

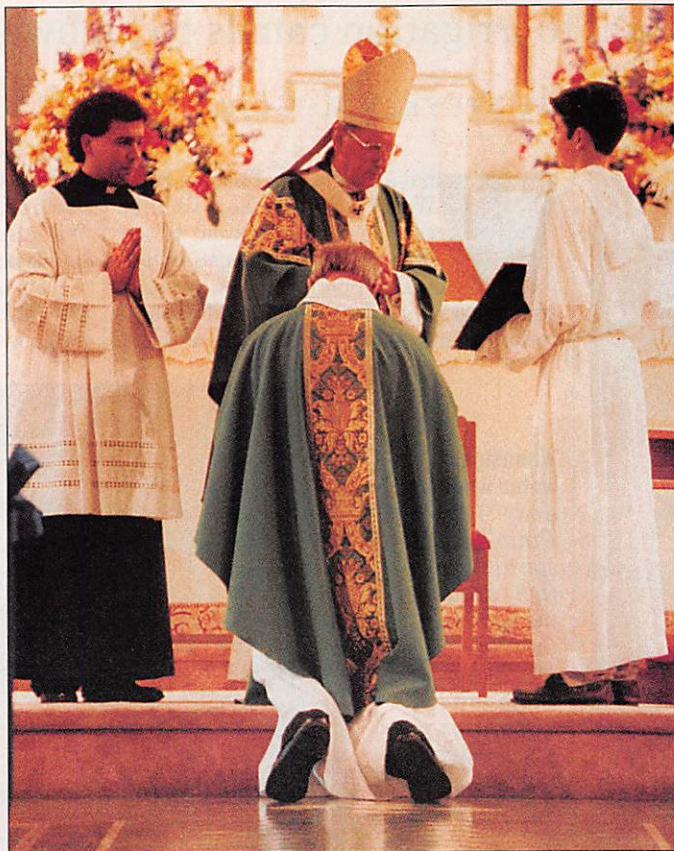
The Sins of the Fathers . . .

Are being visited upon their clerical compadres

Three months ago, Father Tom met a group of 10-year-olds at a hospital in Rhode Island where he was visiting Roman Catholic patients. "Hi, fellas," he said, "how're you doing?" Suddenly, the mother of one of the boys rushed up and grabbed her child. "He's a priest," she warned. "Don't talk to him." Father Tom (who didn't want to be identified) has been ordained for 28 years and has never been closer to clerical abuse than the stories he reads in newspapers. Still, he can't get over the shock he felt that day. "It shakes you up when you've given your life to helping people," he says, "and someone reacts like you are a criminal."

In the worst scandal ever to hit the American Roman Catholic Church, as many as 500 priests, by some estimates, have been accused of sexually molesting children. Already, the church has paid tens of millions of dollars to victims, most of whom were abused decades ago, and it still faces dozens of unsettled lawsuits. Worse, the bishops themselves have been accused by critics of coddling known offenders and hushing up victims who complain. In parishes where children were molested, many Catholic parents are shocked, wary and scandalized. Innocent priests feel tainted by their fallen brethren and subject to unaccustomed scrutiny. Remarkably, however, most Catholics still support their clergy. Like voters, they don't despair of the priesthood because some priests—like some politicians—have betrayed their trust.

How long will this good will last? Much depends on what the bishops themselves do to convince lay Catholics that pedophiles will not be tolerated in the priesthood. Last week Cardinal John J. O'Connor outlined the legal and pastoral procedures the Archdiocese of New York will follow in handling complaints of sexual abuse. But in a separate, 4,000-word "exhortation," O'Connor explained just how long, legally complicated and ethically ambiguous the handling of such cases can be. Some abusive priests are



DOMINICK FIORILLE—TIMES HERALD-RECORD

Setting new rules for abuse charges: O'Connor blessing a pastor

Priests may outlast the scandals, but the image of the priesthood may never be as bright

sick and in need of therapy, he acknowledged, and others are sinful and in need of repentance and forgiveness. "We are being profoundly humbled," O'Connor said of the scandals. "All can become suspect, to the degree that some wonderful priests, devoted to young people, are now afraid to be seen with them, fearful of training altar boys, reluctant to coach teams, to take youngsters to camps or otherwise be placed in potentially compromising positions."

