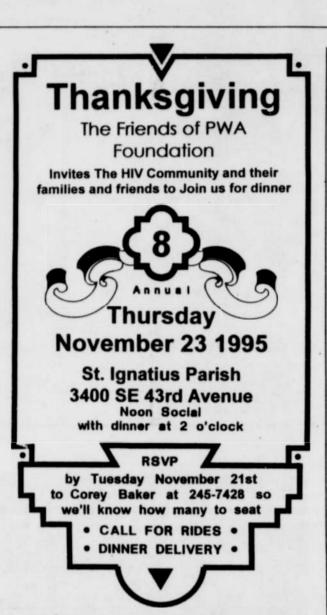


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# national briefs

#### ARIZONA

Lesbians and gay men contemplating the purchase of a franchise business can now learn about the franchiser's gay and lesbian policies before signing on the dotted line. The Gay and Lesbian Franchise Watchdog Association is a new organization whose mission it is to inform potential gay and lesbian franchisees about the policies, attitudes and approach various franchisers have toward the gay and lesbian community.

Membership dues for the association are \$400 a year. Members will receive quarterly updates discussing those franchisers who are actively seeking gay and lesbian franchisees, as well as those companies who are not gay-friendly.

Fax requests for membership or information to (602) 990-1958.

#### CYBERSPACE

It is now possible to find a broad range of information and services relating to AIDS on the Internet. The Body is a new service available on the World Wide Web. It marks the first effort to consolidate resources dealing with the medical, cultural, legal and political aspects of AIDS.

Information available through The Body will be provided by a number of organizations including: the AIDS Action Council, People for the American Way, Americans with Disabilities Act Technical Assistance Centers, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Centers for Disease Control, Gay Men's Health Crisis, the Poetry Society of America, Treatment Action Group, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the American Psychiatric Association and Johns Hopkins University AIDS Service.

The Body will be sponsor-supported. Escalon Ophthalmics, a New Jersey-based company, is the first charter sponsor.

The website can be accessed at www.thebody.com.



RuPau!

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Supermodel RuPaul has joined the list of celebrities supporting animal rights. The 1996 Shopping Guide for Caring Consumers, a publication of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, features RuPaul on its cover.

PETA's shopping guide is chock-full of cruelty-free products ranging from cosmetics and condoms to household cleaners and office supplies.

In his recent autobiography RuPaul declared himself a "natural queen" who uses only crueltyfree products.

The Shopping Guide can be ordered from PETA by calling (301) 770-PETA. The cost is \$7.95.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund has a new name. After reviewing the results of an intensive, eight-month review of the organization's programs, the board of directors voted to drop the

negative Supreme Character



HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN word "Fund," from the group's name, reports The Washington Blade.

The study, which was conducted by a San Francisco-based marketing consultant, revealed that many believed the word "Fund" left the impres-

sion that the organization functioned only as a political action committee.

Although it was founded as a PAC, over the years HRC has taken on many roles. It has become very active as a congressional lobbying group, and it coordinates National Coming Out Day events. HRC also operates a network of field organizers.

#### ILLINOIS

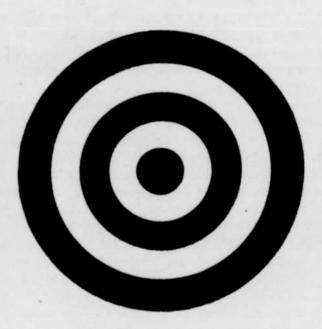
The Leather Archives and Museum Inc. officially opens its first public gallery this weekend. Located in Chicago, the museum is the historical repository for the leather and S/M communities. Founded in 1992, the museum's collection has, until now, been privately housed and only available for scheduled private use. The museum will now maintain regular public hours.

Chicago civil rights activist and independent scholar Marie Kuda has been named interim curator. Kuda's work will focus on reorganizing the museum's sizable collection of art and memorabilia. Included in the collection are complete sets of *Drummer Magazine*, *Rawhide*, *Mars Magazine* and *Package*.

The museum is located at 5005 N Clark St. in Chicago.

## NEW YORK

Gay and lesbian journalists and news organizations covering the gay and lesbian community are the targets of violence and harassment in countries around the world. A report released Oct. 18 by the Committee to Protect Journalists details 21 cases of legal and physical abuses against gay and lesbian journalists in 14 countries.



Countries cited in the report, titled *Double Jeopardy: Homophobic Attacks on the Press, 1990-1995*, include Canada, Greece, India, Nicaragua, Russia, Great Britain and the United States.

"These abuses are commonly viewed as a gay rights issue, but we as journalists should recognize that they are also press freedom cases," said William A. Orme Jr., CPJ's executive director. "If reporters are persecuted because authorities disapprove of their sexual orientation, or if publications are seized in an attempt to restrict coverage of the gay community, this is an infringement on every journalist's right to report the news without fear of reprisal or censorship."

For a copy of the report call (212) 465-1004.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood