

U.S. Supreme Court Lets HMO's Place Caps On HIV/AIDS Coverage

WASHINGTON, DC (NP) - The U.S. Supreme Court won't review an appeals court ruling that insurance companies can set separate-and-unequal limits on coverage for HIV/AIDS-related illnesses.

Without comment or dissent, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a lower court's ruling that allowed an insurance company to place specific caps on coverage for AIDS-related illnesses different from that for other diseases. The review had been sought by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, who represented two Mutual of Omaha policyholders (pseudonymed "John Doe" and "Richard Smith" in court documents) in a lawsuit arguing that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination in coverage based on HIV status or other disabilities. The high court let stand an appeals court decision that there had been no discrimination because the men were offered the same coverage given to other customers and because caps exist for other conditions.

One of the policies set a lifetime maximum of \$25,000 for AIDS-related illnesses; the other included a \$100,000 ceiling for AIDS/HIV coverage. By comparison, the same policies covered other ailments to a maximum of \$1-million. [Ed. note: The average lifetime cost of caring for one AIDS patient has been estimated at over \$100,000.] In January 1998, Lambda and the AIDS Legal Council, along with cooperating attorney Stuart Graff of Schiff, Hardin and Waite, filed a suit charging that the artificially low restrictions violated the ADA, the federal law that bans bias against the disabled. Attorneys argued that the situation "presents a classic case of disability-based discrimination." Experts testifying for the plaintiffs said that the caps were unnecessary because the cost of treating AIDS was actually comparable to other conditions, like cancer, and Mutual was

forced to concur. Mutual also admitted that, for example, coverage for AIDS-related pneumonia would be limited, but coverage for non-AIDS-related pneumonia would not. On December 2, 1998 Chicago District Court Judge Suzanne B. Conlon ruled for the plaintiffs and ordered Mutual to lift the caps.

Mutual appealed, and in June 1999 the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Conlon's decision by a vote of 2 - 1. The majority found that ADA would come into play if an insurance company denied coverage to a person with HIV/AIDS, but does not bar discriminatory terms or conditions in the policies themselves; they said that the high cost of AIDS treatment made the caps reasonable, and noted that insurance coverage caps were not uncommon. Moreover they pointed out that even if ADA was applicable, other federal laws put the regulation of insurance companies under state jurisdiction. The dissenting opinion was offered by Judge Terence T. Evans, who wrote, "we are being asked to decide whether an insurer can discriminate against people with AIDS, refusing to pay for them the same expenses it would pay if they did not have AIDS. The ADA assigns to the courts the task of passing judgment on such conduct. And to me, the Mutual of Omaha policies at issue violate the Act."

Lambda and the AIDS Legal Council requested the full 7th Circuit Court to reconsider the three-judge panel's decision. The appeal judges deadlocked 5 - 5 on that request. The plaintiffs and their supporting organizations then decided to take the case to the Supreme Court to get clarification on the ADA and its relationship to insurance provisions.

Lambda Staff Attorney Heather C. Sawyer said, "We are disappointed that the Court will not provide much needed guidance."

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G/L Marriage Advocates Urge Supporters To Stop Bugging VT Lawmakers

MONTPELIER, VT (NP) - Advocates for same-gender marriage in Vermont cry halt to supporters flooding state offices with calls and describe their strategy and prospects.

One of the attorneys who represented the plaintiff same-gender couples in the landmark "Baker" marriage case, Mary Bonauto of the Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, has issued an unusual request: that those who live outside of Vermont "not" call Vermont's governor or legislators. After homophobic radio psychologist Dr. Laura Schlessinger inspired a number of calls to Vermont lawmakers opposing equal marriage rights for same-gender couples, widely-circulated e-mails called on Gays and Lesbians and their allies to respond in kind.

The upshot, writes Bonauto, is that

"The Governor's office has now been flooded with calls from people supporting us (after a batch of Dr. Laura-inspired calls) and they are getting annoyed with everyone. Please disregard e-mails you have received from whatever source asking you to call the Governor's office."

Those who live outside Vermont can help advance marriage rights there in other ways, Bonauto said. One is to contact acquaintances in Vermont and encourage them to contact their elected representatives and to contact the group leading the lobbying effort, the Vermont Freedom to Marry Action Committee. Another is to send contributions to the Vermont Freedom to Marry Action Committee at P.O. Box 1038, Middlebury, VT 05753. This is the group that has hired two lobbying firms to ad-

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Welcome Rodeo Fans! Road Runner Regional Rodeo In Phoenix This Weekend

PHOENIX (ON) - Cowboys and cowgirls from all over will converge in Phoenix for the Road Runner Regional Rodeo, January 14-16.

This annual rodeo, sponsored by the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA), will take place at the Corona Ranch and Rodeo Grounds, 29th Avenue and Baseline Road in Phoenix. Since it is an IGRA sponsored event, competitors will receive points toward the IGRA All-Around Cowboy and Cowgirl contest.

Between 150-200 contestants will be competing for the prize buckles in thirteen events. Proceeds from the rodeo will go to local non profit organizations.

In addition to the traditional rodeo contests, there are also camp events, contests just for fun, such as the always popular three-member wild drag race. The Road Runner Regional Rodeo will also crown Mr., Ms., and Miss AGRA for 2000.

The Corona Ranch, in addition to the competition, will have vendors and entertainment in a covered building on the grounds. Live music and dancing will be there throughout the day.

Tickets are: \$15 per day for rodeo admission only. Saturday evening dance is \$5. Weekend package for all events is \$30. To order tickets with major credit cards, call (602) 265-8166. For more information, call the AGRA hotline, (602) 265-0618.

New G/L Cable Network Debuts

NEW YORK, NY (GFN) - Building a Gay cable network has allured the ambitious for the past two decades but a pot of gold hasn't yet been at the end of anyone's rainbow. That hasn't stopped them from continuing to search for the secret to success.

With Black Entertainment Television as a common model, the newest effort, CITV, debuted modestly last week in part of New York City with an hour of programming on a leased access channel of Time Warner Inc. (NYSE: TWX) cable.

Based in South Beach, Fla., CITV will roll onto leased access cable in a total of 16 cities during its preview period until May. It is to be a mix of slickly produced, half-hour programs like "Real World"-esque dating show "The Look," biographical "411" and lifestyle-oriented "WOW." There will also be various licensed material, such as concerts from the synth band Pet Shop Boys and diva Shirley Bassey.

The channel sums itself up with the slogan, "The world through your eyes," even if it is seen through the rose-colored sunglasses of South Beach.

"The most enjoyable, although difficult, part is programming," says Darren Mankovich, one of five founding partners. He already has rights to the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade and has been working on landing an option on the Food Network's cult-favorite cooking show "Two Fat Ladies," starring a couple of motorcycle-riding British curmudgeons.

Promotion is to begin in February, with an estimated budget of \$1 million in sponsorship, marketing and advertising to raise awareness of the network, which bills itself as "the entertainment network of Gay urban trendsetters." Since finding shows on an ever-increasing number of cable channels is a challenge, 350,000 program

guides are to be distributed through bars and other Gay businesses.

This is 33-year-old Mankovich's third effort at launching a Gay cable network, following his Star Broadcasting and Acme Television efforts over the last six years. Star never got any funding and Acme TV raised under \$1 million over 2.5 years but never got off the ground. Mankovich explains he never got all the key ingredients he needed.

"I see this opportunity so clearly - it's just a matter of putting the right pieces in place," he says. "This launch is very separate (from Acme TV), this company has a whole new team with a whole new strategy." He said what he's learned is the need for "proper content, proper distribution, proper business and corporate strategies, proper asset development and a proper team."

Mankovich's partners now include David Sine, with a background in real estate and risk management; Juergen Drensek, an editor and producer of 20 years who once hosted morning show "ARD Morgenmagazin" in Berlin; David Floberg, who directed financial operations for South Florida Cablevision; and Web designer Marc Fest, who created sites Quick-Browse.com and AndrewTobias.com for the writer.

Mankovich declines to say how much has been raised in private capital but it almost certainly isn't to the \$20 million industry experts say is needed. No major advertisers are involved with CITV yet, but Mankovich explains that everyone's focus has been on other elements first, with the hiring of a sales team slated for May.

"It takes lots of money," says John Catania, director of communications at In The Life, the nearly 10-year-old Gay news-

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UPDATE

GLBT Commission Subcommittee Meeting Jan. 25

TUCSON - The next meeting of the City of Tucson GLBT Commission, Social Services Subcommittee will take place Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 P.M.

This meeting will be held at Wing-span Community Center, 300 East Sixth Street.

For questions or more information, call the City of Tucson Equal Opportunity Office, (520) 791-4866.

Reveille Chorus In Bisbee Concert Jan. 25

BISBEE - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus will present a concert, Reveille - From the Heart in Bisbee, Saturday, February 12. The concert, to be held at Lowell Middle School Auditorium, 100 Old Douglas Road, 7:00 P.M., will highlight a weekend of fun in Bisbee for Gay and Lesbian couples, wannabee couples and singles over the Valentine's Day weekend.

The night before the concert, Friday, February 11, the Bisbee Repertory Theater presentation of La Cage aux Folles has been bought out by the local GLBT community in Bisbee. About 65 members of Reveille, their partners and friends will attend this special performance, along with Gays and Lesbians from Southeast Arizona and beyond. Tickets for the Reveille concert will be available at the door the night of the concert.

Following the play on Friday night, the Inn at Castle Rock will be the site for a dessert reception for the chorus and the cast of the play. On Saturday evening, following the concert, there will be a no-host dinner open to all prepared by a local caterer at St. Patrick's Church Hall.

With these two wonderful productions on the same weekend in Bisbee, the local GLBT community is promoting this as a great weekend for Gays and Lesbians from throughout the Southwest to gather for fun, music, good food and a chance to get away among friends in Old Bisbee. There are many Gay-owned or Gay-friendly lodging establishments in Bisbee. For a full rundown on the local community, check out their Web site at: <http://www.gco-cities.com/westhollywood/stonewall/5350>.

