately the Arizona Legislature took action, because of the success of the recall, to boot Mecham out of office moments before a recall election could be scheduled. The bottom line was that Mecham was out of office, due in large part to the efforts of the recall group.

How difficult was it to obtain enough signatures to initiate a recall? Certainly, Buck's aggravation level hit new heights in organizing the effort. For sure, he had to forge new ground. No Arizona governor had ever weathered a successful recall attempt. But as a petition carrier, I found it relatively easy to obtain over 1,000 signatures. Every couple of weeks, Mecham would say or do something to prove his incompetence as governor. People *thanked* me for giving them the opportunity to sign a recall petition.

Buck had the resources (read: *money*) to get the ball rolling. He put in a lot of hours at the recall office, talking with the press, making decisions, and doing whatever the head of an organization does. He dedicated his waking hours to his myopic goal. If he got paid, great. If not, he certainly received his share of public exposure.

So what will Ed Buck's next move be?

When he decided several months ago to announce that he was "thinking about" entering the governor's race, the news cameras showed up to record this historical moment. I don't *blame* the media. It's our job to look for stories and blow them out of proportion. When the Socialist or Libertarian candidate announces his candidacy, no media source reports it. But allow a homosexual to express similar considerations, and the media is there. Ed Buck is *news*.

Since the initial hullabaloo, not much more has been heard about Buck For Governor. Was this announcement simply a ploy to obtain more news coverage? Was it premature? Was it sincere? The only one who knows for sure is Buck. Maybe he didn't receive the response, the support, or the financial backing he thought he needed to run.

Oh, well. Back to the drawing board.

Buck is now testing the waters for an ideal scenario which he thinks is timely, newsworthy and "do-able." He is checking out the concept of recalling our two U.S. senators, Dennis DeConcini and John McCain. Why? Because, in his opinion, they acted unethically in dealing with the Charles Keating mess. Maybe they were unethical, maybe not. Maybe they truly believed they were "helping out a constituent," just as they said.

Is there any reason why gay men and lesbians should take an active role in recalling DeConcini and McCain? According to the *NGLTF Federal Legislative Report* (1989), both McCain and DeConcini have a 38% "correct" (pro-gay) voting record for the 1988 session and a 25% "correct" voting record for 1989.

McCain is Republican, DeConcini was elected as a Democrat, and they both have the same voting record on our issues—anti-gay. But what about our other representatives who are earning money in Washington? In the House of Representatives, according to the NGLTF report, Stump and Kyl had a 0% "correct" record for 1989; Rhodes was 25% "correct"; Kolbe, 63%; and Udall (the only Democrat) 75%. If recalling the senators is a gay issue, should we not also recall four of our five representatives for similar lack of support of our concerns?

Obviously, the majority of our representatives have done little for the gay/lesbian movement. None (except Udall) have been supportive of the Right to Choose issue, and have been basically unresponsive to our needs. If we were to recall every legislator who was unresponsive to AIDS, gay/lesbian rights, abortion, or civil rights in general, we would be spending our entire collective lives trying to recall the majority of legislators. If we have the energy to recall our elected officials, why not use that energy to work for legislators who want our help and will be supportive of our issues?

Do these two senators deserve to be recalled? Should we spend any gay/lesbian

—cont. on page 14

## Lesbian Survey Ranks Partnership Rights #1 Issue

A recent survey of lesbians ranks partnership rights as their top issue for legislative advocacy. The survey was conducted by the Lesbian Issues and Outreach Project of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Over two thirds of the lesbians responding to the survey, directed to women who had contributed to the Human Rights Campaign Fund or who had participated in its Speak Out program, picked partnership rights as the number one issue on their agenda. Lesbian and gay rights, abortion/privacy issues and parenting concerns followed close behind.

As the nation's largest political organization fighting for an end to discrimination against lesbians and gays, HRCF is giving a high priority to the partnership issue. On February 14th, HRCF kicked off its National Family Registry, giving lesbian and gay families a way to publicly declare their relationship.

"It is time this country recognizes lesbian and gay families as entities just as important as the heterosexual families and just as deserving of support from our country's legal system, the mainstream media and in everyday culture," HRCF executive

director Tim McFeeley stated in response to the result of the survey.

"The overwhelming concern for partnership rights tells us that we need to move forward at a greater speed to educate the public about the strength of our relationships," McFeeley added.

"Too many Americans don't know that we have families, families based on the same kind of love, trust and support as the 'traditional' family."

Kathleen Stoll, director of HRCF's Lesbian Issues and Outreach Project, said that the survey reaffirms the Campaign Fund's initiative for the National Family Registry program.

"The celebration can also be a weapon to fight homophobia. The National Family Registry will help increase the visibility of lesbian and gay families in the media, in the halls of congress, and in state legislatures," said Stoll. "We cannot allow the 'right-wing' to define family by its own arbitrary standards. As we lobby this nation's lawmakers to grant homosexuals equal rights we should proudly point to our own family tradition—families built on love, support and commitment."

## Law Association Causes ABA To Add Protections

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Lesbian and Gay Law Association held a press conference late last month to announce the inclusion of a ban against anti-gay discrimination in the court systems.

Successful lobbying by the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) caused the American Bar Association (ABA) to include a ban against discrimination based on sexual orientation in its draft Model Code of Judicial Conduct. Specific protection in the code means that lesbians and gay men can expect and demand fair treatment in the judicial system.

The code applies to judges throughout the country and subjects them to discipline if they violate its ethical canons. It will now send an explicit message to judges that they will be held personally responsible if they discriminate against gay people.

In 1988 Judge Jack Hampton told newspaper reporters in Dallas, Texas that he had given a lighter sentence to convicted murderers because their victims were gay. He blamed the victims for their own murders. NLGLA cited this and other outrageous examples of anti-gay discrimination by judges when it testified before the ABA Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility. Judge Hampton has since been censured by the Texas judicial commission on ethics.

In May 1989 the committee issued a draft of the revised judicial code which banned only discrimination based on race, sex, religion and national origin. After receiving oral and written testimony from NLGLA, the draft was changed to state, "A judge shall not, in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct manifest bias or prejudice, including by not limited to bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socio-economic status, and shall not permit staff court officials and others subject to the judge's direction and control to do so"

In February 1989 the ABA House of Delegates overwhelmingly passed a resolution endorsing legislation which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations. The House is also expected to give final approval of the revised code which will be presented at its upcoming February meeting in Los Angeles.

Suzanne Bryant, one of Washington's two regional board members for NLGLA, appeared before the committee in Washington, DC. Bryant stated that, "Because lesbians and gay men have received unfair treatment in the court system, many have not availed themselves of existing legal protection. Finally, we can expect and demand equal treatment under the law." Ron Albers, co-chair of NLGLA, who testified in San Francisco, said he was "thrilled that his group's lobbying had convinced the ABA to take the appropriate steps and correct an oversight in the original draft. Many thanks go to NLGLA members, especially Suzanne Bryant." Albers and Bryant's testimonies were key in convincing the ABA to change the rules. The ABA's serious consideration of the group's testimony portends further cooperation between the two organizations. Albers said, "I expect NLGLA and the ABA to have a positive ongoing relationship in the future."

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## Lutherans Concerned Plans Biennial Convention

CHICAGO—The board of directors of Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA) is planning to host the largest group of gay and lesbian Lutherans ever assembled at the organization's upcoming biennial convention. Assembly '90 marks LC/NA's sixteenth year of working for lesbian and gay understanding within the church and will be the group's seventh such gathering.

The international assembly will be held on the campus of University of Illinois at Chicago July 19-22. The four day event will provide a basis for networking among LC/NA members who are continually working to bring about reconciliation between the Lutheran Church and the gay/lesbian community. Assembly '90 is intended to provide an atmosphere where people can experience a familiar yet fresh approach to spirituality and community.

Assembly '90's theme, *I Am In Your Midst*, is designed to be interpreted in a variety of ways. It can signify gay and lesbian people and their supporters speaking to a world that oppresses and marginalizes. The theme is a call to the church bodies of

the world, from the great numbers of dedicated people forgotten by organized religion due to their sexual orientation. It can also be the faithful words of love and acceptance spoken to the lesbian and gay community by God's Spirit.

*I Am In Your Midst* will be the conceptual basis for all of the weekend's activities, including large group sessions and small group workshops, as well as worship services and social events. Other plans include a Chicago-style pizza reception, a picnic at an outdoor concert, and a dinner and dance celebrating the diversity of sexuality in society and creation.

