

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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'Make Your Family Count' GLBT Visibility In 2000 Census Urged

WASHINGTON, DC - The Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS) and the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) announced "Make Your Family Count," a national public education campaign aimed at encouraging same-sex couples within the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) communities to be counted in the U.S. Census. IGLSS and the NGLTF Policy Institute are the nation's two largest GLBT think-tanks.

"This campaign has one simple message: Our families exist and we must be counted," said Paula Eitelbrick, Family Policy Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. "The U.S. Census tracks changes in American family structures. Over the last ten years our community has had a major impact in changing family policies, from domestic partnership to second parent adoption. It's time that we include our families in the official count."

The "Make Your Family Count" campaign is seeking donated ad space and air time from media outlets with large GLBT audiences. The campaign urges same-sex couples living in the same household to mark the (U)nmarrried Partners' option when asked to describe their relationships. The forms will be mailed to every household in the United States in March and April. The campaign has also launched a website, <http://www.WeCount.org>, with information about the Census and guidance to GLBT couples on answering the Census forms.

"The Census will provide us with a gold mine of information. We will have a statistical picture of same-sex households by racial composition, where they live, and how many children they have," said Dr. Lee Badgett, Director of the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies. "The Census tracks changes in families in the U.S. Our families deserve to be counted so that the full diversity of the American family can be reflected and presented to policy makers."

"All public policy flows from the U.S. Census," Eitelbrick explained. "If we are not counted, we lose out on federal funding for research, funding for community services and passage and implementation of laws that benefit our community. We also sacrifice important opportunities

for more equitable political representation of our community."

Eitelbrick added that information collected by the Census will lay the statistical foundation critical in demonstrating the need for domestic partnership benefits, funding for community services, and passage of policies that reflect the needs of GLBT families and their children. "While legislation in states like Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts has moved in our favor, we are seeing a definite backlash to our efforts through passage of laws blocking marriage and adoption in other states like Utah, California and Arkansas," said Eitelbrick. "The Census count will allow us to break through the rhetoric and show dispassionately that hundreds of thousands of same-sex couples already share committed relationships and are raising children. These families need the same resources and recognition as any other family."

In 1990, the category of "unmarried partner" first appeared on the census form. Approximately 150,000 households self-reported as same-sex unmarried partners - a severe undercount compounded by the U.S. Census Bureau's disqualification of same-sex couples who marked "spouse" to describe their relationship.

According to Badgett, the Bureau considered such a response to be a mistake because it is legally impossible for same-sex couples to marry. "This year, the Census Bureau has indicated that it will simply re-categorize the answers from "spouse" to "unmarried partner" so that the data is not lost," said Badgett.

According to the 1990 Census, 75 percent of American families no longer reflect traditional definitions of families, consisting of a married heterosexual couple with children under 18. Unmarried couples comprised approximately 4.5 million families, a 400 percent increase since 1970. This figure reflects the rapidly changing family unit.

To date the Census Bureau has not included a question about sexual orientation. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people not living with someone of the same sex whom they consider to be an unmarried partner will not be visibly count-

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Fracas At Orange, CA School Board

ORANGE, CA (NP) - It may have appeared there was some resolution in the controversy over a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Club forming at El Modena High School in Orange, California: the club had won a federal court injunction and had begun to hold meetings, despite protest in the community from both local residents and visitors from Utah.

But whatever peace there was, was shattered as the Orange Unified School District Board held its regular meeting on March 9 and a protest turned briefly physical.

Some thirty masked demonstrators wearing black hooded cloaks quietly entered the room through the early part of the meeting, one of them carrying a sign reading, "Anarchist and Gay Pride." But when Donna Sigalas, a parent who has been an outspoken leader in opposing the formation of the GSA for about seven months, took the microphone and began another speech against it, at least two of the masked group rushed forward and tried to take the mike away from her. [Ed. note: At previous public sessions, Sigalas has charged that Gays and Lesbians are on a mission to infiltrate schools. "It's about a national organization wanting to set up clubs

throughout Orange Unified and Orange County," she said. "This is about a group wanting to change the mind-set of humanity."] A principal and a district administrator moved to intervene. The would-be censors fled the scene, followed by the rest of the masked group, but not before leaving the administrator with a deep scratch on the wrist and the principal with a bite on the arm. Several adults attempted to block the fleeing protesters without success. Board president Linda Davis adjourned the meeting immediately. There were no arrests.

There has been no indication that any of the masked protesters were involved, but the "Los Angeles Times" reported earlier on the day of the meeting that some 30 students from Villa Park High School had formed an organization in December specifically to challenge the Orange school board on a number of issues, several relating to El Modena's Gay-Straight Alliance. That group had given the "Times" no indication that it planned any actions other than writing letters to and talking with school board members, and had said its spokesperson Christopher Koontz would raise its concerns at the March 9 board meeting. The group wanted the board to drop its opposition to the El Modena GSA; to ques-

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHTEEN

G/L Harassment In Military Increases, According To Report

WASHINGTON, DC (NP) - The military watchdog's annual review shows more of the same and much worse for Gay & Lesbian servicemembers, while the parents of a slain soldier take the Army to court.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), the watchdog group founded to aid those harmed by the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on military service by Gays and Lesbians, on March 9 released its sixth annual report, "Conduct Unbecoming." In conjunction with the release of the 75-page report, the mother and stepfather of Gay-bashing murder victim Private First Class Barry Winchell announced they are filing a wrongful death lawsuit against the U.S. Army. Without having had an opportunity to review "Conduct Unbecoming," Department of Defense spokespeople denied the thrust of the report while lacking any records of their own to support their claims; the White House expects to see "substantial" improvement this year, and both promised to follow up on any information

provided by SLDN specific enough for them to do so. The policy is highly political this year, as Republican Presidential hopeful Texas Governor George W. Bush supports it while Democratic Presidential hopeful Vice President Al Gore believes Gays and Lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the military.

GOOD NEWS?

SLDN's report finds that "witch hunts, physical abuse by investigators, and criminal prosecutions of Lesbian, Gay and bisexual servicemembers have all subsided," but adds that, "these successes reflect the low baseline used to measure success and have required constant pressure from SLDN to achieve." SLDN's recommendations are not substantially different than they have been since its first report, and while they are detailed and cover a range of topics, most importantly they call for accountability and consequences for

CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN

UPDATE

Tomer To Be Honored By Social Workers Group

TUCSON - Lavina E. Tomer, founder of the Wingspan Domestic Violence Project, will be honored as "Citizen of the Year" by the National Association of Social Workers, Arizona, Branch 2, at a luncheon, Friday, March 31, 11:30 a.m., at the Viscount Hotel.

Lavina's vision of providing resources, support and education for victims/survivors of domestic violence in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities came to fruition in 1993, when she founded the Wingspan Domestic Violence Project (WDVP). Prior to this time, no Tucson domestic violence agency provided specific services in the LGBT communities. Likewise, no agency in the Tucson LGBT communities provided domestic violence services. Under Lavina's organization to one with an executive director and three staff members. Through her steady and tireless efforts, Tucson is now home to one of the most respected and innovative domestic violence programs in the country. This award is not only a reflection of Lavina's hard work, but also is a reflection of the concern and support of Tucson's justice-making communities.

Wingspan Domestic Violence Project is located in the Wingspan Community Center, 300 East Sixth Street. The Project provides free, confidential services, including a 24-hour hotline, weekly support groups, shelter services, urban and rural outreach and education and distribution of educational material. Information and services are available by calling (520) 624-0348. If you need to talk or have questions about your relationships, please call. Love shouldn't hurt.

Tempe Mayor Re-Elected

TEMPE - On Tuesday, March 14, 21% of registered voters went to the polls to select a Mayor and three Council seats in the city's primary election.

In the Mayor's race, by a 70% margin, voters re-elected the openly-Gay incumbent, Neil Giuliano to a fourth, two-year term.

Voters will go to the polls to select three City Councilmembers, since no candidate got a majority of votes in the non-partisan, primary election.

Woody's Hit #1 At NTN Trivia

TUCSON - Woody's, located at 3710 N. Oracle, Tucson's only Gay and Lesbian bar which offers NTN satellite trivia, pulled off a rarity during one of the NTN games played this past week.

On Thursday, March 9, during NTN's current events trivia game, "Abused News," the bar had the #1 individual, by Observer reporter Mark R. Kerr, and location average scores of the more than 2,000

restaurants, night clubs and bars, plus the 10,000 individual contestants participating across North America. Mr. Ralph Franklin, who finished second, also had the overall number two score. The other three of the top five scores finished in the top

NTN is a satellite service, offering a wide range of games dealing with many topics, ranging from sports to politics to current events to music. Woody's offers NTN seven days a week but on Tuesday's and Thursday's is "Trivia Night," where the winning score of a game, from 7:00 P.M. to close, can win a "fabulous prize."