Many priests are subtly altering the way

they deal with children. At St. Margaret's Church in Pearl River, N.Y., Father William Scafidi administers an elementary school and leads a teenage youth group. Since the scandals broke Scafidi finds that he makes eye contact less often with his charges and doesn't shake hands as readily as he used to. More important, he has increased the number of lay chaperons

on youth trips—including one he will lead to Denver next month to see the pope. When some of his adolescents raised questions about the pedophile priests they read about—why would a priest do that, what does God think, how do priests handle celibacy—Scafidi told them that priests aren't perfect but that many are strong and secure in their sexuality. "They told me, 'Father Bill, we like you, we trust you,'" he says. "That tells me where I am."

'A hug': Despite the scandals, life goes on in many Catholic congregations much as if "Going My Way" were still the standard image of parish life. "Children in kindergarten and first grade still run up and put their arms around me," says Father Dennis O'Neill, pastor of St. Clotilde's parish in Chicago. "When they all pile on me, I don't push them away. I give them a hug and go on my way."

Nonetheless, many parents are now more cautious about what their children do with priests, especially young curates new to the parish. "I think it's too bad that we have to think about these things," says Linda Varro of Minneapolis, whose son is an altar boy. "But I realize that these priests are human." Indeed, even some of the victims have learned to forgive, though they find it impossible to forget. Dana Vyska, who says he was sexually abused by a priest as a child, feels no anxiety for his own 13-year-old son, who is an altar boy at Notre Dame Church in Pittsfield, Mass. "I know what a priest may be like," says the father. Still, he insists, "what happened to me was out of the ordinary."

The long-term damage to the church, however, is still incalculable. Even before the current spate of scandals broke, the number of vocations to the priesthood was in steep decline. Today's priests may outlast the scandals, but the image of the priesthood may never be as bright.

KENNETH L. WOODWARD with CAROLYN FRIDAY in Boston, VICKI QUADE in Chicago and ROBIN SPARKMAN in New York

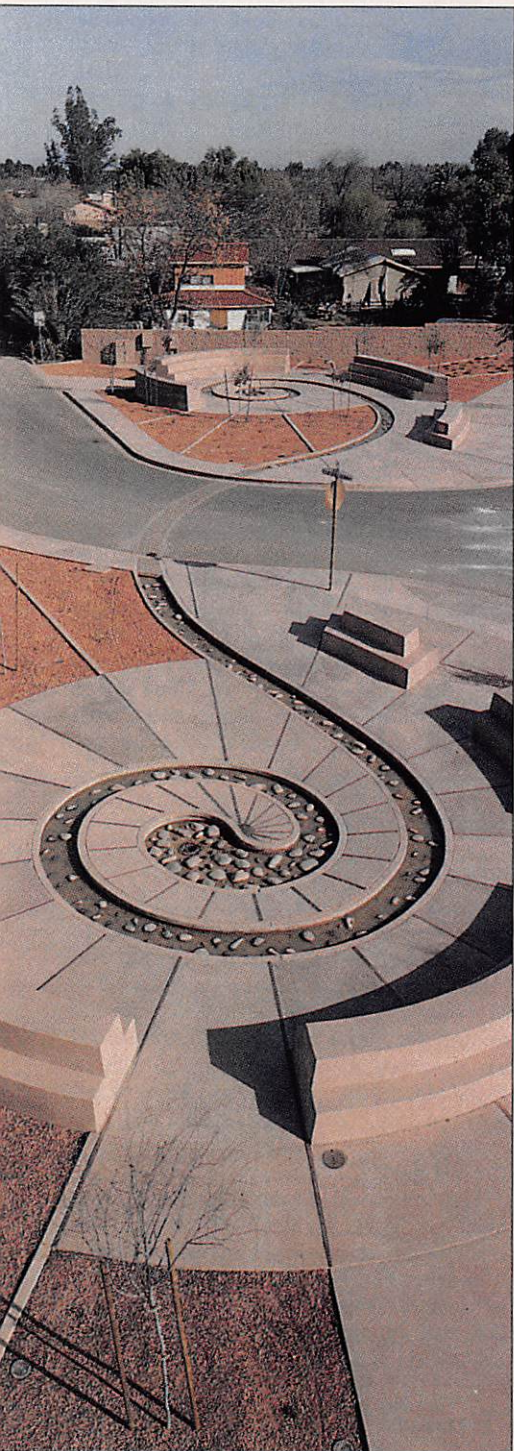
Phoenix on the Rise

An innovative city calls on artists to put a new face on everything from garbage disposal to irrigation canals to highway traffic

