Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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New Report Documents Rising Tide Of Anti-Gay Bigotry

WASHINGTON, DC — People For the American Way Foundation released "Hostile Climate," its sixth nationwide chronicle of anti Gay discrimination.

This year's report details almost 300 incidents in 47 states, more than twice as many incidents as reported in the 1998 edition. The states that report the highest number of incidents are California (31), Texas (18), Florida (17), and New York (15). Incidents related to marriage and family issues – such as same-gender marriage, adoption, child custody and foster parenting – more than doubled from 20 in 1997 to 42 last year. In the area of education, which includes incidents that occurred in secondary schools or colleges, the number again more than doubled, from 34 in 1997 to 76 in 1998. The report further details incidents in the following categories: anti-discrimination ordinances (32), censorship (20), "culture wars" or incidents related to public events such as protests or parades (36), employment (36), politics and government (44), and religion (32).

This year's report also has a new feature: a series of 14 personal essays by people who have firsthand experience with anti-Gay discrimination and the movement to end it. The essayists include: U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-WI, California legislator Sheila Kuehl, filmmakers Arthur Dong ("Licensed to Kill") and Debra Chasnoff ("It's Elementary"), and activists such as David Mixner, a former adviser to President Clinton, and Jeff Montgomery of Detroit's Triangle Foundation.

"Since Matthew Shepard's death, we have been asking ourselves, as a nation, 'How have we arrived at such a place, where someone could commit such a heinous, heartless crime?' The answer, as this book reveals, is that we start down this path whenever we deny people their basic human rights and dignity. The hostile climate that Lesbians and Gay men face – with its powerful undertow of partisan rhetoric, public and corporate policy – fosters hate by validating and perpetuating discrimination," said Carole Shields, President of People For the American Way Foundation.

PFAW Foundation has received support from the Gill Foundation, a leading philanthropic foundation focusing on justice and equality issues, to establish the "Hostile Climate Campaign," an aggressive program for distributing the report to state policy-makers and colleges and universities. As part of the Hostile Climate Campaign, activists will hand-deliver copies of the report to state legislators at the beginning of the legislative sessions in early January. In addition, anyone with Internet access can get involved by visiting http://www.HostileClimate.org and donating a copy to a legislator, school or library.

"There's an old saying, 'Everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it.' Well, you can help change the hostile climate by sending this report to someone who really needs to understand the truth about discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men," said Shields.

"As the lives of Gay and Lesbian people and families become more visible through policy discussions on the state level – employment non-discrimination, hate crimes, same-sex unions and family issues – it is critical that the public, the media and policy-makers have accurate information. Hostile Climate is one of the most comprehensive and well-documented catalogues of discrimination against our community," said Katherine Pease, Executive Director of the Gill Foundation.

Hostile Climate documents many events that are shocking not simply because they are anti Gay, but because of their callousness toward human life.

A float in the Colorado State University's homecoming parade mocked Matthew Shepard as he lay dying file miles away from in a local hospital. The float featured a scarecrow lashed to a fence - the same way Shepard had been found - with the words "I'm Gay" painted on the front and "Up My Ass" on the back.

Paramedics in Washington, D.C. stopped life-saving care to a car accident victim when they discovered that she was Transgendered. She later died at the hospital when a doctor failed to perform routine medical procedures.

Hostile Climate further chronicles how the Religious Right demonizes Lesbians and Gay men while claiming to be moderate and making appeals to ordinary Americans:

In California, State Sen. Pete Knight launched a ballot initiative campaign that would prohibit the state from recognizing same gender marriages, even though they are already outlawed in California and are not recognized in any other state. While Knight claimed that the initiative was not anti Gay, incidents of violence increased in Oregon, Maine and Colorado when those states put Lesbian and Gay civil rights to a vote. The campaign is continuing and California voters will decide the question in March 2000.

The report shows how the Religious Right's message that Lesbians and Gay men should be reviled and excluded is received and amplified by their foot soldiers at the state level:

In Oklahoma, the legislature debated a bill that would have prohibited Lesbians and Gay men from working in

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McKinney Convicted Of Shepard Murder

Receives Two Life Terms In Plea Deal

WASHINGTON – Aaron J. McKinney was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences for his part in killing University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard.

by Ed Andrieski/Reuters

Aaron McKinney

"The sentence was fair, just and commensurate with the seriousness of the crime," said Human Rights Campaign Communications Director David M. Smith. "Gay and lesbian Americans can now have renewed faith in our justice system. We can only hope a strong message was sent, that in America hate crimes will not be tolerated and there are severe consequences for violent, hateful actions."

McKinney was convicted of two counts of felony murder, which included second-degree murder, aggravated robbery and kidnapping. The conviction made him eligible for the death penalty, but he received life in prison in a deal with prosecutors, after Shepard's parents agreed to it.

"I really don't know what to say other than that I'm truly sorry to the entire Shepard family," Aaron McKinney told the court. "Never will a day go by I won't be ashamed for what I have done."

"I would like nothing better than to see you die, Mr. McKinney, but now is the time to heal," Shepard's father, Dennis, told the 22-year-old roofer. "Every time you wake up in your cell, remember you had the opportunity or the ability to stop your actions that night."

President Clinton issued a statement praising the jurors' decision. "This verdict is a dramatic statement that we are determined to have a tolerant law-abiding nation that celebrates our differences, rather than deepening them," he said. "We cannot surrender to those on the fringe of our society who lash out at those who are different."

"Our hearts and sympathies go out to the Shepard family," said Smith. "They have been through unimaginable tragedy and we are glad the trial is over so they can move on from this particularly painful chapter in their lives."

In an attempt to downgrade the murder charges, the defense blamed Shepard, in-part, for his own death by saying that he made sexual advances that triggered McKinney's deadly behavior. District Judge Barton Voigt dismissed this tactic saying that it was, in effect, a temporary insanity or a diminished capacity defense, both of which are prohibited under Wyoming law. Nevertheless, the defense pandered to the jury insinuating that Shepard's alleged behavior led to McKinney's actions.

On Oct. 6, 1998 McKinney and Russell A. Henderson lured Shepard from a bar in Laramie, Wyo. The two men drove him to a remote field, fatally beat him with the butt of a gun and left him to die tied to a fence, in near-freezing temperatures. Shepard died in a Ft. Collins, Colo. hospital on Oct. 12. Henderson is currently serving two-life sentences.

Ammiano In San Francisco Mayoral Runoff

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (WS) – San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who made political history when his late write-in campaign catapulted him over the heads of two established candidates in the drive to unseat Mayor Willie Brown, has wasted no time in preparing for the mid-December run-off.

Ammiano and his supporters gathered on the steps of City Hall for a boisterous rally. "Here's to a real grass roots effort," Ammiano said over the cheers of "Win, Tom, Win." In a preview of his campaign strategy, Ammiano characterized his second-place showing as "a victory against corporate campaigning."

Ammiano, who launched his campaign from a Castro juice bar just 20 days before the election, picked up 44,539 votes, or 25 percent, enough to win a spot in the Dec. 14. runoff. Former Mayor and Police Chief Frank Jordan was third with 29,987 votes, or 17 percent. Brown came in with 67,912 votes, or 39 percent.

Brown gave reporters his views on Ammiano's insurgent campaign, complaining Ammiano's actions would end up hurting the city financially. "Without Mr. Ammiano in there, I am the mayor of San Francisco as of the day (of the election) and the citizens would have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars," he said.

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UPDATE

Jerome Beillard 'Festival For Life' Sunday, Nov. 21

TUCSON — The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) warmly invites you to the Jerome Beillard Festival For Life, Sunday, November 21, 4:00 P.M. at the Marriott University Park Hotel.

In its eleventh year, this beautiful holiday fund raiser offers something for everyone. Local artists and merchants donate art, gift baskets, celebrity items, jewelry and holiday decorations (decorated trees, wreaths, menorahs, etcetera). The Silent Auction starts at 4:00 P.M. and the Live Auction starts at 5:00 P.M.

Some of celebrated local artists and photographers whose work will be auctioned at the Festival for Life are: Nancy Tokar-Miller, Owen Williams, Gail Marcus-Orlen, Kevin Osborn, Judith D'Agostino, Maurice Grossman, Diane Mansfield Colligan, and William Lesch. Pieces of artwork have also been donated by the galleries of Terry Etherton, Tom Philabaum and Mark Bahti.

Celebrity items will also be available from stars, such as: Barbra Streisand, John Travolta, Reba McIntire and Tom Hanks. Two tickets to the sold-out performance of the Buena Vista Social Club will be auctioned for the Monday night show. And for those interested in sports memorabilia, a softball signed by the 1997 NCAA championship team of the University of Arizona will be auctioned. This ball has the signatures of five All-American team members and one Olympic Champion.

Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 at the door. Call (520) 628-SAAF (7223) for tickets.

GLBT Comission Seeking Persons To Serve

TUCSON — The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Commission (GLBT) is seeking persons interested in serving on the GLBT Commission. Potential Commissioners will include the following:

1) Persons who are committed to the purpose and function of the Commission. 2) Persons who are knowledgeable about issues and concerns of importance to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. 3) Persons who are able to make a time commitment to the work of the Commission.

The Commission is seeking to reflect the community ethnic/racial composition and encourages all interested individuals to apply.

If interested in serving on the GLBT Commission, please forward a resume (also indicating any work, either volunteer or paid you have done in the GLBT community), and a cover letter (stating how you are committed to the mission of the commission and what kind of work you would like to participate in as a member of the commission), to the City of Tucson Equal Opportunity Office, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210 by Friday, November 12. Applications may be delivered by mail (postmarked by November 12), in person or by fax (520) 791-5140.

Application materials will be reviewed by members of the GLBT Commission Nominations Subcommittee. Selected applicants will be interviewed the evening of November 29 and December 2. The Nominations Subcommittee will make recommendations to the GLBT Commission. The GLBT Commission will make recommendations to Mayor and Council for ratification.

AZAPA Benefit November 24

PHOENIX — A holiday season all star, comedy drag revue for the Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance (AZAPA) will take place Wednesday, November 24, 9:30 P.M. at Wink's, 5707 N. 7th Street.

This event will be hosted by Miss Gay Arizona 2000, Barbra Seville. All moneys raised will go to AZAPA.

For more information, please call (602) 253-2137.

Positions Open At SAAF

TUCSON — The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) is seeking individuals for the following positions.

Gay Men's Health Project Outreach Specialist: Energetic individual sought for half-time (20 hours/week) position to provide outreach, recruitment, and health education for Gay and Bisexual men in Southern Arizona. Applicants should be familiar with Gay bar culture and posses excellent communication skills. Salary range: $8,500 - $10,500.

Gay Men's Health Project Coordinator: Experienced prevention specialist sought to coordinate an HIV prevention and health promotion project for Gay and Bisexual men in Southern Arizona. Applicants should be familiar with Gay bar culture and prevention program implementation. Salary range: $25,000 - $29,000; excellent benefits.

To apply for either position, pick up job description and application instructions, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., at 375 South Euclid or call (520) 628-7223 to have them faxed to you. Both positions open until filled. AA/EOE

AGRA Cngratulates IGRA 1999-2000 Royalty

PHOENIX — The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association would like to congratulate the winners of the International Gay Rodeo Association Royalty Contest recently held at the Finals Rodeo in Little Rock, Ark.