So if you're not ready to give "your final answer," stop by and try NTN out.

IN MEMORIAM



JONATHAN GEORGE TAIZ
6/15/1957 - 3/1/2000

Forty-two years of age. He is remembered for his unmatched kindness and purity of heart, his stunning artist talents, his charismatic appeal to children, his special bond with animals, his friendships with the people of the Hopi, Brazil and the Gay community.

"The Life of a man is a circle, and so it is like everything where the sacred power moves. We dance in the circle that never ends, the good path of the soul. Jon, now you are one with spirit." - Eddie G.

Informing the Community

The Observer



The only weekly
Gay newspaper
in the southwest

P.O. Box 50733, Tucson, Arizona 85703-1733
(602) 622-7176



LEE RIDINGER
6/6/1943 - 3/9/2000

The community lost a good friend with the passing of Lee Ridinger, in March 9. After an extensive surgery, Lee suffered a fatal heart attack which took him from us. He was 56.

A long time member of Tucson's Gay community, Lee was very active in fund raisers, clubs and causes throughout the year. A past president of TKO, he was also a founding member of TALL, and manager of Tuff Stuff II, at the Venture-N. He was a man of many talents, as he was employed in a variety of professions from florist to microchip assembler.

Lee's wonderful smile, wild sense of humor, and his kind, gentle heart will be greatly missed by the many friends in Tucson and Phoenix that loved him.

You will now laugh with the angels, Lee. Although we will miss you so, we know you are in a greater place now. No memorial service is pending, instead, he asked that he be cremated and his ashes scattered in the desert.

With all our love to our "best friend," Lee Ridinger.

"FRIENDS"

Remember our friendship always,
Never let it pass,
They way it all began
They way it went so fast.

Until another time
When peace has passed us by,
And war and hate are gone
And love rules on and on.

I'll stand beside you
As once we did before,
Friends through eternity, caring more and more.

With all my love
I say "good-bye",
But not for long you see
For the light still burns
Through all Eternity ...

Linda & Paul Vetrano

WE
NEED
YOU!



IF YOU

- LIKE TO TALK
- LIKE TO MEET PEOPLE
- WOULD LIKE TO EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT HIV/AIDS
- WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU!

PLEASE
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AT
628-7223

SAAF

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Office Closed Thursdays
Computer FAX (520)792-8382

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Informing the Community
The Observer

CBA Tucson's Only Gay & Lesbian Business Networking Organization
COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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- ▼ Evening Mixers and Business "Out & Abouts" ▼ Membership Directory Listing
- ▼ Web & Digital Directory: www.ns4b.com/cba ▼ Newsletter: The CBA Reporter

Check us out! Membership & Meeting Information: 615-6436

Spring Fling!

St. Patrick's Day Party
Friday, March 17th 5:30 til ?
Drink specials and
Rodgers Corned Beef-N-Cabbage

C.D. Release Party
Saturday, March 18th, 10:00 pm
Special appearance by
Musty Chiffon
Performing songs from her new cd
With giveaways of her CD, music videos,
And "Reel Gay" Videos

Sunday March 19th Line-up

5:30 – 8:00 pm

Benefit BBQ & 16oz Beerbust
To benefit PFLAG

4:30 – 7:30

Karaoke on the patio with Billy Dee
'Tucson's Best Sunday On The Patio'

9:00 pm

Fundraiser Show for Phaedra
Candidate for Miss Gay Cosmopolitan
Featuring Lucinda Holliday, Bunny FuFu,
Deora Le Blanc, Shaundrianna, Stella Virgin

Live Jazz And Tea Dance

Friday 6 – 9 pm on the patio
With Susan and Tracy
And Bucky's Buffet

The Girlie Show

Wednesday, March 22nd, 9 pm
Hosted by Lucinda Holliday
Featuring: Ajia Simone, Mr Kenneth Blake,
And Patsy La Croix

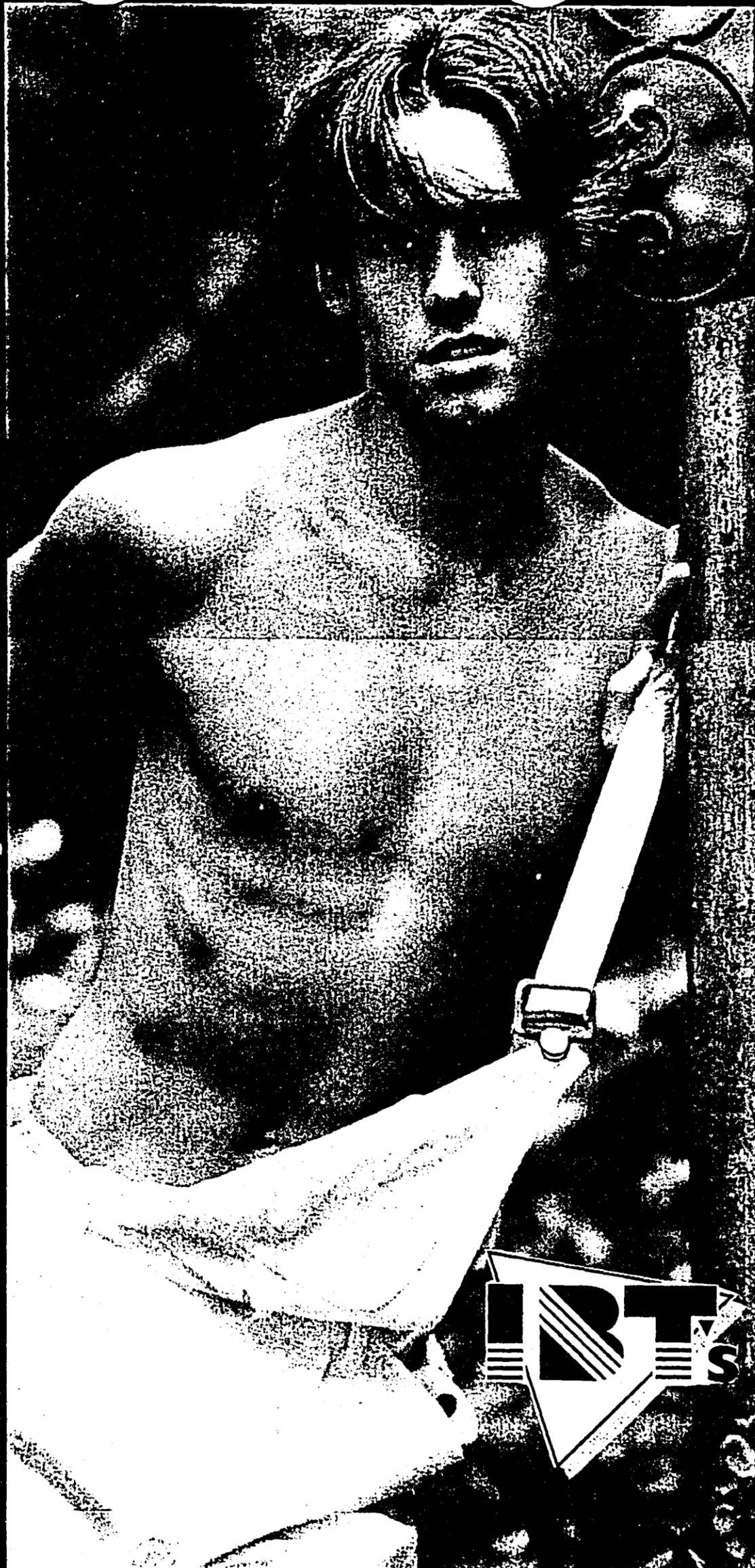
Perfect weather for Underwear Thursday's

9:00 pm – close
Happy Hour Prices for those in their undies

Coming Events

4th Avenue Street Fair & IBT's exclusive shows
March 24th, 25th, 26th

MPS Easter Benefit Show
April 22nd



616 N. 4th Ave. > Tucson, AZ 85705 > 882-3053 > Website: IBTS.NET

Local Gay and Lesbian activists will be honoring State Representative Herschella Horton, D-Tucson, for her work in the Arizona Legislature.

Representative Horton, in office since 1990, led many courageous fights for Gays, Lesbians and people living with HIV/AIDS in the legislature:

Herschella introduced and cosponsored legislation to: create an HIV pilot education program, to teach the state's future about HIV/AIDS, and ending limitations what can be said about the disease in public schools. Her efforts have been thwarted by the conservative Republicans in the House leadership, even despite the highest HIV infection rates are now coming from youths, ages 15 to 24.

Horton fought valiantly against the efforts of, medical lobbyists and conservative Republicans, to strip away the rights of those living with HIV/AIDS, or wanting to be tested for the disease. She helped to protect the tenants of the Omnibus AIDS Act, passed in 1990.

