



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee Report



TUCSON - Shown above are a few of the members of the Tucson Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee. Every member worked

hard and long to produce the week-long Pride Week '85 festival last month. All are to be congratulated.

Tucson Lesbian and Gay Pride Week is now history. This leaves myself and the other members with mixed feelings. It is real nice to be able to take a deep breath and relax after several weeks of what seemed unending work, but it is also sad to let go of the sense of unity and strength and indeed intense pride that we all felt throughout the week. If nothing else was accomplished, it was surely enough reward to just have experienced sharing with all the beautiful people that participated not only in the planning but in the enjoyment of attending all the activities. I thank you all for this week's experience.

I am though, very proud to say that this year some new bridges were built. First of all, just by accident the picnic was in a new area of the park which made everything seem much closer and much more visible. Thanks to John Weller and Monte Jon, highlights of the picnic were captured on video tape and later shown at the Video extravaganza at Rita's on Tuesday. This tape will be purchased by the Committee for our historical collection and added to each year as we grow. Also more people attended the picnic than ever before. The first live news telecast at a Pride Week Picnic was this year by TV Channel 9. As the various TV news cameras and crews walked through the area, I did not notice people running to hide. There were also more Lesbian and Gay organizations represented this year than before. And finally, myself and a few others noticed this year a very significant change at the picnic. Men and women, Lesbians and Gays interacted very freely and were clearly evenly distributed throughout the area as opposed to previous years where it seemed that the different sexes claimed their own separate areas. As the sun began to set, it was very evident that most people did not want the day to end. It was with much reluctance that people left the area as no one wanted to let go of those feelings of new found closeness, power and pride.

The Video Dance at Rita's on Tuesday was also a new venture for Pride Week. The event was very well attended and again thanks to John Weller, we had an experience much

better than MTV could ever be. Thanks also to George Hill of Hotbods in Phoenix for supplying those very hot video tapes. Everyone was very pleased and especially so when they saw themselves at the picnic on life-size video.

Unfortunately, the film, "The Times of Harvey Milk" was not printed on video tape as we were promised. The Committee is considering renting the film at a later date this summer and show it in combination with a weekend workshop on issues affecting us in law and government.

"International Stud" was performed at the Fineline on Thursday evening for two shows. Those of us who had seen the play previously were even more moved and impressed by the abilities of our local talent, Toney, Monte Jon and Delyla than before. Many people stayed for both shows. The Committee wishes to thank the actors, R Productions and the Fineline for this significant event.

This was the second year for the Dance Contest at Tramps. The event was well attended but sparse on dance contestants. None-the-less, a good time was had by all and congratulations to the winners.

This year was the first attempt by TLGPC at a carnival. It was held at both Colette's West and Joshua Tree. There were food booths, fun booths and many items for sale at both locations. Gary Clark drew caricatures at J/T's while at Colette's faces were painted. Darts were thrown at Colette's, while pies were thrown at J/T's. I wish to thank Louie and Desi for being the 'victims' of the pie throw. Also this year, for the first time, there was a very expertly decorated and even tastier Lesbian and Gay Pride Week cake made and donated to TLGPC by Larry Williams. Raffle tickets were sold for the cake at both bars and the winner was kind enough to cut the cake for all to sample. The cake was decorated with the same design and color as the Pride Week buttons.

Another new event was held on Sunday at Ruby's. This was a free brunch held for the purpose of thanking

all those who had volunteered their time helping the Committee during the fundraisers and with Pride Week itself. Over 60 people were invited but only 21 had the true sense and understanding of Lesbian and Gay Pride to show up. This event, to me, was a very powerful, rewarding and motivating experience. This was the first time Ruby's has participated in Pride Week and it was very appreciated. The atmosphere could not have been more welcome and friendly. Much networking was started and I am sure will continue. In fact on July 14, Ruby's will challenge the Joshua Tree Pussycats to a fundraising softball game at Himmel Park. Also, the August general membership meeting of TLGPC on August 12, at 6:30 p.m. will be held at Ruby's.

The final event of the week was Casino Night and Swap Meet at Tramps. This was another new event for us and was a big success. We gave away 23 plants to Blackjack winners and two as door prizes. There were four tables of Blackjack that were continually full from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. I wish to thank J.J.; Jerry B.; John D.; Mo C. and Chris J. for their tireless dealing at the tables. Even after all the prizes were won, the players continued to ante up just for the fun of it until 10:00 p.m.

We learned a lot as a Committee from this year's Pride Week and we also accomplished a lot. We hope we gave you a week to remember and that as we grow, our 'Pride' will remain with us all year long.

Jack Stockslager, Co-Chairperson

2nd AIDS Forum set for July 18

TUCSON - The Tucson AIDS Project (TAP) will present its second free forum on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 18 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street.

The forum, entitled "AIDS and YOU", will focus on interpretations of the current situation for the Tucson Gay community by local professionals who have an interest in people with AIDS. Discussion will include Medicine, The Law, Wellness, Risk Reduction as well as a question and answer period. Scheduled to speak at this second forum are Dr. Bob Henry, Dr. Michael Dolores, Bruce Porter, epidemiologist with the Pima County Health Department and Tucson attorney Beverly Ginn.

The first forum drew a very large crowd and many had to stand for the entire evening. You are encouraged to get there early if you want to sit down. Another highly informative, educational forum. Everyone in the community is urged to attend.

The Tucson AIDS Project will hold its next general meeting Thursday, evening, July 11, at the University of Arizona Medical Center, Dining Room C [second floor] at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who is interested in assisting in this project is urged to be at this meeting.

The first stages of organization are completed, and groups will be organizing and setting up schedules. TAP needs people in many different areas -- come to the meeting and find out how you can help.

Hostage pair hid Gay lifestyle from captors

Shiites liked their Castro District garb

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (AP) - Former hostage Jack McCarty says he and a traveling companion pretended to be brothers to hide their homosexuality from the Shiite Moslem militiamen who detained them for two weeks. "Had they known, we could have been killed," said McCarty. "They could have justified killing us."