The winners of the competition were: Mr IGRA - Daniel Lusk (ASGRA), First Runner Up - Clark Monk (UGRA), Second Runner Up - R.J. Lobato (CGRA). Ms. IGRA - Lonnie LaBella (ASGRA), First Runner Up - Lacey Edwards (AGRA), Second Runner Up - Hope Kapture (MIGRA). Miss IGRA - Harley Quinn/Michael Vrooman (ILGRA), First Runner Up - Patty Como (ASGRA), Second Runner Up - Erika Alexander/Gary Miller (AGRA).

AGRA congratulates, and wishes the best of luck to all of the winners, including Lacey and Erika who represented AGRA as Royalty this year, and looks forward to your representation of IGRA for the year to come.

SAAF
SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION
(We're safe!)

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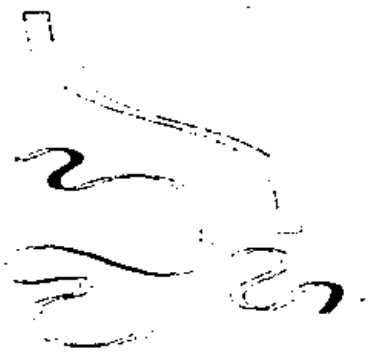

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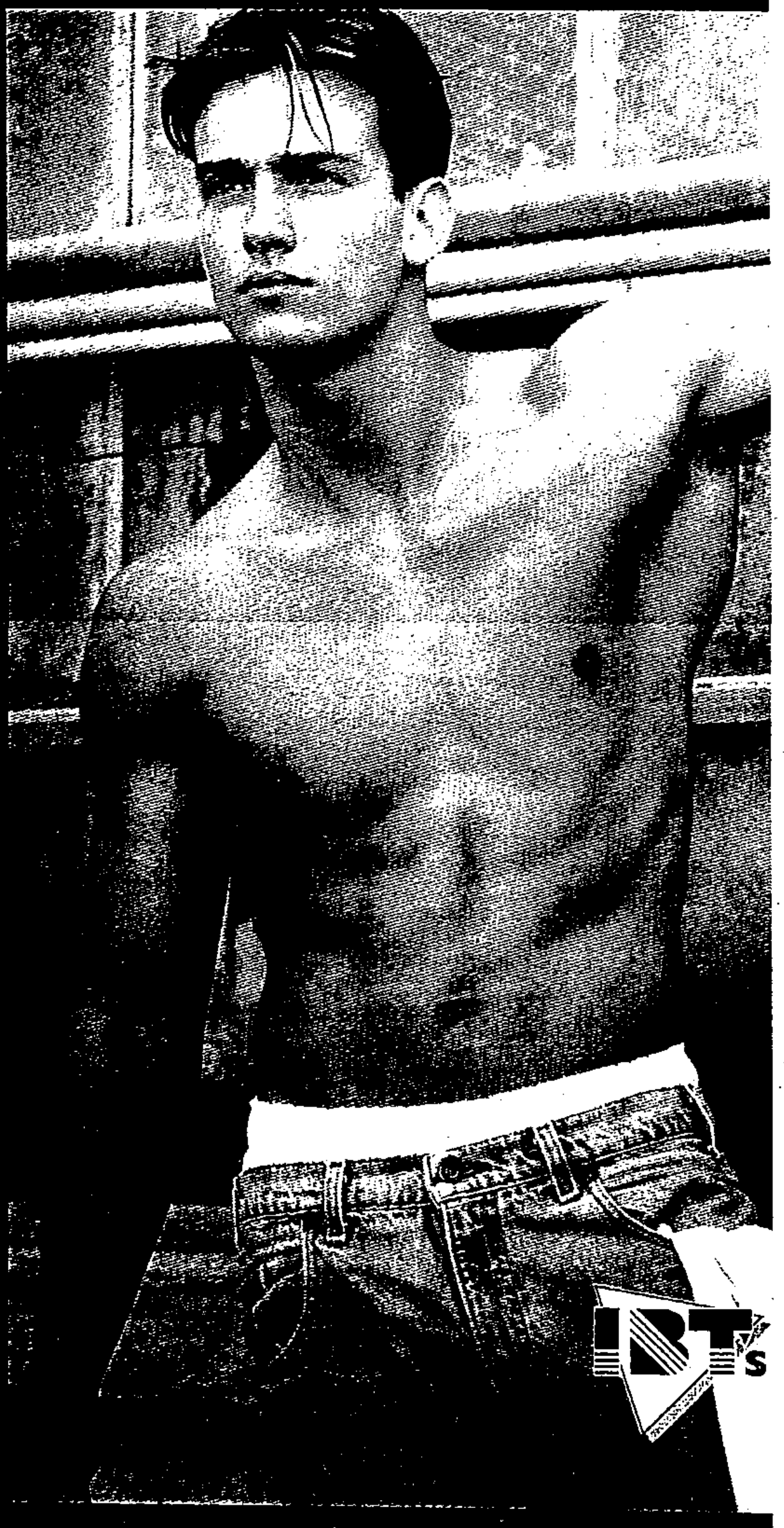

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Arizona Angels Fundraiser
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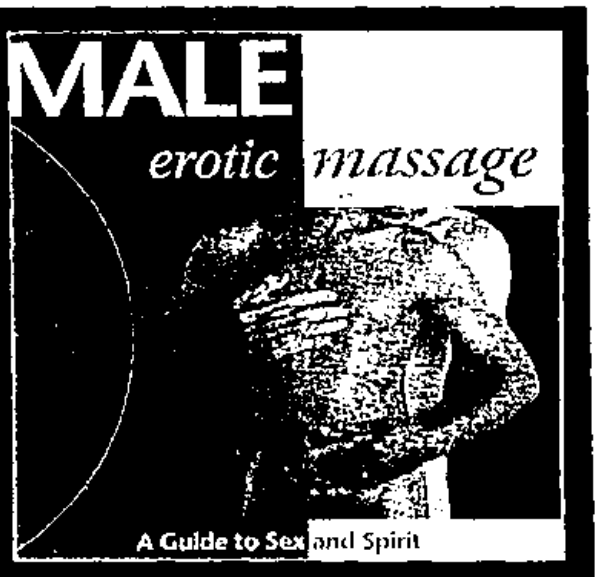

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Friday, Nov. 19, 7:00 pm

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Jamie Anderson In Concert Nov. 20

TUCSON — Jamie Anderson, a favorite of the local folk and women's community, is returning to town for a pre-Thanksgiving concert, Saturday, November 20, 8:00 P.M., in support of her album, "Drive All Night."

The Therapy Sisters will join Jamie for this performance. The Therapy Sisters are a zany and eclectic Austin duo who have performed at clubs, festivals and conferences from coast to coast. Martie Van der Voort, a Tucson singer-songwriter and performer, will also join Jamie and the Sisters.

Tickets are available at Antigone Books, 411 N. Fourth Avenue. Advance tickets for the concert are $12; door tickets will cost $15. For more information, please call (520) 795-4135.

JAMIE ANDERSON

First G/L Scout Troop In Canada

TORONTO, Canada (WS) — In what is believed to be a North American first, the Canadian scouting association has established a new troop in Toronto for Gays and Lesbians aged 18 to 26.

"There isn't one in Canada and they're not allowed in the States," said Bonte Minnema, a 23-year-old University of Toronto women's studies major who co-founded the troop. "There are other Lesbians and Gays involved with scouting, but not a specific Lesbian and Gay scouting group that we know about."

The 129th Toronto Scouting Group, which began meeting this fall, will pursue regular scouting activities, including regionwide camping trips with other troops and selling apples to raise money on Scouts Canada's annual autumn apple day.

Ten people have already signed up for the co-ed group, called a Rover troop in this age group, "and there are more on the way," said Mr. Minnema. "There are a lot of young people who have expressed interest."

The Rover program is the oldest scouting age group. Children as young as 5 can participate in scouting through Scouts Canada's Beaver program.

Scout leaders said they are considering creating another Gay-friendly troop, in the Venturers age group, between 14 and 17, although they acknowledge that at this age adolescents may not be sure about their sexual orientation.

Mr. Minnema said he has heard very little negative reaction to the troop. But he said his co-founder has so far spoken about the troop only to campus newspapers and is declining other interviews because he has yet to tell his parents that he is Gay .

A Scouts Canada spokesman said that he expects some negative public reaction to the Gay scout troop but isn't worried it will attract adults looking for opportunities to abuse vulnerable young people.

"I wouldn't draw a parallel between pedophiles and homosexuals," Andy McLaughlin said. The troop is not restricted to Gay youth, but "it promotes itself as openly Gay so that youth who are Gay can enjoy scouting activities," Mr. McLaughlin said.

Mr. Minnema, who first became involved in scouting at age five, said scouting develops self-esteem in young people. "Scouting is more than just outdoor stuff. It's all about young people reaching their full potential."

He said Gay and Lesbian young people could benefit from that mandate.

"Lesbian and Gay youth face high rates of discrimination causing isolation, depression, suicide and homelessness," Mr. Minnema said, and involvement in Scouts would mean "fewer people will have to have those experiences."

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK

POZ Cafe Lunch And Social For Persons Living With HIV & AIDS

TUCSON — People living with HIV are invited to Poz Cafe, serving lunch along with social and recreational activities, on Thursday, November 18.

Poz Cafe is located at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC (corner of Swan and River Roads). Doors open at 11:30 A.M., with lunch served at Noon, followed by social/recreational time until about 2:30 P.M, with several games of Bingo (with prizes), as well as arts and crafts (with our featured crafts of ornament and candle making!).

We would also like to thank David Hoffman for the generous contribution of his artistic talent in designing a new logo for Poz Cafe.

This month's menu: Homestyle Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Pumpkin Soup, Tossed Salad with Dressing, Rolls and Butter, Fresh Fruit and Assorted Beverages. Dessert will be Pumpkin Bread and Cider. All this is served up by some of the most fabulous, caring volunteers around.

Poz Cafe is not "health food," but it's health, with a balance between good nutrition and comfort foods. The menu items will taste good, and be appealing. Like all TIHAN programs, it's Gay-friendly, free of charge, and no proselytizing or evangelizing is permitted, the purpose is to enhance social opportunities and nutrition for adults living with HIV/AIDS.

It's all free, courtesy of generous grants from AGRA-Tucson, Casas Adobes Congregational Church, St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church and other caring individuals and congregations of TIHAN. The Unitarian Universalist church is the congregation sponsoring this month's meal. With SAAF's generous support, transportation can be provided with advance notice.

Reservations are requested so that we can have an idea of how much to cook. Each HIV+ person may have one guest accompany them if they choose. Each guest, partner, spouse, friend and volunteer will be reminded of confidentiality concerns.

For more information or to make reservations (by Monday, November 15), call the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647.

Women's Health Conferences Convene

NEW YORK, NY (GFN) — Health professionals from across the country are poised to take part in two conferences addressing women's health in early November.

Organizers hope that the information shared between participants will get transmitted to the general public, heightening awareness of such issues as body image, trauma, and sexuality.

The American Medical Women's Association will be holding its 84th annual meeting, "Forging Alliances on Global Health Issues," in San Francisco from Nov. 10 to 14. At roughly the same time, from Nov. 12 to 14, the Ninth Annual Renfrew Center Foundation Conference, entitled "Feminist Perspectives on the Process of Change: Exploring What Works and Why," will take place in Philadelphia.

Officials for both conferences say the inclusion of women's health in the broader discussion of healthcare is crucial, but that it often gets glossed over.

"The original focus of our conference in 1991 was eating disorders," says Judi Goldstein, vice president of professional relations and education of the Renfrew Center Foundation. "As we have grown, we have expanded into various fields of women's mental health."