She took charge of the floor fight in 1998 against a bill that would have required the reporting in a patient's medi-

POLITICS 2000

by Mark R. Kerr

It's Time To Do More For This Friend Of The Gay Community

cal record of getting an HIV test and ending the pretest counseling.

The Tucson representative helped to kill a measure that would have required medical records being turned over to a third party, if the third party had been bled on, or had fluids from a victim get on their personage.

She fought for Governor Hull's proposal of \$1.7-million, for the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program, in the 1999-2000 budget.

Horton has been a constant supporter of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), and the AIDS Service Organization's prior to the formation of SAAF. Not with lip service, by participating in events and raising money. Always there to participate in the annual AIDS Walk.

In 1997, Herschella helped to get the state's Hate Crimes Act passed in the House, during a late-night battle on the House floor.

Horton has tried to amend the language in Arizona's domestic violence laws to include same-sex couples, again thwarted by the radical right, and more recently by the trial lawyer's lobby.

She has been a constant cosponsor of legislation to repeal Arizona's archaic, blue laws, including the cohabitation and sodomy statutes.

Herschella helped to lead the battle against the ultra conservative Representative, Karen Johnson, R-Mesa, efforts to kill the City of Tucson's, and Pima County government's extension of benefits, to the domestic partners of their employees.

More than legislative efforts, Herschella Horton has been there for the Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and HIV/AIDS community.

She has participated and spoke at the community's vigils, marches, rallies, and benefits. Horton always attends Tucson's Pride events, both in June and October, and not just for the votes, but to meet with people, from her district and from outside, since she doesn't take the "fiefdom" attitude, every Arizonan is a constituent to her.

Herschella Horton is a refreshing individual serving in the Arizona House of Representatives but the "clock has struck midnight" for her, thanks to term limits.

Arizona voters approved a limit to how many terms a person can serve in either the state House or Senate. The logic was to get rid of the "Karen Johnson's" of the legislature, but as usual it goes awry, especially in the case for Herschella Horton.

With her last term in the House ending this year, Horton is running for another office.

Not the State Senate. She's isn't thinking of a promotion.

Horton's thinking of protecting the rights of Arizona's consumers and is running for one of the seats on the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) up for election this year.

With the presidential and congressional elections, controversial initiatives and the election for the all 90 seats in the Arizona Legislature, all on this year's ballot, the race for the two ACC seats will probably not be at the top of the voter's list of priorities, on the crowded ballot.

That's unfortunate, since the ACC protects the rights of consumers from: higher telephone bills, paying more for electricity and gas, just to name a few duties of the post.

Three Republicans currently sit on the Commission, and for the past few years, Arizona has had nothing but turmoil from them, especially in the deregulation of the utility companies in Arizona. We've even had one Commission member, Tony West, thrown out of office for being ineligible to serve.

Too much turmoil. It's time for a change.

Instead of just honoring Herschella Horton for her legislative efforts, it's time to do more.

When the Arizona Legislature is out of session, make a donation to her campaign. [Arizona law forbids legislators from raising money for their campaign, when the Legislature is in session.]

Give time for her efforts, volunteering for her campaign, to become a member of the Arizona Corporation, and most importantly:

Vote for her, in both the primary and most importantly, the general election.

Herschella Horton has been a friend to the community. Fighting the noble fight, even when the cause has been lost. It's time to do more for this friend to the community. ...

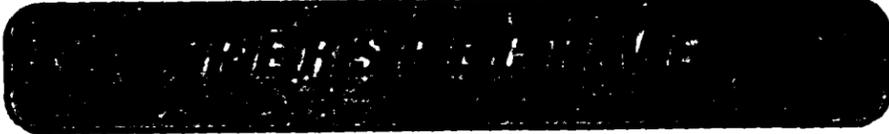
So it goes for now kids!

**St. Patrick's Day
Celebration**
Friday, March 17th

Draft Cups 50¢ 9pm - 12AM
Drink Specials
Giveaways
Corned Beef & Cabbage
5:30 till gone!
Music with DJ Hill 9-11
No Cover

2900 East Broadway Blvd
Tucson

NOBODY'S BUSINESS



'When You Bid Upon A Star', March 23

TUCSON - The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGB) Studies and the Women's Studies Department at the University of Arizona are hosting a joint fund raising event, March 23.

"When You Bid Upon a Star" is a combination rollicking dance party/auction, featuring appearances by lesbian performance artists Holly Hughes and Marga Gomez (both in town for performances at Centennial Hall).

"When You Bid Upon a Star..." features music by rock/blues combo Betty Diamond (featuring guitar genius Mitzi Cowell and singing powerhouse Rebecca Horton), and an array of fabulous auction items, including the grand prize: brunch with Hughes and Gomez!

The event will inaugurate the Hotel Congress' new party venue, the Lounge (across from the hair salon in the SW corner of the hotel's main floor). Suggested donation, \$10. Doors open at 7 p.m. Cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, great dance music, lots of terrific stuff to bid for, hosted by auctioneer Susie B. from KXCI. Don't miss it!

For further information, contact Julia Balen at (520) 626-4037.

'Will and Grace' And The Church Of Elvis

Throughout history, Gay men and women have served to uplift humanity by stirring the stew of spirituality. In the days of the English court when the new power to the throne outlawed the fop along with homosexuality, the court jester rose in prominence. The jester managed to get away with outrageous actions and speech for which others at court most certainly would have lost their heads. Some Gay historians consider the jester to be the precursor to today's drag queen.

Like the Navajo sacred clowns, Gays have consistently pointed out the foibles and shortcomings of humanity from a spiritual perspective. I believe this to be our sacred duty. And where better to find this acted out today than on television? Now, we're not talking about the Gay counterpart to Jerry Falwell or Pat Robertson. Quite to the contrary, we are talking about countering the sublime with the ridiculous. Granted, we could debate which is the more ridiculous, but let me try to illustrate this Divine Comedy which I believe is so inherently Gay.

Next to the Saturday Market in Portland, Oregon, there used to snuggle a shrine I adored. It bore the name "The Church of Elvis." Little more than a windowed front on a side street, one could drop a quarter into a slot, while standing in the rain, and get one's fortune flashed on an obsolete computer screen. Or if you were in a more serious mood, you could drop more coins for an astrology reading or a song from "The King." A faded picture of Elvis covered most of the window along with sayings, autographs and wrinkling Polaroids of tourists in Elvis drag. Hell, people even got married here. Really. This Shrine of the Ridiculous was an unexpected source of inspiration to many, including one of the more well known street people, affectionately labeled "Elvis," who played a cardboard cutout of a guitar while singing, "You Ain't Nothin' but a Hound Dog." He was renowned as one of the finest air guitarists in the region.

Crowds would gather around this amusing character, clap their hands, even join in the singing as his cardboard guitar twanged to the point of almost entering cardboard heaven. One day, a well-wisher took pity on Street Elvis' tattered cardboard guitar, and dared to give him a nice steel guitar with a portable amp. That, as they say, was the end of that - well, Street Elvis. Few admirers dropped coins into his hat any longer, usually because their fingers were stuck in their collective ears. He had played air guitar way better than he played steel guitar. So why had this been one of the more popular tourist traps in Portland?

I think I stumbled onto the answer last month while spending a few days mildewing in Seattle. Friends had invited me to stay at their place, warning me in advance Tuesdays was "Will & Grace" party night. It wasn't the Julia Childs protégé in the kitchen who left me spellbound, nor was it the arriving devotees blessed with glasses of wine which could have been sold as a down payment for a small car. True, the stuffed Italian chicken breasts were close to a spiritual experience, and the merlot was to die for - who cared if you went to heaven or elsewhere? What really left me spellbound, was the genuine kinship these different people had for one another. I watched as stock tips bounced between those who dabbled in the stock market, purposely interrupted by "Auntie Yannic," (a.k.a. Jan - pronounced "yawn" - the queen of the party who had arrived in his business suit, complaining the whole time he hadn't had time to go home to get into high heels). Of course, the womenfolk sided

with Auntie Yannic in trying to get the guys to drop their litany of stock tips for some hot tips on the latest in relationships. It was then I realized not everyone at this party was Gay. In fact, it took a few whispered questions to my hosts before I found out how many straight men and women were so intimately entwined in this soiree.