Registration fees are divided into member/non-member categories. Reduced "early-bird" registration fee (Member: \$150; Non-member: \$180) is available for those who register before May 1. After that date regular registration fees will apply (Member: \$165; Non-member: \$200). Housing costs are \$15 per night/double occupancy, and \$30 per night/single room. For more information: Assembly '90 Mailbox, P.O. Box 10197, Fort Dearborn Station, Chicago, IL 60610.

## Post Card Campaign To Mark Rights Bill Anniversary

Activists Aim For Passage of Bill in 1990's

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the introduction of the Federal Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill on March 25-27 with a series of commemorative events designed to increase momentum and awareness of the anti-discrimination legislation.

Among other things, NGLTF will launch a massive gay and lesbian constituent post card campaign to increase support for the bill in the U.S. Congress. The objective of the Task Force is to pass the bill during this decade.

The bill, officially known as The Civil Rights Amendments Act of 1990, was introduced into the 94th Congress in 1975 by then-Representative Bella Abzug, the bill's first sponsor. NGLTF staff and board of directors were instrumental in securing the bill's introduction. NGLTF extensively lobbied Abzug and helped develop the bill's language and provisions.

"NGLTF was there at the birth of this important bill 15 years ago," said Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF executive director. "Now, we are calling on our community and allies to rededicate and commit ourselves to enacting this law in the 90's."

Support for the bill has grown steadily over the years. A hearing on the bill was held in San Francisco on October 10, 1980. Currently, HR655, sponsored by Ted Weiss (D-NY), has 74 House cosponsors, and S47, sponsored by Alan Cranston (D-CA), has eight Senate cosponsors.

The act would prohibit discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual orientation in the areas of housing, employment, credit, public accommodations and federally assisted programs. Passage of the bill would specifically amend Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin.

Advocates of the bill say it would ensure equal access for all persons,

regardless of sexual orientation, to vital areas of society. The bill also protects persons from being required to disclose their sexual orientation.

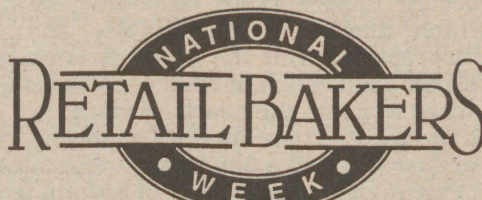
As part of its commemorative post card campaign, NGLTF will distribute thousands of cards to gay and lesbian organizations nationwide. Constituents are asked to complete the cards and forward them to their lawmakers, urging them to cosponsor the bill.

In addition, NGLTF has produced a lobbying packet on the bill for constituents around the country. NGLTF urges gays and lesbians to lobby their Federal representatives at their home district offices, in particular during NGLTF's Lobby Days in June.

NGLTF will also sponsor various receptions and other events in Washington, DC, during the March celebration of the bill's anniversary.

"The bill is a Federal legislative breakthrough that bears on the well-being of gay and lesbian Americans," said Bruce Voeller, president of the Mariposa Foundation, a human sexuality and AIDS research and education group. Voeller, former executive director of NGLTF in the early 70's, lobbied Rep. Abzug and was key in getting her to introduce the original bill.

"It is designed to assist gays and lesbians in coming out by protecting them against discrimination," said Voeller. "When more gay people come out—when our visibility is increased among our families and policy makers—we become more powerful."



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## Signs of the Times: DeConcini Yields; Language Discrimination Stops

Dennis DeConcini is getting it from all sides. Arizona's Democratic senator, who doesn't face another election until 1994, has suddenly become the focus of an intense local lobbying effort on behalf of lesbian/gay community issues. Perhaps it was the Keating fiasco that brought DeConcini's shortcomings as a legislator into sharper focus, but those of us who have followed his voting pattern know that he owes as big an explanation to lesbians and gay men as he does to the senior citizens who were bilked by Lincoln Savings.

As documented in the last two issues of this publication, DeConcini has consistently voted the party line on lesbian/gay-related bills in the U.S. Senate. Unfortunately, it's the Republican party line.

In regard to our issues, his voting record ranks in the bottom 10 percent among his fellow Democrats in the Senate. Last year, he matched Republican John McCain vote-for-vote.

Last month, a prominent gay activist in Tucson contacted DeConcini's local office and expressed concern over this errant behavior. He was immediately appointed to be the "liaison" between the senator's office and Tucson's lesbian/gay community. That is, DeConcini's people threw him a bone. Unfortunately, it was picked up gleefully—this Tucsonan is an ardent Democrat who is naturally protective of one of the state party's highest-ranking elected officials. Whether the presence of a community liaison in Tucson will make any real difference remains to be seen.

Last week, a similar meeting took place between a Phoenix activist and an official in DeConcini's Phoenix office. There was little accord this time, and the activist walked away unsatisfied. However, during the meeting it was suggested that DeConcini could make a small, safe symbolic gesture by signing on as the 57th co-sponsor of S.419, the Senate's Hate Crimes Statistics bill, which seeks to track victimization due to race, religion, sexual orientation, etc. DeConcini's aide was told that even Bob Dole, the Republican minority leader, is a co-sponsor.

DeConcini and his people may be somewhat unastute, but even they realized that this was an easy opportunity to score points with the lesbian/gay community. The Hate Crimes bill faced a senate vote two days after the meeting in Phoenix; that morning, before the vote, DeConcini signed on as a co-sponsor. (McCain's office reported that the senator voted for the bill, though he wasn't a co-sponsor.)

Does this constitute a turning point for the Reluctant Democrat? Only a sustained lobbying effort will provide a conclusive answer. Remember, S.419 wasn't the ultimate test—it's easy to co-sponsor a bill that aims to track violence against Jews or African Americans. But there is hope. DeConcini clearly isn't bright enough to take up our causes independently, but he might be led.



With the referendum to repeal the King Day holiday and the passage of an English-only law, Arizona's white majority has used potentially symbolic gestures to bully its non-white populations. And when it comes to our cowering Legislature, non-whites in this state can expect no help, as evidenced when the latest attempt to pay homage to America's civil rights movement was badly botched. Instead, these issues are left to petition-toting racists like Julian Sanders or the backers of 1988's English-only ballot proposition.

But, even in Arizona, the system works occasionally. Last week, the state's English-only law was been thrown out by U.S. District Judge Paul Rosenblatt. Gov. Rose Mofford, whose responsibility it would be to appeal the ruling, obviously won't appeal it. She never favored English-only, and had instructed state employees to disregard it when dealing with non-English-speaking citizens. The issue, apparently, is closed. Perhaps, Arizona's court case will serve as the precedent to quash English-only sentiment elsewhere.

The lesbian/gay community should welcome this development, even if its members doubt the danger of the English-only concept. But there should be no doubt—the impulse to legislate aspects of culture (like language) cannot be contained easily. Once you can start telling people which language (and by extension, which culture) is acceptable, it's not a far reach to tell them which lifestyle is acceptable. Of course, we already have plenty of people telling us which lifestyle is acceptable, or, more to the point, which lifestyle is unacceptable. But the previous success of English-only paved the way for the further codification of what constitutes acceptability. The English-only movement struck fear into the hearts of many, not just because its malevolent design aimed to further ghettoize America's growing, "unassimilated" Hispanic population, but because it boded a dangerous trend toward legislated conformity.

Fortunately, our system of government, which is basically sound and usually fair, provided recourse in the form of a clear-minded judge who understood the law of the land, irrespective of fearful ethnocentrism. Consider it a close call.