BY STRYKER MCGUIRE

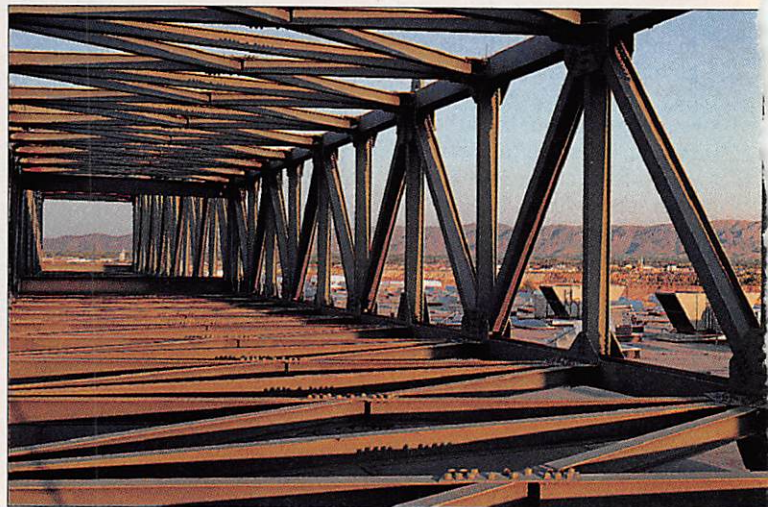
What a dump! The Phoenix Solid Waste Management Facility rises low and sleek out of the desert, draped in bougainvillea and supported by an exposed steel truss nearly 300 feet long. Most sanitation plants hide their operations from

Phoenix has embarked on an impressive array of big-ticket architectural schemes (total cost: \$175 million). They include an ungainly but ambitious new city hall, a daring Art Museum reconstruction by Tod Williams and Billie Tsien and a tiny but handsome history museum by Langdon Wilson Architecture, which also did the city hall. Perhaps the most eagerly anticipated building is the Arizona Science Mu-



Whimsical water wheels:

Jody Pinto's double-spiral plaza (left) draws its inspiration from the Hohokam Indians and its water from a nearby canal



public view. This one is transparent, with large windows and a catwalk that opens the activities inside to visitors. Part Frederick Law Olmsted, who codesigned New York City's Central Park around a muddy quarry, and part Frank Lloyd Wright's "organic architecture," the Phoenix recycling center is making design history of its own.

Despite an economic downturn in recent years and despite its bum rap on either coast as a backward oasis for retirees and right-wingers, Phoenix is on the cutting edge of the movement to meld art and public works. The city's Arts Commission has done more than just put art in public spaces; artists and engineers work together from concept to completion on projects as mundane as street widening and highway-overpass construction. In the hands of an artist like Jody Pinto of New York City, a simple street intersection becomes a whimsical, restful plaza whose double-spiral design taps into an adjacent irrigation canal.

seum, an inventive design by Antoine Predock that, with its clifflike concrete walls and anodized aluminum peak, will, when completed, pay homage to the high desert and mountains. In May contractors broke ground on local architect Will Bruder's Central Library, a mesa-shaped structure clad on two sides in solid copper and featuring innovative solar fenestration on the others. "By 1996," says Jim Ballinger, director of the Phoenix Art Museum, "the entire cultural face of this community will be something to behold."

But it is Phoenix's smaller-scale innovations that are breaking the newest ground. Perhaps the most striking example is a highway overpass, as befits this vast, car-oriented city of more than 1 million people. When the Squaw Peak Parkway was being built, the affected neighborhoods were in turmoil. The Thomas Road Overpass would not only displace residents but also disturb the site of an ancient Hohokam Indian vil-