One of the main areas into which this and other conferences on women's health have moved is the diagnosis and care of Lesbians. Lisa Capaldini, a private practice physician based in San Francisco, was originally set to present a lecture on HIV and women at the "Forging Alliances" conference. She was pleased when conference organizers from the AMWA contacted her with a request that she put together a separate workshop on Lesbian healthcare.

"It is a very progressive organization," said Capaldini, who thinks there are relatively few differences in medical concerns between Lesbians and straight women, but that the diagnostic environment needs to be better attuned to the presence of Lesbian women in the population.

"It is important that medical professionals practice mindfulness in the workplace," she says. "Don't assume that someone is straight by asking them what method of birth control they use."

"What we found, as Lesbian therapists, is that patients come out more about their feelings," said Karen L. Smith, a clinical social worker who, along with colleague Patricia Duffy, will present a workshop at the Renfrew Center conference entitled, "I'd Rather Starve Than Be Gay."

Smith and Duffy's research into eating disorders suggests that many women's suppression of their appetites often reflects their repression of same-sex desire. They are concerned that assumptions made by doctors and therapists of a patient's sexuality compound the problem.

"The hetero-assumptive environment silences the conversation for our clients," she says. "One of the big questions that needs to be addressed is, 'How do we as clinicians use non-hetero-assumptive language during consultation."

The Renfrew Center has taken steps to ensure that the hetero-sexist environment that Smith complains about isn't replicated at its conference. To make absolutely sure that Lesbian attendees don't feel alienated, there is a "Diversity Breakfast," at which Lesbian participants, and other minority professionals, get a chance to greet one another in an open setting. There is also a workshop named "Becoming Comfortable With Your Sexuality."

"The workshop is focused on

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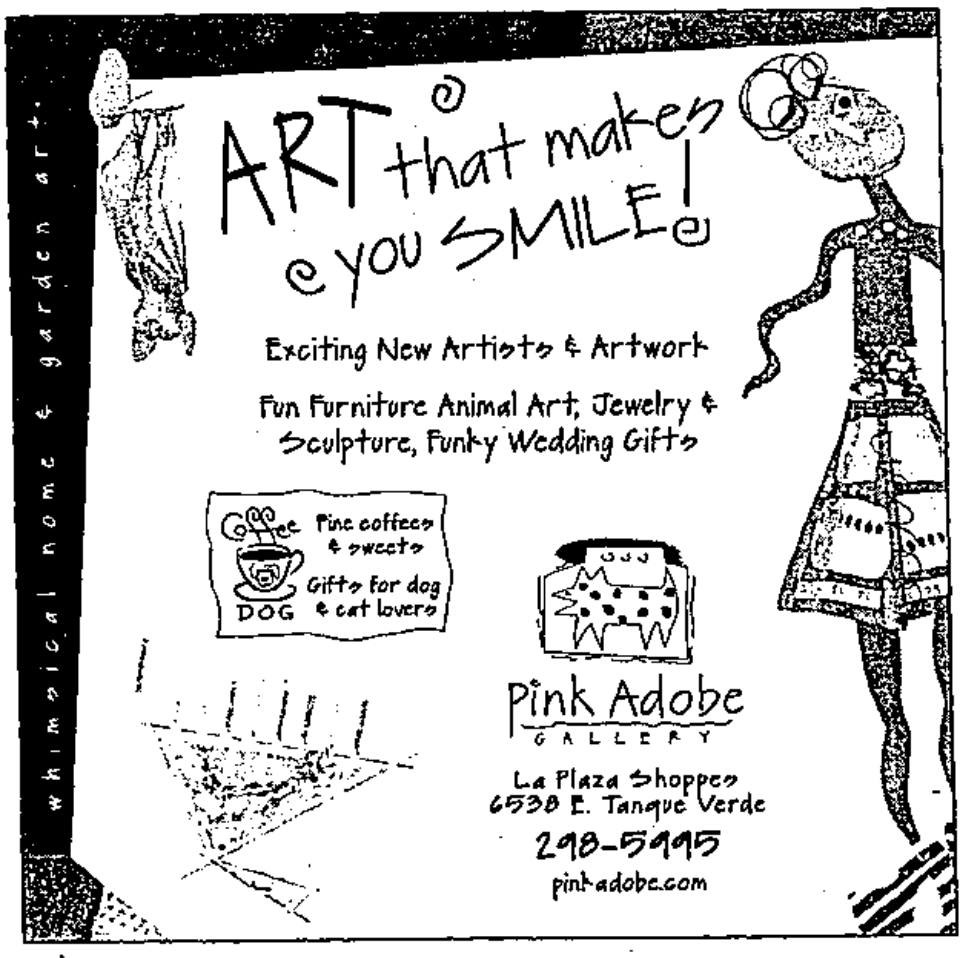

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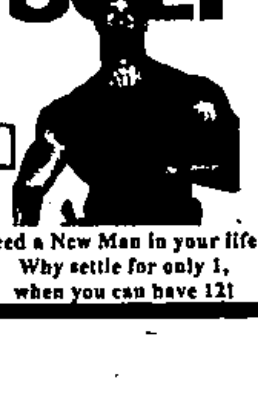

POLITICS 1999

by Mark R. Kerr

"If You Want Something More, You Won't Read It Here!"

The week after the elections. Can we say slow news week? Really slow news week.

Tucson voted for Bob, Jose, Carol, a blend of CAP and ground water and hope, for a better live for all who live in the Old Pueblo. Hope indeed, the ballots were tabulated by 11:00 P.M. Something the county yahoos should note. ...

Governor Hull has formed a committee to come up with financing for a football stadium for the Phoenix, er Arizona Cardinals and public financing is involved and Tucsonans will pay, through tax dollars, the governor conceded in an interview, but she added that the impact would be minimal. Just like the team's efforts.

Hull added in the interview that the risk of losing the Cardinals and future Super Bowl games "trumps any belief that the cost of such as facility should be borne solely by private investors." In this case? Well?

How about having the tight-wad, cheapskate owner, Bill Bidwell, fork out some bucks to put a team on the field first? Novel thought, especially since the Cardinals just one their first playoff game in 51 years in 1998. The last time the Cardinals, then in Chicago, won the NFL Championship, Harry Truman was President. ...

There were several issues of concern to Gays and Lesbians across the country on the off-year election ballot:

Voters in Spokane, Washington turned back by 52% - 48% a ballot initiative to remove "sexual orientation" from the categories protected under the Human Rights Ordinance passed by the City Council in January. Although the numbers were often close, the repeal initiative trailed throughout the night. That made for celebration for initiative opponents No On Discrimination and disappointment for the ballot measure's proponents Equal Rights, Not Special Rights.

It was a costly victory, though -- No On Discrimination raised more than $63,000 while Equal Rights, Not Special Rights managed its whole campaign with less than $4,000. No wonder the anti-rights group's leader, pastor Ron Johnson, who's been opposing the sexual orientation clause since it was first considered two years ago, is ending his involvement at this point. It was a campaign in which each side claimed it was strictly local and grassroots while its opponent was backed by national organizations. The vote followed surprisingly close to late polling, which showed a 3% margin of defeat for the initiative -- but also nearly one-fourth of respondents undecided.

A ballot initiative to prohibit discrimination based on a number of categories including sexual orientation, was defeated by more than a 2 - 1 majority of voters in Greeley, Colorado.

Voters in Falmouth, ME rejected by a near-landslide (59% - 41%) a proposed city charter amendment that the town "shall make no ordinance, policy or regulation regarding sexual orientation."

That initiative by Mark Finks' Falmouth Concerned Citizens' Ad Hoc Committee was proposed in the wake of, and would have repealed, the Town Council's unanimous passage in April of a ban on sexual orientation discrimination in employment, housing, credit, education, and public accommodations. That local ordinance, in turn, had been Falmouth's protest of the February 1998 statewide ballot initiative that repealed similar protections enacted by the legislature and governor. The spirit of protest is apparently still quite alive among local voters, who turned out in numbers town clerk Fran Smith called "unbelievable."

Tom Ammiano's write-in campaign had won him enough votes to face incumbent San Francisco mayor Willie Brown in a runoff election December 14. Ammiano, the Gay president of the city board of supervisors, who announced his write-in effort only three weeks before Election Day, pulled 25% of the vote, beating better-financed challengers, including former mayor Frank Jordan and political consultant Clint Reilly. Brown won 39% of the vote. Under San Francisco law, if a candidate fails to win a majority of the vote, the top two vote-getters face each other in a runoff. "Here's to a real grassroots effort," said Ammiano. "This is quite a victory against corporate campaigning." Ammiano spent $20,000 on his campaign, while Brown spent $2.3 million. ...

To make this week's "brick made of hay" incomplete, some news on the Y2K Presidential Sweepstakes:

Vice President Al Gore addressed Gay rights during a campaign swing through New Hampshire. During a meeting with 125 voters in Plymouth, Gore, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, was asked about Gay rights. He responded, "I do not believe that God could have intended for people to be persecuted all their lives because of who they are or who they fall in love with." What about Hillary?

Senator John McCain, R-AZ, purported temper and all, met with the Log Cabin Republicans. During the meeting, McCain made sure the group of his nondiscrimination policy and made clear his desire to appeal to Gays and Lesbians. By supporting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act? Perhaps the Hate Crimes Prevention Act? At least he met with Log Cabin, it is more than any of the other Republican contenders have done. ...

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Creating Change Conference This Week

OAKLAND, CA (SFG) — The largest gathering ever of Gay and Lesbian activists outside of a pride march will take place in Oakland, November 10-14.

Some 2,200 activists are expected for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) 12th annual Creating Change conference at the Marriott City Center Hotel. It's the first time the conference, which brings together local organizers from all over the country, will take place in the Bay Area.

California was selected for the 1999 conference because of the presence of the Knight initiative, which would outlaw same-sex marriage, on next March's statewide ballot, according to Kerry Lobel, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based NGLTF, who was in Oakland Monday supervising last-minute preparations.

Oakland got the nod over San Francisco in recognition of the East Bay city's long history of political organizing, and the diversity of its Gay and Lesbian community, which often are eclipsed by San Francisco's high profile, Lobel said.

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The conference features 120 workshops, with special attention this year to religion, family issues such as marriage and adoption, the challenges of youth and aging, racism and health.

Among the speakers will be the Rev. Mel White, the fundamentalist minister fighting organized religion's anti-Gay bias; Urvashi Vaid, former Task Force head; and such local figures as Susan Stryker of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California; Sgt. Stefan Thorne of the San Francisco Police Department; and Carol Queen, sex educator and owner of the Good Vibrations store in The City.

If much of the conference goings-on are insider networking opportunities, the effects are felt in state legislatures and local politics across the nation.

"Thirty-nine states still do not recognize Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/ Transgender civil rights. Twenty-eight states still do not have strong hate crimes laws," Lobel said. "And the struggle for recognition for our families and our committed relationships remains arduous, as the anti-Gay Knight Initiative teaches us . . . (The conference) will give us the nourishment and energy to keep going."

Media coverage of the conference will allow organizers to "educate the public" on the Knight initiative, sponsored by an ultra-conservative state senator who failed three times to get the Legislature to pass a similar measure.

In addition, participants will get hands-on training in organizing against the initiative, and Friday evening will knock on doors to take their anti-Knight stand to Oakland residents.

Beyond the Knight initiative, NGLTF spokesman David Elliot said, "The theme permeating this year's conference is the importance of local organizing and that equality really does begin at home."

In 1999, state legislatures considered 541 Gay-related bills, more than ever before. Of the total, 309 were favorable to Gays, 232 were not, and most didn't pass, according to Elliot.