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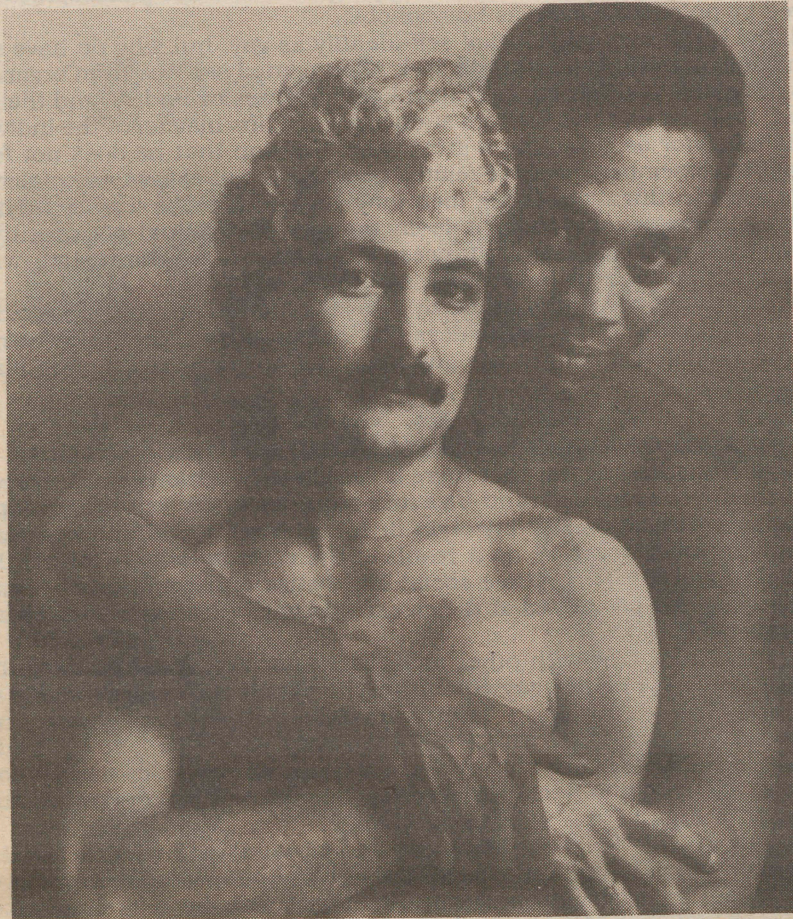
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## Black and Gay: Coping With More Than Just Ethnicity

Vickie M. Mays, PhD and Susan D. Cochran, PhD



In the press to help those coping with the many demands of the AIDS epidemic, it is sometimes difficult to be cognizant of the ways in which ethnic, cultural, or class differences lend their own nuances to this disease. Like others, blacks, when affected by AIDS, struggle with profound psychosocial disruption. But they may also experience the pervasive burdens of discrimination in their everyday living, more limited financial resources, inadequate health insurance and access to state-of-the-art health care, and family and community responsibilities present before the disease.

The negative effects of these stressors along with the occurrence of AIDS can be subtle. For example, it is not uncommon for people to assume that problems of ill health, suffering, pain, worry or anxiety will benefit from a smile, a pat on the back or words of encouragement. Yet, if these very gestures are experienced as patronizing or perceived as offered in the place of real efforts to ameliorate the individual's suffering, they are not comforting. Rather, they serve to remind the individual of the pervasive nature of social inequalities, even at times when there is little reserve to overcome them.

For black gay and bisexual men, HIV disease presents not only a serious health threat, but also highlights existing sociocultural factors that shape their experiences in the world. Attributions for the causes of common frustrations in coping with AIDS are more complicated for these men: Am I being treated badly or unfairly because I have AIDS, because I am gay or bisexual, or because I am black? Will the black heterosexual community help me in my fight for care and treatment? Will the overall white gay community ignore my needs when it advocates for care, services and access to experimental drugs? Understanding the cultural relativism of AIDS is important in developing appropriate counseling, care and prevention efforts.

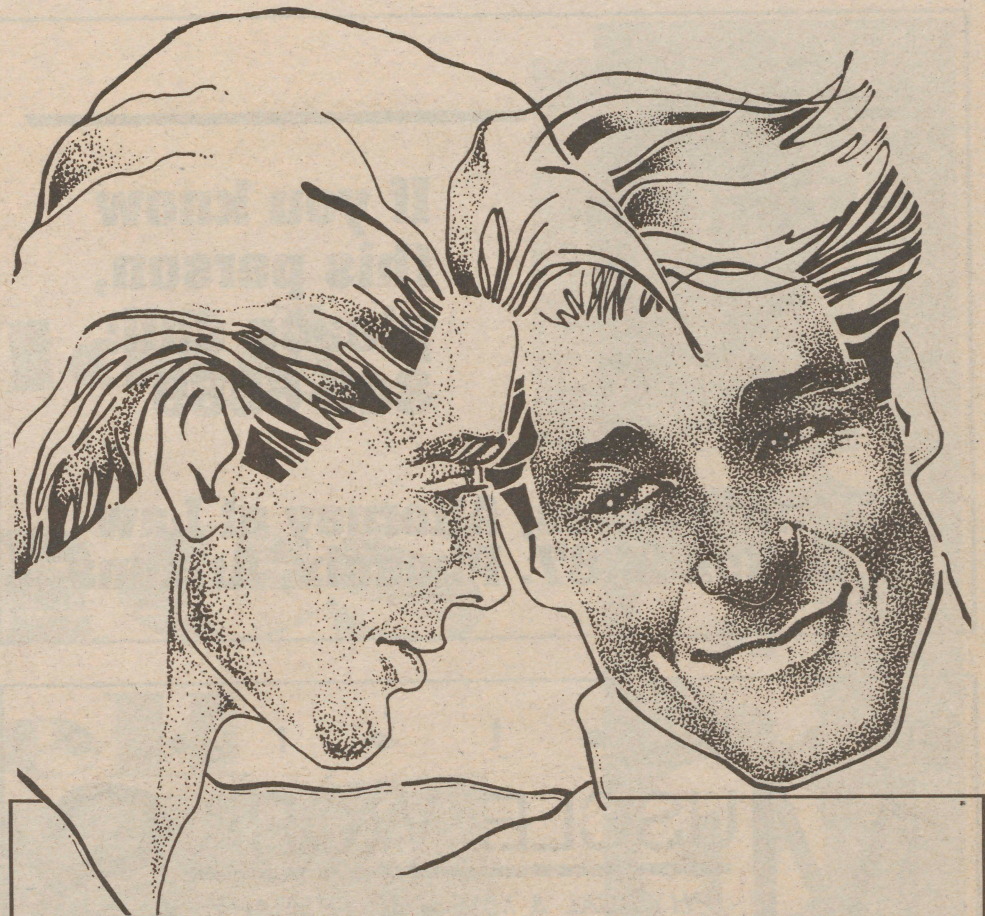
### Epidemiology of AIDS

It has been said that AIDS represents a set of overlapping epidemics each with its own particular characteristics. But one common reality among these is that, with the exception of infections attributed to blood transfusions or HIV-infected blood products for treatment of hemophilia, AIDS in the United States has disproportionately affected blacks.

In the United States, among gay men with AIDS where homosexual sexual behavior was through to be the risk behavior that led to HIV-infection, 13.2 percent were black. Yet only 10.6 percent of the male population over the age of 12 is black. Whites account for 76 percent of AIDS cases in homosexual men, but represent 85 percent of males over age 12. Since there is no empirical evidence to suggest that black males are more likely than white males to engage in male homosexual behavior, it is clear that even among gay men, blacks are overrepresented in diagnosed AIDS cases. This pattern of overrepresentation of black males is also seen among AIDS cases in bisexual men, with blacks accounting for 28 percent of cases.

Intravenous (I.V.) drug users have also received a great deal of attention from the media as the major source of HIV infection in the black community. Most often the female prostitute is the focus of this concern. Frequently overlooked are the gay and bisexual men who also are I.V. drug users. Here, too, black gay and