As "Will & Grace" flashed on the TV, various factions cheered for their favorite character. Oddly enough, the straight guys seemed to like Jack (the Queen of the May) while Auntie Yannic hissed sharp criticism for Jack's - how shall we put it - "taste." During the commercial break, two Gay dads, one who had a straight son, the other a straight daughter, exchanged information on how their kids were doing. Usually, the teens attended the party along with their dads. However, the kids were out on a date ... with each other. Truthfully, I considered yanking the plug on the TV at that point so I could hear better.

attending, it was church. Yeah, church. It's joy reminded me of the Church of Elvis. Here, people cared about one another, helped one another, had a communion feast with one another, respected one another no matter what walk of life they trekked. Hanging over the back of my chair in disbelief, I couldn't help but feel a time-honored tradition was being lived out before me. Spirituality, as we know it, is being challenged by folks like these, playing a spiritual air guitar. The music is sublime, and it touches the soul more than I care to admit. Please, please, don't anyone buy these people steel guitars to play out their lives on. For this is exactly what this world needs: A new spirituality for a new world, in which all or any are welcome.

[G.W. Hardin is a New York Times best-selling author of The Messengers and On the Wings of Heaven. Well known for his true stories about the strangely wonderful, he strives to bring forth information which will take us toward a better world. He resides in Missoula, Montana.]

Folks, this wasn't a party I was

It's Here

HIDES OF MARCH

Fri, Sat & Sun

FOOD - FUN - SHOW

BODY WASH

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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B-B-Q and Genderf*!# Drag Show

a fundraiser for GMHP's Condom Brigade program

Come see the bears go under the mascara and emerge furry and fierce to entertain you!

Sunday, April 2
IBT's, 616 N. 6th Ave.

5:30-8pm: B-B-Q
9-11pm: DRAG SHOW
Hosted by Bunny FuFu & Scottasia Dahlink

For info, call 628-7223 or email gmhp@saaf.org



Gay Men's Health Project is a collaborative effort of Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Pima County Health Dept., and Wrigspan

Dr. Laura Issues Weak Apology

LOS ANGELES, CA (NP) - On March 10, radio talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger issued an apology for offending Gays and Lesbians, which according to GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, marks the first time she "has ever acknowledged any kind of accountability for her words and their impact." Angry activists are less than impressed.

ceived as judgement. They were not meant to characterize homosexual individuals or encourage others to disparage homosexuals.

"I regularly remind my listeners that we are all made in G-d's [God's] image and, therefore, we should treat one another with love and kindness, irrespective of one's faith.

Background: Schlessinger's regular radio talk show reportedly has a listenership of some 20-million, and when Paramount Television Group moved earlier this year to give her a regular daytime syndicated TV slot in September, stations (primarily CBS affiliates) in 160 markets covering 90% of the country bought up the opportunity faster than any predecessor. But the numerous Gays and Lesbians employed at Paramount were far from pleased because of Schlessinger's frequent denunciations of homosexuality, which she considers to be a "biological error," "deviant," immoral and sexually irresponsible, and curable by reparative therapy. While GLAAD began discussions in February with Paramount in hopes of achieving more "balance" than Schlessinger's radio show had demonstrated, activists began to protest the show by phone, mail and e-mail with increasing frequency and numbers. This month the StopDrLaura.com Web site collected more than 2.5-million hits in its first week, greatly amplifying the protest movement and causing growing discomfort for both Paramount and local stations. Schlessinger reportedly hired Sitrick and Co., a crisis management public relations firm (a.k.a. "spin doctors") but terminated that relationship the day before she issued her apology on the evening of March 10. [Ed. note: Late Friday is typically the time for news releases one wants to get lost in the shuffle, but the Associated Press picked it up and most major newspapers followed suit.] Paramount also issued a statement March 10.

"I will continue to discuss on radio and television a variety of pressing moral and ethical issues facing our society; I remain committed to doing this in an environment free from hate or intolerance and with a deep respect for freedom of speech. I can only hope others will share this commitment."

The "Los Angeles Times" reported that some of Schlessinger's comments which have offended Gays and Lesbians have been removed from her Web site.

Text of Paramount's Statement: "We at Paramount have always shared a commitment to present society's issues without creating or contributing to an environment of hurt, hate or intolerance. We are committed to the production of Dr. Laura's upcoming television show, which is planned to include multiple points of view, derived from a variety of sources, guests and a studio audience."

StopDrLaura.com Statement, March 11: "Had someone called Dr. Laura's show and made this half-hearted apology, Dr. Laura would have yelled at them. Last week she denied having attacked Gays, yet this week she's apologizing - it's becoming difficult to know which Dr. Laura to believe. This statement by her newly-hired crisis management team appeared within hours of our announcing a March 21st protest at the gates of Paramount - her timing is more than a bit suspect. We will continue our plans for a March 21st protest at the gates of Paramount. The only acceptable solution is for Paramount to drop the Dr. Laura show."

Text of Schlessinger's Statement: "In the recent, very public dialogue concerning my upcoming television show and my religious beliefs about homosexuality, many things have been said. Some are true. Many, unfortunately, are not. But one inviolate truth is that I never intend to hurt anyone or contribute in any way to an atmosphere of hate or intolerance.

Schlessinger denied having had any knowledge of the announcement of the protest at the time of her statement.

"Regrettably, some of the words I've used have hurt some people, and I am sorry for that. Words that I have used in a clinical context [Ed. note: Schlessinger's degree is in physiology] have been per-

In an opinion piece published in the "New York Daily News," StopDrLaura co-founder John Aravosis remarked, "The bottom line is that Paramount is selling free speech to the highest bidder. And for what? Dr. Laura is popular not because she's a psychiatrist (in fact, she's not), but because

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

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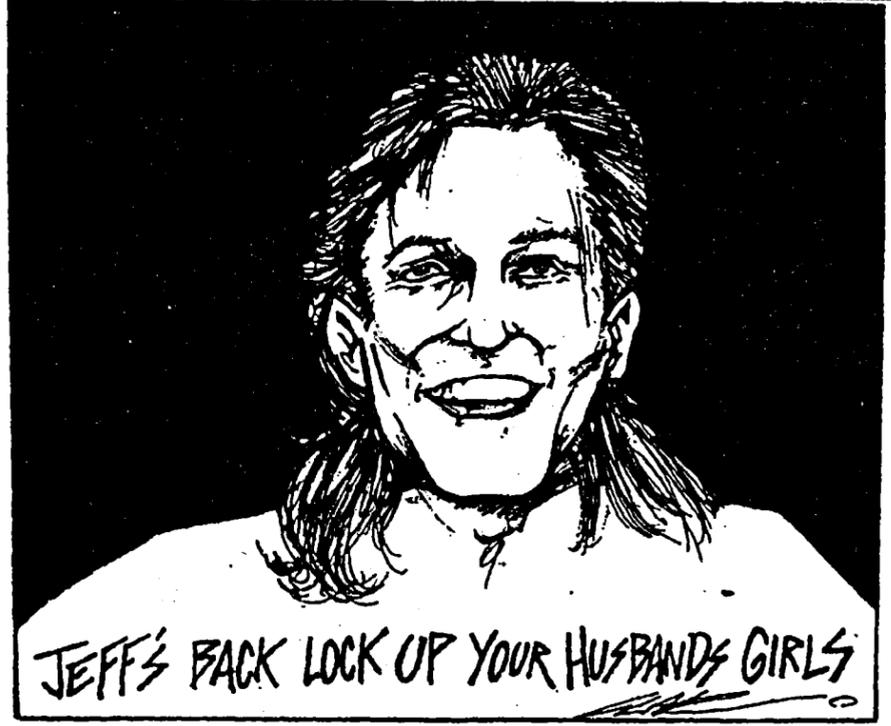
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Wayward retro Mercury goes direct this week and clears up our communications. This is small consolation for those of us big mouths who have stunk up an fine romance with a foul remark. But take heart brave souls and look on the bright side; From here on out, it can only get better. Uh ...we hope!

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Poor proud Rams have tried, lord knows they've tried, to do their part for a great Gay cause. But retro Mercury conspired so that your best efforts never had the effective one two punch. Don't give up the fight compadre! Wayward Mercury changes course this week and you can get going, full speed ahead once again. Take no prisoners, soldier... unless their gorgeous.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Even rollicking Gay Bulls had to keep a low profile with retrograde Mercury. That meant no wild parties or social events designed to put you in the drivers seat. Although invites might have gotten lost in the mail, now that Mercury goes direct, it's time to pull out the party favors and get Out in front of the conga line! I'm sure folks will beat a path to your door.

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Queer Twins are usually very charming and diplomatic but all bets were off with retrograde Mercury. So much for planning your professional life! Now that Mercury flies right, your professional path will clear for your corporate ascent. Take off for the highest heights and don't look down! Plan ahead so any rough landings are averted. Negotiate a golden parachute.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

So you've packed your bags, but forgot your ticket. You booked your hotel, but they lost the reservation. Poor pink Crabs were hounded by the bad vacation blues with

HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

retro Mercury. Take heart though, all this shall pass this week and you'll arrange that trip of a lifetime soon enough. Well maybe not soon enough, but soon. In the meantime, let your imagination run wilde.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Even the hottest pinkest Lions can become toast during retro Mercury. I hope you didn't over promise to lovers. Feelings were bound to be misinterpreted and promises broken. Happily, Mercury now goes forward and so can you. Just blame your bad communication on the stars, allow actions to speak louder and prouder than words and slather your toast with butter... or hot oil.