Ironically, McCarty told the San Francisco Examiner, the Shiite Militiamen liked the military style of his olive drab fatigue pants and tank-top shirts, a popular look in San Francisco's predominantly Gay Castro District. "They thought it was real macho," he said.

McCarty, 40, and his companion Victor Amburgy, 30, were among the last 39 hostages to be freed. The Examiner interviewed McCarty in Boston. His work counseling dying AIDS patients had taught him to confront death, McCarty said, and he drew on that experience many times in Lebanon. "It is impossible to describe - realizing from the time the servicemen were dead that you were very possibly going to die," he said.

McCarty, who plans to rest in New England and drive to San Francisco later this summer, said he and Amburgy hid their homosexuality by pretending to be brothers. McCarty was a volunteer for San Francisco's Shanti Project, which provides housing, support services and counseling for AIDS patients, families and friends. The training taught him people must

learn to cope with life-threatening situations and grief.

"In captivity, I was asked to counsel people," said McCarty, who urged fellow hostages to meditate although few were familiar with the technique. McCarty said the captors thought the meditation was yoga.

McCarty said he, Amburgy and a third man once were moved to a cell-like room in the basement with rats on the floor and food served through a metal grate. After three days, the third man was allowed to telephone his friends in the United States and was "treated like a prince." After that, McCarty said, other hostages were willing to do what the militiamen asked. "When you heard about hostages going swimming, or anytime you saw anyone, they were being paraded - they made you do it," he said.

Psychological intimidation reinforced the constant threat of death. "They played Russian roulette with the hostages, he said. "They tried everything. They got you good."

McCarty and Amburgy had their arms around each other as they stepped off the plane and met President Reagan. Their gesture was a declaration of their homosexuality, although neither man had told their parents about it. "When they found out they flipped," McCarty said of his parents' reaction. "Being 'out' in New England and being 'out' in San Francisco are two different realities."

Let Your Gay Pride Shine All Year Round

B R I E F S

Thanks,
BETTE!

Three cheers for Bette Midler for donating just under \$10,000 to the AIDS Project Los Angeles. Is it now Donna Summer's turn to help us out? She should, but I wouldn't bet a shot of Mad Dog on it! Thanks again, Bette!

MONTHLY EXTRAVAGANZA AT RITA'S

TUCSON - Yards and yards of draperies were hung in the 'showroom' at Rita's last weekend announcing the arrival this Sunday, July 14 of the first of a regular monthly Penguin Production starring show director Christi Lunden. Not the normal 'drag show' format, this production plans to be more 'Las Vegas' in flavor with flashy costumes, lighting and material.

For this premier performance, Miss Lunden has employed the services of one of the most popular Phoenix performers, Ebony. Also appearing with the troupe will be Ms. Larri also from Phoenix. As an added attraction, and one that promises to be a real attention getter, Tucson's hottest male stripper will show his wares to everyone.

Showtime is 8:30 p.m. and advance reserved seating is available by calling 327-3390.

MISS ARIZONA PAGEANT SUNDAY

PHOENIX - The first Miss Arizona Pageant will take place this Sunday, July 14 at the Camelback Sahara Hotel at 302 W. Camelback Road. The festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. Jim Curl, of JBC Productions who owns the rights to "Miss Gay Arizona Pageant" along with co-producer Penelope Poole predict that the 400 seat convention room of the hotel will be sold out for this first Pageant.

This Arizona event is coordinated with other cities who have been licensed for their individual state pageants. These state winners will be eligible to compete in the grand national pageant for Miss Gay USA. In addition, Miss Gay Arizona will attend many other functions throughout the year both in Arizona and nationally, representing our state.

Tickets for the pageant are \$10 in advance and are available at Shamoo's and Phoenix Power and Supply. Ticket price at the door is \$12.00.

BENEFIT SHOW AT TRAMPS SATURDAY

TUCSON - The Arizona chapter of Make A Wish Foundation will be holding a benefit show at Tramps, Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 p.m. Make A Wish Foundation is a non-profit organization that grants the last wishes of terminally ill children. There is a request for a donation of \$1.00 at the door all of which will be given to the Foundation as well as all tips received by the performers.

The big show will be MC'd by Monte Jon and will be hosted by Kelly Ryan. The show features the many varied talents of Jason, this year's Closet Ball winner, as well as Jimmie who was first runner up. Candy Plastique will perform her zany repertoire plus the Ladies of Tramps will be on stage as well. There are some promised added surprises.

This is a very worth while benefit and your participation is encouraged. There will be a representative of the Make A Wish Foundation at the show to accept the collected monies.

TRANSEXUAL LOSES ELECTION AT LEGION POST

NEW LONDON, CONN. (AP) - A transsexual lost her bid to lead her American Legion post last Monday, July 8, but said she was not disappointed because the election brought attention to the issue of sex changes [OBSERVER, May 29]. Bridgette Pol lost Monday's election, 23-13, to incumbent Joseph Ottaviano, who earlier predicted he would win the commander election in a landslide. Another candidate, John Cable, received 10 votes.

"I'm not disappointed," Pol said afterwards. "When the membership is 325, those [winning] numbers tell me nothing."

Earlier, a confident Ottaviano had predicted Pol's defeat: "I'll say it again, the post is just not ready for a transsexual commander. I don't believe she would improve the image of our post. She would probably hurt it."

Pol, 50, grew up as a boy named Bobby and is a decorated Korean War veteran. She is also the post's senior vice president. She had a sex change operation in Mexico at age 38. I'm glad I've run because if nothing else it's brought out the issue of the transsexual," she said. "I hope that I've made people understand what it really means."

MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN INSURANCE RATES FOR GAY COUPLES

SAN FRANCISCO - For the first time an insurance company has agreed to give gay couples the same 20% discount on auto insurance as it gives to married couples. Known as the "multiple car discount," it was given to couples who own two or more cars. Previously the discount was available only to married couples.

The agreement was reached after extensive negotiation between AAA of Southern California and National Gay Rights Advocates, the San Francisco based public interest law firm. NGRA represents Leo Laurence and Robert Zelmer, Jr., a gay couple in San Diego who have been in a relationship for seven years.