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## The Rendezvous

### Remember the Forum?

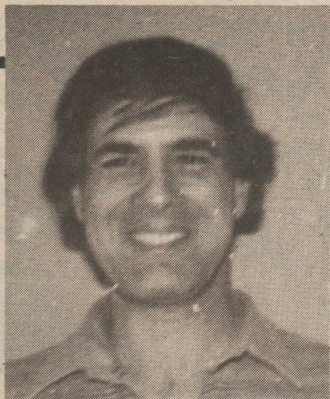
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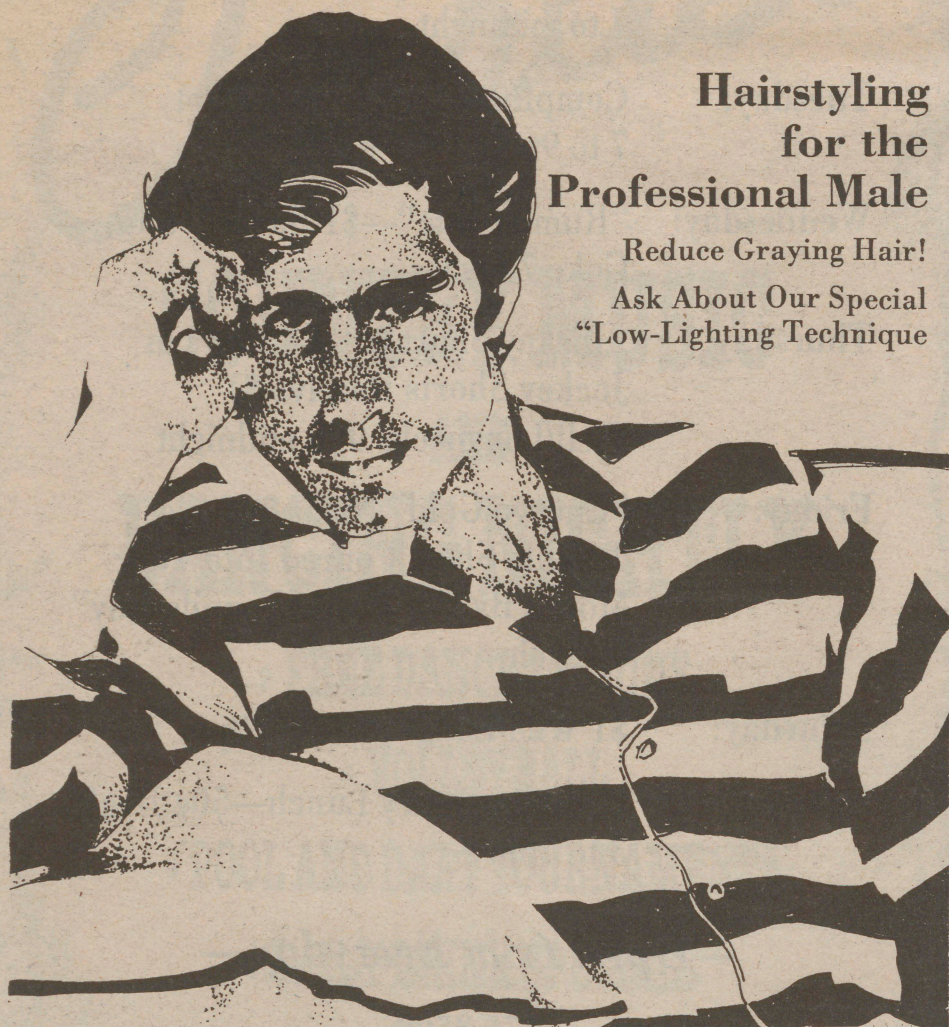
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**Black & Gay**

*cont. from previous page*

bisexual men are proportionately overrepresented. Blacks account for 22 percent of homosexual male and 34 percent of bisexual male I.V. drug users.

In some intervention efforts black gay and bisexual men who use I.V. drugs may fall between the cracks. Their treatment needs are often not well met in gay-oriented programs that do not understand or focus on issues associated with intravenous drug use or that are not ethnically sensitive. On the other hand, drug treatment programs have in some cities been reluctant to take HIV seropositive individuals. Also, some drug programs embrace philosophies that are perceived by potential clients as homophobic.

Similarly, black men who do not self-identify as gay, but who do have sex with men, may be especially reluctant to seek AIDS-related services from organizations that do not share their ethnic or cultural perspectives, or understand their sexual activities. Requesting services from such organizations may force the individual to label his behavior as reflecting a group identification that he does not feel. It is important to remember that risk-related behavior is not always associated with a person's self identification. Black men may engage in same-sex sexual behavior either as a function of membership in the gay or bisexual community, or in response to situational circumstances; for instance, experimenting with sex, hustling to support a drug habit, or being imprisoned.

Today, nearly 36 percent of all newly reported AIDS cases in the United States are among blacks. And the future does not look promising, as the deceleration of syphilis rates noted among white gay men has not occurred among black gay men.

**Psychosocial and Sociocultural Risk Factors**

Although statistics suggest that there is reason to be seriously concerned about the HIV threat to black gay and bisexual men, we know very little empirically about their responses to HIV infection or AIDS. What we do know is that some black gay and bisexual men, as a result of the various risks to which they are exposed because of the multiple social and behavioral community boundaries they may cross, are positioned at the crossroads of HIV transmission. This occurs in several ways.

As men who have sex with other men, black gay and bisexual men are often participants in the broader gay community in which ethnicity probably reflects the general U.S. population (approximately 84 percent white). In some communities, their contact with white men may more often be in the form of easier access to sex, since racism and classism may preclude other forms of socializing. This limited social interaction may reduce opportunities to share experiences that could lead to behavior change.

On the other hand, for those black gay and bisexual men who are participants in the overall black community, in which HIV infection occurs in more diverse segments than in the white community, there may be a greater chance of encountering HIV depending upon their pattern of I.V. drug use and heterosexual sexual behavior.

Finally, as a social grouping itself, black gay and bisexual men may be more diverse than the white gay community. Some men may identify more closely with the black community than the gay community; others find their primary emotional affinity with the gay community and not the black community; and yet a third segment may identify with a growing black gay men's community. To the extent that this diversity is reflected in behavioral diversity as well, the chances of potential HIV exposure may be increased.

For black gay and bisexual men, multiple social groups may make it more likely that risk behavior, whether sexual or need-sharing, may occur in the presence of HIV. These multiple social groups may also have implications for the nature of their social support networks. Black gay and bisexual men may be nested within complex social networks, which for some may be organized along ethnic, as opposed to gender or sexual orientation, dimensions. Advising some of these men to seek support primarily from other gay men at times of stress can underestimate the diversity of their support resources.

For those involved or interested in providing help to black gay or bisexual men who are coping with HIV-related issues, effective support must embody an understanding of the realities of these men's everyday lives. The assistance should flow from an understanding of how race, ethnicity, culture and class function on a daily basis for these men. For those not familiar with black gay and bisexual men's lives, this is a complex task that may require an inner searching and specialized training, such as supervision or consultation.

*Vickie M. Mays, PhD is director of Black C.A.R.E. and Associate professor of Clinical Psychology at U.C.L.A. Susan D. Cochran, PhD is co-director of Black C.A.R.E. and Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at California State University, Northridge.*

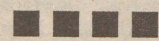
**The Black Care Project**

As part of an effort to document the experiences of black gay and bisexual men in coping with the threat of HIV-infection, the authors have designed a national study of AIDS risk reduction in this segment of the black community. They are striving to reach a diverse group of black gay and bisexual men throughout the United States: men who are living in rural or urban areas, men who identify as gay, bisexual or heterosexual (if they engage in same-sex activities), men whose occupations range from never-employed to professionals, and men from the full age spectrum over 18 years old.

Information will be gathered using anonymous questionnaires. The success of reaching this diverse group depends on the participation of not only the black community but also of both gays and heterosexuals from diverse communities and backgrounds. If you are interested in either participating in the study or disseminating questionnaires, contact Vickie M. Mays, c/o Black Community AIDS Research and Education (Black C.A.R.E.) Project, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563; (213) 825-9858.



Celebrating...  
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# Hot Celluloid Bitches From Hell

**B**ette Davis and Joan Crawford crossed paths infrequently during their ceaselessly histrionic lifetimes. They met often enough, apparently, to warrant a new book about their lives— together and apart. Shaun Considine's *Bette and Joan: The Divine Feud* (Dutton, \$19.95) paints Joan as a bitch in heat and Bette as a shrewish schoolmarm. No news here; in fact, none of the information contained here is particularly startling to fans of either cinema moll— or anyone who's ever read a book about Davis or Crawford (most gay men have, whether they admit it or not).

In this excerpt from *Bette and Joan*, the two tinseltown lovelies are finishing up filming on their one and only film together— the camp classic *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*



—cont. next page

■ CLUB SCENE  
■ FILM CLIPS  
■ ENTERTAINMENT

Diversionists...



# Hot Celluloid Bitches From Hell

"AND STILL NO FEUD"  
"With one more week to go on the filming of *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*, the film is on schedule and there is still no feud between the stars. Bette feeds her lines off-camera to Joan for her close-ups."

—A PRESS RELEASE FROM WARNER BROTHERS

"Tomorrow we're going to do that goddamn beach scene, my big scene, but just watch. She'll find a way to steal it. She always does. When you play crazy ladies you always walk away with the honors."

—JOAN CRAWFORD TO WRITER ROY NEWQUIST

**T**

he final sequence of the movie took place on the beach, where Baby Jane brings her crippled and battered sister to die. According to Bette's memoirs, *This'n That*, the filming at the beach was canceled, because Joan was drinking heavily and could not stand the heat of the outdoor sun. "Alcohol in the body makes one perspire freely," said Bette.

"Joan wasn't drinking at the beach," said Adelle Aldrich, confirming that the shots were done outdoors.

"We worked three days at Yuma Beach," said Peggy Shannon.

"It was two days, near Paradise Cove," Bob Gary believed.

"All I remember is that it was hot," said Phil Stern, "and [director] Bob Aldrich had a hell of a time trying to keep the dolly tracks on the sand."