Tickets for the Reveille concert are \$7 at the door. For information on this concert, and other Reveille events, call the Reveille Gay Men's Chorus Hotline, (520)

617-3100. Tickets for La Cage are \$8, and can be ordered by calling (520) 432-4903. The dinner Saturday will be \$10, including tax and gratuity.

TLGA UPDATE

TUCSON - The Tucson Lesbian & Gay Alliance held its annual meeting and elected a new Board of Directors:

President - Chad Froeschke; Vice-President - Wendy Bailey; Treasurer - Janette Bunge; Secretary - Brian Fox. Board members: Tim Redmon, Paul Tuziowski, Tom Maza, Kim Muell, Diane Katerz, Gabriel Lopez and Dana Young.

For more information, please call (520) 622-3200.

Learn To Dance Starting January 31

TUCSON - Yes you can learn to dance!

Ballroom dance classes for members of the GLBT community and their friends are now being formed. Learn to swing, tango, waltz, cha-cha and foxtrot.

Couples and singles are welcome. Call Artie "The Dance Master," (520) 795-3902, to register or for more information.

GLAM GOTH Rock At Club Congress Feb. 18

TUCSON - Club Congress is once again hosting the "Glam n' Goth Fest" rock show extravaganza, Friday, February 18, 9:00 P.M.

According to promoters, the event was well attended the last time it played at Club Congress. Three very different Glam influenced bands will perform, with a full stage show. On the bill are Psycho Gypsy, Foxy Roxx and Victims in Ecstasy.

Tickets are \$6 each. For more information, call (520) 622-8848.

Presidential Campaign

Continued from Page One

ans serving openly.

Republican hopeful and former head of the anti-Gay Family Research Council Gary Bauer was asked by one of a group of New Hampshire middle-school students on January 7, how he could oppose legal same-gender marriages if he believes that everyone is created equal. Bauer responded, according to the "Nashua Telegraph" that, "For thousands of years of Western civilization, marriage has been one man and one woman. That's not discrimination. That's not taking away people's freedom. It means that as a civilization we've decided that marriage is between one adult man and one adult woman, and we are going, as a civilization, to eliminate the other possible ways that people might choose to live together," giving as examples polygamy or an adult marrying a child. He said he opposed legal recognition of Gay and Lesbian couples, "not because I want to deny liberty, but because to allow that would undermine the ordered liberty under God that our country is built on."

But surprisingly, Senator Orrin Hatch, R-UT, told a large group of New Hampshire high school and college students gathered on January 9 to hear the Republican hopefuls, that he is ready to extend some legal recognition to same-gender couples. Asked about legal marriage for Gay and Lesbian couples, Hatch said it was crucial to "preserve the sanctity of marriage" between one man and one woman, but said he would support a "civil compromise" conferring such rights as hospital visitation and inheritance. "I would want to be fair to Gays without undermining the basic institution of marriage," he said.

Rich Tafel, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Log Cabin Republicans, told the "Wall Street Journal" that, "Among Republicans, there's something like a 'live-and-let-live' attitude evolving." He remains confident that frontrunner Texas Governor George W. Bush will some day meet with Log Cabin - something Bush staff had first indicated he would do, and then the Governor himself said he would not.

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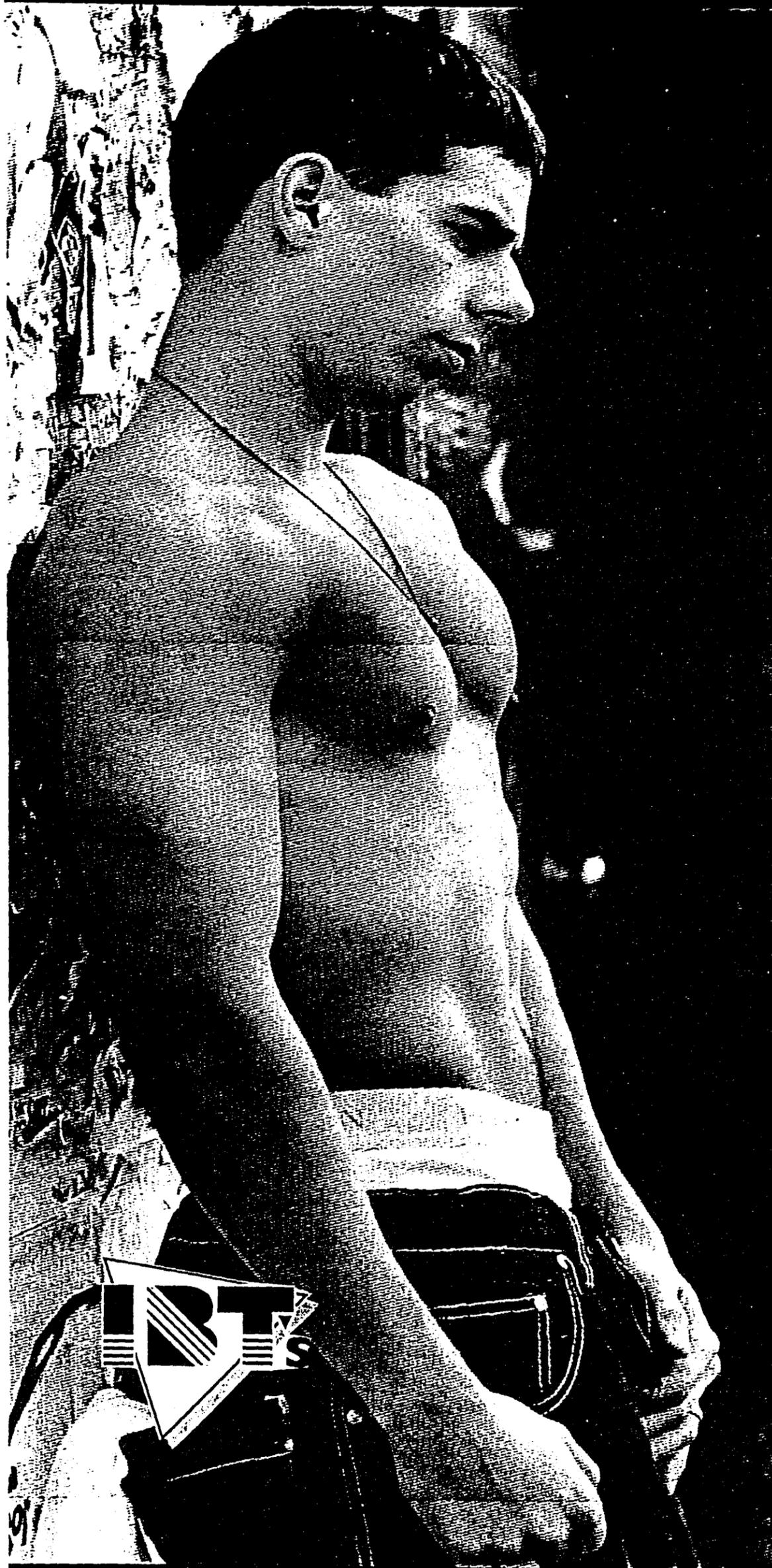
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First Lady Opposes G/L Marriage

NEW YORK, NY (WS) - First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate in New York, said that she opposes same-sex marriages.

"Marriage has got historic, religious, and moral content that goes back to the beginning of time, and I think a marriage is as a marriage has always been, between a man and a woman," Mrs. Clinton said after a news conference. Mrs. Clinton said that she would have voted for the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal bill passed in 1996 that prevents recognition of same-sex marriages. Her husband signed the bill into law.

However, Mrs. Clinton said that she sees little need for a version of the bill in New York State. "I think that would be divisive, I don't think it's necessary," she said. "I think we ought to provide partner-

ship benefits and make it possible for people to do with their loved ones what anyone in a relationship should be able to do."

Gay activists expressed disappointment in Mrs. Clinton's stand. "We expect and deserve from society the full support that married couples receive," Tim Sweeney of the Empire State Pride Agenda, a statewide Gay group, said.

David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign also voiced disappointment with the first lady's statement. "While domestic partnership recognition is important and we continue to work toward achieving that recognition, it still represents a separate-but-equal doctrine," Smith said.

New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Mrs. Clinton's presumed GOP opponent for the Senate, had no immediate comment on her remarks.

The Secret Is Revealed! Crosby Is The Father Of Ethridge's Kids

LOS ANGELES, CA (NP) - Melissa and Julie reveal the secret: it was David ... with a doctor ... and no turkey baster!

From the level of media coverage, you'd've thought it was the answer to the question of the ages, instead of just the question since August 1996 when openly Lesbian Grammy-winning rocker Melissa Etheridge first announced that her partner filmmaker Julie Cypher was pregnant by artificial insemination: who's the father? Brad Pitt? Tom Hanks? Bruce Springsteen? The women have finally given up the struggle to keep the secret, appearing on the cover of the upcoming "Rolling Stone" (on the newsstands January 14) in a grand family portrait with veteran rocker David Crosby and his wife Jan.

Why break silence now, after resisting questions all this time? Etheridge said, "We just got so tired of this secret. It wears you out. And keeping this big secret goes against how we are choosing to live our lives -- very openly."

It seems that a few years back the two couples were vacationing in Hawaii and the subject of parenthood came up. As Etheridge tells it, "Jan said, 'What about David?' The suggestion came from her, which was the best, most perfect way."

Etheridge said of Crosby, "For one, he's musical, which means a lot to me,

and I admire his work. And he has his own life, his own family."

The upshot was first daughter Bailey, now 3, and later son Beckett, now 1. Cypher, whose inseminations were assisted by a physician, wisecracked, "No kitchen implements were involved."

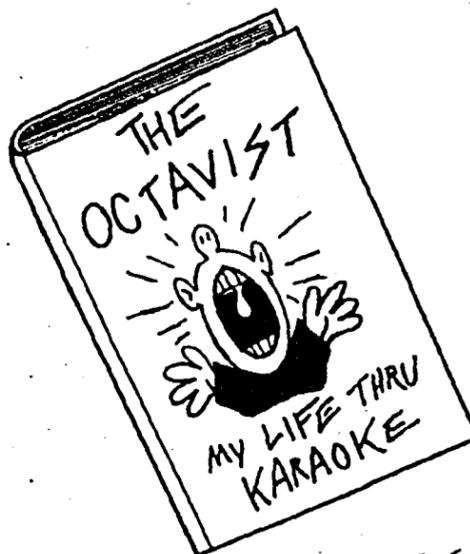
Crosby, now 58 and already a father of four other children, has no parental involvement with Bailey and Beckett, but said, "If, you know, in due time, at a distance, they're proud of who their genetic dad is, that's great." He said, "Melissa and Julie are good people. Nice set of values, they're funny," and added, "Maybe it's a good thing for a lot of straight families to see that this is not something strange."