California led the nation in passing laws sought by Gays and Lesbians this year, including a ban on discrimination against them in jobs and housing, establishment of a statewide domestic partners registry, and a measure to reduce anti-Gay harassment in schools.

At the same time, the Knight initiative had no trouble getting enough signatures to make the March ballot. Thirty states so far have passed such laws, anticipating a possible court ruling from Hawaii, and then Vermont, legalizing Gay marriage.

Unlike the Human Rights Campaign, the other big national Gay organization that raises huge sums for issues and candidates, the Task Force focuses on local organizing.

But it's happy to be getting an official welcome from a very well-known politician, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown. And it's allowing San Francisco mayoral candidate Tom Ammiano, long a Gay activist, to appear at a workshop and at the closing session on the Gay movement's second century.

Mayoral Runoff

Continued from Page One

Ammiano's response was sharp dismissive. "You can't really nickel-dime democracy," he said, adding that it was dissatisfaction with the city leadership and the choices residents were offered that led him to throw his hat into the Mayoral ring.

"There's been a lot of perception of cronyism and back-room deals," Ammiano said. "I've been more into good government and open government, campaign reform. I'm not a miracle man but I think continuing in that vein we might get something."

Observers say Ammiano's bid to become San Francisco's first openly Gay mayor will be difficult. Brown benefits from more money, more structural endorsements and better on-the-ground organization. While Ammiano enjoys broad support from the city's Gay and Lesbian community and voters whose politic run left-of center, the key to a win in the December contest will be winning the trust of moderate voters.

Selling his progressive approach to swing moderates may prove to be Ammiano's biggest challenge. He is a tireless champion of Gay rights, tenant causes, business taxation, environmental protection and has the backing of many union members, he lacks broad coalition appeal. Brown does well with minority voters who will have to be won over to Ammiano's side if his run next month is to be successful.

To Ammiano's mind, whether he wins or loses is almost besides the point. "I think it's the kind of participatory democracy that people in San Francisco have hungered for, for a long time," he said. "And I was happy to assuage their appetite, so to speak."

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Entertainment Briefs

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, or HFPA, announced that film and music icon Barbra Streisand will receive the Cecil B. DeMille career achievement award at the 56th Annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony on Jan. 23, 2000 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Past recipients of the award include Shirley MacLaine, Robert Redford and Jack Nicholson. The HFPA has honored Streisand with seven Golden Globes – more than any other entertainer – including Best Director for "Yentl" and Best Actress for "Funny Girl." . . .

Punks, a movie that takes a romantic, comedic—and fairly unheard of—look at young Gay African-American men, just finished filming. Seth Gilliam, Dwight Ewell (who also plays Gay in the current comedy Man of the Century), Renoly Santiago, Rockmond Dunbar, and transgendered actor Jassmun are among the stars of the film, which happens to be executive-produced by pop singer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds. . . .

"Will & Grace" co-star, Megan Mullally has joined an official group asking Californians to pledge money for AIDS research by applying for a red-ribbon AIDS awareness license plate. The plates don't exist yet. California's department of motor vehicles requires 5,000 applications in order to manufacture any special license plate design. Proceeds from sales will fund AIDS research grants at the University of California. . . .

When Calista Flockhart and Lucy Liu locked lips out of curiosity on the Ally McBeal November 1 season premiere, America was plenty curious too. Ratings for the hit Fox series shot to a record high, with an 11.8 rating and 17 share in homes. . . .

Faced with a 50% rent increase, the owner of the San Francisco cross-dressing landmark Finocchio's says she is closing the club's doors November. "I don't want to do it, but we have no choice," said owner Eve Finocchio, whose husband, Joe, created the club in 1936. "My landlord upped the rent from $4,000 to $6,000, and we have to take care of plumbing too. You have to collect an awful lot of money to meet the rent and pay your bills, and we can't do it." Over the years a wide range of female impersonators paraded across the Finocchio's stage. It also attracted many celebrities, including Bob Hope and Tallulah Bankhead. . . .

Toodles for now from Tinseltown!

Upcoming Events At Antigone Books

TUCSON — Antigone Books is hosting Book Party and Benefit, Friday, November 12, 7:00 P.M. to celebrate the release of local author Kenneth Ray Stubbs' new book, "Male Erotic Massage: a Guide to Sex and Spirit" ($17.95).

This illustrated book of massage techniques for Gay men is a safer-sex guide with a strong spiritual undertone. Twenty-percent of the proceeds will be donated to SAAF and Wingspan, co-sponsors of this event.

On Friday, November 19, Merle Yost will read from his new book, "When Love Lasts Forever: Male Couples Celebrate Commitment" (Pilgrim, $39.95). This beautiful anthology shares stories and photos of fourteen couples who have been together between ten and forty-five years. Yost's book shows a "tradition and history of Gay couples that has been largely hidden from view."

Antigone Books is located at 411 N. Fourth Ave. For more information, call (520) 792-3715.

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By Lisa S. Dean

Gullible Americans Are Giving Their Privacy Away

Privacy advocates very often are asked by citizens from all across the nation what they intend to do to fight for their privacy. The answer usually comes in the form of revealing a grass-roots or legislative strategy, not because success was certain but because it seemed to be the logical way to proceed.

Privacy advocates more often are beginning to see a very different picture, however. It's not what organizations and groups in Washington should be doing to protect citizens' privacy, it's what citizens themselves ought to be doing. So the question on the flip side of the coin ought to be, "What are you citizens doing to protect your privacy?"

The combined efforts of all the organizations in Washington haven't succeeded so far in protecting Americans' privacy because they haven't had the help of Americans themselves.

An analogy that best illustrates the point is military generals planning a war, mapping out strategies and scenarios. Then, when they attempt to execute these strategies, they turn around to find no troops behind them, and for that reason, they fail.

The war to protect our privacy begins with each and every individual in America saying "no' when asked to give their Social Security number, or their thumbprint or told they have to register their gun or have their young children immunized with the deadly Hepatitis B vaccine.

When was the last time you were asked to give your Social Security number and you refused to do so? In all but a very few cases, you are not required by law to produce this number. Yet your Social Security number is being asked of you 10 times a week, by doctors, by grocers, by bankers, by travel agents and so on.

Tell them "no." The more people who refuse to give out their Social Security number; the greater the chance of protecting your privacy.

People should at least make the effort initially to question why it is necessary that they give this information. If you don't want the government or private companies to know everything about you, here are a few other things to avoid.

Don't use the discount card at your local grocery store. Sure, you save a certain percentage whenever you use it, but every time you use that card, the grocery store logs it as well as the items you bought into their database system.

There are no laws, state or federal, that prohibit grocery stores from selling or sharing that information with anyone it chooses.

So the databases build a profile of what you purchase and direct marketers can target you with their goods.

And the next time you park at an airport, note that your license plate is either on camera or is printed on the receipt the clerk hands you along with your change.

Clerks are instructed to collect this information, allegedly to protect you in the event you lose your ticket and can't prove how long you've been there. Nice and convenient, but that information ends up in a database and can be given to law enforcement at their request.

And when the airports ask for a photo ID, don't hand them one with your Social Security number on it. Get one made up, perhaps by a video rental place. Hand over that piece of identification.

The list goes on and on, from Social Security numbers to bio- metric identifiers such as your thumbprint or your retina scan, which more banks are requesting every day.

Listen, friends. We aren't just having our privacy stolen from us. We are giving it away. And as long as we are compliant, we are going to continue to lose our freedom.

Americans continue to say they are drawing a line in the sand with respect to their privacy. Really? That's questionable because it's not at all evident.

What is evident is the large number of very compliant, trusting people in this country who don't want to cause trouble or be inconvenienced and as a result, are having the wool pulled right over their eyes.

Privacy advocates will continue to fight for privacy but for there to be any successes at all, it will take Americans to be there fighting right along with them. Otherwise the entire effort is a waste of time.

[Lisa S. Dean is vice president of technology policy at the Free Congress Foundation. This piece was distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.]

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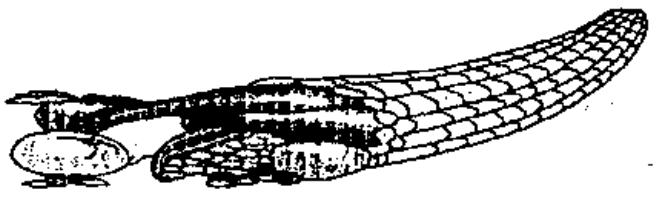

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BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

When is too much, too, too much, kids? Possibly when expansive Jupiter "retrogrades." Any minor detail becomes center stage, any quiet interlude a symphony and any secret, front page news. So prepare for an out of control experience, compadres and enjoy the wild ride.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Stand back and give the wilde one some space when rainbow Rams experience retro Jupiter in their own sign. This exuberant out of control energy encourages you to boss the course in social situations. If folks don't do things your way, tough! You are as subtle as a jack hammer and about as pleasant. Be careful of dominating others, unless, of course others prefer it that way.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Retro Jupiter launches all wild-eyed Gay Bulls into the maelstrom. Everything you try to hide will be exposed, so be sure to wear clean underwear for your outing. It feels quite cathartic to dump your cosmic garbage on the highway but be careful of throwing out too much; There is sure to be something worth keeping, if you take time to separate the trash.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Compadres demand more of your attention and personal resources when rowdy Jupiter retrogrades. Take heart, dear queer Twin; a favor to a friend in need will not be forgotten. Of course, there may be pals who become bottomless pits of need. In that case, indicate when enough is enough and cut the ties of dependency. One day, they may even thank you. One day.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Just when you thought your career was on course, rambunctious retrograde Jupiter blows your road map out the window. Surprises can be good for the soul and lead you to new, important opportunities. And if not, just dust yourself off and try, try again. It's possible that wild Jupiter will catapult you to new heights. Don't bump your head on the ceiling, cousin!

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

A simple excursion may evolve into a wild and out of control adventure when jolly Jupiter retrogrades. Brash proud Lions often wish for excitement. Oh be careful of what you wish! I advise that you plan your voyage carefully, sailor. The seas could suddenly become turgid and overturn your craft. Let's hope there'll be some seamen there to rescue you.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Queer Virgins are ready to take the sexual plunge but may jump into the pool at the deep end and over their heads. Take a good look before you dive in, cousin; one small bite may be more than a mouthful. Retrograde Jupiter in domineering Aries may encourage you to take unnecessary risks to expand your pleasure, but slow, steady and safe is the often the path to paradise.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Partnership issues are blown out of proportion when retrograde Jupiter casts about in irrepressible Aries. How big is big in your book? Rainbow Libras may institute a zero tolerance policy and demand change but now is not the time. Try instead to exert some patience with partners. It would be a shame to spend New Years sipping champagne with your cat. Hmm, or is it??

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Queer Scorps are buried under a load of paper on the job when retro Jupiter trawls through Aries. No matter how fast you work, you will never keep up with the increasing demands of the marketplace. Before you give up and let things fall through the cracks, learn to prioritize. Also avoid overdoing it in the exercise department. Don't sprain an important muscle, lover.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Party hound Gay Archers think that they can go the distance and retrograde Jupiter puts that naive thought to the acid test. It's possible that in the spirit of the moment, you will imbibe that one drink too many and spend the next day hunkering down and avoiding loud noises. Instead of feeling your age the day after, I suggest that you behave, behave, behave the night before.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Retro Jupiter casts its spell in family affairs. Queer Goats are hankering to blow things out of proportion. Dramatics aside, there is nothing to be gained by pushing the familial envelope now. Instead of storming the scene, take a breath and draw your line in the sand a couple of months from now. In the meantime, think only happy thoughts, and avoid sourpusses.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Eloquence is usually your middle name. Now add a second middle name; "Bigmouth." While this new reputation will bring you great popularity in certain circles, it may hinder you among those who prefer a more subtle approach. Aqueerians are best advised to keep their more revolutionary thoughts to themselves for the time being and use their lips and tongues for quieter pursuits.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

This may seem like an opportune time to hit it big or lose it big in the financial arena. Jolly Jupiter retrograde tempts you to go for the big buckaroos without doing the necessary fact checking. Pyramid schemes seem like sure things. Yeah, right. It will be the truly wise rainbow Fish who realizes that all that glitters is not gold. In fact, it may not even be metal. Bite it to be sure.