Leonard Greff, NGRA Legal Director, said: "I explained to AAA's lawyer that gay couples have all the same characteristics in their relationships as married couples. I warned him that, under the Insurance Code and other state laws, AAA was engaging in an unlawful discriminatory practice." After much discussion, and a threatened lawsuit, AAA agreed to extend the multiple car discount to gay couples.

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director, said: "This is a first in the insurance industry and the beginning of the battle for full equal rights for lesbian and gay couples. With AAA being the giant of the industry I'm confident that other insurers will follow their lead." O'Leary noted that NGRA is committed to doing more litigation for couples' rights as a way to further validate the gay lifestyle.

AAA has already begun the procedures for implementing the program. This includes reprogramming the computer, developing training materials for its agents, and preparing a bulletin to inform the members of AAA.

ADOPTED SON SUPPORTS GAY FATHER

LOS ANGELES, CA - A minister from the Moral Majority said the worst heterosexual family is better than any homosexual family.

"Well, this is bullshit!" Jon Harrelson, a 15-year-old non-Gay teenager, who was adopted by a Gay man at the age of nine, was telling a reporter for Frontiers, a Los Angeles Gay weekly, about his appearance on a Philadelphia television show, 'People Are Talking'.

Harrelson has been speaking out with his father, Don, who is chairman of Gay Fathers of Los Angeles. "Everything has been better since I've been adopted. I love my father," he told the Frontiers reporter.

Given up by his mother when he was four, Jon spent the next five years shuffling between four different homes, including one where an older brother introduced him to marijuana at the age

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

Coming Out....

I'M HAPPY WITH CHOICE

I came out in the mid-70's. To tell the truth, it was not an experience I'd like to repeat.

I was raised Catholic and I come from a family of five. There are four boys and one girl. So there were always a lot of people around, but never anyone I could tell my innermost thoughts. I started having trouble dealing with life in general when I was about 19 years old. That also happens to be the same year I was raped and beaten. I had been dating guys for only a short time when that happened. After that I still dated guys for a couple of years but, I felt something was missing. I was not satisfied. I felt empty. I was active sexually and on the pill but, when I was with a guy I still felt that empty feeling.

When I was about 22 years old I started seeing a psychiatrist. Until that point I wasn't sure why I felt so empty when I was with a guy. I never really gave homosexuality a thought until almost a year later when I was still in analysis. Wanting to be with a woman sexually came out in my therapy sessions.

My family knew I was having problems and they knew I was seeing a psychiatrist but I never told any of them about my thoughts of being with a woman. Since I was raised Catholic I had many ambivalent feelings about coming out. I wished I could have had some support from my family but I was afraid to tell them because I knew they would be very negative about it. So I dealt with it as best I could and continued my therapy.

My parents moved to Florida and I felt more lost than ever. I missed them very much. I moved to Florida a year later and my confusion continued. I became good friends with a married woman and I told her of my feelings toward women. She took it well, but I knew she really could not understand where I was coming from.

I moved back to Baltimore a year later and was unemployed for that entire first year. I got a job the next year and met a woman I knew was Lesbian - she was out. I became friends with her and told her about my feelings. She helped me a great deal. After a while we became lovers and had a short relationship.

Now I know what I was missing in my life - a woman! I'm very happy with my choice.

Lee

(Baltimore Gay Paper)

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Lesbian and Gay Democrats Demand Accountability

WASHINGTON, DC - The recent meeting of the Democratic National Committee not only demonstrated DNC Chairman Paul Kirk's failure to include qualified openly Gay men and women in the national party, it also underscored the determination of Lesbian and Gay Democrats and the significant support that does exist in many parts of the country.

Kirk's selections included 100 appointments to the newly established Policy Commission, 10 appointments to the Fairness Commission which will write the rules for electing delegates to the 1988 national convention and, most importantly, a slate of 25 candidates for at-large seats on the Democratic National Committee itself. Of these 135 nominees, despite months of lobbying and the nomination of dozens of qualified candidates, not one openly Lesbian or Gay Democrat was selected.

In response to this development, leaders of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs and members of the DNC's Lesbian and Gay caucus conducted the only independent campaign for one of the 25 at-large seats. The name of Christine Riddiough - the President of the Gertrude Stein Gay Democratic Club of Washington, DC and the Director of Lesbian Rights for the National Organization for Women - was placed in nomination by 14 members of the DNC, including the Democratic State Chairs of Minnesota, Oregon and the District of Columbia.

This at-large election, which was held on June 25, presented a special problem for Riddiough's supporters. Since each ballot had to be signed in order to be valid, the national Chairman would be able to record which DNC members had not supported his entire slate. Despite this political cost, 22% of those voting did cast their ballots for the Lesbian and Gay community's candidate.

Initial analysis of the vote indicates that DNC members who were heavily lobbied at both the local and national level accounted for the

majority of those votes. In particular, nine members of the National Association's Executive Committee followed-up local lobbying efforts by also attending the meeting.

In California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Minnesota, Puerto Rico, Tennessee and Wyoming, at least half of the votes cast were in support of Riddiough. Even more encouraging, all of the votes cast in Delaware, Maine, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin supported the openly Lesbian candidate. Local lobbying efforts in New York, Florida and elsewhere were also reflected in the final count.

The tally of how each member voted will be sent to the National Association's member clubs across the country. Local leaders will be urged to compare the final results with the commitments given prior to the meeting. As Rick Stafford, Chair of the recently deinstitutionalized Lesbian and Gay Caucus stated: "DNC members and other elected leaders must be put on notice that they will be held accountable for their actions."

The only openly Gay nomination which Chairman Kirk did make concerned the DNC's internal committee on Credentials. Rick Stafford of Minnesota, who also serves as the Secretary of the DNC's Midwestern Caucus, was appointed to this nine-member body. In other internal developments, Stephen Smith, an openly Gay DNC member from California, was elected to serve as Secretary of the Western Caucus.

In response to these developments, the National Association will redouble its emphasis on Lesbian and Gay political work at both the state and local levels. As Jack Trujillo, Co-Chair of the National Association, stated: "Our political strength is ultimately based on our ability to support our friends and defeat our enemies at the grass roots. The fact that nearly one quarter of the DNC broke with the Party Chairman over this issue demonstrates the type of support

that is possible if Lesbian and Gay Democrats are willing to work."