January 20

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Presidential Campaign Continues Gay/Lesbian Theme

WASHINGTON, DC (NP) - This past week marked a new level of intensity for campaigning among those seeking the Republican and Democratic nominations for President, with four debates, major speeches, national TV appearances, and more.

The fallout continued from the January 5 Democratic Presidential hopefuls' debate in New Hampshire in which Vice President Al Gore appeared to answer "yes" when asked if he would make support of Gays and Lesbians serving openly in the military a "litmus test" for appointees to the Joint Chiefs of Staff - despite his "clarification" two days later in which he clearly said "no." Yet on their face, the objections raised had less to do with Gays and Lesbians than with the military's need for politicians to respect its leaders' expertise. Aside from the military, campaign hotspot New Hampshire being side-by-side with Vermont, young people asked Republicans about legal same-gender marriages, and in one case the response was a surprise.

Fascinating though the media seem to find it, voters are apparently largely disinterested in the issue of military service by Gays and Lesbians. A poll performed for "Newsweek" by the Princeton Research Associates found that only 20% of the 753 respondents saw "Gay rights" as an important issue, far behind the dozen other issues inquired about which scored from 40% - 84%. ("Moral values" scored 70%.) The "Washington Post" cited a New Hampshire focus group as having been annoyed that moderator Peter Jennings had ever raised the openly Gay military service "litmus test" question at the Democratic debate on January 5, and generally the "Post's" focus groups seemed to find the military service issue "irrelevant."

But even after Gore's "clarification" of his litmus test statement, the Republican National Committee (RNC) got underway with producing a commercial saying that Gore had stated a policy that would prohibit Generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf (the military leaders in the Persian Gulf War) from serving on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The punchline: "Call Al Gore. Tell him the only litmus test ought to be for patriotism." The ad is targeted for only a few early primary states, but is intended to keep what most see as a gaffe on Gore's part before voters' eyes. RNC spokesperson Mark Pfeiffer told the Associated Press that, "Al Gore wants to be the president of the United States. He's going to be in negotiations with foreign countries both on defense and economic matters. Plus, he's going to be speaking to the American people. His inability to communicate in a clear and concise matter is a very viable political issue that Republicans will use constantly."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) strongly took issue with plans for the ad, condemning it as "a continuation of the Republican Party's efforts to portray Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and Transgendered people as unworthy of equal rights." NGLTF political director Rebecca Isaacs, pointing to surveys showing widespread support - even among conservatives - for generally ending discrimination against Gays and Lesbians, said, "The anti-Gay conservatives have not heard that it's a new millennium. These ads pander to the extreme right wing and risk alienating mainstream voters who will decide this election."

Republican Presidential hopeful, conservative pundit and former ambassador

Alan Keyes on January 7 proposed a pledge: "In the interest of national security and the morale of our armed forces, if elected President of the United States, I pledge to re-institute the ban on homosexuals serving in our nation's military." Keyes specifically challenged Presidential hopeful and war hero Senator John McCain, R-AZ, who is campaigning hard for the veterans' vote in South Carolina, to take the pledge along with him, but McCain declined.

But at a New Hampshire state Republican Party fund-raising dinner on January 9, McCain said of Gore and Democratic hopeful former Senator from New Jersey Bill Bradley that, "If anyone imposes a social agenda on the prospective chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff - which totally politicizes that job - then they're not qualified" for the Presidency. McCain said Gore's originally stated position would have "a terrible effect on the civilian-military relationship." On CBS' "Face the Nation," confronted with Gore's "clarification," McCain said, "I don't know what he's backed off to; I guess it depends. But his initial statement showed me an incredible lack of understanding of the role of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff." At another gathering, he explained that, "The job of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs is to give the President the best advice" on military matters, adding, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" works. I'll support it; I'll continue to improve it." McCain is currently the most Gay-friendly of the Republican hopefuls, the only one to meet with the Gay and Lesbian Log Cabin Republicans, which have contributed \$40,000 to his campaign (even though he disagrees with the organization's positions on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and other issues).

Like McCain, former chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Vessey told NBC's "Meet the Press" on January 9 that, "If Presidents ... insist that the leadership of the military give them the advice that the Presidents want to hear, rather than the best military advice these people can provide ... they'll have a difficult time finding people." Within the military, leadership's hesitancy to be completely honest with the late President Lyndon Johnson (D) is widely viewed as a significant cause of failure in Vietnam.

Even Gore supporter and advocate of equal treatment for Gays and Lesbians Congressman Jerrold Nadler, D-NY, said on "Meet the Press" that Gore "made a major mistake," but continued, "He admitted it. He retreated. He changed his position." Nadler and openly Gay Congressman Barney Frank, D-MA, said they would seek to change the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy through legislation.

Bradley told "Fox News Sunday," when asked how soon after being elected he would push to allow Gays and Lesbians to serve openly in the military, that, "The method and timing will be mine. You lay out Strategy 1, Strategy 2, Strategy 3, Strategy 4 - to what purpose? You know? Either people believe you have a commitment to this, or they don't." This blunt response may have reflected some New Hampshire focus groups' boredom with the policy-wonk-flavored Gore/Bradley debates, which some felt had reached an unrealistic level of detail.

Joining the military debate on "Face the Nation," Reform Party light Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura came out strongly in support of Gays and Lesbi-

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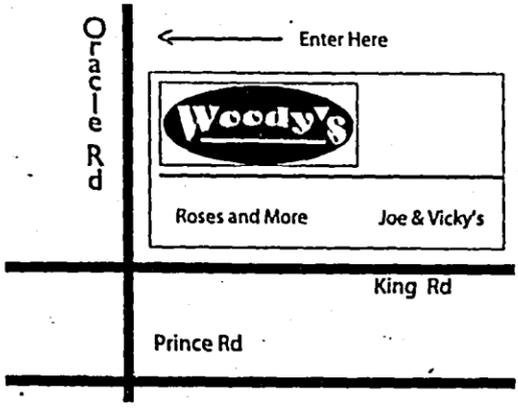
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Trial Of The Williams Brothers Postponed

REDDING, CA (WS) - Superior Court Judge James Ruggiero agreed to postpone the trial date for two brothers accused of killing a Gay couple in California last July to give defense attorneys' more time to prepare their case. The judge scheduled a hearing April 7 to set a trial date.

Two brothers, Benjamin Matthew Williams, 31, and James Tyler Williams, 29, are charged with the double murder of Gary Matson, 50, and his longtime partner, Winfield Mowder, 40 in Happy Valley. Both brothers face the death penalty if convicted.

In a series of jailhouse interviews, Benjamin Williams, the older of the two men, told the Sacramento Bee that he was responsible for at least one in a series of arson attacks that damaged three Sacramento-area synagogues. He said his brother had no part in either the murders or the fire bombings.

Federal and local authorities have focused an intense investigation on the two brothers since their arrests and believe the pair also were involved in the July 2 arson at a building housing offices and a Sacramento abortion clinic.

The older Williams told the Sacramento Bee that he and eight other men had helped set fire to the synagogues in an attempt to gain credibility with the National Alliance, a rabidly anti-Semitic group. Williams said he constructed the firebombs, but participated in only one attack. He denied involvement in the abortion clinic

attack.

FBI Special Agent Nick Rossi said in a statement that federal investigators were "skeptical about some of his (Williams') claims ... especially those statements regarding the number of other individuals involved in the crimes and Williams' alleged recruitment by a larger organization."

Rossi said such jailhouse confessions "should always be viewed cautiously, in light of the personal and political motives of the speaker" and need to be evaluated "in light of physical evidence," Rossi wrote.

Matthew Williams said getting away with the arson attacks led him to murder Mowder and Matson. He said the slayings were part of his desire to follow his views of religion and what he believes are God's laws against homosexuals. "It did embolden me," Williams said, to commit what he termed the "homo-cides."

Williams said he was not concerned about the possibility that he will face execution over the murders, saying it was far more important that his views and beliefs were communicated to a mass audience.

"I'm not worried about that at all," Williams said. "What is important is that my people survive, that my people see the truth. It's not all for naught. We are living in a police state and that's a fact."

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The sun shined down on the orange plastic fencing, which was divided up into two zones along the sidewalk.

A group of ten, from the homophobic Rev. Fred Phelps, of the Topeka, KS Westboro Church, were holding up signs, such as: "God hates fags" and "Thank God for AIDS."

Phelps son, Fred Jr., told anyone who would listen, that they were protesting openly Gay state Rep. Steve May, R-Phoenix. Fred Jr. added that May shouldn't be allowed to serve in the military or in the legislature.

So what about openly Gay state Rep. Ken Chevront, D-Phoenix, then?

Not in the "Twilight Zone" were 25 counter protestors, who carried signs for greater understanding and love of all people. Between them were dozens of police to prevent any trouble and to make sure the protests remained peaceful.

They were needed elsewhere, to break up the ongoing fight between Gov. Hull and House Speaker Jeff Groscost.

It was "High Noon" when Moses showed up, delivering an invocation and chat.

It wasn't just the start of another ordinary week. The second session of the 44th Arizona Legislature had started.

Arizona's Governor usually opens the session with the State of the State address. House Speaker Jeff Groscost, R-Mesa, upstaged Governor Hull, by inviting Moses, Charlton "NRA President" Heston, to speak and deliver the invocation. Groscost fired the first shot, with what many at the capital have said will be a

POLITICS 2000
By Matt Riken

"Just Another Manic Monday"

messy session.

All 90 are back for the festivities, which could go from 75-100 days, more likely 100, despite approving a two-year budget in 1999. Many are finishing their last terms, thanks to constitutional limits, and are getting ready to run for another office. Will the fun ever start?