According to the production logs, Bette stayed at a motel in Trancas, while Joan commuted by limo. Both stars were accompanied by their daughters, Bette with B.D., Joan with her daughters Cindy and Cathy. But again no socializing was allowed between the girls. Joan's daughters, clad in long shirtwaist dresses, strolled the beach a respectable distance from the filming, while fifteen-year-old B.D. stayed near the action, wearing a white two-piece bikini to perpetuate her tan and titillate the young males on the crew (who stripped down on their lunch break and cooled off in the ocean).

The sequence where Baby Jane, totally unhinged, sits on the beach making sand castles while her sister lies dying beside her was vital for the plot, and for Crawford. This was her big acting scene. It ran for four pages. Lying in the sand, emaciated and near death, Joan was to look up at Bette and confess that it was she who had caused the long-ago accident that crippled her legs and drove her sister half mad with guilt. "You mean, after all this time, we could have been friends?" was Bette's one-line reaction. The rest of the time she was supposed to shut up and listen to Joan.

For days, Joan was sure that Bette would do something to steal the scene. "Oh, she'll roll her eyes, or blow her nose. She'll think of something to bring the attention to her," said Crawford.

But during the first take of the scene, Bette was a pro. She made no effort to upstage her costar. With parched lips and wide eyes, Joan gave a flawless delivery of the lengthy dialogue. When it was over, Bob Aldrich clapped his hands and yelled, "Wonderful!" Ignoring Joan, Bette turned to the director and said, "Thank you, Bob."

"It was a tough scene to shoot, because Aldrich wanted different angles," said Bob Gary. "It was also harder on Joan than on Bette. Bette could get up and move about, but Joan had to lie there in the hot sun. Bette was also wearing white, while Joan wore a long dark robe, which absorbed the heat."

"As soon as Bob Aldrich yelled 'Cut,'" said Bob Gary, "Joan would get up from

the sand and get into her limo, which took her to her dressing room, parked a hundred yards away."

In one setup, when Joan came back from her trailer and resumed her prone position on the beach, Bob Aldrich turned to script supervisor Gary and said, "Bob, do you think she's getting younger?"

"It was a subtle change," said Gary. "Every time Joan went to her trailer, Aldrich suspected she was making herself more glamorous. She was supposed to be dying, but when it came right down to it, Joan had been such a glamour queen all her life that it was hard for her to look bad. She kept taking off her dying makeup, bit by bit, adding softer makeup."

Bette Davis told of another Crawford metamorphosis. Dying on the beach, Joan decided to wear her largest falsies. "Let's face it," said Bette, "when a woman lies on her back, I don't care how well endowed she is, her bosoms do not stand straight up. And Blanche was supposedly wasted away after twenty years. The scene called for me to fall on top of her. I had the breath almost knocked out of me. It was like falling on two footballs!"

"In the very last shot of *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*, Bette Davis goes off to buy an ice cream cone for her sister. Almost magically, the grotesque makeup and wrinkles disappear from her face as she does a dance of liberation."

—CINÉMAFANTASTIQUE MAGAZINE

Although the battle of the Hudson sisters was settled with Blanche's dying confession, the combat between Bette and Joan continued straight through and beyond the filming. In her determination to compete with the expiring, glamorous Joan, there was considerable speculation that Bette added some cosmetic improvements to her appearance for the famous waltz-of-liberation scene that ended the movie.

"This may be spurious," said Bob Gary, "But Bob Aldrich believed that, when Bette saw what Joan Crawford was doing, she decided to pretty herself up a little more for the final shots in the picture."

On the last day at the beach, Bette went to lunch and was unusually late in returning. "What Bob Aldrich suspected was that Bette went to her motel and had her own makeup man, Gene Hibbs, drive over from the valley. He was a master at those instant face-lifts, of using tapes and hair clips to pull back the loose facial skin. He worked on her face in the motel. There was no way she was going to let the movie end with Crawford looking better than she."

Returning two hours later, Bette told Aldrich she had been in a car crash. She told this long, involved story that she had to bring B.D. to the hospital," said Bob Gary.

"But we were in a car crash," B.D. said in 1988. "Mother was a very nervous driver. She was always crashing into people on the highway. Gene Hibbs may have been at the motel, but I never saw him. And I was there for most of the filming."

The beautification of Bette in the final scene was "a photographic phenomenon," said Crawford's makeup artist, Monte Westmore. "When Bette came back late, the sun had shifted to the west, over the ocean. In order to balance out the light on Bette, who had her back to the beach, the cameraman brought in an arc, facing her. The key light was so intense it burned out every wrinkle on her face and made her look like a little girl again."

Baloney! said Bette, refusing to share any artistic credit. Her transformation had nothing to do with the cosmetic or technical expertise of others; it was her genius, her acting talent. Script girl Adelle Aldrich agreed. "I was at the beach, playing cards with Bette, and twenty minutes before the scene was shot she asked for some time by herself. She walked down the beach alone, and when she came back there was this glow on her face. It was the most amazing thing I've ever seen. It came from within her and reflected on her face."

Bette's genius also reflected on Joan Crawford's ego. After watching the rushes the following day, the star called Bob Aldrich to her dressing room. She told him the final shots in the picture didn't match. It was apparent that Bette's lighting was better than hers, and she insisted that her big dying scene be redone.

"My dad had to agree with Crawford," said Bill Aldrich. "The lighting for her last scene wasn't good enough. But we couldn't bring sixty people back to the beach."

"So a set had to be built at the studio and tons of sand brought in," said Bette Davis.

"The retakes added sixty thousand dollars more to the budget," said Bill Aldrich. "And for that the studio took away some of my dad's profit points. But he felt it had to be done. If that scene didn't work, the entire picture didn't work."

On Wednesday, September 12, 1962, after thirty-six days of shooting, *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* was finished. The total cost was \$980,000. On Friday evening the traditional wrap party was held on the soundstage at Melrose Avenue.

"I don't remember seeing Miss Crawford there," said Joe Eula.

"As far as I know, Joan had already returned to New York, to do something for Pepsi," said Peggy Shannon.

"Joan was smart," said a cast member. "She knew that, when the picture was finished, Bette would be lying in ambush for her. At the party, with a few drinks, Bette might attack. So Joan skipped the proceedings."

Actress Ann Barton, who played the mother of Jane and Blanche Hudson, recalled Bette coming over to her table during the evening. "In her definite intonations she said, 'You know, Blanche resembles your side of the family.' There was no great love between Bette and Joan, we all knew that. And Bette's last words to us were: *That woman. That woman should be here tonight. That woman should not have gone to New York. That woman owes it to Bob Aldrich to be here tonight!* She took a deep drag on her cigarette and regally moved on, murmuring, *That Woman... That Woman...*"

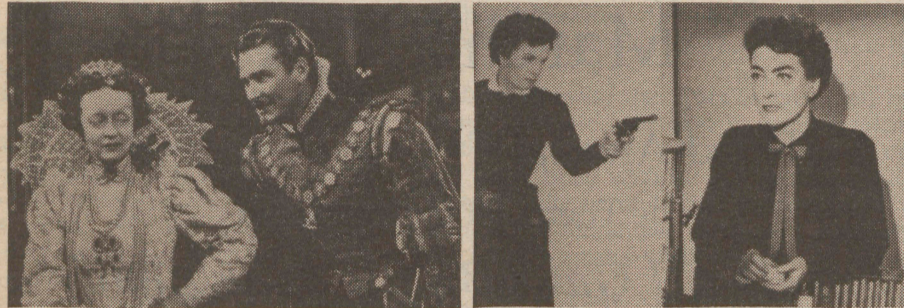
"She was mouthing at Crawford all the way through the party," said Joe Eula. "Look at that," she'd say, "the bitch didn't even show up. *That's professional?* We all thought she'd be happy that the movie was over and she wouldn't have to look at Joan again. But no. It seemed that Miss Davis wasn't quite through with Miss Crawford. There was still some unfinished business to attend to."

## Great Joan and Bette Rumors



When interviewer David Frost queried Joan Crawford on his tv show as to who was the sexiest actor in Hollywood, part of Crawford's answer had to be bleeped from the air. Without a moment's hesitation, she responded that the most exciting man ever to set foot in Hollywood was Clark Gable. But it was her straightforward assessment of what made his presence so charismatic both on-screen and off that got Frost in trouble. It consisted of one word: "Balls!"

Joan Crawford had a number of younger male proteges during the fifties, but none of these relationships led to matrimony. Joan had already taken a stab at marriage with a younger man, Phil Terry, during the forties, which had ended miserably for both. Although she became very friendly with younger male stars like David Brian while making *Flamingo Road* and Richard Egan during *The Damned Don't Cry*, it appears that as Joan moved into middle age, she grew more and more reluctant to sacrifice her charm bracelets and Keene paintings to the California property laws for a fling with a pretty face.