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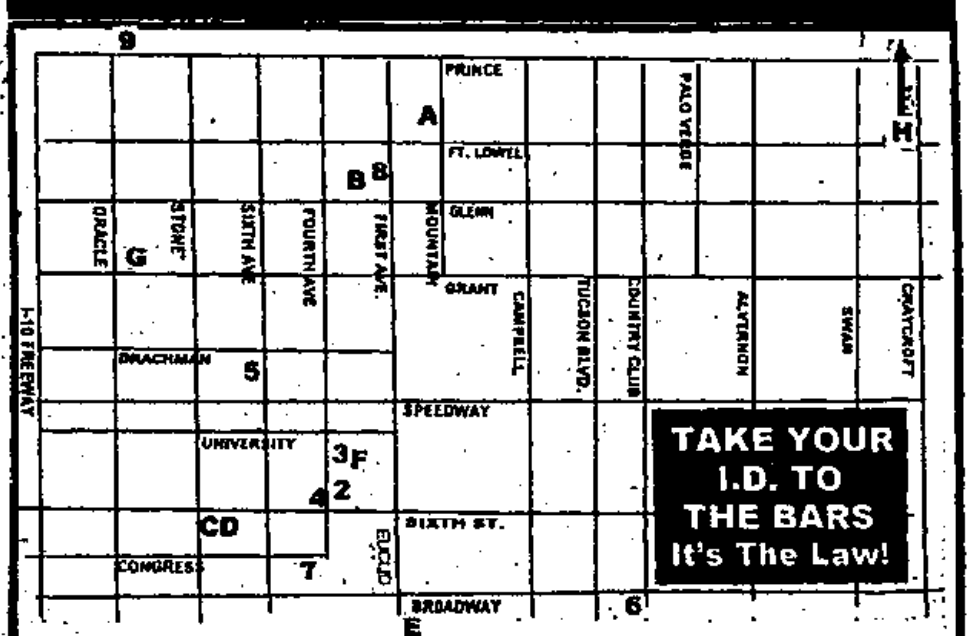

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Sounds and Silence

In addition to my work as a therapist and spiritual director, I teach at one of the local universities in the area of counseling psychology. This week, I read a stack of student papers on the topic of personality. Most of the papers were ordinary. They discussed personality traits and constructs. One paper was more personal than most of the others. This student was exploring how his life experience shaped his personality.

This student was born and lived in another country until he was 17 years of age. At that time, war erupted in his homeland. His family arranged to have him move to the United States. He came here alone while the rest of his family remained in his native land. The revolution is long over and a government contrary to his family's politics is now in power. His family suffered a great deal because of the revolution. In the paper, he wrote that he tries not to think about the home and family he left behind but instead focus on continuing his life and building a future.

He realized that the one thing that got him through the transition, loss, and intense homesickness was television. He explained in the paper that after arriving in the US, he began to fill his time by watching TV. It helped him learn American English, customs, and cultural values. It also provided him companionship. While the transition is many years behind him, he continues to turn on the TV as soon as he walks into his home. It remains on whether he watches it or not. My student explained in the paper that the background noise of the TV prevents him from remembering all that he lost. The TV fills his head with noise so that he doesn't have to hear himself think. Thinking is too painful for him.

While the life experience of this student who moved to another country for safety in the midst of revolution in his native land is something few of us can identify with, part of his story is very familiar. Many people fill their lives with the background noises of TV or music. Often, the background sounds help to fill in the gaps between our activities so that we don't feel alone, disconnected from others, or, as in the case of the student, memories of the past. The experience of silence is very difficult for many people. That's because when we are silent there is nothing to prevent us from encountering our thoughts, feelings, or memories. In silence, we are left alone with ourselves.

Of course, I enjoy music and have my favorite television programs. Further, there are times when it's good for each of us to get caught up in "mindless" activities to help relieve stress or tension and just relax. At the same time, when we are unable to be comfortably alone and silent, that's a signal that something is out of balance in our lives.

We can presume that my student has many past traumatic events from the revolution and loss of family and homeland that remain difficult for him to deal with. But only he knows what he faces in his thoughts and memories, or rather what he glimpses at and wants to avoid. Most of us find difficulty facing the ordinary anxieties of life, wondering whether we are lovable; hoping others won't discover our secret thoughts; or believing that if others know how strong emotions were, they would reject us. In silence, the ordinary anxieties of human life begin to slowly come to our awareness. They seem to take hold of us and threaten to have us face things we'd rather avoid.

In the end, we have a choice: we can either dispel these pseudo-demons on our inner world by facing them or we can avoid them by filling our lives with noise and activity. It's clear that most people choose to avoid what's inside because it appears easier. Yet, in the end, inner contentment and peace come when we move past these inner stirrings and allow the calm deep within us to grow more fully.

Next week, I'll suggest some ways to learn to be quiet and move beyond the ordinary anxieties we all have to one degree or another.

[Louis F. Kavar, Ph.D., is a counselor, hypnotherapist, and spiritual director in private practice in Tucson. He can be contacted at (520) 290-1591 or by e-mail at LouKavar@aol.com.]

LETTERSLETTER SLETTERSLETTE

DEAR GLU MEMBER:

At the last GLU (Gays & Lesbians United) meeting we decided that we would not be meeting anymore. We used to have a couple of dozen groups and attendance was much higher. We came to a consensus that since the founding of GLU, the Men's Social Network, the Community Business Association, the City of Tucson GLBT Commission and other forums have been pulling the GLBT community together. We decided that GLU had been helpful, but it is now time to end.

Members in attendance talked about the good exchanges which have happened because of GLU. Several expressed sadness that this kind of conversation won't happen anymore in this particular way. Everyone agreed that we had met great people through GLU and learned a great deal about our fabulous GLBT community. Everyone agreed, however, that it is time to end.

I would like to thank each one of your contribution to Gays and Lesbians United. The ending of this group is really a sign of how we have become even stronger as a community. I am deeply proud of my queer extended family. I look forward to working with each of you in the future.

Sincerely proud,
David Hoover
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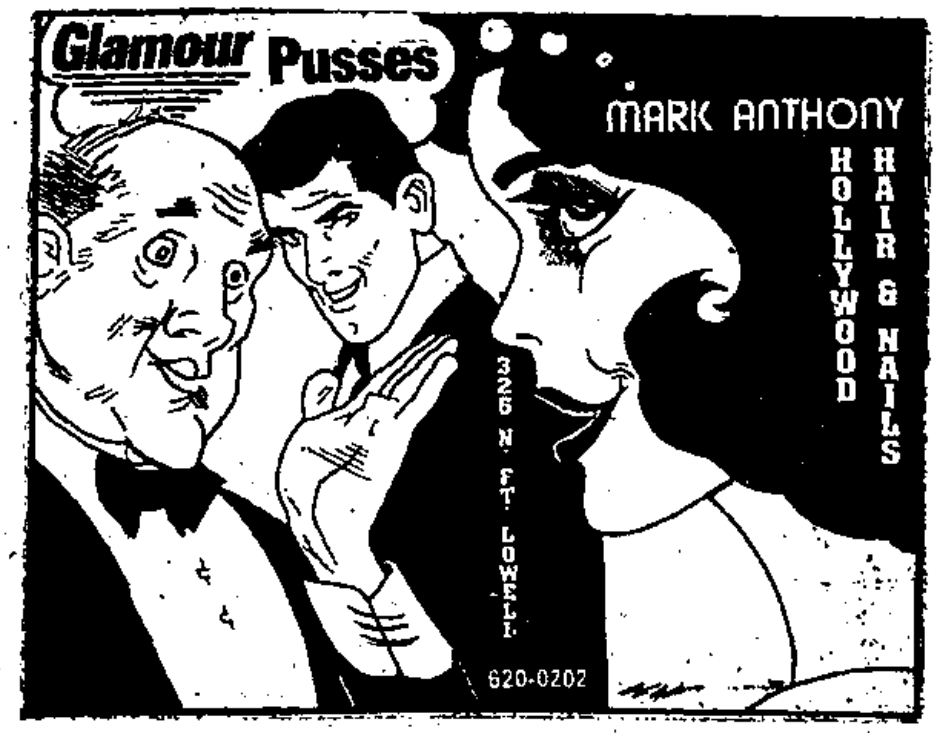

Texas Men Challenge State Sodomy Statute

HOUSTON, TX (RS) — Two Gay men arrested in their own bedroom appealed on Wednesday their conviction for sodomy on grounds it violated their rights to equal protection and privacy under the Texas and United States constitutions.

John Lawrence, 56, and Tyrone Garner, 32, were each fined $125 in November 1998 for violating a state sodomy law that prohibits oral and anal sex between same-sex partners.

Sheriff's deputies entered the bedroom in September 1998 while investigating what turned out to be a false report of an armed man running amok at Lawrence's home.

The two men spent a night in jail after being charged under Texas's sodomy law, part of the state penal code for over a century but rarely enforced in recent years.

"All Texans should have the right to privacy to do whatever they wish in their bedrooms with another consenting adult," their attorney, Ruth Harlow, told reporters after a hearing at the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston.

Harlow, who works for the Lambda Gay and Lesbian rights organization, described the Texas sodomy law as "discriminatory and invasive" and said her clients and their supporters were prepared to take the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

An appellate brief filed on behalf of the state and seeking to uphold the original conviction argued that the Texas sodomy law stemmed from legitimate government interests in discouraging "immoral conduct" and promoting "family values."

"Texas courts have held that morality and the promotion of family values are legitimate governmental interests justifying exercise of the state police powers," it said.

The state's brief said the law was aimed only at punishing conduct "perceived to be immoral" and did not constitute "impermissible discrimination" against homosexuals.

Sodomy laws, outlawing oral and anal sex, were once in force across all 50 U.S. states. Today 12 states still have sodomy laws that apply to both heterosexual and homosexual couples: Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia. Four states have sodomy laws that apply only to same-sex couples: Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Murder Suspect Confesses In Interview

SACRAMENTO, CA (NP) — Matthew Williams, in jail awaiting trial for the July 1 murders of Happy Valley, California Gay couple Winfield Mowder and Gary Matson, is looking to sell his story, and the first installment he offered to a Sacramento newspaper in a half-hour interview could be a Gay horror classic.

Although Williams entered a not guilty plea with the court and was advised by his attorney not to talk with reporters, he flat out confessed to entering the couple's unlocked rural home and shooting them as they lay sleeping in their bed (according to evidence at the preliminary hearing, they were shot numerous times from different angles). He said the only reason he picked them was their sexual orientation, which he feels it is his duty under God's law to punish with execution – and he hopes to inspire others to do the same. In fact he chided those who do not, saying, "It's part of the faith. So many people claim to be Christians and complain about all these things their religion says are a sin but they're not willing to do anything about it. They don't have the guts."