For Gays and Lesbians, soon. With the Legislature's past track record, especially during an election year, anti Gay/Lesbian and HIV/AIDS bills will flow.

Bills are flowing indeed. As of press time, close to 700 bills have already been introduced in both chambers. The deadline to introduced unlimited proposals has passed. From now on, there is a limit of five bills per legislature. A rundown of the proposals of note so far.

HB 2106 would establish an HIV/AIDS pilot program, to teach children (grades 7-12) and their families about HIV/AIDS. It has bipartisan support, with 17 House cosponsors. It has been assigned to the Health Committee and the Appropriation Committee for consideration.

Then there is HB 2122, sponsored by state Rep. Linda Gray, R-Glendale, the same legislator who tried to ban Gay and Lesbian school clubs last year. This measure looks like another attempt at this again. "A wolf in sheep's clothing"

HB 2122 is an effort by ultraconservatives, (Gray and the other cosponsors,

including Reps. Debra Brimhall and Barbara Blewster), to control the curriculum by providing that it must be determined at the local level. Conservative groups have been quite successful in packing school boards and councils in the past. The bill would eliminate a requirement that local school councils be racially and ethnically diverse. Gray's proposal has been assigned to the House Education Committee.

Rep. Steve May is the subject of a proposal, sponsored by state Rep. Richard Kyle, R-Phoenix.

HCM 2001 would have the Arizona Legislature ask the President, Secretary of Defense and Congress to retain Representative May in the Army Reserve. The bill has been assigned to the House Veteran's and Military Affairs Committee. A spokesperson for state Rep. Jim Carruthers, R-Yuma, said the committee will meet Thursday, January 20, but declined to state whether HCM 2001 will be on the agenda for consideration.

Still, on the subject of Steve May, he has proposed a bill to have the Legislature meet every other year. HCR 2009 would amend the constitution and require the legislature meet every odd year. Appropriate.

It's an election year and the opportunists are going after a sure-fire vote getting topic, nudity.

HB 2297, sponsored by state Sen. Rusty Bowers, and House Speaker Jeff

Groscost, both Republicans, would prohibit total nudity at adult oriented businesses and would prohibit touching by semi-nude employees of patrons.

How heartwarming! Though? What if selective enforcement were to become a problem. Targeting businesses frequented by patrons of a particular sexual orientation. Sound familiar?

HB 2297 has not been assigned to a committee yet. It will though. It will. ...

So it goes for now kids!

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New G/L Cable

Continued from Page One

magazine. The every-other-month hour-long program runs airs on 120 PBS stations with a lean budget of \$800,000 annually.

Though "In The Life" started at the relative dawn of Gay marketing, it never sought advertiser support. "We didn't suspect then - and we don't now - that advertising would support the kind of programming we do," says Catania.

A venture very similar to CITV, called Gay Entertainment Television, launched in 1993 with 2.5 hours of weekly programming in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami. GET was a five-year affair of the heart for founder Marvin Schwam, who also had no experience in TV.

"I started doing precisely what Darren is doing - making TV shows, buying time (on cable channels to air them) - and I wish him all the luck in the world," he says. "Even though we were very lucky in getting advertising, what I did was reinvest it into the quality of the programming - you can't make it look like public access. We were spending thousands and thousands a week and there was never enough money, never enough advertising."

With advertisers like Tanqueray, Gramercy Pictures and Sony Corp. (NYSE: SNE), Schwam had planned to take the network to 24 hours and move into 15 cities but realized over time that he needed a lot more cash. "I could've continued to forever buy time but there comes a point where you have to turn the tide," he says. "There comes a point where you need an enormous amount of money and we were looking for \$10 million for just six months."

Schwam moved to go public in 1998, partnering with a Boca Raton underwriter that was to sell \$5 million in stock for GET. The first problem Schwam encountered was a refusal by Nasdaq to accept the symbol GayTV, a battle Schwam won.

The company went public March 23, 1998 but "nobody bought the stock. We went all over the country, with our parties and road shows and even Gay brokerages in (New York) wouldn't touch it. They wanted us first to succeed. We asked our underwriters to put their \$5 million in so everyone else would follow but they said, 'If the Gay community isn't supporting this, then why should we?' We raised less than a million from straight investors only and six months later I gave it all back."

Like investment capital, advertising can also difficult to land. Despite the increasing success of the Gay market as a concept, it has been limited almost entirely to magazines and newspapers - a challenge to overcome for Gay broadcasting.

As an example, Gay marketing specialist Paul Poux says he tries to recommend the Chicago morning program "LesBiGay Radio" to clients but encounters disinterest. The show alone "doesn't have enough critical mass but it's just one market and one program. With 16 markets, CITV might have enough reach."

If longevity is the goal, 17-year-old Gay Cable Network is a leader, though it has never strayed from its low budget roots. GCN has a handful of cities with programs such as "Gay USA," billed as the "longest running Lesbian & Gay television news magazine in the world," interview program "Static" hosted by GCN founder Lou Maletta (frequently wearing his requisite leather harness) and "Men In Films," a review of adult videos. Low production quality and

sexual material have kept major advertisers away.

Aside from local Gay cable programs, there have been other various Gay programming efforts including Gay News Network and Network Q - which were individually produced and sold videotapes.

So why can Black Entertainment TV exist and not yet a Gay version? "It sounds like such a terrific idea," says Schwam, who now runs a ceramic studio in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood. "For BET, it happened with all-white money. (TCI Chief Executive Officer) John Malone put up the money and he said, 'You have to put this network on the air.'"

So far, no Gay media power brokers such as Barry Diller or David Geffen have sidled up to the challenge of a Gay network in the way Malone has. "It's too small of a market group," offers Mankovich. And, he adds, "It's a risky venture." And incidentally, Mankovich says he approached BET's Bob Johnson, who wasn't interested.

Still, the allure remains irresistible for Mankovich. "I think we've learned a lot from (Schwam's) attempt," he says. "Hopefully we will make this one successful."

Supreme Court

Continued from Page One

ance to the lower courts on this life-and-death issue." On a more positive note she added, "The Court did not, however, give a green light to this practice. In declining review, the Justices merely indicated they are not ready to rule at this time." Sawyer's colleague, Lambda AIDS Project Director Catherine Hanssens, said that in the future the group would "continue to work with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice in fighting these discriminatory caps." Hanssens commented that, "These coverage restrictions are not based on any actuarial principles. So why does this insurance company insist on defending such life-threatening policies? Because they think they can get away with it."

Lambda had tried to emphasize as it argued the case the current Food & Drug Administration recommendation that drug treatment be undertaken early against HIV, and that interruption of such treatment (such as might be forced by insurance caps) not only jeopardizes its effectiveness for the individual, but encourages the evolution of drug-resistant strains of the virus. Now that many lives are being extended by the effective yet expensive drug "cocktails," any failure of private insurers to cover the costs ultimately serves to shift the burden of payment to the public coffers.

Desert Vision

Continued from Page Thirteen

The cost of each class is \$50.00 for the five-week period. Advanced registration is required and can be made by calling Desert Vision Center at (520) 290-1591. All group experiences will be held at Desert Vision Center, 1160 N. Craycroft Road, Tucson.



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VISION

It's A New Millennium! Now What?

The parties have ended and the noisemakers have been put away. The last of the "New Year's 2000" merchandise has been discounted and sold by the retailers. Most of us have returned to work, school, and the routines of our daily lives. Some of us are trying to remember to write the date as "2000" rather than "1999." Now that we've entered this new millennium, what's really different?

The Y2K bug failed to infect much of anything, it seems. There were no major terrorist acts to mar the New Year. Airplanes didn't fall out of the skies. The end of the world passed us by. It seems like things are pretty much the same today as they were in December.

I was sorting through the mail this week. I have the same bills to pay I did last year. I received the same junk mail I usually do. It's pretty much been business as usual in my life. I suspect it's been business as usual in the lives of most other people, too.

Last evening, I spoke by phone with a good friend in another city. He asked what New Year's resolutions I had made. I told him that I don't make any. He rightfully laughed when I reminded him that I strive at every moment to be a happy, fulfilled person, so New Year's resolutions are irrelevant. He, in turn, confessed that he had already broken his resolutions. We admitted that we were really living the same patterns we did before. Life really continues to go on much as it has in the past.

What difference does the new millennium make? Was all the hoopla nothing more than hype? Did anything really change? Has humanity entered a new era? A new plane of existence? A new anything? I'm really not as much of a skeptic as I sound. Yet, I must confess that

it seems a bit naive to be to believe that simply changing the date is going to result in major changes our lives. After all, all calendars are arbitrary devices for measuring the concept of time. Whether it's our own Gregorian calendar, the former Julian calendar, the Chinese calendar or the Jewish measure, the dates become pretty much irrelevant. It's the events of life that make the difference in the course of time, not how the time is measured.

What difference does this new millennium make? That really is up to each of us. Will we be kinder people in this new year? Will this century be marked by a greater care for Mother Earth? Will people have a greater awareness of the global importance of our day to day actions? When push comes to shove, that depends on us individuals.

The days of 1999 will fade into 2000 like a seamless garment and business will continue pretty much as usual if we let it. However, if we, as individuals, take time to examine our thoughts, change our behavior, and lead lives that celebrate the vitality and richness of the world around us, the year 2000 can be the beginning of something very different on our planet Earth. Those kinds of changes come slowly, with just noticeable differences in the quality of life, as we reach out to others with more care; make real efforts to preserve our land, air, and water; and reverence the lives of the others creatures with whom we share this planet. It's really up to you and me.

So, in the end, you decide: what difference will this new millennium make?

[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.]

POZ Cafe: Lunch And Social For Persons Living With HIV

TUCSON — People living with HIV are invited to Poz Cafe, serving lunch along with social and recreational activities, on January 20.

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.

At your request, this month's lunch will be chili and cornbread. The chili will be mild, but hot stuff will be available. To compliment this, there will be fresh vegetable trays, crackers and apple cobbler crisp. There will be a variety of caffeinated and decaffeinated beverages as well as a vegetarian entree. All this is served up by some of the most fabulous, caring volun-

teers 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. St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist 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, January 17), call the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647. Reservations are requested.