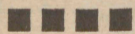


Remember *The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex*? Bette Davis had pleaded with Jack Warner to cast Laurence Olivier as Essex, but Warner refused to pay Olivier's price since he had a perfectly good Essex under contract in Errol Flynn. He even had a British accent—sort of. (Flynn was Australian.) Bette thought Flynn would be disastrous in the part; she saw him as just another pretty face, trying to coast on her steam. Flynn later speculated that it was jealousy over his salary (\$6000 to her \$5000), not artistic conscience that had Bette off her feed. Things got off to a bad start immediately when the two stars met for their first scripted exchange. Perhaps Bette was still preoccupied with dreams of Olivier when she delivered what was supposed to be a stage slap, since in so doing she almost knocked the six-foot-four Flynn out cold. His timid request that she cool it sent her into a tirade about her "art" and Flynn to his dressing room to throw up. Despite the subsequent success of the film and their rapport on screen, Flynn never gained Bette's good graces, though he tried off and on for years.

When Mercedes McCambridge's flashy emoting inspired the crew of the Freudian Western *Johnny Guitar* to burst into spontaneous applause, the film's star declared open warfare, according to director Nicholas Ray. It seems that Joan Crawford just couldn't abide the presence of another high-powered female star. Ray was forced to shoot McCambridge's scenes at the crack of dawn to avoid provoking Crawford's jealousy further. When the ever-alert Crawford witnessed one of the early morning shoots, she broke into McCambridge's dressing room in a rage and slashed all of her clothes to shreds. McCambridge has attributed the following two years she spent off the screen (until *Giant*) to Crawford's attempts at blacklisting her with influential friends in the industry.

After doctors told her that she would have to bow out of the filming of *Hush*, *Sweet Charlotte*, Joan Crawford cried for three days in her hospital bed. When she read that Olivia De Havilland was to replace her, Crawford announced that she was happy for Olivia, as she (Olivia) needed the work.

## The Bitch Is Back



Bette Davis refuses to believe the rumors of her recent demise. She swears that she has never felt better. "As a matter of fact," said Bette, "I have been exercising with Jane Fonda. Feel my ass, it's hard as a rock!" However, when told of Miss Davis' comment, the fitness guru was heard to mutter, "I think the old bitch is insane. Her ass, along with the rest of her, has been mummified for years!"

Bette Davis, who says she refuses to let death slow her down, has been signed to do a commercial for MacDonald's. The reason? In addition to the money, Davis admits the hamburger chain's "Big Mac" was named for a certain part of former husband Gary Merrill's anatomy. A spokesperson for MacDonald's, however, believes Miss Davis to be mistaken. When confronted with this bit of information, the alleged dead film star replied, "Fuck 'em! By the way, someone go to Burger King for me...I'm *dying* for a Whopper!"

## Star Wars



Bette on Joan:

"She slept with every male star at MGM—except Lassie."

Joan: "Francot Tone taught me words like 'metaphor' and 'transference'."

Jean Harlow: "Yeah, and she taught him words like 'jump' and 'fuck'."

Dorothy Parker on Joan:

"You can take a whore to culture, but you can't make her think."

Joan on Bette:

"She looks old enough to be my mother."



## Coming Soon...



February 16

## Madhouse



Mark Bannister is a rising young financial planner. His wife, Jessie, is the inquiring reporter at a local Los Angeles television station with a shot at her own anchor slot.

They have finally taken the plunge, sinking their life savings—now and for some 30 years to come—into a "starter house" in Santa Monica. It's a cozy hideaway, bordering on cramped. And while the ocean is almost a mile away, a toilet that runs forever (unless someone jiggles the handle) simulates the sound of pounding surf.

But after living in an apartment with paper-thin walls, the Bannisters love their new-found privacy. For the first time since their marriage, they can exercise their conjugal rites without entertaining the neighbors.

Even the post office has blessed the move belatedly, depositing a month's worth of mail on their doorstep. In among the overdue bills is a postcard from Mark's cousin, Fred, the "wild man of Humboldt High" he hasn't seen in 15 years. Fred and his wife, Bernice, are coming to California on vacation...arriving that afternoon...and look forward to staying with the Bannisters.

Mark and Jessie don't know it yet, but they are about to discover a scourge as dangerous, destructive and difficult to get rid of as any ever visited on innocent mankind.

Houseguests.

John Larroquette and Kirstie Alley star in *Madhouse*, an Orion Pictures release of a Boy of the Year Production. The comedy was produced by Leslie Dixon, written and directed by Tom Ropelewski and co-produced by Donald C. Klune. *Madhouse* co-stars Alison La Placa, John Diehl, Jessica Lundy, Bradley Gregg, Dennis Miller and Robert Ginty as "Dale."

## Billiards and Darts: What Life is All About

Okay, so your lover left you. You're several hundred dollars short of making the rent this month, the plumbing in the bathroom has burst, and you're suffering from an extremely nasty yeast infection.

Cheer up. Charlie's offers darts tournaments twice a week. Come on—things could be worse. You could live in a town that doesn't have any gay bars in it.

You can play darts at Charlie's every Thursday night at 9pm, and if that isn't enough to satiate your desire to throw sharp-ended objects at big round targets, you can return for their Sunday night tournaments at 6pm.

And, as if this weren't enough, the very same drinking establishment offers still more entertaining diversions. Charlie's hosts billiards tournaments every Wednesday evening—and they even provide cue sticks.

Lighten up. Quit your whining. Dry your eyes and comb your hair. Go to Charlie's and have fun.

Hurry.

Charlie's is located at 727 West Camelback Road.

## Diversions

### Center Dance Ensemble Premieres Story of Billy The Kid

The Herberger Theater Center will present Center Dance Ensemble, with guest artists the Douglas Nielsen Dance Company, in a modern dance concert entitled *Songs* February 15 through 18.

The company, under the direction of Frances Smith Cohen, will perform a modern ballet created to the music of Aaron Copland's "Billy the Kid." The Douglas Nielsen Dance Company will reprise two major works, *Four in the Morning* and *Long Story Short*, which recently premiered in New York City.

Nielsen, an internationally-known choreographer and performer, is a former member of the companies of Gus Solomons, Jr, Pearl Land, and Paul Sanasardo. For the past ten years he has performed nationally in over fifty cities as well as in Israel, Scotland and China. His choreography has been produced in Australia, Canada, England and France, and domestically at the American Dance Festival, Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival and the Riverside Dance Festival in New York City. His present company is comprised of Arizona dancers Melissa Lowe, Jory Hancock, Mitzi Adams and himself, all former faculty at the Dance Department of the University of Arizona.

This presentation of *Four in the Morning*, choreographed to music by William Walton and words by Edith Sitwell, and *Long Story Short* with music by Giocchino Rossini, is made possible through a grant from the Phoenix Commission on the Arts.

Center Dance Ensemble's premiere of *Billy* presents five episodes in the life of Billy the Kid, including "Westward Journey," "Prairie Town," "Outlaw Days" and "Final Dream." Don Espinosa, last seen as Witch Boy in the acclaimed *Ballad of Barbara Allen* dances Billy, and Lisa Chow appears as the Dream Girl. The cast also includes Janelle Peters as Billy's mother, Renee Davis and Wendy Tucker as the Saloon Girls. Elizabeth Lincoln and Van Vereen complete the cast.

Also to be presented is *Family*, with music by Leos Janacek, choreographed by Ms. Cohen, and *How High the Moon*, an antic quartet choreographed by Julia Weldon to music by Emmy Lou Harris and Randy Travis.

Performances are:

February 16 & 17— 8pm, February 18— 2pm.

Tickets: \$10.50 (\$8.50 for students and senior citizens) and are available through the Herberger Theater Center Box Office.

Information can be obtained by phoning 258-9481.