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Now that retrograde Mercury has done it's damage in partnerships it's now ready to make amends and go forward. Feisty proud Virgins may have to eat crow to repair any hurt feelings or reassemble any out of control personal project, but they say crow tastes like chicken anyway. The worst is over and you can soon go back to being your charming old self later this week.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

The road to a convivial, diplomatic work environment has been detoured for Gay smoothie Libra under retro Mercury. If it's not foot in mouth on the job, it's the wrong meeting on the wrong day or the project from hell due yesterday. Poor queer dear, you deserve better! All will fall into place nicely by the end of the week when Mercury goes direct. Hide behind the water cooler until then.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Proud Scorps have had their work cut out for them with retro Mercury. You have not been able to charm the social set in your usual manner and, to make matters worse, the stinkweed has been scenting the air at home. Thankfully, Mercury goes direct this week and any recriminations are yesterday's news. Plan a few new activities to take your mind off your frustrations. Hint! Hint!

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Retrograde Mercury has swung through a few rather personal areas, but take heart dear queer Archer, the worst is over. It might have seemed that you could not say anything right to family members. Tempers might have flared and raw emotions chafed. Now with Mercury direct, what you have to say will not be misinterpreted or ignored. Good! It's your life so live it to the proudest.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Proud Caps might have spoken up once too often during this retro Mercury period. If you have inadvertently upset the applectart, chalk it up to a life lesson and go on. (Don't ya just love life lessons?) Mercury is prepared to change course this week and your opportunity to score a few verbal points on the playing field is increased. Speak loud, proud and queer, cousin. Amen to that!

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Feeling financially squcczed, Aquccrius? If you've foolishly purchased the Brooklyn Bridge during retrograde Mercury, try to depreciate it this week as the old sod redi-

rects. You might have been spending foolishly and now it is time to stop. The market corrects and so can you. Use this time to reevaluate current fiscal positions and explore the bottom line. No names please!

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Even the most graceful and charming rainbow Fish might have experienced a few social gaffs with retrograde Mercury in their own sign. The temptation was for you to hog the limelight but chances are, you soon realized that it wasn't a great idea after all. However, now that Mercury has turned direct, performing Pisces can go for the Oscar or Fred ... or Joe... or whoever!

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VIEWPOINT.....

Life After Knight: A Call For Direct Action And Civil Disobedience

By Eric Rofes

SACRAMENTO, CA - The passage of the anti-same sex marriage Knight Initiative by 62% of the California voters may come to be seen as a turning point igniting more intense activism promoting full participation in the institution of marriage.

Even if progressive forces had defeated Proposition 22, marriage in California would still have been restricted to a man and a woman. Some of us have grown impatient and are no longer satisfied with strategies which fail to directly confront mainstream resistance to same-sex marriage.

We've had enough of people thinking this is too radical an issue to win mainstream support, except in rare parts of the nation which still value participatory democracy. We are tired of liberal politicians and patronizing journalists denouncing the Knight Initiative while simultaneously arguing that marriage should be reserved for mixed-sex couples. We're not content with heterosexuals enjoying the advantages of state-sanctioned marriage while same-sex couples grovel for a watered-down imitation—domestic partnership.

And we're dissatisfied with this struggle remaining in the hands of Gay organizations that conceptualize activist strategy only through the lens of the traditional legal and political machinery.

Some activists have had enough of the patient and polite organizing methods of the past decade. Some of us may quit the courts, retreat from legislatures, and exit professional press briefings. Instead, we may take up the tactics most necessary for social change but largely absent from a contemporary queer movement comprised almost entirely of suit-and-skirt lobbyists, splashy television advertisements, and upscale black-tie dinner banquets: direct action and mass civil disobedience.

In this next, more militant phase of efforts to win same-sex marriage, justice-minded individuals, liberal politicians, and civil rights leaders may no longer be granted the luxury of talking out of both sides of their mouths.

One will either be for full and democratic participation in the institutions of our culture, or be an advocate for discrimination. There will no longer a viable position of neutrality.

QUEERS SHOULD REFUSE TO ATTEND MIXED-SEX WEDDINGS

These days, when I receive an invitation to the marriage of heterosexual friends, family members, or students, I am filled with outrage. What nerve! Sending an invitation to me (and, often, my lover) with no reference to the fact that I am being asked to participate as an observer in an event in which I legally am not permitted to be a central participant! No note acknowledging the disparity and injustice, no sheepish apology for participating in an institution of segregation, no phone call checking-in about the politics of it all.

It may be time for queers to stop letting heterosexuals off the hook! They

embrace marriage uncritically only because we let them! And they will continue to be blind to the politics of engagements, marriage, and weddings until they are forced to see them as segregated rituals and institutions that must be challenged, undermined, and transformed. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people and our allies may be ready to take direct action by refusing wedding invitations and articulating our reasons loudly, holding demonstrations at daily newspapers which continue to run marriage columns that are not accessible to all, and disrupting television shows such as *Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?* or *The Newlywed Game* which are conceptualized around an institution currently founded on exclusivity and bigotry.

Social change on cutting-edge issues rarely occurs in the absence of a direct action strategy. Building on rich traditions of militant organizing inspired most recently by ACT-UP, but rooted in the tactics of the Civil Rights Movement, women's liberation, and anti-nuclear activism, these efforts may be what is needed to transform current campaigns for equal access to marriage into an authentic movement for social justice and participatory democracy. Activists may take their struggle directly to the people using powerful organizing methods strategically designed to create a critical consciousness about the politics of marriage, inspire a movement of street activists passionate about bringing about change, and force the issue into an arena of intense public scrutiny.

SAME-SEX COUPLES MUST UNDERMINE THE MARRIAGE BUREAUCRACY

Holding a mass queer wedding every time there is a march on Washington or the mayor of San Francisco organizes such an event in city hall, may no longer be enough. A marriage simulation does not in and of itself function as civil disobedience. And many people have come to believe that candlelight vigils are an inadequate response to anti-Gay votes. Such vigils are not the same as political protest. We may need more than candles, more than photo ops, more than sloganeering. The time may be right for the kind of carefully crafted actions that demonstrate a new level of serious intent about this issue and place same-sex marriage in the public eye in a compelling and confrontational manner. We soon may see national networks of activists plotting massive civil disobedience actions focused on undercutting key points-of-access to the institution of marriage.

There has been a small but very important stream of civil disobedience actions in the marriage fight. It has involved members of the clergy who violate orders from denominational authorities and perform same-sex marriages at tremendous risk to their careers. These clergy members have been put on trial, censored, and even defrocked for their actions. In the post-Knight Initiative era, let's hope we see more clergy with integrity to take similar actions.

At the same time, LGBT activists themselves might be ready to follow the lead of these clergy members. We might

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

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G/L Harassment In Military Increases, According To Report

Continued from Page One

those charged with administering the policy. SLDN co-executive director C. Dixon Osburn describes the report as detailing "the dramatic and horrifying results of a bad policy made worse by failed leadership."

DISCHARGE FIGURES

In each of the first five years of the policy, there was a sharp increase in the number of military discharges for homosexuality, but the past year showed a decrease from the year before. In fiscal year 1999, 1,034 servicemembers were discharged for homosexuality, down from 1,149 in FY 1998. However, the 1999 figure still represents a 73% increase from FY 1994. Of the 1999 discharges, 31% were women, the highest percentage in 20 years, and more than double women's 14% representation in the armed forces. SLDN ascribes this to a resurgence of Lesbian-baiting, in which women regardless of their sexual orientation are accused of being Lesbians, often as retaliation for having refused sexual advances from male servicemembers. SLDN noted a Lesbian-baiting "witch hunt" at the Defense Language Institute at Monterey, California, resulting in a dozen discharges. SLDN also pointed out that Lesbian-baiting was actually omitted from the revised guidelines distributed to the forces in 1999, although it had appeared in the original version.

Department of Defense spokespeople claim, as they have in the past, that more than 80% of discharges for homosexuality result from servicemembers' voluntary admission of their Gay or Lesbian orientation. SLDN maintains that many of those "voluntary" admissions are made in response to harassment by servicemembers who often fear for their lives.