Williams' attorney confirmed that his client wants to mount a "religious defense" to his first-degree murder charge, while stating that the court is unlikely to consider a defense outside the laws of the state of California. The prosecution is seeking the death penalty against Williams, who hopes to become a "martyr" as a result.

Williams has hired an agent to shop his story around, ostensibly to help out his parents with the proceeds, and he wasn't ready to tell quite everything in the interview. For instance, he wouldn't really talk about the triple arson attack on Sacramento synagogues in June, in which he's believed to be suspected by the FBI, except to say he was sorry they didn't burn to the ground (although more than $1-million damages resulted).

Williams is also concerned for his brother Tyler, currently facing the same charges as he himself; he said that Tyler's palm print on a gun police believe was used to shoot Mowder and Matson was made after the shooting, and that Tyler had nothing to do with it. Tyler's well-being was also the reason Matthew Williams chose not to get into a shoot-out with police when the two men were apprehended in July, he said. Williams denied being part of any organized hate group, but he clearly admires Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh for attempting to start a revolution.

The story reported that Williams smiled frequently during the interview.

GO IN GOOD HEALTH. . . .

BY REV. ANDREW BROOKS

This week, my dear "family" I want to talk about the importance of friendship. Lovers may come and go, but a true friend is there for us, through "thick and thin," as the old saying goes. They are there for us on the good days, the bad days, the bad hair days, even the really bad hair days! Seriously though, a good friend will be there when you are happy, sad, bitchy, or on one of your plain old grumpy, grouchy days. A shoulder to cry on can be a great release, and friendship is reciprocal. A true friend isn't to gain social status or to get your foot into the right social clique, but to share of yourself, for friendship is about sharing. We can recognize a true friend by the simple fact of their kindness. A friend is not just nice to you when you are alone, and then mocks you in front of their bar friends or pushes you away to hit on the cute guy at the bar. A friend is a friend all the time. Now, if your lover is also your good friend, that is a wonderful thing. Some people are quite compatible as lovers as far as the sex goes, but have little in common out of the bedroom. That can be difficult for some people, unless you enjoy being apart a lot of the time.

Friendship is a meeting of two souls, and is a common bond of love that has nothing to do with how much money they have, or status, or social standing, or how they look, or any other consideration. Too many times, I have heard people complain about their friends, that they make fun of them, or put them down, or "my friends hate me" - well, honey, if they hate you, they aren't your friends. If someone is constantly tearing you apart, they may just have a mean streak, or are quite immature and think they are being clever by ragging on you. Some queers enjoy being bitchy to one another as a way of playing with each other, and if no one is doing it hatefully, it can be funny, if one person isn't oversensitive. But we must know that even when are jokingly poking at one another, when not to go too far. Teasing on a light level is OK within some friendships, but we must remember it is about being kind and supportive of one another.

When we start to criticize and tear others apart, we are often projecting our own frustrations on someone else, and need to look inside and correct the problem. If we have a problem with someone else's behavior, talk to them, with kindness and compassion. Come from a place of love, not condemnation. Resolve your difficulties, and when you do something wrong, apologize. Don't let pride destroy a beautiful friendship. When you are mad at a friend, try to be fair, and think of all the good things they have done also. Put things into perspective, and resolve the problem with the highest good of all being the greater priority. It's something to think about. Goddess Bless. Till next time, Go in Good health.

[Andrew Brooks can be reached at paganbear30@hotmail.com.]

CRIMES & PUNISHMENT. . . . . .

Police in Philadelphia have arrested a 60-year-old bar owner in connection with the shooting death of a 25-year-old Gay man last week. John Thomas, who owns the Bus Stop Tavern in Kensington, was arrested and charged with the murder of Anthony "Alphy" McCullough, a dancer and model. Police say that McCullough and a friend were leaving Uncles Bar at about 2:40 a.m. on October 27 when Thomas and another man walked by and said, "Hi, girls." The comment started an argument that ended in McCullough's being shot in the head and chest, police said. Some local Gay and Lesbian activists have criticized the city's police department for not taking the murder seriously. But police commissioner John F. Timoney, who organized a meeting between police officials and Gay men and Lesbians, disputes the criticism, calling it a "front-burner case." . . .

An Oklahoma man in the midst of a sex change went to court to claim that gender confusion caused him to shoot another man in a fit of road rage. Ricky Dewayne Bryen was charged—under the name on his birth certificate—with assault in January 1997 for shooting another driver five times with a handgun in a traffic altercation. Victim Kevin Menton survived. Since then Bryen, 29, has started the process of changing his sex and is now known legally as Stacy Michelle Bryen. Bryen appeared for the start of testimony but did not speak. A psychologist testified that Bryen had gender identity disorder, or the belief that he is a woman trapped in a man's body. Defense attorney Irven Box plans to argue that the disorder caused Bryen to suffer temporary insanity at the time of the shooting. . . .

Police in New York City say that a Gay man killed his partner in a fit of rage and then decapitated him. Alberto Casimiro, 25, allegedly killed his partner, Rafael Nuñez, 65, leaving his naked body on a Queens street corner. Police responding to a call about the body searched for several hours before finding Nuñez's head wrapped in cellophane in some bushes nearby. Casimiro has been charged with second-degree murder.

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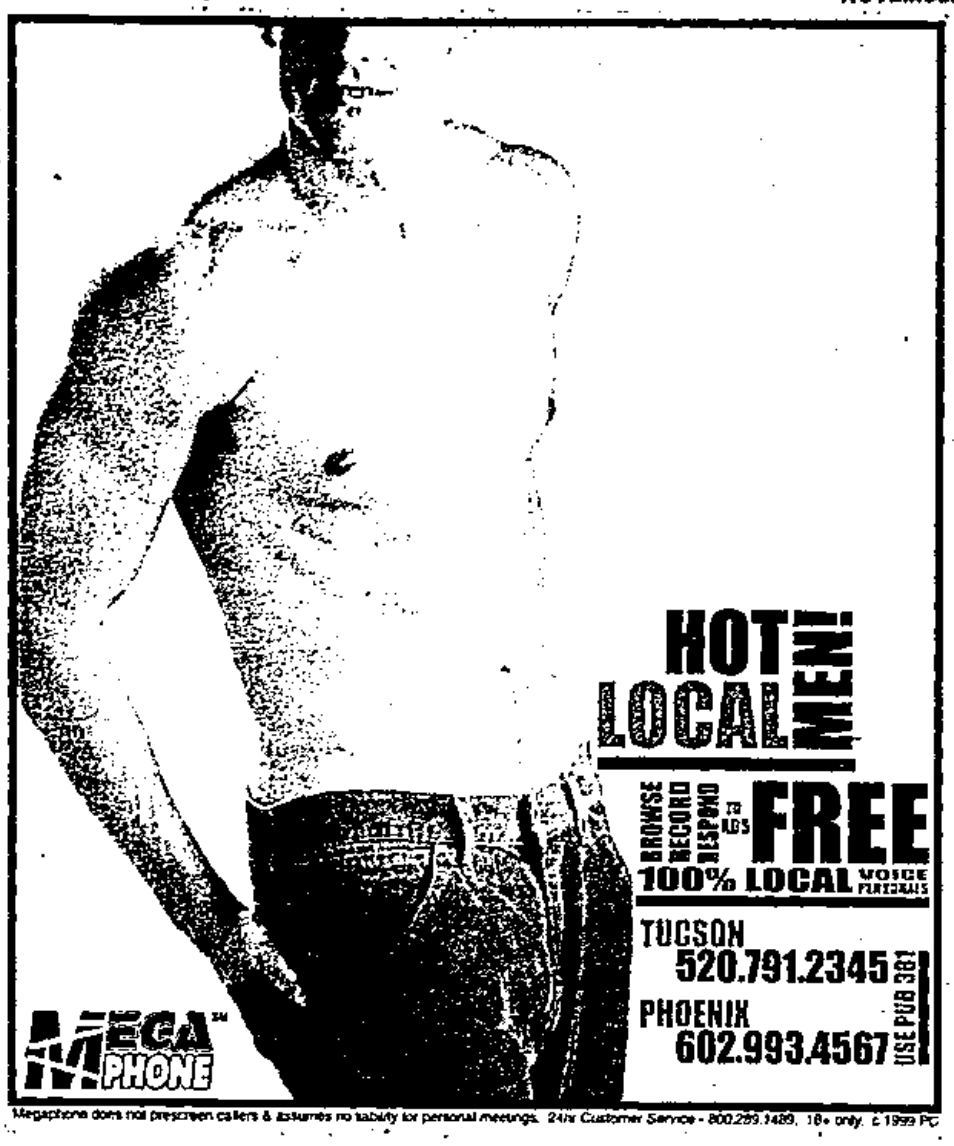

Cultural Shift On Gays & Lesbians Prompts Legal Reform

WASHINGTON, DC (WS) — Changes in the American social and cultural landscape are having an enormous cumulative effect on the legal standing of Gay men and Lesbians in the country.

Polls show an increased acceptance of Gay people nationwide. Television and movies feature Gay characters and, more importantly, show balanced representations of Gay people more often. Politically, the value elected officials attach to the Gay vote seems to be growing with each election cycle.

"The cultural shift has been amazing," conceded Robert Knight of the Family Research Council. "The avalanche of pro-Gay publicity on TV sitcoms, in schools, in the media, has persuaded even the courts that homosexuality will eventually be declared a civil right."

In a brief overview of recent legal strides attained by Gay Americans, four states now allow Gay couples to jointly adopt children and six have overturned their sodomy laws. States, municipalities and private companies have also made the extension of health insurance and other benefits for Gay partners an almost routine matter in many parts of the country.

From workplace discrimination to child custody, a clear and distinct pattern is emerging as courts, spurred by cultural and political changes across the country, apply the principles of equality to sexual orientation. Gay rights has become a flourishing area of the law.

"Overall, there's been some acceleration of legal rights," says Yale University law professor William Eskridge. "But differences exist across the country. In urban America, particularly the Northeast, there have been enormous strides toward equality. But in a big chunk of the country, particularly the Deep South and West, people can still label us 'degenerates' and 'sex perverts.'"

Eskridge says the public is receptive to messages promoting tolerance but exhibits a strong reaction when the government is seen as "promoting" the acceptance of same-sex sexual behavior.

Democratic pollster Geoff Garin agrees. "The public strongly rejects discrimination and intolerance," he said, "but where the politics of Gay rights becomes more complicated is when the public perceives that the government is putting its seal of approval on a group."

G/L Rights Bill Introduced In Michigan House

LANSING, MI (NP) — Michigan state Representative Pan Godchaux, R-Birmingham, has filed a bill to amend the state's Civil Rights Act to add sexual orientation and disability as categories protected from discrimination in employment, housing and public services.

Although even Godchaux has little hope for its passage in this legislative session, she hopes to open dialog towards success in a future session. The state law currently prohibits discrimination based on age, color, familial status, height, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and weight.

Declaring there is widespread discrimination against Gays and Lesbians and those who are perceived to be Gays and Lesbians, Godchaux said her bill would "make Michigan a better and safer place for everyone to live and visit." Naturally the move was welcomed by the Detroit-based LGBT advocacy group Triangle Foundation, which called it vital and long overdue. Eleven Michigan municipalities have enacted their own prohibitions against sexual orientation discrimination.

LAW OFFICE of
Carol L. Lohmann
Workers' Compensation
Social Security Disability
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485 South Main Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Women's Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

reclaiming one's sexuality, regardless of what that is," says workshop leader Sharon Kaufman-Osborn, a counselor at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington.

Kaufman-Osborn co-founded an affiliate of PFLAG, an organization of parents and friends of Lesbians and Gays, after making strong connections with the Gay community through her Lesbian sister and others. She says her workshop poses the question, "What messages about my sexuality did I get growing up in this culture?"