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U I E A M N J P S

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

LIBRA
(SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
Mars in Pisces lights a fire under rainbow Libras. Are you itching to tackle a mountain of paperwork at work or a mound of flab at the gym? Whatever you choose to plow through, you'll also hear the siren call of Saturn which heats up other parts of your psyche and physique. How can you push those paperclips when you want to push, push, push other things? How indeed!

ARIES
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Your values are in for an overhaul as Mars and Saturn forge ahead. Rambos are energized with an internal flame and are pushed into good Gay works for good Gay charities, thanks to feisty Mars. Do you know the value and power of a dollar? Now, with Saturn's help, squeeze out every penny's worth of your financial portfolio. Keep your eye on the bottom line, buddy!

TAURUS
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Expect the floodgates to open and static projects to flow as Saturn redirects in your own sign. Queer Bulls should make tracks and pull out from the herd. Compadres are there to give you a leg up and there are groups and organizations that hold great opportunities for you to demonstrate your personal and professional prowess. You aren't called bullish for nothing, sweet-heart.

GEMINI
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

What color is your parachute? Lavender?? Your professional stock surges as aggressive Mars enters intuitive Pisces. Perhaps it's time to take a calculated career risk; Mars gives you oomph and calculating Saturn brings you tri-oomph. Pink Twins manifest their destiny now as hidden political foes are exposed and deposed. Saturn can't stand deception. Neither should you.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Both Mars and Saturn encourage queer rabs to join an active global Gay enterprise, expand their moribund social circle and reach out to the rainbow masses. If heavy duty social efforts are too overwhelming now, you can also quite happily travel the globe (alone or with one or two bosom buddies) in search of exotic excitement and spicy thrills. Ready? Pack the pepto!

LEO
(JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Whatever became of the "casting couch"? Whatever indeed! This week, as Mars pushes into Pisces and Saturn stabilizes in sensual Taurus, proud Lions are very tempted to flex their muscles, as it were, on the job. Feisty sexual feelings cannot be denied but be careful of the aftershocks after the earth moves for you. So did you get the part? Was it big?

VIRGO
(AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Free wheeling Gay Virgos are tempted to commit when demanding Mars moves into romantic Pisces. Partnerships take on a greater importance and give you an urge to merge. Choose wisely cousin; Mars can be feckless and reckless, expecting too much and courting disappointment. Saturn, in the meantime, strives for personal improvement. Take a class and hone your skills.

SCORPIO
(OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
Queer Scorps are taken on a wild ride when reckless Mars enters foggy Pisces. Be warned: Mars can be uncontrollable and your quest for fun and frolic can overtake your better judgement. Try to temper your enthusiasm for more risky pastimes while still enjoying that creative spark. Saturn meanwhile helps you solidify partnerships and learn from experience. Ouch!

SAGITTARIUS
(NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
Out with the old and in with the new as Mars in Pisces trolls through your domestic sector. Proud Archers are not the most efficient housekeepers but now the dust flies! Saturn helps the effort by helping you prioritize and maximize your efforts more efficiently. Okay, so it isn't exciting, but think how happy you'll be to find your bed under that pile of dirty clothes....

CAPRICORN
(DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
Irrepressible Mars in Pisces makes carefully measured Gay Capricorns chatty, catty and oh so clever. Just be careful of what you say and how you say it! Top of mind thoughts are blurted out. Thank goodness there are no long lasting repercussions. This week, hard work yields great rewards and hard partying yields other things. Thank you, Saturn!

AQUARIUS
(JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
Ever thought of becoming a fabulously wealthy tycoon? Make it happen when feisty Mars catapults into Pisces. This is a good time for all Aqueerians to focus on amassing their fortune. Saturn pitches in as it settles all outstanding family debits and credits. Clean house both physically and psychologically, cousin. You can start by tossing out that "straight" jacket.

PISCES
(FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Mars in your own sign heralds in a time of great energy, activity and growth. You can make an excellent, if not forceful, first impression and you now have what it takes to launch new projects. Good timing too pink Fish. Make your best moves now while Saturn influences your speech and makes you sound measured, knowledgeable and intelligent. Hurry!!

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A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

My co-worker came into work today feeling ill. And although he took some medicine and felt slightly better this afternoon, I'm afraid he's got that bad flu that is going around.

There sure is a prevalent flu season this year. I saw a report on T.V. just last night showing hospitals across several states which are canceling elective surgeries because of the overflow of ill patients. One doctor said that her emergency room was full 24 hours a day, seven days a week! Although Arizona doesn't seem to be as frightfully affected I can't keep track of the number of people at work who have already missed work in the past few weeks because of the flu.

All this illness around us could easily leave us feeling fearful. After all isn't medicine readily available in most parts of the country and aren't we the leaders in finding cures to what ails us? And yet, we're experiencing one of the worst flu seasons ever.

Lets change pages for a moment and instead of thinking about human, fleshly illness, lets focus on spiritual illness. That's right. Some of our spiritual selves are sick and the illness seems at times out of control. The Bible speaks of how sinful the human heart is and it doesn't take a genius to recognize just how very mean and nasty we all can be with each other. With that said and with the recognition that we all are ill spiritually you would think we would be eager to find a cure.

The "cure" of course is Jesus Christ. God's Word also tells us that the

only way to be clean, the only way to be fully forgiven, the only way to be "cured" is to believe in Jesus Christ and call him Lord. Yet its amazing how many people are wondering around sick refusing to take the medicine, or worse yet don't even know their sick!

As a believer in Jesus and one who has a personal, spiritual relationship with him I know that I could never be as "healthy" spiritually as I am now without Jesus. My human self says, "Take care of yourself. There's nothing wrong with you. There are lots of people who are worse than you."

But I know inside that my sins are as great as anyone else's. Scripture reminds me that sin is sin, period. But since coming to know Jesus an drive my life to him I have been healed and continue to demonstrate that healing more and more.

So what do we do to help each other see that we are ill and need help? I guess, we just share with others how the Lord has healed us and let others know that we are all from the same makeup. Jesus is better than any pill, potion, shot, or therapy that we humans could ever think up. Although finding relief from the flu may be of utmost importance to you right now, please take into consideration as well your spiritual well-being.

At Cornerstone Fellowship we would like to have an opportunity to share Jesus with you. Please feel free to call or come by. Our worship service is Sundays at 10:30 A.M. and our Bible studies are held Sundays at 9:00 A.M. and Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M.

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Personal & Spiritual Growth At Desert Vision

TUCSON - Desert Vision Center is pleased to announce the creation of a series of small group experiences for personal and spiritual growth.

For two years, Desert Vision Center has offered individual services to assist people in their journeys to wholeness. They have also offered seminars and workshops to mental health professionals and the general public on issues of spirituality, creativity, and personal growth. Now, Desert Vision is expanding its scope to provide small group experiences through which individuals can develop skills to enhance their quality of life.

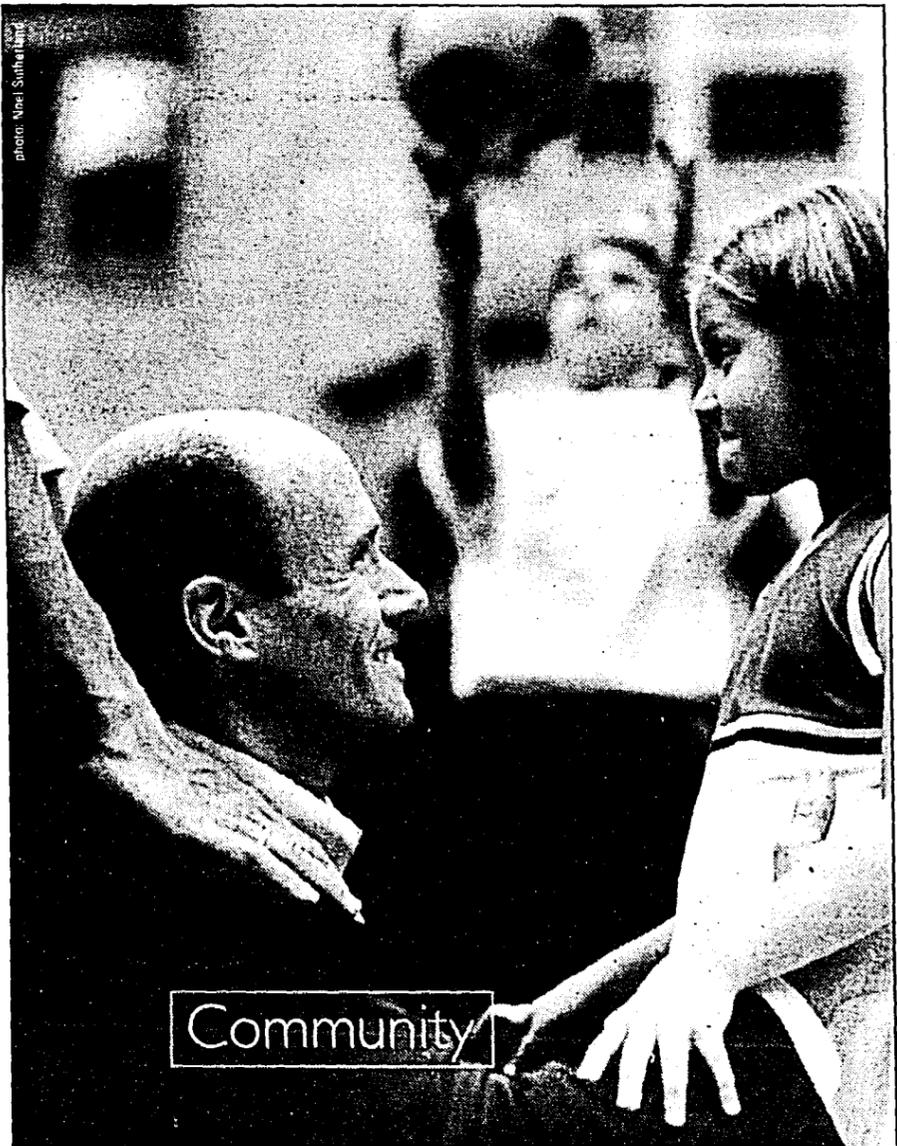
Beginning in January 2000, five group experiences will be hosted at Desert Vision Center. These experiences, as listed in the enclosed brochure, will be limited to eight participants each. While each group is different from the other, they are all designed to provide participants with greater self-understanding, greater appreciation for personal and spiritual development, and skills that can be used in an on-going way after the group experience has ended. These groups are designed to support people on their path in personal development.