HARASSMENT DOCUMENTED

SLDN documented 968 incidents of anti-Gay harassment, up 142% from the previous year, ranging from verbal abuse and threats to the July murder of PFC Winchell. More than half of those incidents, 495, actually occurred after the Pentagon's August announcement of a crackdown on anti-Gay harassment — more incidents than in all of FY 1998. SLDN describes "the epithets, threats and everyday indignities that servicemembers must silently suffer as a condition of serving our country under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass,'" and the details make painful reading. At Fort Campbell, where the sleeping Winchell was killed with a baseball bat by a fellow soldier, Specialist Michael McCoy observed that anti-Gay epithets, comments and graffiti actually increased; as one example, drawn on a wall at the base's Family Support Center bathroom was a two- to three-foot long baseball bat labeled "lag whacker."

In theory, reporting harassment should not lead to investigation of the victim's sexual orientation, but military spokespeople could not make a clear statement about that to reporters today. According to a "Washington Post" report, none of the new trainings developed by the service branches give commanders guidance for handling harassers. For those who have sought help from SLDN, there appears to be no one it is safe for a servicemember to tell about a harassment problem.

Pentagon spokespeople do not believe there has been any great increase in the number of harassment cases, but had no data of their own to respond to the issue.

SLDN charges that the Pentagon has maintained "zero tolerance" for "Don't Tell" violations while 100% tolerating "Don't Ask," "Don't Pursue" and "Don't Harass" violations. As the group has in every year of the policy, it called for meaningful accountability and disciplinary action for those violations.

Briefing reporters for the Department of Defense, Rear Admiral Craig Quigley said, "I believe a Marine on the West Coast was actually relieved of command." He was referring to Marine Lieutenant Colonel Edward Melton, who in October while serving in Twenty-nine Palms, California, wrote a notorious e-mail to his subordinates and his superior in connection with the distribution of new guidelines against anti-Gay harassment. Referring to the death of Winchell, Melton wrote, "Due to the 'hate crime' death of a homo in the Army, we now have to take extra steps to ensure the safety of the queer who has 'told' [not kept his part of the DOD 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy]. Commanders now bear the responsibility if someone decides to assault the young backside ranger. Be discreet and careful in your dealings with these characters. And remember, little ears are everywhere."

When word of Melton's memo reached Winchell's family, they wrote to the Commandant of the Marine Corps in December, but have yet to receive a response. In January, the "San Diego Union Tribune" reported that a Marine spokesperson had said, "Administrative action has been taken against Colonel Melton, and he has been transferred." However, as SLDN writes, the group "has been unable to verify from the Marine Corps whether in fact Lieutenant Colonel Melton was disciplined and, if so, exactly what actions were taken."

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SURVEY

The Inspector General is expected to submit an assessment of anti-Gay harassment to the Secretary of Defense by March 13. SLDN is sharply critical of the methodology and survey instrument being used in this study of 70,000 servicemembers at a number of different sites. In addition, SLDN is aware of situations in which commands have specifically prevented victims of anti-Gay harassment from participating in the survey. The group believes the study will not provide meaningful data.

WINCHELL'S FAMILY SUES

Winchell's mother and stepfather Pat and Wally Kutteles announced they will be filing a wrongful death action under the Military Claims Act with the pro bono assistance of the law firm of Covington & Burlington. Pat Kutteles said, "I do not want another parent to have to endure what we are going through. The Army is partially responsible for what happened to my son. The Army failed to stop the daily harassment our son faced and it led to his murder. I do not think that either the Army or Major General Clark, the commanding general at Fort Campbell, will wake up unless my family does this for Barry." Most of the steps the military has taken against anti-Gay harassment came only after Winchell's death.





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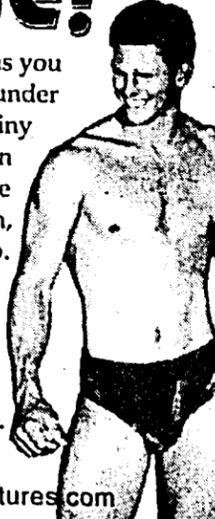
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Vermont Prepares To Vote On Civil Union

MONTPELIER, VT (WS) - Even though Vermont's civil union bill currently lacks majority support in the state House, backers said that the bill granting same-sex couples the rights of marriage would likely pass by the end of the week.

While the rest of House business was dealt with on the floor, supporters and opponents of civil unions were busy counting votes and lobbying uncommitted lawmakers. While there were no solid predictions, backers of the bill expressed confidence.

"We feel pretty good about it," said Democratic Majority Leader John Tracy of Burlington. "We're within shouting distance and the response we've had since town meeting has been good." Tracy concedes, however, that the debate, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, could be volatile.

Lawmakers in the House expect a variety of amendments tabled by opponents of civil union, a state institution parallel to marriage, which would substantially alter the character of the bill, and possibly lead to it being voted down.

The first of these amendments is modeled on the Defense of Marriage Act which would define marriage as a union between

one man and one woman and would prohibit the state from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in any other state.

The other amendment that opponents plan to push is a broader reciprocal beneficiaries system that would replace civil unions. Anyone who could not marry would qualify for limited benefits under the plan, but the bill's focus would no longer be targeted at amending inequities for Lesbian and Gay couples.

Another provision would establish a "reciprocal beneficiary" system in which blood relatives could qualify for a limited set of state-guaranteed benefits, such as health care or pension benefits. "The reason I like it is it opens it up" to more people, Republican Rep. George Schiavone of Shelburne. "Let's treat them all the same."

Gay civil rights advocates are understandably furious at the suggestion.

Under the rules of the Vermont Legislature, every bill goes to a vote of the full House twice. During the preliminary vote, which is planned for Wednesday, March 8, on this bill, amendments can be offered and then there's a vote on the bill itself. The following day, more amendments can be proposed and a final vote is held at the end of the debate.

Adoption Battles Rage In Mississippi And Florida

JACKSON, MS (WS) - The American Civil Liberties Union is challenging two anti-Gay adoption initiatives in Mississippi and Florida in what many say is the first wave of a national assault on the legality of Gay men and women to provide foster and adoptive homes for children.

In Key West, the ACLU has filed a class-action lawsuit in federal court seeking to overturn a state law prohibiting Gay men and Lesbians from adopting children. The group filed the suit last year saying the ban violates Gay people right to equal treatment under the law.

The group also alleges that the ban violates the rights of children languishing in foster care who might be adopted by a Gay couple or Gay and Lesbian single parent. Florida is currently the only state that has laws on its books specifically prevents otherwise eligible Gay people from legally adopting children.

Meanwhile in Jackson, Mississippi, a major effort is underway to defeat a proposed bill offered in the Mississippi legislature that would ban Lesbians and Gay men from adopting. Even more ominously, say many, is a provision in the bill which would deny legal recognition to Gay adoptive parents who move to the state.

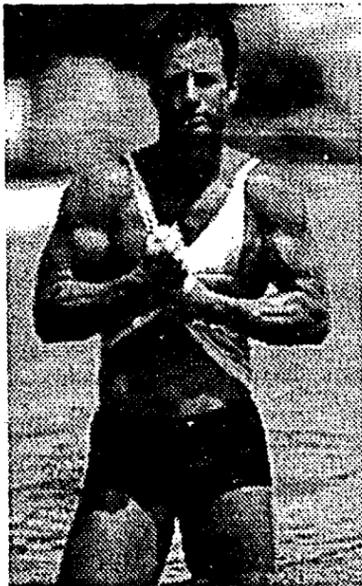
"Hundreds of children in foster homes throughout this state are waiting for permanent adoptive homes that can provide them with the support, guidance and love they desperately want and need," said David Ingebretsen, Executive Director of the ACLU of Mississippi. "This bill is unconstitutional and, even if it is passed, it will be struck down in court. But it shouldn't get that far. Our children deserve better."

Earlier in the week, the Mississippi House Judiciary Committee defied predictions and approved the measure, shocking many state residents. The bill now moves to the full House for consideration. Current and former state residents are also calling Mississippi House Speaker Tim Ford to encourage him to prevent the bill from coming before the full House for a vote.

"Our representatives need to be lifting families and children up -- not debating divisive, discriminatory, unconstitutional legislation," Ingebretsen said. "Throughout the weekend, we will be calling House members at home, asking them to act in the best interests of children, sharing our concerns with them and explaining the devastating impact this legislation will have on children."

The ACLU, has pulled together members and volunteers of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and other groups -- along with Lesbian and Gay community centers and other local organizations nationwide -- to launch the "Phone Home for Families" campaign.

The "Phone Home for Families" is aimed at getting the word out to former Mississippi residents and urging them to "phone home" this weekend and contact Mississippi State House members who represent their former districts. Current residents are also being urged to call their representatives at home this weekend, telling them that a vote for the anti-adoption bill is a vote against children.



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UPDATE

Governor Vetoes Religious Exemption Bill

FRANKFURT, KY (NP) - Governor Paul Patton has rejected a bill that would allow religious groups to discriminate when renting facilities, but the drive to override him is well underway.

