

# A Candlelight Vigil to honor the life of Matthew Shepard 1977-1998

## THE PROGRAM

### Welcome

#### Lighting of the Candles and Opening Remarks

Ken Foster,

Director, UApresents

Program Director, OUTReach

#### From The University of Arizona

Dr. Sandra Taylor

Vice President of Campus Life

#### From the City of Tucson

Mayor George Miller

#### From the State Legislature

Representative Herschella Horton

#### A musical selection performed by Desert Voices

#### From the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association (BGALA)

of students at The University of Arizona

Cecilio Dimas and Karman McQuitty

#### From Wingspan, Tucson's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

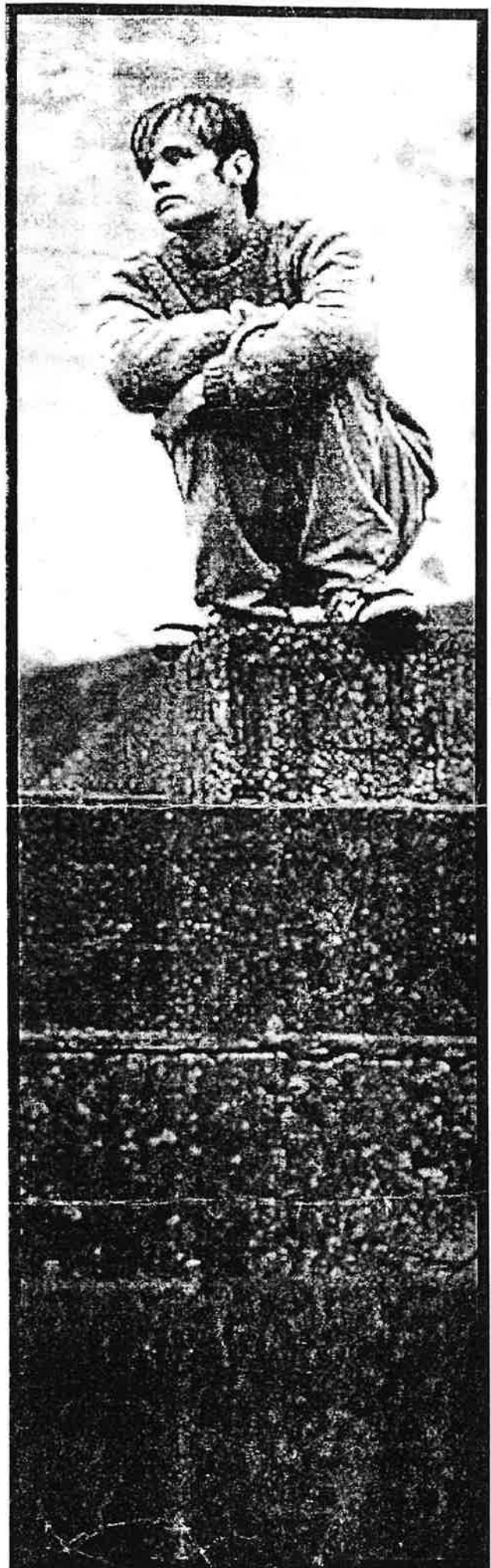
David Bucchiere

#### A musical selection performed by Reveille Gay Men's Chorus

#### From St. Philip's in the Hills Church

The Rev. Dr. John L. Hooker

*At the conclusion of the spoken portion of the ceremony, we suggest that each participant come forward to the stage and place your candle in the flower bed at the base of the poster for Matthew.*



[Tucson]

# Some facts...

- Lesbians and Gay Americans are increasingly the targets of vicious hate crimes.
- Currently, only 21 states and the District of Columbia include sexual orientation in their hate crimes statutes. Thirteen states have no hate crimes statutes whatsoever.
- The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, an umbrella organization for local groups that monitor anti-gay violence, reported a 6% increase in reported anti-gay crimes for 1996, while violent crime continues to decrease nationally.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation's 1995 collection of hate crimes statistics shows that hate crimes against gays and lesbians are on the rise. In 1995, hate crimes against gays and lesbians accounted for 12.8% of all hate crime statistics collected, up from 8.9% in 1991.
- While states continue to play the primary role in the prosecution of hate violence, the federal government must have jurisdiction to address those limited cases in which local authorities are either unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute.
- The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would expand federal jurisdiction to reach serious, violent hate crimes. Under the bill, hate crimes that cause death or bodily injury because of prejudice can be investigated federally, regardless of whether the victim was exercising a federally protected right.

## What you can do:

- Contact your Representative in the House, as well as Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl and urge them to support the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The bill has been languishing in the U.S. Congress without attention for months.
- Please note that when you write your Senator, the Senate version of the Hate Crimes Bill is S1529. When you write your Representative, refer to HR3081.

Address as follows:

The Honorable (Name of Senator)  
The Senate of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable  
(Name of Representative)  
The U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

- Call the office of Senator Orrin Hatch at (202) 224-5251. Urge him to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. As chair of the Committee, he can start the bill moving toward ratification.