PHOTOS BY CRAIG SMITH

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August 24, 1993

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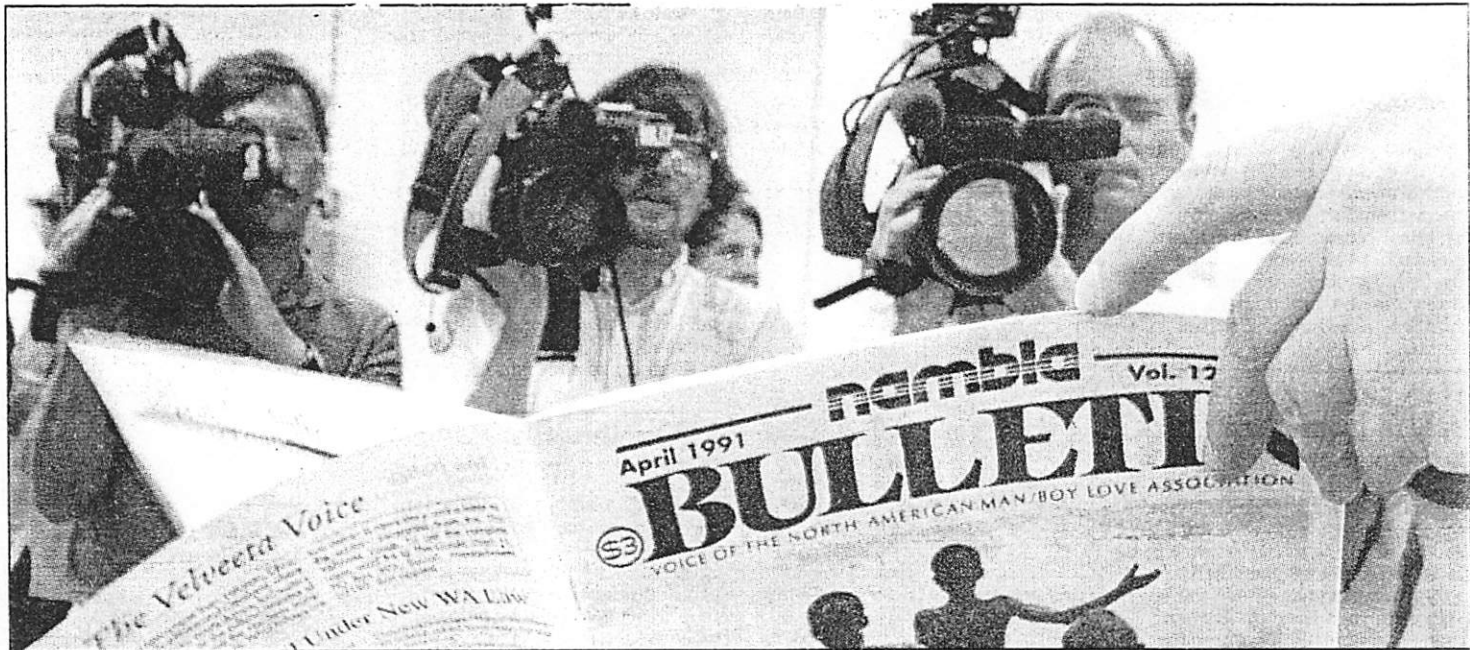


Photo by Kenneth Lambert/The Washington Times

Pedophile handbook: Police display a North American Man-Boy Love Association newsletter found in the apartment of the two men arrested Saturday.

2 child-porn arrests in Maryland

Silver Spring men recruited Baltimore boys for videos, police say

By Brian Reilly
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Two Silver Spring men and a New Jersey man have been charged with recruiting Baltimore-area boys to star in sexually explicit films that could be part of an international child-pornography ring, officials said yesterday.

John Glenford MacLeod, 62, and Edmond Henry Lacroix, 60, lured teen-age boys from parks and storefronts in Baltimore and Dundalk, Md., to their Eastern Avenue apartment and to motels near Baltimore-Washington International Airport, according to Montgomery County police.

There the boys were filmed engaging in oral and anal sex with one another or with a 32-year-old New



The suspects: Edmond Lacroix (left) and John MacLeod may be part of an international child-porn ring, police say.

Jersey man, officials said.

MacLeod and Lacroix, who share a one-bedroom apartment, were arrested Saturday and charged with various sodomy and prostitution charges.

MacLeod, an unemployed computer engineer, was also charged with child pornography. Both men have previous convictions for sex offenses in Maryland and other states.

A Montgomery County circuit judge yesterday ordered MacLeod held in lieu of \$1 million bond. Lacroix, an alarm expert for a McLean security company, was also held, with bond set at \$250,000.

Police said they confiscated a number of commercial pornographic tapes, financial records, a Sony camcorder, stuffed animals and a bag filled with sex toys, Crisco and Vaseline from the men's Blair Towers apartment in the 8100 block of Eastern Avenue.

Police said they were alerted to the alleged pedophile ring Aug. 6, when the mother of a 14-year-old

Baltimore boy told police she was suspicious of the relationship her son was having with MacLeod.

Sgt. Frank Young of the Montgomery County police pedophile section said boys were often seen entering and leaving the apartment since December, when police say they believe the child-pornography ring began.

A postal inspector said one of the men also took boys to the apartment complex's pool, telling residents the boys were his relatives.

The men were unusually active, picking up five different boys in one day, Sgt. Young said. For that reason, he said, detectives moved quickly to make arrests in the case.

Investigators said they questioned two Baltimore-area 14-year-

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