Kentucky Governor Paul Patton has taken a brave stand for civil rights, vetoing on March 8 a bill to exempt religious organizations from anti-discrimination laws in the rental of their facilities. There's a real chance, however, that the religious right-dominated legislature will override him.

Patton waited until the last day he could veto HB 70 (Kerr) before it would become law without his signature. His veto message said that "House Bill 70 compromises and violates ... both the spirit and the meaning of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act by permitting discrimination on the basis of religion, the free exercise and non-establishment of which were among the fundamental principles in the founding of our state and country." He wrote, "These laws do not require a religious organization to open its facilities to the general public, but they do require that if a religious organization opens its facilities and activities to the general public, they must obey the same laws that non-religious entities are required to obey."

Among the groups which lobbied Patton to veto the bill was the Kentucky Council of Churches, said to represent most mainstream denominations in the state. The Council's executive director Reverend Nancy Jo Kemper said the bill was good neither for churches nor for civil rights, as it would needlessly involve the government in determining religious beliefs. Other groups lobbying against the bill included the state's American Civil Liberties Union and the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, which advocates for the civil rights of Gays and Lesbians. Representative Kathy Stein (D-Lexington), the legislature's lone Jew and the sponsor of a bill to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination that appears to be trapped in committee this session, was so pleased at news of the veto that she immediately went to Patton to offer her thanks in person.

The group which had asked for the legislation is the Northern Kentucky Baptist

Association, which includes 66 congregations and owns a campground. In 1996, the Association had reluctantly rented its camp to a secular humanist organization, the Free Inquiry Group, which does not believe in God. The Association feared it would face a lawsuit under the state civil rights law unless it agreed. Representative Tom Kerr (D-Taylor Mill) heeded the Association's call and sponsored the bill. To Kerr it is an issue of churches' freedom to manage their facilities in accordance with their beliefs, and he denies that it discriminates against others.

Kerr set out immediately to override Patton's veto, and if he can get a vote on the House floor he should have no trouble; only 52 votes are needed there for an override, and the House approved the measure by 82 - 17 on February 2. Before passage, the bill was amended to continue protections from discrimination based on color, disability, national origin, and race, while allowing churches to discriminate based on religion, marital status and sexual orientation. [Ed. note: Sexual orientation-based discrimination is not covered under state law but is prohibited by ordinances in two cities and one county; a third city prohibits sexual orientation discrimination only in employment.] The question in the House is whether the bill will come to the floor, and that question will be decided by a meeting between leaders of the House and of the Democratic Caucus; three of five Democratic leaders voted against the bill, while House Speaker Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green) supported it.

The Senate will present a greater challenge to the bill's floor manager and Senate President Pro Tem Dick Roeding (R-Fort Mitchell). Twenty votes are needed for an override there, and the Senate passed the bill February 23 by only 17 - 12, with nine abstentions. All 12 of the votes against the bill were Democrats, as were four of the votes in favor. But Roeding is confident that he can come up with another three votes to override Patton. Among those who abstained were Senate President David Williams (R-Burkesville), who believes the law is flawed, and Senate Majority Leader Dan Kelly (R-Springfield); another was Senator Tom Buford (R-Nicholasville), who said he would also abstain from a vote to override, although he praised the veto of what he called simply "a bad bill."

G/L Group Slams Hillary At Meeting

NEW YORK, NY - A meeting between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Gay Democrats held at New York's Gay And Lesbian Community Center briefly turned into a shouting match when several audience members heckled the first lady over her plans to march in next week's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Speaking to a meeting organized by the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats, the first lady was interrupted by a woman who twice shouted: "Why are you marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade?"

The Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO) has for years asked and been denied permission from sponsors to join the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manhattan. The Ancient Order of Hibernians tells ILGO the same thing every year, they are welcome to march as individuals, but not under a Lesbian and Gay banner.

Calling the parade discriminatory, most elected Democrats have also skipped

the parade - with the notable exceptions of City Council Speaker Peter Vallone, Rep. Carolyn Maloney and former NYC Mayor Ed Koch. Mayor Giuliani, Mrs. Clinton's likely GOP Senate opponent, is a loud supporter of the Hibernians' right to exclude ILGO if they choose.

Mrs. Clinton and her aides have tried to avoid the controversy by expressing hope that the Hibernians would relent and allow the Gay group to march, though there has never been much chance of that. After participating in a Gay-inclusive St. Patrick's Day march last week in Queens, Mrs. Clinton said she would also be marching up Fifth Avenue.

"I have worked very hard over the last six years or so in every way that I could to further the peace process in Northern Ireland," she told reporters earlier this week, explaining her decision. "Like Gerry Adams (who will march in the parade) and so many others who know how important

Dr. Laura Issues Weak Apology

Continued from Page Six

she's confrontational. She gets big ratings because she yells at people. Paramount is hiding behind a free-speech smoke screen and laughing all the way to the bank."

The San Francisco-based Horizons Foundation had mounted a campaign of print ads against Schlessinger. Its executive director Peter Teague told the "San Francisco Examiner" that Schlessinger's apology "sounds like the work of a crisis management team. It's carefully crafted. It's half-hearted. It's not an indication that she's going to stop doing what she's been doing, which is enormous harm to American children. She continues to deny everything. She doesn't retract anything ... We asked her to stop and think about what she's doing. It sounds like we got her to stop and think about how to save her job."

GLAAD's Response, March 12: "As Laura Schlessinger herself might say, an apology without a fundamental change in behavior is meaningless. If Schlessinger is sincere in her apology to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community, then it must be accompanied by a change in her actions. GLAAD will continue to hold Schlessinger accountable for her public statement.

"Also, we are encouraged by Paramount Television Group's stated commitment to present society's issues without creating or contributing to an environment of hurt, hate or intolerance.

"GLAAD also recognizes that the damage done by Schlessinger's past comments cannot be undone by a single qualified apology. There is a difference between opposing viewpoints and a defamatory expression of those views which encourages prejudice and discrimination. The former is crucial to an open exchange of ideas. The latter is unacceptable. Schlessinger has said, 'Words have the power to hurt or heal, depending on how we use them.' It is now incumbent upon Schlessinger to use her words to heal; this will be the test of her promise.

"We are encouraged that Schlessinger has listened to the concerns of GLAAD, others in the Lesbian and Gay community, and other fair-minded people about the hurt caused by her words. GLAAD welcomes Schlessinger's new public commitment to conduct her self-proclaimed moral and ethical advocacy in an environment free from hate and intolerance. We will be listening to and watching her current and upcoming radio and television broadcasts to be sure she is true to her word."

GLAAD continues to seek from Paramount "direct assurance - in writing - that they express a zero tolerance for defamation of the Lesbian and Gay community (or any group) by Laura Schlessinger." The group's concerns remain Schlessinger's "anti-Gay rhetoric and use of discredited sources," often the same sources cited by the religious right. GLAAD promises to continue to work to hold Schlessinger to her word, and requested that activists "Send a letter to both Schlessinger and to Paramount Television Group to let them know that you heard them, and that while you are encouraged, you too will be holding them accountable to their word."

Religious Right Wants Access: Several religious right groups weighed in early in the controversy, vigorously defending Schlessinger's right to air her moral and religious beliefs. As it happened, it was March 10 when Peter LaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, issued a media release stating that he

and ten "pro-family leaders" had requested their own meeting with Paramount Domestic Television regarding the Schlessinger show - before Paramount "sits down again with GLAAD." His proposed meeting would include Rabbi Daniel Lapin, President of Toward Tradition; Family Research Council chief executive officer Chuck Donovan and senior director of cultural studies Robert Knight; and three "ex-Gays" including Michael Johnston, head of Kerusso Ministries.

The Associated Press noted that the talk show format has been fading in the ratings for the last two years, without a new hit in syndication since the debut of "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" four years ago. A half-dozen current entries are not expected back in the fall, which could either signal the end of the talk show era or diminished competition for Schlessinger. But an expert consulted by the AP, Richard Kurlander of the ad firm Petry Television, doubted the protests would make any difference. He said, "In many respects, controversy is a positive. I'm sure Paramount - if they would admit to it, and I'm sure they won't - would rather have this controversy take place in September" when it would serve to promote the show.