## February is Dead Film Actress Month!

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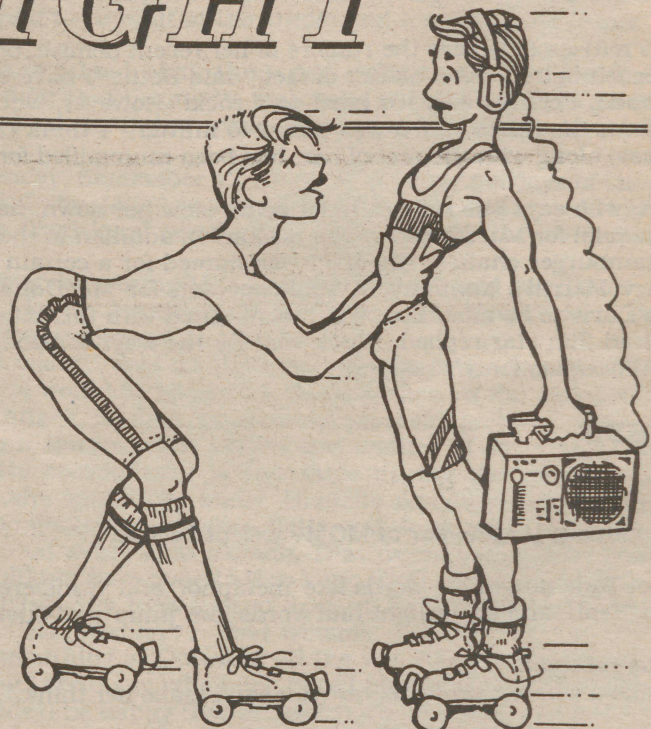
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BOOK REVIEW



Meg Umans

## ***My Friend...and AIDS: A Story of Friendship in a World with AIDS***

Sharon Schilling and March Mossburg, authors. A Way With Words (copyright Denver Public Schools), Denver, CO. 1988. 66 pages softbound, b/w photos. \$9.95.

There are a few books on the market for helping children understand about AIDS, and some of them are both accurate and engaging, and the good ones are more expensive, and very much worth the difference. If you have or know children who may be affected by AIDS, let this book show them what they need to know.

Mark and Josh are eight years old, and best friends; the story is narrated by Josh, who's black and in good health. Mark is white and also in good health, except that he was born with a disease called hemophilia—Josh explains to us that you can't catch hemophilia, you have to be born with it. Josh knows that when Marks scrapes his knee, a grownup has to take care of him, because Mark's blood doesn't clot like Josh's. The accompanying photo shows, without comment, a woman wearing surgical gloves sitting on the grass with Mark, putting a Bandaid on his hand.

We see Mark next at the dentist, and Josh explains the surgical gloves here—not the whole story, but what he says is accurate, and enough to reassure kids, rather than frighten them inappropriately. He says that doctors and other people who touch blood wear gloves so they don't pass diseases around.

Every other page is a photograph, and most of the story concerns the friendship between Josh and Mark, the things they do together, and Josh and his parents' feelings about his friendship with someone who has AIDS. They ask the doctor for information, which Josh passes on: you can't get AIDS by playing with or being around someone who has it.

Some of the kids at school are afraid to let Mark touch them or their possessions, and sometimes they say things that hurt his feelings. The photo accompanying Josh's explanation shows Josh with his arm around Mark, gesturing at a group of kids, and Josh's comment, "I stood up for my friend." Josh's mother tells them that some people just don't understand, and that's when friends really count.

Josh explains that when Mark was small, he was given some blood with a virus in it, a virus that causes a disease called AIDS. The virus doesn't make Mark sick, but some people who have the virus get sick and die. Josh conveys a lot of information in very few words.

The model for Mark doesn't have AIDS, or the virus, but he thinks kids should understand about AIDS. The foreword encourages people to answer questions, and seek additional information from the public library, State Health Department, or Red Cross.

Available at Humanspace Books in Phoenix.



Introducing

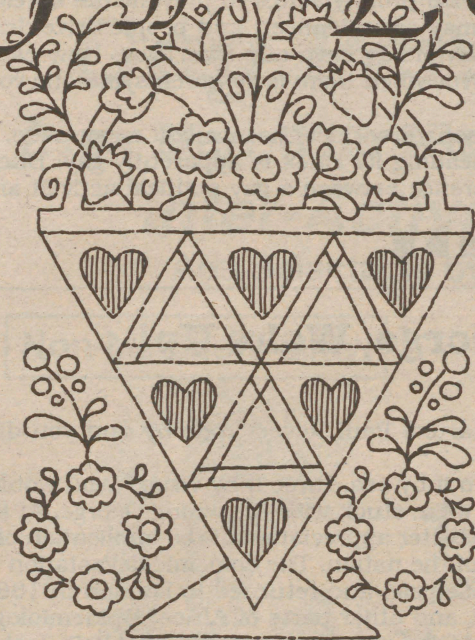
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## Editorials

cont. from page 4

energy on it? By the time the recall could get in gear and collect enough signatures to require a recall election, McCain will have one year left on his term; DeConcini, three years. McCain may be unethical, but is he any more so than the U.S. representatives we voted into office? Probably not. He just got caught.

Should we try to recall the senators because they voted against our concerns and needs? We can't get gay men to use prophylactics to prevent the spread of the HIV virus; we smoke knowing it may cause cancer; and people drive drunk. We can't—or won't—change our behaviors to save our own lives. How can we expect our legislators to vote in our favor when there is so much symbiotic voting going on in the legislature?

Buck is talking about recalling our senators. Does that make it a gay issue, just because a famous gay man is spearheading it? Buck is apparently gay. Buck is certainly political. But there is a difference between a gay political activist and a political activist who is gay.



## Wake Up, George. George, Wake Up!

Howard Armistead

Hey! Wake up. The War already started! Paul Revere rode by and you didn't even hear him.

You remember... "One if by land, two if by sea, three if by virus." And wouldn't you know it, two hundred years later we're stuck with the wrong George. At least George Washington would have had a better appreciation of the implication of the AIDS epidemic for the overall welfare of the nation. The epidemic devastation that struck in the 1300s, from London to Leipzig, and returned to London in 1665 is taking place today in Uganda, Kenya, and other parts of Africa. Epidemiological experts are predicting sub-Saharan Africa will be decimated by AIDS, losing a quarter or more of its population in the next thirty years.

Meanwhile, the battle against AIDS started ten years ago in the United States, and successive Republican administration have only moved from the malign neglect demonstrated by the Reagan administration to the concerned, compassionate lip service of the Bush administration. Where are the medical Minute Men? Whatever happened to the "on the double" command in responding to a national crisis? Perhaps that's the problem. The administration does not consider this a real crisis.

As Surgeon General Everett Koop figuratively rode by shouting his alarm, George Bush didn't even hear him. If he didn't wake up when a full General rode by, no wonder he would not wake up if an ordinary patriot rode by shouting "Three lights, three lights; they're coming by virus, they're coming by virus." Today it is painfully obvious, the United States Defense Department is postured with too many missile technicians and too few immunologists. But looking back to the last war instead of forward to the next one is a traditional problem for government as well as military planners.

Let's face it. Everyone else along this viral invasion route woke up four, seven, ten years ago. PWAs and their families and friends, physicians, researchers, teachers, nurses and news analysts. This anti-viral militia was fighting Lexington and Concord seven years ago, and George Bush is still asleep. His administration is proposing a seven percent increase in AIDS funding for 1991, when AIDS cases will rise fifty percent. Would that budget be proposed if this were a real war? After 70,000 deaths from AIDS, why is there still no medical Manhattan Project to find a cure for AIDS, no crash programs like developing radar or the atomic bomb during World War II? Tragically, there is still no sense of urgency demonstrated by this president, much less the last. The thousand Points of Light must have been blinding, blocking out the sight of the three-lamp signal from Old North Church. The scene shown on the national evening news of President Bush kissing babies with AIDS at Christmas time was designed by his media handlers as a palliative to assuage public opinion. That photo opportunity was an empty symbol. It was not a response to the AIDS epidemic. That takes adequate funding, something Bush is not proposing.

Wake up, George. Please. Before the war is over. The troops are all on the front line fighting and dying, and you're still asleep.

History is watching. And George Bush keeps pressing "snooze."



## Public Health

Meg Umans

There may be someplace where individuals own the rights to their bodies. If their bodies contain things they weren't born with, they're the only ones who need to know about it. They're the ones who decide who else, if anyone, will know, and what, if anything, to do about it. The fetuses or penises or viruses they may harbor aren't subjects of public record or opinion. The place may not be on earth, and the individuals may not be human—because here and now we're heading in the wrong direction.

Evidence accumulates. These events occurred in Arizona in February 1990, directed toward three of my friends and toward me. My three friends have ARC or AIDS.

Friend One lives with his lover in an apartment complex in the valley; they keep quiet about their health status. On their door—and only theirs—was an unsealed, unstamped, unaddressed mailer describing the services of Malta Center. Malta Center offers spiritual and mundane support to people who are HIV-positive, living with ARC or AIDS, and to people involved with them.

How and why was their door targeted with an open implication of their health status? I spoke with Carol Lee, director of Malta Center. She recognized my description of their flyer, but denied Malta Center's involvement with its delivery.

According to Lee, Malta Center flyers are sent to people on their mailing list and distributed at support groups, meetings and public information presentations. Malta Center never blankets neighborhoods or hand-delivers flyers.