The focus on diversity at these conferences has been well-received. "All of our diversity workshops are the ones with the most registrants," said Smith. "That in itself definitely increases the kind of work that we can do."

Life-Enriching Counseling
Hypnotherapy and Art Therapy
Individuals and Couples
DESERT VISION COUNSELING
290-1591
Louis F. Kavar, Ph.D. Free 30-minute consultation
Patricia Bergen, MA, MFA Sliding scale fees

New Report Documents Rising Tide Of Anti-Gay Bigotry

Continued from Page One

public schools. The lawmaker who sponsored the proposal said his goal was to "drive Gays back in the closet like the way they were."

In Florida, the Christian Coalition - trying to repeal a non-discrimination law - distributed a fraudulent document purporting to be a "Gay Manifesto." It warned: "Homosexuality must be spoken in your churches and synagogues... [Homosexuals] will in all likelihood expunge a number of passages from your Scripture and rewrite others, eliminating preferential treatment of heterosexual marriages...If all of these things do not come to pass quickly, [homosexuals] will subject Orthodox Jews and Christians to the most sustained hatred and vilification in recent memory."

The report further shows how living in a hostile climate affects Lesbians and Gay men on a daily basis:

In New York City, a 13-year veteran police officer who is Gay alleged that his fellow officers hung him from a coat-rack with handcuffs, locked him inside lockers, forced him to simulate a sex act with another officer, and subjected him to relentless verbal harassment. The officer ultimately had a nervous breakdown. And in Oregon, a decorated 21-year veteran police officer accused his force of demoting him because he is Gay, jeopardizing his safety by assigning him a squad car without a police radio or siren, and launching an investigation in which he was interrogated about his "sexual positions" and the names of his partners.

In Alabama, the state Supreme Court refused to grant custody of two children to their mother because she is Gay and lives with a partner, with whom she "openly displays affection." Instead, the court sent the children to live with their father, who a dissenting justice described as a violent, abusive drunk driver. (The father had been cited for driving under the influence with the children in his car.) The mother is now allowed to visit her children only in the presence of her parents.

Hostile Climate also documents the silencing of Lesbian and Gay lives:

When author and National Public Radio commentator David Sedaris was preparing to appear as a guest on NBC's "Late Night with Conan O' Brien," representatives of the program told him he could not discuss the fact that he is Gay. Sedaris was given a list things he would be talking about ten minutes before the shore started and it was made clear that he could cover any topic he wanted, except for being Gay.

Many national leaders make their homes in Texas, which reported the second highest number of incidents in Hostile Climate. In 1998, two bills in the state legislature sought to bar Lesbians and Gay men from serving as foster parents. During the public controversy over the issue, Governor George W. Bush announced his opposition to adoptions by Lesbian and Gay parents. In Dallas, two-time presidential candidate Ross Perot rescinded domestic partnership benefits at his company. In Fort Worth, the Gay political group Log Cabin Republicans was denied exhibit space at the Texas Republican Convention. A party spokesperson called the Log Cabin Republicans "a hate group" and compared them to the KKK.

Some of the incident reports show encouraging signs as well. At Goucher College, in Baltimore, for example, a wave of anti-Gay vandalism brought students together in an unprecedented display of support for the Lesbian and Gay community. And in Lafayette, Indiana, after several teachers received anonymous mail and phone calls threatening to expose them as Gay, parents and city officials united to condemn the campaign.

"I'm inspired by the people whose will and spirit remain strong despite personal wounds and constant setbacks, who turn their pain into hard work. Sharing this book with someone who needs to see its message is an important way to help change the hostile climate," said Shields.

Non-Bar Calendar
Groups / Clubs / Organizations

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12
7:00 p.m., join the crowd for a Book Party and benefit at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave. The event is in celebration of Local author Kenneth Ray Stubbs' new book "Male Erotic Massage: A Guide To Sex And Spirit" ($17.95). The illustrated book of massage techniques for Gay men is a safe-sex guide with a strong spiritual undertone. 20% of the proceeds will be donated to co-sponsors Wingspan and SAAF.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Les & Jerry as they host Game Night. Whether it's card games or board games, you'll be able to find someone willing to have fun. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13
Tucson Prime Timers Breakfast 9:30 a.m. at Carrows, 2660 N. Campbell. Call 584-0280 for details.

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:30 a.m. Join Gene for a Birding Expedition to Aqua Caliente. It's a good chance to see Wood Ducks and maybe even some Falcons. For details, please call Gene at 625-8109.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Bill as he hosts Pinochle Night. If you're a fan of the game, this is the place to go. If you don't know how to play, but want to learn, we'll help you out. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 297-3569.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14
1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 a.m. Join Bob for a Motorcycle Day Trip to parts unknown. For details, please call Bob at 888-2527.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 4:30-6:30 p.m. The Triangle Tribe, an awareness group, meets to learn and use communication and relationship skills toward developing feelings of trust, love, acceptance and brotherhood. For reservations and directions, please call Tom at 318-1650.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16
12:30 p.m. Tucson Prime Timers luncheon at Wildcat House, 1801 N. Stone. Call 584-0280 for details.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Poz Cafe - providing a delicious free lunch along with friendship, games and social activities. Open to all HIV+ adults and one guest (partner, family, friend or volunteer respecting confidentiality/privacy concerns). Doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch is served at noon, activities last until 2:30 p.m. Located at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, a Gay-friendly church at the corner of River and Swan. To reserve your space or request transportation, call the TIHAN office at 299-6847 by Monday, November 15.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19
7:00 p.m. At Antgone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave., Merle Yost will read from his new book "When Love Lasts Forever: Male Couples Celebrate Commitment" ($39.95). This beautiful anthology shares stories and photos of fourteen couples who have been together between ten and forty-five years. Great writing, wonderful stories. This book makes a great gift.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Pizza Party held at Jerry & Les' home. Simply bring $4.00 and join in for a fun evening of food and good conversation. Salad and dessert are also served. Vegetarian pizza offered as well. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565. Please note: reservations should be made by Thursday, November 18 at noon so we can order the proper number of pizzas (but we do order a couple of extra pizzas just in case this isn't read until the day of the event).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join us for our Topic of Discussion as it is guest-hosted by author, Merle Yost. Merle is in town to promote his new book, and he'll take time out to lead our discussion. For any questions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 4:30-6:30 p.m. The Triangle Tribe, an awareness group, meets to learn and use communication and relationship skills toward developing feelings of trust, love, acceptance and brotherhood. For reservations and directions, please call Tom at 318-1650.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22
1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. A night is devoted to getting out the MSN newsletters. It's a fun way to help the organization and get to know the MSN guys. Dessert and door prizes are provided. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. Retro TV features an episode each of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "The Avengers". For reservations & directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23
6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner / Meeting at Carrow's. 2660 N. Campbell Ave. Call 584-0280 for details.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:00 p.m. There's no reason to spend the holiday alone-join your gay family for a potluck Thanksgiving Dinner. A traditional dinner with turkeys, pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes, gravy, and much more are just waiting for you. It's a fun day to spend with family and new friends. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

Bar Calendar
of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
IBT'S - The Girlie Show featuring Lucinda Holiday, Ajia Simone, Bunny FuFu and Deora Le Blanc. It all begins at 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14
IBT'S - Arizona Angels Baseball team fundraiser. Bar-B-Que/Beer Bust 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. show featuring Ajia Simone,. Bunny FuFu and Deora le Blanc along with team members talent showcase. Congratulations to the Angels who were tournament champs in San Diego.

STONEWALL / EAGLE - "Desert La Cage" starring Crystal Abrams. 10:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
IBT'S - Girlie Show and Lipsinc Contest at 9:00 p.m. hosted by Lucinda Holiday featuring Mr. Kenneth Blake and Ajia Simone. Call Larry at 327-1576 to sign up. $50 cash prize for 1st place.

STONEWALL / EAGLE - Christina de Alexis presents a pre-Thanksgiving/Christmas Show for Rudi's Kids. 10:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18
STONEWALL / EAGLE - Latin Dance Party 9:00 p.m. to closing. Fuerza Latina 2000 Travesti Show 10:30 p.m.

SAT-SUN-MON, NOVEMBER 20-21-22
WOODY'S - Grand Opening Weekend Party featuring 4-Man Volleyball Tornament. The Bar opens at noon and is located at 3710 N. Oracle. All volleyball proceeds will benefit SAAF, TIHAN and MPS. Other special happenings too. Check their ad next week!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20
IBT'S - Special MPS Benefit Show. Watch for details.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - New Cosmos Revue starring Kristin, Miss Gay Cosmopiltan Arizona America. Showtime 10:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21
STONEWALL / EAGLE - "Sabra" - Live One-Woman Dance Band. 9:30 p.m. Don't miss it!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22
WOODY'S - This new cocktail lonce at 3710 N. Oracle Road begins it's every monday run of Karaoke with Billy Dee from 9:00 p.m. to close.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
STONEWALL/EAGLE - Special Thanksgiving Show. Capitol City Queens with Adrienne Alexander. Showtime 10:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25
STONEWALL / EAGLE - Happy Thanksgiving! Free Dinner. Turkey or Ham and all the trimmings plus dessert. 5:00 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Join the gang here for a festive feast. They'll provide the meat and you bring your favorite side-dish. It's also the opening day of the 1999 Arizona Fellowship Run which runs through Sunday. V-N will be headquarters but the crowd will be traveling around to all the bars.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28
STONEWALL/EAGLE - 'Goddess' Starring Mr. Kenneth Blake. Showtime 10:00 p.m.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers. Latin Music with DJ Hill 9-1. Shot specials all night.

IBT's - Open 11am-1am. Happy Hour 11-4pm, $2.00 domestic beer and well. $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 4:30-7pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio 4:30-7:30. Hi energy dancing 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

STARS - Open 5pm -1am. Happy Hour 5-7.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open Noon. During Pool Tourney Beer Bust. No Tourney 2-6 only. Schnaps 1st 10 minutes of each hour 75¢ 9-12 only. Fabulous shows every Sunday. Call for info 624-8805.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. $1.25 Tomato Juice Cocktails, Boilermakers. Beer Bust, BBQ and Drink Specials. Football on big screen.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm 75¢ draft. 301 Dart Tournament 5pm $3 entry fee (pot matched). Boss Burgers 5-7pm Hides Leather Goods opens at 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-9pm

Monday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free pool 2-4. $1.50 Wells 8-midnight.

IBT's - Open 10am. Martini Monday all day all call martinis's $2.50. Happy Hour 10am-4pm, $2.00 domestic beer and well. $1.75 well and domestic beer 4-9pm. 9pm to closing, $1.50 / 32oz pitchers. Karaoke Billy Dee 7:00-9:30pm Retro 80's dance 9:30pm to closing. All drink specials not available during special events.

STARS - Open 5pm -1am. Happy Hour 5-7.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open Noon. During Football game Bud & Bud Light longnecks $2. Hot Dogs w/chips 75¢ Popcorn $1. Corndogs $1.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7; $1.50 Well or Domestic. Football on big screen. Food & Drink Specials.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Blue Monday! $2 Well and Longnecks 8am-12:30pm Skyy shots $2 (w/juice $2.25). Dart Tourney 8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-9pm. Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close. And Football.

Tuesday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm. $3 entry, pot matched. $1 longnecks for pool players. Funky disco w/DJ Starskee & DJ Butta Fly 9-1.