In facing this challenge, the National Association will also place increased emphasis on two important political projects within our own community:

[1] The Lesbian and Gay Candidate Project, which was initiated by the National Association last December, will seek to identify and train Lesbian and Gay candidates for both party and public office; and

[2] The Voter Research Foundation, an independent non-partisan foundation which was initiated by the National Association in May, will develop procedures for identifying the size and scope of the Lesbian and Gay vote.

COUNSELING CONCEPTS

BEING SUPPORTIVE

"In times like these"... Those words have been used and reused over the ages. They have been used to denote special times where special circumstances have arisen that demand different kinds of action. I believe that these words are unique to the Gay and Lesbian community. Has there ever been a time in the Gay and Lesbian community where there were no special circumstances that didn't demand special kind of responses?

It seems our community gets the blame for all that non-Gay society won't admit responsibility for. Events of the last decade, however, has seen the Gay and Lesbian community speak out. We are now talking back. They cannot automatically blame us without a response from us. The message from us is clear, "Don't dump your problems on us. We will not be used as your scape-goat anymore." Non-Gay society is learning they will not get away with practices of the past. That fact alone has put more pressure on us as a community. Therefore, the need for us being supportive of each other is imperative.

Support can be given in a lot of ways too. The political arena is one avenue. I know that there are those on TLGPC that think all Gay persons should be on their committee. That is not possible for a lot of people. People may give their encouragement to the committee or support it with their financial contribution. The feedback is as important as the financial support. Many people do this because they feel that in their particular situation the spotlight would be damaging.


This is another area we need to reach out in. We need to be respectful of those who choose to get involved in ways that they feel safe with. Even though a person's logic for doing what they do doesn't seem to add up, there is a need to be supportive at that point.

One way in which we could all be more supportive is where we spend our money. There are many competent professional and business people in this city who are a part of the Gay and Lesbian community that need our support. Giving such support doesn't mean settling for second best either. The list of business and professionals goes on and on. Don't be afraid to recommend a place of business to a friend, Gay or non-Gay. Maybe I'm prejudiced but we are, as a group, some of the most talented people in the world. Any way in which we can upgrade and improve our image as a community is part of our being supportive.

Last week's article brought up the subject of friendship. This is an area we need to be determined in giving support. Friends are important. A friend that will not be supportive... well are they a friend? Think twice about the friends you have. Have they spent some time with you to help you through rough times? Has the opportunity ever come up where you had the chance to reciprocate but you were too tired? Can you read the non-verbal signs of a friend who really needs to talk and then take the chance to ask if they need to talk?

Let's face it, we need each other. Try being more supportive of your community collectively and individually.

Paul W. Reigle
for Counseling Concepts - Tucson



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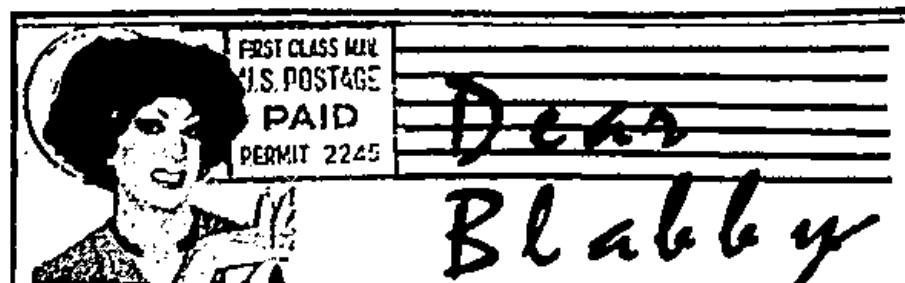
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THE FINELINE

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DEAR BLABBY:

I was at a party not long ago, where this really good looking guy came out of the bathroom in nothing but a pink towel. He had an attitude you wouldn't believe. [He looked a little buzzed to me]. He walked to the stereo, put on a song called "Beat It", and began to do a little striptease for the rest of us until the towel dropped to the floor. We looked in wonderment as to what would happen next.

About this time his roommate came in and informed him that he had shut his cat in the ice box for the last half hour. [Now I knew he was buzzed]. He just laughed and went on to draw this obscene picture on his chest with whipped cream. With all that hair, let me tell you...it looked very strange. Anyhow, he went back to the stereo and put on "The Men All Pause", then went to the window and started this seductive dance, rubbing his thighs and smiling at us. After he was finished, he and a couple of other people went into the bathroom for an undetermined amount of time.

I have nicknamed this person "Blanche" for his walk and attitude, but could he really be none other than Theodore from JT/JP that we all know and love? And... is he always like this at parties? Signed
Gotcha

Dear Gotcha -

After painstakingly reading this letter, I have come to two conclusions. One, you shouldn't try writing as a means of employment, and two, I should attend more parties.
B.

DEAR BLABBY:

All my friends have been telling me about some benefit in July for "Make A Wish Foundation". I don't want to appear stupid when I join them in conversation, so could you fill me in on the info? Who? When? Where? Why? And, what is "Make A Wish Foundation"? Signed
Curious Kate

Dear Kate-

So glad you asked. On July thirteenth, Tramps will host "When You

Wish Upon A Star". This benefit show will be hosted by Kelly Ryan and Monte-Jon, two performers we have not seen in this kind of format for some time. Also starring in this revue is the zany Candy Plastique as well as the Ladies Of Tramps. As a special surprise, rumor has it [no pun intended] that Jimmie, [first runner up last Closet Ball], will also appear.

This show will start at 9 p.m. with a one dollar donation requested at the door. All proceeds will go to the Make A Wish Foundation, an organization that strives to grant [as best they can] the last requests of terminally ill children. A very noble cause, be there.
B.

DEAR BLABBY:

On one of my recent vacations, California, I think [I travel so much I can't be sure], I went to one of the fancier bars where I came across this big, dark-haired man that rather caught my eye. It didn't take long for the two of us to start to flirt with one another and after a cocktail or two he asked if I would be around until closing. He said he was the late bartender and if I was going to be there all evening I could help him close the bar and then we could go to breakfast "or something".