Beginning Monday, January 17, from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M., Dr. Lou Kavar will lead, The Good Road: The Spiritual Journey. This five-week experience is based on Kavar's soon to be released book by the same title. This workshop will provide participants the opportunity to learn spiritual practices such as meditation, prayer, journaling, spiritual reading and faith sharing. Each session will include a time of ritual and chant. While the Monday class is open to anyone, a Saturday class on this same topic will be specifically for Gay men.

Beginning Wednesday, January 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M., Ms. Pat Bergen and Dr. Lou Kavar will lead, "Spirituality and Creativity: Expressing the Life Within." This unique experiential workshop, incorporating brief presentations, discussions, guided meditation and creative expression, will provide participants with the opportunity to identify moments in their daily lives which may be called "spiritual." This group will meet for five weeks.

Beginning Saturday, January 15, from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M., Ms. Pat Bergen, a life-time artist and certified counselor, will lead, "Letting Go: Creative Expression for Women." Without any creative experience necessary, and using several different modes of expression, participants will investigate areas of their lives where it makes sense to let go of unfavorable images, ideas, and behaviors. A second section of this five-week class will be held Thursday evenings, beginning January 27.

The facilitators for the groups are: Louis F. Kavar, Ph.D., who holds a master of arts in spirituality from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, and a doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. Certified as a professional psychologist, addictions counselor, hypnotherapist, and is the author of five books and a member of the faculty of the Master in Counseling program at the University of Phoenix, Southern Arizona Campus; and Patricia Chase Bergen, who holds a master of fine arts and a master of arts in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling. Pat, a life-long artist, is an active member of the Arizona Counselors Association, and is an Arizona Certified Associate Counselor and a certified bereavement facilitator.



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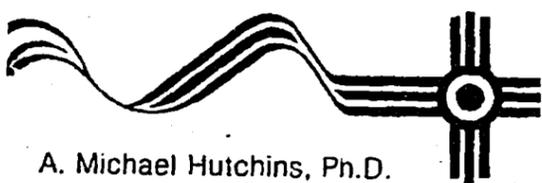
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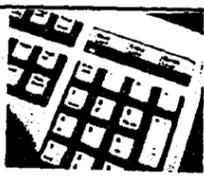
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GO IN GOOD HEALTH.
BY REV. ANDREW BROOKS

This week, I begin my A-Z herbal with the herb Oregon Grape. This one is a liver tonic and blood purifier, and is good for poor protein digestion or hangovers. This herb is said to help with a sluggish gastrointestinal system.

Osha is an herb often combined with Lomatium, which I discussed previously. It is good for bronchial irritations, coughs that are dry, and it has an anti-viral and immune stimulating action.

Passion flower is good as an anti-spasmodic and nerve sedative, so it is very good for worry, anxiety, or depression. Women who suffer from premenstrual depression can benefit from this herb, it also aids sleep, and helps with tense muscles and hypertension. I would place it in the same category of soothing, relaxing herbs such as kava kava and melissa (lemon balm.)

Pau D'arco, also known as Taheebo, is a strong antiseptic and blood purifier, and it is used to fight lymph congestion and candida (yeast infections, which men get too!) This is a powerful

herb, said to be of great benefit to those with AIDS. The freeze-dried form is best. The liquid tincture acts quickly and is readily absorbed. Pau D'Arco is an excellent immune booster. I recommend it to anyone combating viral infection. It is helpful for compromised immunity, and to help fight off infections.

Peppermint helps relieve gas pain, and aids digestion, calms nausea and also diarrhea (which is why it is good to use when you have the flu). That is probably why peppermint chocolate candies are sold in restaurants, they help to soothe the stomach and aid digestion. This herb is a nice way to settle an upset stomach. The commercially available Tummy Mint Tea has long been used as a stomach calmativ, and makes a nice drink also. It has a pleasant flavor.

Pipsissewa is another of those wonderful herbs for the kidneys and urinary system, used as a diuretic, and is very good for those suffering with urinary tract infections, including gravel and kidney stones, it is said to be the herb of choice when urination is scanty, painful, and contains mucus.

Kidney and urinary infections are far more prevalent than people realize, and should never be ignored, treat them right away! Also, drink large amounts of water to flush the system.

Pleurisy root is an expectorant herb used for bronchitis and pneumonitis (inflammation of the lungs), and has known to be helpful with pleurisy (hence the name).

Prickly Ash is an herb used as a stimulant, and also for poor peripheral circulation, and is said to help with mouth ulcers. This one is a desert herb, often combined with other herbs to increase the healing effect.

Red Clover is a strong blood purifier, which means, when you are ill, it helps to remove infections from the bloodstream. It is said to help with coughs and to aid the nervous system. Red Clover is said to be of benefit against tumors and cancer.

I will conclude my A-Z herbal next week. Goddess bless. Til next time, Go in Good Health.

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



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Stop Bugging Lawmakers

Continued from Page One

vance marriage rights in the state legislature, and Bonauto gives high praise to those firms.

Actions in your own home state to advance the recognition of Gay and Lesbian couples will make a difference, Bonauto said. "Vermont has made as much progress as it has because Vermonters talked with their fellow community members about their lives and why they should have the freedom to marry," she wrote, referring in part to some five years of education efforts by the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force (a sister organization to the Action Committee). She also believes it is vital to defeat measures designed to prohibit same-gender marriage, such as California's Proposition 22 (to be voted on March 7). Other such measures include a newly-filed proposed initiative in Nevada, a bill already filed in New Hampshire, and a bill to be introduced next week in Ohio. More information can be obtained from the National Freedom to Marry Coalition.

Bonauto also sought to clarify several points. First, she wrote, "We want to correct a misperception that the Court endorsed 'domestic partnership' or some alternative to civil marriage. That's simply

not true. The Court did not reach the issue of how to remedy the discrimination. It left that issue to the Legislature, and made clear that allowing issuance of marriage licenses is a definite way to satisfy the Court's ruling. The thrust of the Court's ruling is that all Vermonters must receive the protections and benefits that flow from civil marriage. We are confident that when the Legislature studies the issue, it will conclude the only way to do this is to include same-sex couples in the civil marriage laws."

Despite the initial rush of some legislators to seize on a domestic partnership alternative to marriage, Bonauto notes that, "It now looks like that was only a first reaction which is changing with time. ... People are beginning to hear our message that separate is not equal." Indeed state Senator Jeb Spaulding recently sent a letter to all his colleagues encouraging them to take seriously the option of including Gays and Lesbians under the marriage law writing that, "It seems ludicrous to me to have the exact same listing of rights and benefits for same-sex and heterosexual couples, but have different names for the commitment process. I predict that a strictly semantic differentiation will please no one in the end and be extremely unwieldy as well." Bonauto said the Action Committee "will work with the Legislature and share with them our information about the 'portability' of marriage, how marriage is a gateway to third-party benefits like health and pension benefits from private employers, how marriage is a gateway to federal benefits and protections, and why marriage would be simpler, less confusing and less costly than a new elaborate alternative to marriage."

The attorney also offers the assurance that the members of the Vermont House Judiciary Committee, which began hearings this week "are truly citizen legislators and extremely conscientious and hard-working. They are keeping an open mind about how to proceed." Co-counsel for the Gay and Lesbian plaintiffs Susan Murray will be the first witness heard by the Committee; others expected to testify include the state Attorney General and the heads of several state agencies, an attorney who represented the Catholic and Mormon Churches in a friend-of-the-Court brief, and various scholars.

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Beyond The Millennium Madness: Why 2000 Is Important

By Kerry Lobel

WASHINGTON, DC - Where were you when the century turned? Odds are you weren't among the three million huddled masses shivering at Times Square, or with the 300,000 celebrants gathered before the Washington Monument.

No: Odds are you were at home, or perhaps at a small gathering with friends, family or your partner.

As humans, we like to bring order to our lives by keeping count. One way we keep count is by marking time. For those who follow the Julian calendar, of course, this past Jan. 1 became the new day of a new year, a new century and a new millennium.

What is the significance of this new date for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered campaign for equality?

On the one hand, there is little

significance whatsoever about the new date, except for the coincidence of the calendar change. But when one considers the importance of the year 2000 through the rainbow lens of the GLBT movement, the year takes on monumental significance.

Three factors will set this year apart - and determine whether it is a progressive year for our movement. They involve ballot initiatives, primary and general elections and last but not least, state and federal legislative activity.

Let's take these one at a time. By now, many readers of this column know that on March 7, voters in California will vote on the Knight initiative, officially known as both Proposition 22 and the Limit on Marriage initiative.

What many may not know is that our community could face a record number of GLBT-related ballot initiatives this November. According to Dave Fleischer, an elections expert who heads up NGLTF's

Electoral Training Initiative, we could face ballot fights in Colorado, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, and Dade County, Florida. These elections won't be won or lost by a coin flip; their outcomes will be determined by which side organizes the hardest - precinct by precinct, neighborhood by neighborhood, door by door.

Primary elections and November's general election also will provide a test. We know that not only is Congress and the White House up for grabs (and the Supreme Court appointments that most certainly will follow).

Also at stake is the composition of almost every state legislature. This outcome will go far to determine not just our success and failure over the course of the next two years, but potentially throughout the next decade. That's because the state legislatures that are seated beginning in January 2001 will decide redistricting - and winners get to draw the lines. Some political analysts believe that redistricting in

California alone could determine who controls the U.S. House of Representatives through the year 2012.

Finally, there is the upcoming federal and state legislative activity. Congress has yet another chance to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, adopt nondiscrimination legislation that covers both sexual orientation and gender identity in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, and repeal the "Don't ask, don't tell" ban on military service. If Congress continues to refuse to address our standing as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people who deserve full equality under the law, then we need to send a message that we will elect a Congress that will act on our behalf.