A few days later, a Phoenix Shanti Group mailer arrived at my business, addressed to Humanspace Books in decorative handwriting, with metered

postage, an inch of tape sealing, and a rubber-stamped return address. Inside, large capital letters cover most of the page: "Test results are in...and...you are HIV-positive. Let Phoenix Shanti help." A small paragraph below announces forthcoming information and support groups.

Humanspace Books is not HIV-positive, and neither am I. But some people on Shanti's mailing list are...and some who don't know may be vulnerable enough to take this eruption of bad taste as fact. Who else got this flyer? I spoke with Randy Gorbette, director of Phoenix Shanti. He denied awareness of the flyer's existence.

According to Mr. Gorbette, Phoenix Shanti hasn't done a mass mailing for several months. At his request, I sent him a copy of the flyer for his information. He described a *Scottsdale Daily Progress* ad that ran without his awareness and which caused problems for private individuals and Phoenix Shanti.

Earlier that week, Friend Two was resting at home when his lover answered the phone. The caller asked for my friend, and when questioned, said that she was with the State Department of Health and needed to talk to him because he's an AIDS patient. Is that kind of confidential information given to anyone who answers the phone?

County Health Services farmed out this routine phone work to the State Department of Health. Clerical workers call people with AIDS to ask how they're doing and whether they want or need assistance. County Health has asked State Health not to announce individuals' health status to anyone but the individual.

Friend Three is an Arizona prisoner with AIDS who was recently ill. He discovered his health status via voluntary testing within the prison system. News of his HIV-positive test spread among prison staff, and from staff to inmates. Staff and inmates are uninformed, misinformed, prejudiced and cruel about AIDS...but that's another story.

This story is about a time and a place where our health information and what's in our bodies can be known by all who care to demand, moralize, legislate or advise. This is Arizona in 1990. This is where decisions are made about our bodies by people who have never been in them, and our privacy is summarily violated by people who appear to know us more intimately than they know themselves. Please don't give away our power. Please help protect our privacy.



## REMEMBER

It just makes more sense to deal with AIDS together than to deal with AIDS alone.

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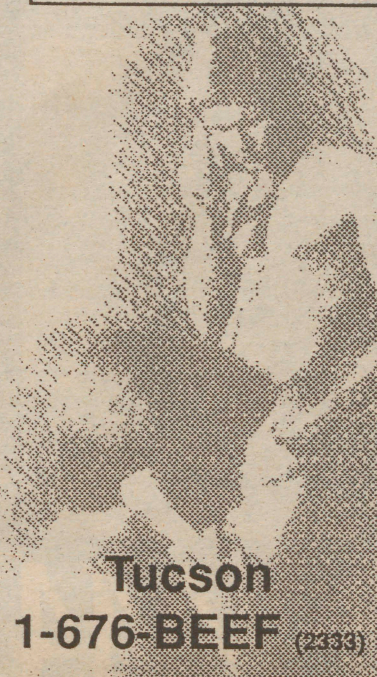
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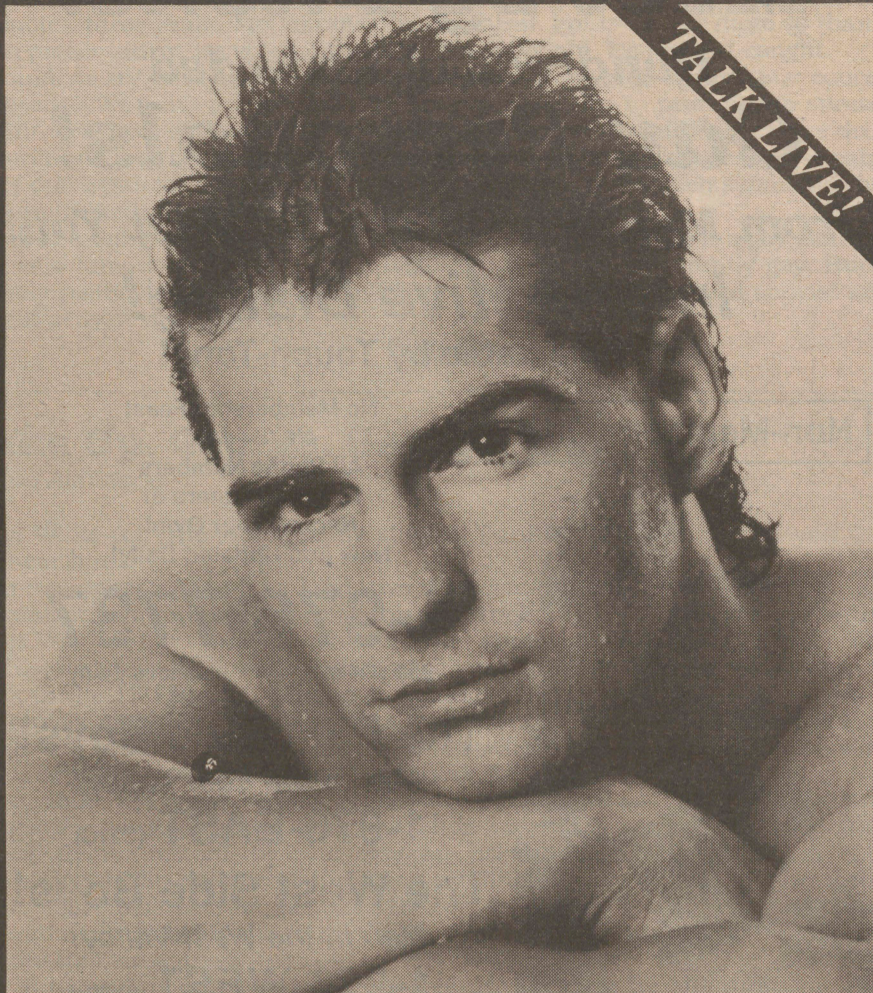
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If you'd like to respond to a Lovelines ad, write the box number on the outside of your envelope and address the envelope to Phoenix Resource.

WM, single, attractive, responsible, resourceful, independent, monogamous. Work out, but not a bodybuilder. 31, 5'9", 150#. Need a top buddy 3-4 nights a week. You are monogamous, good shape, slim, 28-33, with some sense of realism. BOX 203.

GWM, 30, 130#, interested in swapping swimwear, posing straps, jockstraps, bike shorts, singlets, underwear. Enjoy collecting them in any condition or style. Seeking mutual friendship for fun, safe times, any age or race. BOX 204.

GHM and GWM new in area would like to meet singles and couples in Flagstaff area for possible friendship. Enjoy conversation, dining in or out, parties, etc. BOX 205.

Am seeking a sincere, masculine, gentle man, who is interested in a 50/50 relationship. I'm 5'10", 134#, brown/brown, trim, moustache. Please write with photo. BOX 206.

Ciao, Italian, 38, blond, 5'2", 129# seeks athletic black friends—lover? Age unimportant, but personality, sense of humor and independence is. Your phone number will receive prompt answer. BOX 207.

Dad seeks hairy, uncut boy who is into leather, outdoors, sports, theatre, monogamous, affectionate, masculine. Me: 50, hazel, brown, GWM, hopeless romantic, sensitive, sincere, masculine. BOX 208.

GWM, 32, Healthy HIV+, Blond/Blue, Enjoys Life!!! Works out (but not body builder). I like Sunny Days and Sunsets and Good Laughs. Seeking Similar 32-40. Please no smokers. Reply with photo and phone. BOX 300.

Me: Rich, fat, horny old queen. (So what if I have a small dick—I've got lots of money.) You: Gorgeous, young (under 30), stud-puppet. Let's get together and do lunch. BOX 301.

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—Connie



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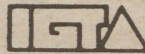
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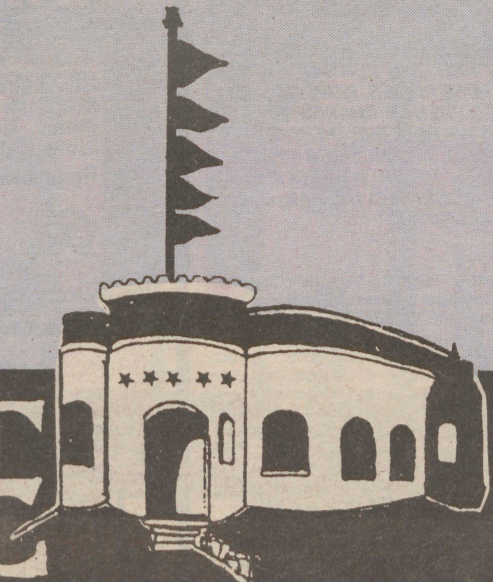
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