The "or something" sounded fun, so, I stuck around. Well, at last it was time to get everyone out of there and go on about our business. The doors closed and I waited for my new found friend to finish up his duties. He did this, I waited. He did that I waited... He did the other, I waited and waited and waited. By the time he was done doing this, that and the other, I wasn't sure I was interested or not.

My question is, do all bartenders have so much to do at the end of the night? I always thought that all a bartender had to do was serve drinks, look pretty and flirt with the customers. Signed
Why Wait

Dear Why Wait-

Some do. They do, they do. Some don't. They don't, they don't.
B.

GAY HEALTH

AIDS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By Mike Griffin, Tucson Alternative Lifestyle Health Association Counselor, 101 W. Irvington Rd., 6-8 p.m. Fridays or call 882-9814 Monday - Friday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Q. Do alcohol and drugs affect the immune system?

A. YES, substance abusers can have symptoms that are similar to AIDS symptoms [IV drug abusers occasionally develop lymphadenopathy and splenomegaly, alcoholics frequently have prolonged fatigue, etc.] Alcohol, poppers and cocaine abuse can lower one's resistance to infections; Alcohol abuse can suppress the immune system since it is toxic to the bone marrow where white blood cells are produced; Alcohol and drug abuse can affect one's judgement in relationship to sexual limits and self care matters.

Q. What are the symptoms of immune system damage that may be due to AIDS?

A. Symptoms of a damaged immune system may include:

- [1] Low grade persistent fevers, shaking chills, night sweats, and dry cough not related to any known illness or smoking, and lasting for a period longer than several weeks.
- [2] Increasing shortness of breath with only minor exertion.
- [3] Unexpected weight loss not due to diet or increased physical activity;

greater than 15 lbs. in two months or 10% of total body weight.

[4] Swollen lymphnodes in the neck, groin or armpits that are not linked to a known transient infection and which lasts more than one month.

[5] Persistent creamy white patches on the tongue, gums or throat.

[6] Unexplained, persistent, and increasing fatigue.

[7] Persistent diarrhea, bloody stools, or gastrointestinal upset.

[8] Purple to red, flat or raised spots or blemishes that may look like bruises or blood blisters. They may occur on or under the skin, inside the mouth, nose, eyelids, or rectum. They are persistent, usually painless, and harder than the skin around them.

[9] Persistent or recurrent itching around the anus.

[10] Cuts and infections that do not heal as quickly as usual.

[11] Blurred vision; persistent and severe headaches.

If you have any of the above symptoms DON'T PANIC, but keep in mind that the above symptoms may be seen in a variety of illnesses that are not related to AIDS. However, when not easily or otherwise explained, the persistence of one or more of these symptoms should be discussed with your health care provider. It is important that you be as open with your physician about your concern with AIDS and about your Gay lifestyle as possible.



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in the
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The Observer...

AIDS & YOU

UPDATE

TIME: 18 JULY 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

4831 E. 22ND ST. (EAST OF SWAN)

sponsored by the tucson aids project

discussion includes medicine, the law, wellness,
risk reduction & question and answer rap

Flash, Crash - Boom, Boom

About now, here in southern Arizona, one begins to notice something new has been added to the skyline. In the afternoons, especially hot afternoons, when the sky has that peculiar intense icy blue look to it, cauliflower-like puffs of cloud appear over the higher mountain ranges....The daily growth of these aerial decorations will become the daily growth of huge billowing white towers reaching up to 15 kilometers above the earth. Through July and August, the cool down-drafts and chilly raindrops pouring from these masterpieces of condensation stimulate the senses and refresh hot desert dwellers - plant and animal alike. But there is more in store.

By some illusive mechanism, the tops of the clouds tend to accumulate a positive electrical charge, while the lower parts of the clouds tend to be mostly negative in charge. A smaller center of positive charge forms in the rain zone near the ground. Now, while the earth usually has a negative charge, the charged storm cell causes a positive charge to build up on the ground below, following the cloud like a shadow. A difference in electrical potential up to 100 million volts can occur - not a particularly stable situation.

The instability does not persist. A faint channel of conductive air forms providing a path for the brilliant white dart which shoots earthward for one to several hundred feet. This dart is followed by forty or more successive darts which extend the path to within fifty feet of the ground. Meanwhile, similar paths of ionized air are reaching up from the earth toward the cloud. Eventually, an upward path and downward path meet, completing a conductive channel from earth to cloud and a searing white spear of light surges upward at about 25,000 meters per second. The entire process has taken about two-hundredths of a second. The main stroke is usually less than a mile in length, but can be as long as four. An electrical current carrying specifications like 100 million volts and 250,000 amps and 10 billion watts heats the surround air to 30,000 degrees Celsius. The scene repeats itself as many as a thousand times in a major storm. Impressive to say the least. Spectacular from miles away; awesome at closer range; deadly near ground zero.

The probability of a particular

individual being struck by a particular lightning bolt is very low - one in a million, or so - but with thousands of bolts zipping around Tucson each summer being outdoors and not keeping a few thoughts in mind during storms, one's chances for disaster increase dramatically. The best place to be when caught without shelter is at the base of a steep slope or cliff. In open country, head for any sort of depression, squat down, grasping knees, to make as small an object as possible with minimum contact with the ground. Keep backpacks or other conductive objects at least fifteen feet away. A group should spread out so that if a strike does occur, there will be some unaffected to assist those injured.

Things to avoid: Tall or isolated trees. Most lightning-caused fatalities and injuries are related to nearby trees being struck. A forest where all of the trees are about the same height is fairly safe. Ditches, particularly ones with water in them. Overhanging rocks or small caves. Avoid these unless there is at least ten feet of clearance overhead; four from walls. Water. This is the most dangerous place to be. A direct strike is unlikely here, but the current can flow up to 200 feet through water.

Things to seek: Large buildings are usually quite safe, keep to the middle of the room, away from electrical outlets, appliances and telephones, or All-metal automobiles - these are probably the safest havens; just don't park on the top of an isolated hill or in a dry wash!