Of course, that means local organizing. And local organizing is the key to the other part of the equation - state legislative activity. In 1999, for the first time ever, favorable GLBT-related bills outnumbered unfavorable bills in all state legislatures combined by a margin of 269 to 205. We recorded many a significant breakthrough, ranging from repeal of New Hampshire's ban on adoption by same-sex couples to employment rights legislation in Nevada to a sweeping series of bills in California to a hate crimes bill in Missouri that included both sexual orientation and gender identity. All of these gains were documented in NGLTF's recent report, "Capital Gains and Losses: A State By State Review of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and HIV/AIDS Related Legislation in 1999."

Today, because of gains both last year and during the past decade, more Americans than ever before live in towns, cities, counties or states with some type of law banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

But a majority of Americans live in areas where they can be denied employment, housing, access to public accommodations just because of who they are. Someone once said, "If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got."

A new millennium, a new century. Sounds exciting. But the truth is, unless we work hard for change this year, we're just going to get what we always got. And that's the real significance of the new millennium.

[Kerry Lobel is the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.]

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Historic Secrets Come Out

LONDON, UK (NP) - During the prosecution's summation of the 1895 "gross indecency" case against Oscar Wilde, the jury foreman reportedly interrupted several times to ask why Wilde's lover, Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas had not also been charged.

That question has finally been answered with the discovery of a letter from senior Treasury counsel Charles Gill to Sir Hamilton Cuffe, director of public prosecutions at the time. Gill argued that Bosie, who was also accused by two of the "rent boy" witnesses who testified against Wilde, was in reality victimized by the renowned poet and playwright. The letter was found in early December, after spending more than 100 years in an unrelated file.

Gill wrote, "Having regard to the fact that Douglas was an undergraduate at Oxford when Wilde made his acquaintance, the difference in their ages, and the strong influence that Wilde has obviously exercised over Douglas since that time, I think that Douglas if guilty may fairly be regarded as one of Wilde's victims. Although I am afraid there is little room for doubt that immoral relations existed between them, there is no proof of any indecency between them."

Although the record now indicates that Bosie was no stranger to homosexuality when they met in 1891 and that their promiscuous lifestyle was more to Bosie's taste than to Wilde's, Sir Hamilton was quick to take Gill's interpretation as a way out.

"We believe that he is of weak character, that (assuming his guilt) Wilde obtained great influence over him when he was an undergraduate at Oxford, that he induced him to enter on these evil practices, Douglas being led away by admiration for Wilde's intellect and literary abilities, and that Wilde has exercised almost absolute sway and control over this young man," the chief prosecutor wrote to Home Secretary Herbert Asquith. "We think he fell when a boy at Oxford and has never had the force of will or character to emancipate himself from his degrading submission to Wilde. It may be hoped that if Wilde be convicted and Douglas be thus forcibly separated from him there may be a chance of his abandoning his present course in life."

As to how the public might react to the decision not to charge Bosie, Sir Hamilton said, "Irresponsible persons very likely will say that he goes unprosecuted because of his position in life. I hope this will never be said with truth in respect of any public department, but equally I hope it may never be able to be said that we have prosecuted a person because of his position in life. We think there would be a real danger of a conviction on unreliable evidence."

The charges against Wilde came as the result of Bosie's father, the Marquess of Queensbury, finding out about his son's relationship. Queensbury first attempted to disrupt the premiere of "The Importance of Being Earnest." Failing that, he left a calling card saying, "To Oscar Wilde posing Somdomite" [sic] at Wilde's club. Bosie convinced Wilde to have Queensbury arrested for libel, but that trial ended with the Marquess being exonerated and Wilde being arrested for illegal sex acts. Contrary to Sir Hamilton's expectations, Wilde's imprisonment did not "cure" Bosie of his feelings, and the two met in Naples after Wilde's release. When Wilde died in 1900, Bosie was the chief mourner and paid the funeral expenses.

Wilde's grandson Merlin Holland told the "Daily Telegraph," "What [the letter] is really saying is that there wasn't

enough evidence to bring against Douglas, and if Douglas had been acquitted it would have been harder to convict Wilde. Douglas was certainly no innocent. One of the reasons he and Wilde got together was because Bosie came to him all a fluster because he was being blackmailed. There is no question that he had homosexual relations before Wilde appeared on the scene."

Newly released medical reports on the Kray twins, Britain's notorious partners in crime, reveal that Ronnie and Reggie each harbored a love a classical music and literature. The reports detail examinations of the brothers conducted before the 1968 trial that convicted them of two gangland-style killings and were released by the Public Record Office January 5 under the 30-year rule, according to the London Times.

Gay twin Ronnie expressed his fondness for opera stars Maria Callas and Benjamino Gigli, as well as his interest in biographies (one favorite at the time was on Gay Lawrence of Arabia). The examining physician also found that Ronnie had been diagnosed as schizophrenic while serving a prison term in the mid-1950s and became depressed and paranoid without medication. Despite his mental illness, Ronnie was open about his sexuality and said before the release of the film "The Krays" in 1987, "I am quite happy to be portrayed as a homosexual, it's nothin' to be ashamed of, but I don't want to seem a cissy, cos I ain't one." Ronnie died of a heart attack in March 1995 at Broadmoor maximum security psychiatric hospital.

His brother Reggie, who was supportive of Ronnie's sexual orientation, told the doctor of his interest in books of sayings and proverbs and was at the time engaged in reading the poems of Robert Frost and several other selections. Reggie remains incarcerated in Wayland Prison; his next parole review is set for March of this year and his supporters hope to see him transferred to an open prison. ...

A second suicide note purportedly from the renowned Gay writer and Japanese nationalist Yukio Mishima was disclosed to the Kyodo News Agency by one of his former followers January 4. The note, which Kiyoshi Honda says was given to him by Mishima's wife the night he and his lover and student Masakatsu Morita committed ritual disembowelment (seppuku) in 1970.

The seppuku followed an action in which Mishima and his private army, the Tatenokai (Shield Society), stormed Japan's Jieitai (Self Defense Force) Eastern Army headquarters, and held a top general hostage. According to the four-page letter produced by Honda, Mishima wanted to see the stripped Japanese military rise up against the post-World War II U.S.-written constitution and restore the Emperor to power, but he acknowledged that the time was not right.

Honda, a 52-year-old company director, published another alleged Mishima suicide note in 1980. In October 1999, Mishima's family won a lawsuit to block publication of a collection of the novelist's letters to one of his male lovers, the distinguished author Jiro Fukushima.



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Bill for Dinner Out as we go to Gandhi's for fine Indian food. Please phone in your reservation to Bill as soon as possible so we can notify the restaurant of the number of men attending. For directions and reservations, please contact Bill at 546-7539.

Road Runner Regional Rodeo Jan 14-16

The annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo will take place at Corona Ranch and Rodeo Grounds, 29th Avenue and Baseline Road in Phoenix. See story on front page of this issue of Observer for more details.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join us for our Topic of Discussion as we look at coming out. Where are you at in the coming out process? For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

9:30 a.m. Tucson Prime Timers breakfast at Emerald City, 509 N. 4th Ave. Call 584-0280 for details.

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Bill for the MSN Premiere of "Execution of Justice"-a film about Dan White and the killings of Harvey Milk and George Moscone. For directions and reservations, please call Bill at 546-7539.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

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.

The Men's Massage Group meets at 5:00 p.m. This 10 year-old group meets every 3rd Sunday of the month and is a great place to meet new friends, other men and relax through the medium of layman's massage. It is a fun and lively group of 8-10 men. Non-sexual. Call Marc well in advance to reserve a place at 881-4582. Centrally located. Small fee. A good time is had by all.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

11:30 a.m., Tucson Prime Timers lunch / tour, Pima Air Museum, 6000 E. Valencia Rd. Call 584-0280 for details.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

TIHAN'S monthly luncheon 'Poz Cafe' at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, 4625 E. River Rd (at the corner of Swan and River). For HIV+ adults and a guest who may be a partner/family/volunteer/friend who is respectful of confidentiality. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with lunch being served at noon. Today's menu is Chili and Cornbread (mild - but hotstuff is available), homemade Potato Broccoli Soup along with a variety of fresh vegetable side dishes salad, breads, desserts and beverages. After the meal you are welcome to stay and play several games of Bingo with prizes or play other card and board games. Decorate and paint a ceramic box or just relax, sit and chat. Reservations requested no later than Monday, January 17. Call 299-6647. Transportation can be provided with advance notice.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

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, January 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, JANUARY 22

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, JANUARY 23

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.

5:00 p.m. Tucson Prime Timers dinner & meeting at Mountain View Restaurant, 1220 E. Prince Rd. Call 584-0280 for details.

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

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. Join us for the MSN presentation of "Retro TV"-three episodes of TV series prior to the 90s. Tonight we feature an episode of the classic Mary Tyler Moore Show and two episodes from two other shows of hers that didn't make it: "Mary" and "Annie McGivrey". For reservations & directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Bridge night. Bridge for men who want to refresh their bridge skills (or just have fun); table talk playing. For reservations and directions, please call Terry at 577-3545.

Bar Calendar

Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

IBT's - 9:00 P.M. 'The Girlie Show' hosted by Lucinda Holiday with Electra Bleu, Naomi Knight and Angela Dodd.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

VALENTINA'S - The Tucson Weekly is visiting here tonight with their "Personal Call On The Road" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with games, food and lots of fun. Dancing later too. Check it out!

FRI SAT. SUN. MON., JANUARY 14-17

VENTURE-N - Fiesta de Los Ocos 'Aquarius Party' 8:00 p.m. until 7:00. Our hosts: Mr. Venture-N 2000 Keith; and Venture-N Boy 2000, Louis.. 50/50 raffle, games, goodies. Celebrate with Hot Aquarius men.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

VALENTINA'S - A benefit show to be held here tonight for Children's Charity. Crystal Abrams hosts. 8:30ish.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

IBT's - Benefit Bar-B-Que and Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. to benefit the Gay Men's Health Project, also Karaoke on the Patio with Billy Dee from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The at 9:00 p.m., a special benefit show for Bunny FuFu who is a contestant for Miss Gay Tucson. The show features Bunny and friends, Mr. Kenneth Blake, Adrienne Alexander, Stella Virgin and Patsy La Qua.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

IBT's - 9:00 P.M., The Girlie Show featuring Lucinda Holiday, Mr. Kenneth Blake, Tiffany St. Thomas and Faith Michaels.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

IBT's - A return appearance by the hilarious Rudy De La Mor. Make your plans now and get here early for a good seat. Watch for more details next week.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

IBT's - It's Super Bowl Sunday and the boys are planning a great day for the big game. Watch for details.