IBT's - Open 10am. Happy Hour 10am-4pm, $2.00 domestic beer & well. $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. 9 pm to close $1.75 well. Wear an IBT's T-shirt get happy hour prices 9 to close, or buy an IBT's T-shirt for $5 and get a complimentary drink. House Hi-Nergy Dance 9pm to closing.

STARS - Open 5pm - 1am. Happy Hour 5-7.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open Noon. Beer Bust during Pool Tourney Pitchers $1.75, Glass 75¢. If no tourney Beer Bust 7-10. Flavored Stoli 50¢ in Stonewall.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7; $150 Well or Domestic.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. $2 Well drinks and longnecks 8am-12:30pm; Makers Mark $2 shot. 1st Tuesday TKO Spaghetti Feed

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-9pm. Skyy's the limit $2.25

Wednesday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Free Pool 2-4. $1.50 Longnecks 8-midnight. Dance music with DJ Stephanie 9pm-1am.

IBT's - Open 10am to 1am. Happy Hour 10am to 4pm, $2.00 domestic beer & well. $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. $1.75 Bud Products 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

STARS - Open 5pm - 1am. Happy Hour 5-7.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open Noon. Any flavor Schnapps 50¢ 1st 10 minutes of every hour 9-12. . Stonewall opens at 9pm. Hottest dance music in town.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am, Happy Hour til 7pm; $1.50 Well or Domestic. Free Pool 9pm-12:45am. Dance Mix.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Salsa Morning! $2 Well & Longnecks 8am-12:30pm. Cuervo Gold $2 and Cuervo 1800 $2.25 Open to close. Western Nite Drink specials if in Cowboy attire.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-9pm

Thursday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7pm, 2for1 Free pool 2-4. Karaoke with Melissa 9pm to close. W/creamy cowgirls & $2.50 Tequila Rose.

IBT's - Open 10am to 1am. Happy Hour 10am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. $1.75 Well & domestic 4-9. Underwear Nite. $1.50 well and $1.75 domestic beer to those in their underwear (pant check available). Hi energy dancing 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

STARS - Open 5pm - 1am. Happy Hour 5-7.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open Noon . Bartender's Choice 9-12 only. In the Stonewall Hornitos shot or mix $2 from 9-12 only.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: $1.50 Well or Domestic. Free Pool 9pm-12:45am. Dance Mix.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am $2 Well Drinks & Longnecks 8am-12:30pm Patio Bar open 6pm. Day prices for men in leather 7pm to close. Pool Tournament 7pm-ish. $3 entry. Hides Leather shop opens at 8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-9pm.

Friday
AIN'T NOBODYS BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free pool 2-4. Free food at 5:30pm. Dance music 9-1 w/ DJ Hill. Drink specials every 1/2 hour

IBT's - Open 10am. Happy Hour 10am-4pm $2.00 domestic b and well. $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9. Live Jazz on the patio with Susan & Tracey 5:30-8:30pm. Patio Bar 9-1. Dance Party 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

STARS - Open 5pm-1am. Happy Hour 5-7. Entertainment 8-12.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open Noon. Bartender's Choice 9-12 only. Flavored Stoli in the Stonewall 50¢ discount 9-12 only.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: $1.50 Well or Domestic. Variety Dance Mix.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. $2 Well & Longnecks 8am-12:30pm Snacks served at 5pm. Patio Bar open 5pm. Hides Leather Store opens 6pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-9pm Martini Party - Well Martini's $2, Call Martinis $3 from 4pm to close.

Saturday
AIN'T NOBODYS BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Drink specials all day. Pool Tournament 5:30pm $3 entry. Pot matched. Dance music w/DJ Hill 9-close. Drink specials every half hour.

IBT's - Open 10am to 1am. Happy Hour 10am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. Patio bar 9-1. Dance 9-1. All drink specials not available during special events.

STARS - Open 5pm-1am. Happy Hour 5-7. Entertainment 8-12.

STONEWALL/EAGLE - Open Noon. During Pool Tourney Beer Bust. No Tourney Beer Bust 2-6 only. Bartender's Choice 9-12. Stonewall opens 9pm. Schnapps 1st 10 minutes of each hour 75¢ 9-12 only.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: $1.50 Well or Domestic. Drag Shows. Dance.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Patio Beer Bust with 50¢ drafts, $1.50 pitchers. Hides Leather Store opens at 8pm. Cricket Dart Tournament 9pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 4-9pm

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road. Room 43. Call the church at Davey at 886-1208 or Brian at 882-4726 for information.

HIKE & BIKE DYKES. Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Call 327-7233 for info.

LESBIAN SOCIAL DISCUSSION GROUP. Meetings 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 7 to 8:30 pm. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Come Chat!

CAMELBACK BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION (CBPA) OF PHOENIX . For information and membership write: CBPA at P.O. Box 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave message.

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all -- Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

COCHISE COUNTY LESBIANS AND GAYS. P.O. Box 818, Bisbee, AZ 85603 / (602)432-5591. Rap Group, Youth Group, Social and Political Events.

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO -- a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)327-1620 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910, or come to our general meetings the second Friday of every month. Location listed on our hotline.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, a social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the HOTline for info at 888-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyan@theriver.com and request guidelines.

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Wednesday at 6:03 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI. The show "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show is aired at 5:30 pm every Wednesday.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-3010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. Desert Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert Boyz meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. of every month. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779 for more info. SAGAEmail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagaemail

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4805.

GAY MORMON, EX-MORMON. New support and discussion group. For information call 529-4580

TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, D&S and TV community. Call us at (520)617-4661, e-mail us at http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/5086

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA. Local chapter of the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian Republican organization. Meets the first Tuesday evening of each month. For information, call Patrick at 615-1887.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6768.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9468 or Ray at 749-5247.

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7298.

GAY & LESBIAN SPIRITUALITY GROUP of St. Phillips in the Hills Episcopal Church meets first and third Mondays. Call David, 323-7943 for more information.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS: Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus rehearses Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9662.

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS - a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-8219 (Phoenix)

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4300.

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL VETERANS meet at Wingspan every fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. For more info call Miguel Guzman, 889-4076 or pager 446-5123.

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6624.

WOMEN'S OUT OF THE CLOSET GROUP. Welcome to women in all stages of the coming-out process. We are here to support the Lesbians, Bisexuals and straight women of all races, religious and ages. Meeting times are the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month, 1:30 - 3:30pm at Wingspan at 300 E. 6th St. 624-1779. Call Wendy Bailey at 235-1893 after 5pm for more information.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED -- FORMING CHAPTER FOR GAY/LESBIAN LUTHERANS. Write LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Confidential individual or group support for Gay, Bisexual or Trans men who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. For more information call 624-0348 (24-hour line)

GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED Young Adults Support Group for people ages 20 to 30 meets for sharing, support and information . Meetings are every Saturday from 11am to 12:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779.

GAY SUICIDE PREVENTION. P.O. Box 64665, Tucson, AZ 85718-9998. Tele 520-577-3760. 1-888-774-9200, Fax 520-577-7443

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Have any history/ experience singing? Join in!! Call 881-1369 to audition. 617-3100 for more info.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

SOFTBALL - For info on the Tucson Greater Softball Association T.G.S.A., please contact. Mary 770-9979 or Bertie 318-3415.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

FRONT RUNNERS OF TUCSON meet every Sunday morning and some weeknights for fun runs. For more information call Mitch at 326-3555 or e-mail mandmhuar@worldnet.att.net

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call Information and Referral about Al-Anon 881-1794 in Tucson info about special groups for Gays and Lesbians.

YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS INTERNATIONAL invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 584-0280, leave name and phone number.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

For information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

NOTICES

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? The Gay Young Men's Project is now looking for volunteers for the project. We need people who want to help create a positive social change for young Gay men as well as reduce the risk for HIV infection. For more information please call 628-7223.

BISEXUAL INFORMATION/SUPPORT GROUP for women and men. Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. 624-1779.

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-4582 for more information or sign up.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call Greg Hollman 529-7542 for more info.

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE (TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street at 7pm. For more information call 622-3200.

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND. Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 694-7063.

TIHAN, a coalition of churches and synagogues committed to providing a compassionate response to the HIV crisis, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays noon-1pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-6676 or 327-4293.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson, Very Gay-Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1438 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Eddie Betrano 888-4595.

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Brenda at 884-9920, Ext.448 or Emmett 322-6057 (avellen@ix.netcom.com)

PERSONALS

CYBER CRUISE - Meet Arizona Gay men and women as well as people all over the U.S. Gay owned. www.mova.com 805

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION

Si eres hombre que tiene sexo con otros hombres y quieres ayudarnos a extender y apoyar los programas para Los Latinos, llama para una entrevista extrictamente confidencial al 322-6226 y pregunta por Ernesto. 800

If you are a Latino man who is having sex with other men and you want to help us support and expand our programs for Latinos, call for a confidential interview at 322-6226 and ask for Ernie. 800

ROOMMATES

HOUSEMATE WANTED - 2bedroom duplex near the U to share with an older gentleman. $285/mo. Including utilities except phone. First and last months rent, non-smoker. W/D, off-street parking. Will prepare a Continental breakfast and Dinner for an extra $65/mo. Not looking for a sex partner! Call Bob 903-1800. 800

AJO / LA CHOLLA: 4BR 2BA, seeking quiet, mature, responsible person to share house with one woman. $380. Call 792-4726. 800

HOUSING/FOR RENT

VARIOUS CENTRAL TUCSON LOCATIONS. Large 1 and 2 bedroom apartments unfurnished. Clean, private, quiet. Many extras. Special move-in prices. Call 620-0130 800

EMPLOYMENT

The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, seeks a program assistant to coordinate HIV/AIDS awareness and education programs. Preferred background in program administration and curriculum planning, with substantial knowledge of HIV and accompanying issues. 20 hours/week, $8.00/hour. Submit resume and list of three references to TIHAN, 4625 E. River Road, Tucson, AZ 85718.

SERVICES

FULL BODY MASSAGE in my private in-home studio. Professional and pleasing. Full hour $30.00. Rick 299-1792. 799

HEAVEN SENT ME: Strong, yet gentle hands provide relaxing, soothing massage. Deep tissue touch is available, working always to your comfort level. Trained in Lomilomi by third generation Hawaiian, and in "world renowned" Esalen massage. Days and evenings. In or out. Glen, CMT/ Call 887-2551 for the soothing touch of Aloha 786+

ODD JOBS - HANDYMAN. Coolers, electrical, plumbing, carpet, painting, etc. Call Victor, 887-2519. 800

YOUNG MAN EXPERIENCED in body and breath work. Call Scott 319-6832. 799

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST: Let my skilled techniques and intuitive nature work out pain, relieve sore muscles, and make you feel relaxed and renewed. Please call Lee Elliott at 690-9585. Therapeutic, non-sexual healing. 801

FOOTHILLS MASSAGE. BEST IN TUCSON. New York trained. 10 years experience. Near Sunrise & Craycroft. In & Out calls. Greg Stickroth, 469-8522 802

ATTRACTIVE MAN offers very relaxing, sensuous, one-hour massage at a very reasonable rate. Days, evenings, weekends. Michael 884-8243 801

LET ME PAMPER YOU! With a Full Body Swedish massage in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. $35 for a full hour. Ralph, 883-7496. 800

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN A healthy invigorating total experience for men of all ages. Peaceful, private setting, Discreet. Full hour $35. Marvin 299-9651 801

RELAX IN QUALITY. Enjoy great aroma massage, also tantric work with 18 years of skill. An experience unlike any other. Also, facials and bodywraps. Be touched with gentle hands. Call Marc, LMT, 881-4582. 799

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