So, it's best to keep one's distance: the delay between FLASH and the associated thunder is about five seconds per mile.

[ED NOTE: Reprinted from the newsletter "Trailheadlines" published by the Tucson chapter of Great Outdoors].

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

ADOPTED SON SUPPORTS GAY FATHER
of five and an institution where he was often locked in a cell at the age of seven.

"The straight community doesn't necessarily know what's going on," Jon continued. "I do feel a sense of responsibility, because I can make a difference. What these people have pictured in their minds [about Gays] is wrong."

Review...

Summer Smiles great for summer doldrums

A very unusual theatrical happening opened last week in Tucson at the Finline 'Little Theater'. "Summer Smiles" a Garbo Production in conjunction with 'R' Productions, stars Newton-John Skinner and Barbara Tafoya. It is directed by Jim Farias and Doyle Hill. Technical Director is Rod Coyle with the set design by "Battle-cat" Skinner and Loomis #4. That's a lot of names, but the two you will remember when leaving this slickly played grouping of comedic and dramatic vignettes are Newton-John Skinner and Barbara Tafoya.

Skinner wrote two of the opening sketches and afterwards, he travels in some mighty fine company with the likes of William Shakespeare, Colin Higgins, Joe Orton, Oscar Wilde and Jaston Williams. There surely is something for everyone here, and Skinner and Tafoya play each skit to perfection. The intermission seems to come just as you have settled in and the end comes before you know it. This is, of course, due to the efforts of the players on stage who are able to keep your eyes and ears glued to the happenings on stage every minute - you are afraid of missing a line if you turn away.

Newton-John Skinner has been in Tucson for four years. He studied at the University of Arizona Drama Department and has appeared in several dinner theater productions as well as appearing with the Arizona Theatre Company locally. His appearance in Stray Theatre's production of "Cloud Nine" was certainly his most memorable appearance which played at the Tucson Community Center's Little Theater last

year.

This is Barbara Tafoya's theatrical debut although she has appeared with the prestigious Graham and O'Leary comedy team. But to watch her work that stage and the audience, one would never suspect that she was in her debut performance. This reviewer caught the opening night performance and not a line was noticeably muffed and cues were right on. Both Tafoya and Skinner change genders several times during the evening which adds to the lighthearted ambience of the evening.

The vignettes include excerpts from "Opening Night" [from '24 Hours'], "Narcissus Revenge" both by Newton-John Skinner; "The Taming Of The Shrew" by Shakespeare; "Harold and Maude" by Colin Higgins; "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" by Joe Orton; "The Importance Of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde and "Greater Tune" by Jaston Williams.

Comedy, drama, it's all here and played to the hilt by two very talented people. A fast-paced, terrifically entertaining evening of theatre. Although the show lasts for an hour and a half, it seems like a lot less than that. Highly recommended.

"Summer Smiles" will close this weekend. It will play Wednesday through Sunday, July 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 at the Finline upstairs BFR. In addition there will be a special matinee performance on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. All other performances are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3.00 on advance sale in the upstairs bar at the Finline or \$4.00 at the door.

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A View From Within

by Christopher Geoffrey McPherson

WHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BEGINS TO FALL APART

There is an awful lot to be said for being alone -- single. There is also, however, a lot to be said for sharing the rest of your life with that one special person.

Relationships -- even in the most ideal setting -- are very difficult; the less the situation is ideal, the more difficult the relationship is.

As ideal as it might be when it begins, a relationship can hit turbulent water very quickly. Two people begin to spend more time together -- preferably quality time. Two people begin to share the routine and the unusual day-to-day events. There are good times, there are bad times, but all times are the building blocks of a secure interaction between these two people.

Slowly -- sometimes very slowly -- you begin to realize that the bad times begin to outnumber the good times. You doubt your perceptions at first, then it becomes so obvious that no amount of creative rationalizing can disguise the facts: the relationship is dying.

What are you supposed to do next? You decide to talk things over with the other member of this relationship. Things get all cleared up and you begin again.

A week or two passes and the nagging feeling of failure begins to tug at your mind. The two of you seem to be quarreling an awful lot, and you aren't having fun with your partner anymore.

Now what? It is so easy to let the whole thing go, let it fall apart. What do you do? Yes, it hurts to feel that a relationship is on the rocks. You feel yourself inadequate; you notice your partner is not laughing as much, and you feel it is your fault; you catch your partner in an intimate embrace with a friend or past lover, and you feel that your ability to please your partner physically has deteriorated; you feel yourself ugly, unpleasant, humorless; on and on...

Step two: You then begin to feel your partner inadequate: your partner

doesn't seem as good in bed as you originally thought; your partner doesn't seem able to make you laugh like before; the times you spend together are no longer "fun".

Now you are faced -- inescapably -- with the choice: either break off the relationship, or try to hold it together.

The scenario stops here: Each relationship is different. The people involved are different. The situations are all different.

I have seen people in relationships -- both Gay and Lesbian relationships, as well as straight relationships -- try to hold on, and fail or succeed. I have also seen two people break it off and either fail, or succeed.

In my own mind I feel:

As long as there is the smallest ray of hope that the relationship can be saved, every attempt should be made to save it. A relationship -- a loving relationship -- is a miracle. For two complete strangers in this huge world to meet, like each other, become friends then lovers, ultimately to spend the remainder of their lives together [even if this whole process takes years] is incomprehensible in its rarity.

To give up the memories, to throw away all of the effort and energy used to get you both this far is wrong. And if you win -- if your fight succeeds -- then your relationship will be that much stronger; almost indestructible. But if you lose, you will know, in your heart, that you did everything in your power to make it work.

Is it better to have loved and lost, than to have never loved at all?

Yes, absolutely...

Penguin Fact Number One: Contrary to popular misconception, penguins prefer the Art Deco period when remodeling their summer homes in California. They favor various shades of grey, as well as chrome, glass, and black vases.

Quentin Crisp Stars In Card Series



NEW YORK, NY -- Internationally known writer, stage performer and television personality Quentin Crisp, makes his debut in a new medium this month as the star of an exclusive new line of birthday greeting cards from Male America of New York.