FRI. SAT. SUN. FEBRUARY 11-12-13

Mr. Padlock Contest in Phoenix, 998 E. Indian School. Deadline for entry is January 30. Winning contestant receives hotel and air fare to Chicago for the International Mr. Leather contest May 25-29. Call the Padlock, 1-602-266-5640 for entry details.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

IBT's - A big Valentine's Party is planned here. Watch for details.

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- install new hardware
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Bruce as he hosts 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 Bruce at 743-3890.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Les & Jerry as they host the first-ever Hearts Night. Join them for this fun and wicked card games where it's every man for himself! For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

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.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Queer Voice is sponsoring 'National Freedom To Marry Day' today at 4:00 p.m. at the Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave. (Downstairs). There will be talks from politicians and activists, a performance by Desert Voices Chorus, a commitment ceremony and reception. Queer Voice is a collaborative program of local agencies including SAAF and Wingspan.

THURSDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24-27

4 Day Youth Retreat sponsored by Queer Voice. The retreat is for queer youth 23 and under. It's free. All you need to bring is sleeping gear, clothes and toiletries. Topics include Coming Out; Homophobia; Dating and Communication; Sex and Sexuality; Drugs and Alcohol; Activism and Leadership. To sign up or for more information call Mike or Rocky at 628-7223 or 410-4512. Queer Voice is a program of SAAF, Pima County Health Department and Wingspan.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

ANT 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.
 STONEWALL - Open Noon. Special drink prices Noon til 7pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee 9pm til close. Dance club opens at 8pm. DJ Marquis.
 VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. \$1.25 Tomato Juca Cocktails, Bolemakers. 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 3-7pm. Volleyball Court is Open. Check in with bartender.

Monday

ANT 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 \$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.
 STONEWALL - Open Noon. Happy Hour Prices til 7pm.
 VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: \$1.50 Well or Domestic. Football on big screen. Food & Drink Specials.
 VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Dart Tourney 8pm, pot matched. Patio opens 5pm.
 WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

Tuesday

ANT NOBODY'S BUSINESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm \$3 entry, pot matched. \$1 longnecks for pool players. Funky disco w/DJ Starzee & 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.
 STONEWALL - Open Noon. Happy Hour Prices til 7pm.
 VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: \$1.50 Well or Domestic.
 VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Pato open 5pm. 1st Tuesday TKO Spaghetti Feed
 WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Trivia Party 8pm-close. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. Skyy's the limit \$2.25

Wednesday

ANT NOBODY'S BUSINESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Free Pool 2-4. \$1.50 Longnecks 8-midnight. Dance with DJ Stephanie 9-close.
 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.
 STONEWALL - Open Noon. Special drink prices noon til 7pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee 9pm til close. Dance club opens at 8pm. DJ Marquis.
 VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7pm: \$1.50 Well or Domestic. Free Pool 9pm-12:45am. Dance Mix.
 VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Cuervo Gold \$2 and Cuervo 1800 \$2.25 Open to close. Patio opens at 5pm.
 WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Volleyball on demand 7 days a week. See bartender.

Thursday

ANT NOBODY'S BUSINESS - 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.
 STONEWALL - Open Noon. Happy Hour Prices til 7pm. Dance club opens at 8pm. DJ Marquis.
 VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: \$1.50 Well or Domestic. Free Pool 9pm-12:45am. Dance Mix.
 VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio open 5pm. 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 3-7pm. Trivia Thursday 8pm-close. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

Friday

ANT NOBODY'S BUSINESS - 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 beer and well. \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan & Tracey 5:30-8:30pm. Patio Bar 9-1. Dance Party 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.
 STONEWALL - Open Noon. Happy Hour Prices til 7pm. Dance club opens at 8pm. DJ Marquis.
 VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: \$1.50 Well or Domestic. Variety Dance Mix.
 VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Snacks served at 5pm. Patio open 5pm. Hides Leather Store opens 8pm.
 WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2. Call Martinis \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

Saturday

ANT NOBODY'S BUSINESS - 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.
 STONEWALL - Open Noon. Happy Hour Prices til 7pm. Dance club opens at 8pm. DJ Marquis.
 VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: \$1.50 Well or Domestic. Drag Shows. Dance.
 VENTURE-N - Open 6am. 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 3-7pm. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

Safe Sex

Is Bringing Men Together

NOTICES

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.

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 888-1208 or Brian at 882-4726 for information.

HIKE & BIKE DYKES. Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Call 327-7239 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. 578-9020

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)327-1820 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. Elliot 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

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 624-8788.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 8:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9488 or Ray at 749-5247.

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7288.

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 8:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9682.

Join the **LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT**. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3681 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Church, 3289 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 890-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

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 8 weeks. 694-7063.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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 299-8647.

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

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.

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.saat.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 mandmtuaz@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 36284, Tucson, AZ 85740-6284. 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.

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.

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, 8523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 802-279-4805.

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)617-4681, or <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/5088>

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 815-1887.

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).

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 (802)534-8219 (Phoenix)

NOTICES

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, 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 299-8647.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays noon-1pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-6878 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 791-7878.

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, 1436 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 (evetten@ix.netcom.com)

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 8:03 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 888-8010 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. Dezerf Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Dezerf 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. SAGAE@aol.com <http://members.aol.com/sagaemail>

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4800.

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL VETERANS meet at Wingspan every fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. For more info call Miguel Guzman, 889-4078 or pager 448-5123.

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 293-6824.

WOMEN 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, religions 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 84885, Tucson, AZ 85718-8998. Tele 520-577-3760. 1-888-774-9200, Fax 520-577-7443

REVELLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Have any history/experience singing? Join us!! Call 881-1389 to audition. 617-3100 for more info.

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PERSONALS

CONTESTANTS WANTED FOR MR. PADLOCK 2000 IN PHOENIX. Entry deadline Jan. 30, 2000. Winner receives hotel accommodations and air fare to Chicago's International Mr. Leather 2000 Contest. Applications available at the padlock or call (602)288-5640. 807

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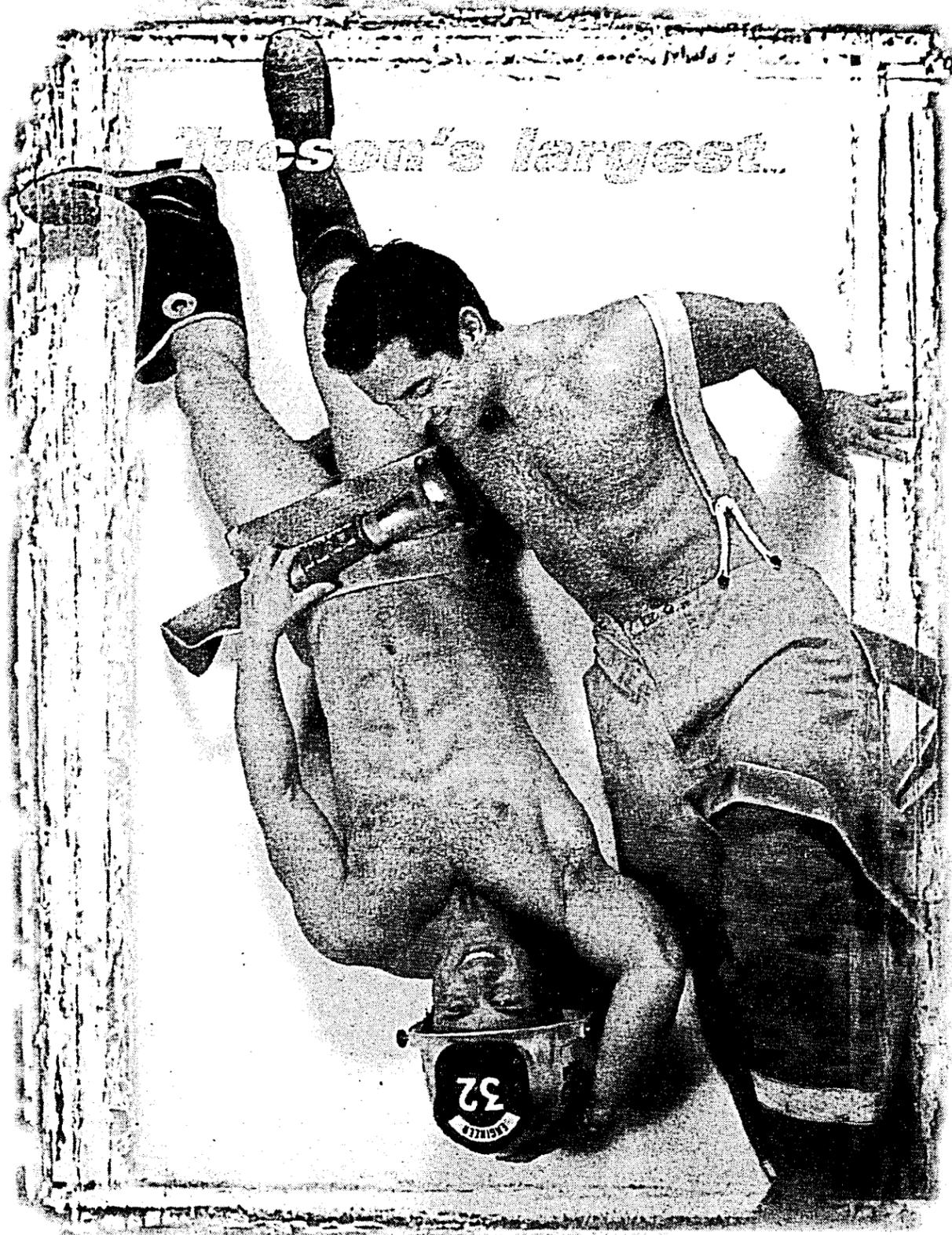
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