The six new cards, each featuring a different color photo of Crisp with a brief comic message inside are priced at one dollar. Among the messages is one that reads "You don't look a day over _____," which allows the sender to fill in the blank with an appropriate number. The series was photographed by John Vaughn.

Crisp is the author of the best-selling "The Naked Civil Servant," which was adapted for television, and "How to Become a Virgin". His book and film reviews in New York, Esquire and Christopher Street magazines have won praise for their wit and distinctive point of view. Articles by Crisp have also recently appeared in the Advocate and Details.

In addition to his one-man show, "An Evening With Quentin Crisp," acclaimed in cities across the country, including Phoenix, Crisp played the celebrated role of the haughty Lady Bracknell in the 1982 New York production of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance Of Being Earnest."

Mr. Crisp just returned from London where he was featured in the feature film remake, "The Bride of Frankenstein," starring Jennifer Beals and Sting.

If your favorite card shop does not handle the Quentin Crisp cards, complete sets of the six cards may be ordered directly from Male America, 141 West 26th Street, New York, NY 10001 for ten dollars, which includes first-class postage.

Male America is a Gay-owned and Gay-operated company which also has a full line of male-oriented cards for every occasion, as well as specialty T-shirts and calendars.

Anniversary show for Stephanie Price



TUCSON -- Another opening, another show, this time it was a double special occasion -- the 4th of July plus the anniversary for Stephanie Price. Stephanie put on a great show at the Graduate and

starring with her were Hostess Aviva Diamond, Candy Plastique, Dominique Jeante', Jacquleen de Savoi and Michael. Great show -- Happy Anniversary Steph!

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FINANCIAL REPORT
TUCSON LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE WEEK
FUNDRAISERS AND ACTIVITIES

INCOME

SOURCE	INCOME
SOFTBALL GAMES	\$454.31
VLD WRESTLING	182.00
T-SHIRT SALES	735.00
DONATION FROM GREAT OUTDOORS	50.00
BUTTON SALES	155.00
DONATION JARS	7.00
CAKE RAFFLE	69.00
PIE THROW	16.00
TOTAL	1668.31

EXPENSES

SOURCE	EXPENSE
SOFTBALL GAMES	\$109.42
VLD WRESTLING	39.50
T-SHIRTS	492.80
BUTTONS	90.00
COPYING	18.39
POSTERS	78.37
PICNIC	373.35
DANCE CONTEST	140.00
PIE THROW BOOTH	24.95
BRUNCH	145.20
CASINO NIGHT	118.41
TOTAL	1634.39

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SPECIAL CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
FINELINE - "Summer Smiles" continues for its final
performances. All performances 7:30 p.m., plus a matinee
Sunday, July 14 at 5:00. A live show with Newton John
Skinner and Barbara Talaya. Tickets \$3 in advance or \$4 at
the door. Plus Michael Fazio return engagement, playing in
the new upstairs lounge.

THURSDAY, JULY 11
FINELINE - "Summer Smiles" live show. See July 10.

FRIDAY, JULY 12
FINELINE - "Summer Smiles" live show. See July 10.

SATURDAY, JULY 13
FINELINE - "Summer Smiles" live show. See July 10
TRAMPS - "When You Wish Upon A Star" benefit show
hosted by Kelly Ryan and featuring an all-star cast. \$1
donation at door benefits WIST Foundation. 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 14
FINELINE - Final two performances of "Summer Smiles"
Matinee at 5:00 p.m. and last show at 7:30 p.m. See July
10 for more details.
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - First of a once-a-month show.
Penguin Productions presents Miss Christi Lunden, and her
all-star revue with special guest star Ebony! 8:30 p.m.
Fun, surprises, extravagance and elegance. PLUS Tucson's
hottest male stripper! Advance reserved seating available.
Showtime 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
FINELINE - Michael Fazio playing live in the new
upstairs lounge.

THURSDAY, JULY 18
AIDS FORUM - Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E.
22nd St. (East of Swan). Sponsored by Tucson AIDS Project.
Discussion includes medicine, the law, wellness, risk
reduction and question and answer rap. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 26
COLETTE'S WEST - Live country and western music with
the Fred Doty show. If you like C&W, you'll not want to
miss this show.

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THE TUCSON CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Draft Beer Bust 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
.40 per glass. Bobby Jr., DJ in J/T 9 to 1
CONGRESS TAP ROOM - Open 9 a.m. Mon. - Sat. Noon Sundays.
COLETTE'S WEST - Well Liquor \$1.00 - 9 to Midnight.
FINELINE - Upstairs bar opens 3 p.m. Tall Neck Bottle Beer
Night .75 from 7 p.m. - Hourly drink specials.
GRADUATE - Watermelon Shots .75 - 9 p.m. - Midnight.
RITA'S - Kitchen closed for summer. Free Hors d'oeuvres
5-7 p.m.
TRAMPS - Square Dance Night. Country & Western music.

THURSDAY
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Bottle Beer Night \$1.00 domestic
9:00 - 1:00 a.m. Dave Pierson, DJ in J/T 9 to 1
CONGRESS TAP ROOM - Open 9 a.m. Mon. - Sat. Noon Sundays
FINELINE - 12 oz. canned beer .75 from 7 p.m. to closing.
Hourly drink specials daily.
GRADUATE - Country & Western music from 9 to closing.
RITA'S - "Party Nite" - Schnapps .75 - Well Shots and
Domestic Beer \$1.00, Well Drinks \$1.25 from 7 p.m. to
1 a.m. Kitchen closed for summer. Free Hors
d'oeuvres 5 to 7 p.m.
TRAMPS - Sleaze & Cruise music.

FRIDAY
CONGRESS TAP ROOM - Open 9 a.m. Mon. - Sat. Noon Sundays
FINELINE - Upstairs bar opens at 3 p.m. Disco at 9:00 p.m.
GRADUATE - Watermelon Shots .75 - 9 p.m. - Midnight.
JOSHUA TREE - Bobby Jr. disc jockey 9 to 1
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen closed for summer. Free Hors
d'oeuvres 5 to 7 p.m.
TRAMPS - Disco music by Curtis 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

SATURDAY
COLETTE'S WEST - Free Pool from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
CONGRESS TAP ROOM - Open 9 a.m. Mon. - Sat. Noon Sundays
FINELINE - Upstairs bar opens at 3 p.m. Disco at 9:00 p.m.
JOSHUA TREE - Bobby Jr. disc jockey from 9 to 1
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen closed for summer. Free Hors
d'oeuvres 5 to 7 p.m. Free Buffet on the first and
third Saturday of each month from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
TRAMPS - Disco music 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

SUNDAY
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - Beer Bust 4 to 6 p.m. .40 per
glass. 6 to 9 p.m. Beer, wine and well \$1.00. Steak
Dinner 1:30 to 7:30 \$3.50. Dave Pierson DJ's in J/T
9 to 1
COLETTE'S WEST - Sunday Sick Call - All Juice Drinks \$1.35
Happy Hour Prices 4 - 9 p.m.
CONGRESS TAP ROOM - Opens at noon.
FINELINE - Long Island Ice Tea .75 from 7 p.m. to close
Hourly drink specials daily.
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen closed for summer months
TRAMPS - Sunday Beer Bust Noon to 4:00 PM. .30 per glass of
draft.

MONDAY
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - "Cooler Night" - All wine coolers
\$1.10. Dave Pierson DJ's in J/T 9 to 1.
COLETTE'S WEST - Monday Night Madness - \$1.35 Margaritas
9:00 to Midnight.
CONGRESS TAP ROOM - Opens daily at 9:00 p.m.
FINELINE - Dick's choice well \$1.00 from 7 p.m. Hourly
drink specials daily.
GRADUATE - Watermelon Shots .75 - 9 p.m. to Midnight.
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen closed for summer. Free Hors
d'oeuvres served from 5 to 7 p.m. daily.

TUESDAY
BACK POCKET/JOSHUA TREE - 12 oz. cans of Miller or Miller
Lite 75 cents! Bobby Jr. DJ's in J/T 9 to 1
COLETTE'S WEST - Pool Tournament from 8:00 p.m. to Mid-
night on second Tuesday of the month, \$25 first prize.
Long Neck Beer Bust \$1.00 begins at 9:00 p.m.
CONGRESS TAP ROOM - Opens daily at 9:00 p.m.
FINELINE - Karaoke's .75 from 7 p.m. Hourly Drink Specials.
RITA'S RENDEZVOUS - Kitchen closed for summer. Free Hors
d'oeuvres served from 5 to 7 p.m.
TRAMPS - "PROMOTION NIGHT" check for special schedule each
week.



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RUMOR HAZZIT
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friendship. Am stable, sexual,
sincere. Expect same. Box 55185,
Tucson 85703-5185. 51

HELP WANTED

NEW FOURTH AVENUE HAIR STUDIO
[Next to Tramps], looking for stylist
with following. Heatwave Hair Studios
623-7341, Tucson. 51

WANTED

WE'RE LOOKING FOR used mandates,
I.T.'s, Blueboys, and other Gay
magazines. We're also looking for Gay
8mm films in good condition. Please
call 326-6668 in Tucson. 51

FOR SALE

MAKE A BIG SPASH
40 foot pool with slide. 4 bedrooms
has 2400 sq. ft. Big entertainment
areas, energy conscious features.
Comps at \$120,000.00 Try \$104,000.00
Self cleaning pool near DMAFB. 4
bedroom house needs redecorating.
Paid \$69,000.00 3 years ago. Today
try \$63,000.00. Call me, Wayne,
623-4897 broker for Sierra Investments
51

FOR RENT

1 bedroom apartment in Anphi High area.
Furnished, carpeted. Modern, quiet,
clean.. \$200/mo. plus utilities and
deposit. Call Ralph 293-5556 or
325-2526 in Tucson. 51

NOTICES

YOU ARE INVITED to join a discreet
group of Gay men and women ages 24-40
who meet at each others homes in a
relaxed, social environment for the
purpose of sharing good conversation,
pot lucks, outings, etc., as an alter-
native to the bars. If interested,
please write with means of contact to
P.O. Box 11102, Tucson, AZ 85734.

GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL has over
90 resources for Gay men and Lesbians
in Tucson. Call 792-3772

SENIOR GAYS (Over 40). If interested
in forming a new group, call Russ at
795-7180 Tucson.

GAY OR LESBIAN???
AND HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM???
Call A.A. 624-4183. 24-Hour Hotline,
for information on Gay and Lesbian
meetings.

NOTICES

**TUCSON ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE HEALTH
ASSOCIATION (TALHA)** Gay men's clinic.
for the treatment of sexually trans-
mitted diseases, and counseling on
AIDS, the HIV-III blood test and for
the worried-well. Located at 101 W.
Irvington; Open 6 to 8 p.m. every
Friday. A \$5 donation is requested.
TALHA also is in need of doctors and
nurses to volunteer their services.

GAY AND LESBIAN SOCIAL RAP GROUP
TUCSON meets every Tuesday evening at
8 P.M. AT MCC, 560 S. Stone. For more
information call 792-3772

TUCSON YOUTH GROUP meets every Satur-
day from 3 to 5 p.m. at 560 S. Stone.
All Lesbians and Gays under 22 invited
792-3772

TUCSON LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE
(TLGPC) meets the second Monday of
every month at 6:30 p.m. at Rita's
Rendezvous. Everyone welcome.

ROOMMATE REFERRAL OF TUCSON. Men and
women both welcome. NO FEE. Call
Bill James 622-3808.

T-SQUARES, square dancing group meets
at 7 p.m. every Wednesday at Tramps.

**THE ARIZONA LESBIAN AND GAY TASK
FORCE,** your organization aimed at
furthering human rights, education and
networking with other national and
local organizations, invites you to
participate. Come and attend our
meetings and input your ideas.
Visitors and new members always
welcome. Meetings: Every Monday.
Membership: \$10 per year. Contact:
Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard (7
p.m. - 11 p.m.) 234-2752 or write P.O.
Box 1405, Tempe, AZ 85281.