[Ed. note: GLAAD recommends writing to Frank Kelly, Paramount Television Group, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90038-3197 and to Laura Schlessinger c/o Premiere Radio Networks, 15260 Ventura Blvd., Fifth Floor, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403]

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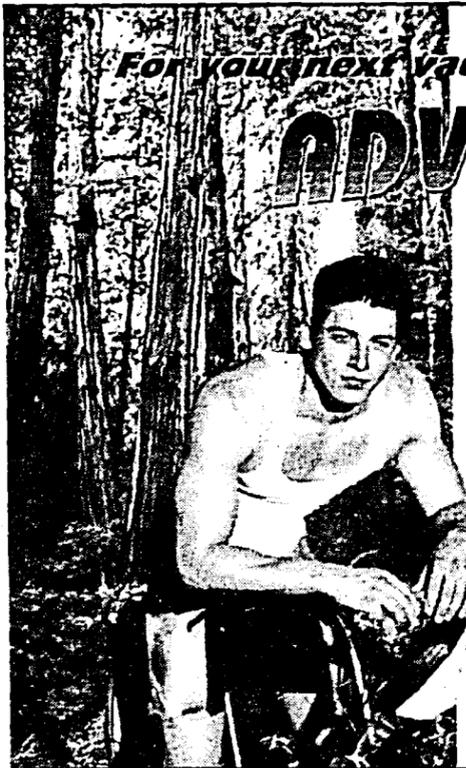
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Life After Knight: A Call For Direct Action And Civil Disobedience

CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

see coordinated days of action when same-sex couples attempt to register at the local county clerk's office. Imagine the impact if same-sex couples in rural areas, small town America, urban centers, and suburban neighborhoods throughout the nation on the same day and at the same time showed up couple-by-couple and stood on line to fill out the forms to register for marriage. Imagine if they requested the proper forms and replied to refusals with a pre-determined response grounded in passive resistance. Imagine if they were all trained to alert local media outlets, organize teams of vocal supporters, and articulate a calm, impactful message in response to this closed institution. Imagine if they returned in a coordinated manner every day for a week or a month voicing the same powerful statement.

Or imagine same-sex couples chaining themselves peacefully to the front doors of the offices of their neighborhood justice of the peace and singing songs of liberation as they were carted off to jail. Or choosing to appear in large numbers outside the churches where prominent politicians or celebrities were getting married, silently holding up signs stating "Participation in Marriage is Participation in Injustice," or "Saying I Do when We Can't = Bigotry" Or crashing local wedding ceremonies at the moment where the officiator asks for any objections, standing up and reciting a speech about the shameful inequity of access to marriage.

JUSTICE-MINDED HETEROSEXUAL COUPLES MUST BOYCOTT MARRIAGE UNTIL IT IS DEMOCRATIZED

It has been wonderful to note large numbers of supportive heterosexuals—especially heterosexuals under the age of 30—decrying barriers to same-sex marriage. As the debates intensify and the stakes increase, LGBT activists will begin to urge these folks to back up their rhetoric with principled action. Justice-minded heterosexuals could make a major contribution to undermining the status quo by refusing to participate in the institution of marriage until it is open to all.

Some heterosexual allies already understand that marriage is a form of heterosexual privilege that comes at the expense of queer rights, gender equality, and social justice. They understand that marriage grants them a whole set of advantages, benefits, and legal privileges that are subsidized by queer folks and others who do not marry. We actively pay for what many others see as normal, universal, and sacred. This leads many activists to argue that we should be fighting for the strong domestic partnership laws currently in place in many northern European nations—for both same-sex and mixed-sex couples. In these nations, marriage simply becomes a religious "add-on" outside the realm of state sanction.

During a period when same-sex couples cannot marry, the taking of such vows by mixed-sex couples will increasingly be named for what it is: an act of willful participation in an institution that is neither democratic nor open to all. In the year 2000, heterosexuals getting married parallels Christians joining a club that excludes Jews, men working as partners in a law firm that has no female partners, or whites supporting the flying of the Confederate flag over public buildings intended to serve people of all races. No matter how

one wishes to frame them, such choices are inherently ethical choices: participation in rituals and institutions that exclude sectors of society puts you on the side of discrimination and oppression.

It may be time not only for true heterosexual allies to say NO to marriage until all people have equal access, but also for all principled people to engage in public education around their refusal to accept privilege. Will we begin to see groups marching outside religious institutions and county clerk offices under banners such as "Hetero-Couples Refusing to Marry Until All Can Marry," or "Until All Are Welcome, None Must Participate: Free Marriage Now!" Will we begin to hear from the children raised by mixed-sex couples who take a justice-minded stand and refuse to get married until same-sex couples can get married? Is now the time to put an economic dent in the wedding industry, a result of large numbers of heterosexuals refusing to open their wallets for marriage licenses, wedding receptions, bridal dresses, photographers, and honeymoon excursions. Imagine if heterosexual allies publicly burned their marriage certificates?

There is an important historical precedent for this kind of privilege-refusing action. During the Civil Rights Movement, a number of white people repulsed by the injustices of racism, declined to participate in key institutions of segregation. They refused to utilize white-only public facilities, ride on busses which forced Blacks to the back seats, and sit at segregated lunch counters. Likewise, there have been men who resigned from clubs that excluded Jews, women, and people of color, and people with inherited wealth who have given away their legacies to organizations in poor communities working for economic redistribution. It is time for such visionary pioneers to emerge in this battle against heterosexism.

Some argue that the queers predisposed to militant activism do not see marriage as a priority and view the institution as problematic; those who value marriage may be less inclined towards tactics of direct action. As in all social justice movements, radical activism won't be everyone's cup of tea. Yet we have learned from voter initiatives ending affirmative action and jettisoning bilingual programs in public schools, that California is the Right's testing-ground for regressive initiatives. The passage of the Knight Initiative by voters of the largest and most trend-setting state in the nation should compel us immediately to break through earlier barriers to militancy and rethink our cautious strategy and limited tactics.

Social change movements that lack a direct action component and don't take seriously the power of civil disobedience, risk becoming nothing more than symbolic demands and rhetorical hype. Same-sex marriage will become a reality throughout the United States sometime in the next century. It will come about more expeditiously, and with a greater public understanding of the links between Gay marriage and participatory democracy, if we replace strategies of pleading and bargaining with the tactics of a true social change movement.

[Eric Rofes is a professor of education at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California and a long-time community organizer and author of nine books, including *Dry Bones Breathe: Gay Men Creating Post-AIDS Identities And Cultures*]

GO IN GOOD HEALTH.
BY REV. ANDREW BROOKS

This week, I want to talk about the importance of closure. Closure is putting an end to something, so that we can let go of it. It gives us a sense of finality. Closure may be saying those things that we needed to say when we break up with someone, or it may be something a bit more final, like visiting a dying loved one and saying those things we won't get a chance to say again, ever. It is important to resolve issues in our lives. If we leave something hanging, it can bother us for years to come. When a relationship comes to an end, we do need to say those things that we wanted to say, and then we can let go and move on.

Closure can be a way of finalizing something in our own minds. Just as everything has a beginning and a length of time where it endures, there are inevitably endings. Sometimes, we have been at the same job for many years, possibly decades, and then it is time to move on. We need to recognize the signs in our lives that tell us when something is over. Then we need to be courageous enough to let go, rather than clinging to a situation that is no longer good for us.

Sometimes, it seems hard to say goodbye to something, but we have to face the challenges of our lives head-on. It is never wise to run from things that we don't want to face. We must be honest with ourselves. Denial is not healthy. Many people have become quite adept at convincing themselves of something that just isn't true, or learn to not see the bad things in a relationship that is just plain detrimental. Seeing only what you want to see is not facing a situation honestly, with your eyes open.

When it is time to walk out of a situation, do so with honesty and integrity.

If we are leaving a relationship behind, do so, as much as possible, without anger, without accusations, without playing the blame game. In the end, it doesn't matter what was his fault (or her fault), it is just time to end it and move on, for both your sakes. When we can let go of the past, then we can move on to the future.

Closure is just a process of resolution, of tying up loose ends and helping ourselves through a transition, and moving on to the next phase of our lives. Life can be very challenging sometimes, and there are going to inevitably be those endings in life. Nothing stays the same forever. If a relationship is ending, then it is time to let it go. Say your goodbyes, and all the other things that you need to say, and move on.

I am sure you have met those people who try, desperately, to rekindle a relationship that is just dead, plain and simple. The other person has already moved on, and may already be with a new partner, but the other person still desperately clings to the past, and will try, through any means necessary, to make things go back to the way they were. That is rarely successful, and it is a waste of time. When something is over, acknowledge the loss, let it go, and move on! If someone really wanted to be with us, they would not have left in the first place! Clinging to them, hoping to get back what is no longer there, is a fruitless pursuit. Admit to yourself that this is over now, and that there is no point in trying to make things the way you want them to be. Face reality! The other alternative is just a way to deceive yourself, and to not see things the way that they are.

It's something to think about. Goddess bless. Til next time, Go in Good Health.

A View From The Rock
A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

An oft-repeated saying is "You get what you pay for." Have you found this to be true? If you purchase a cheap, used car, it's usually isn't very long until you begin paying for repairs which probably cost more than your car payments! When you purchase a "bargain" outfit, it usually begins falling apart after you have worn it a few times. It seems that at one time or another almost everyone has been "taken" by what seemed to be a real deal but only turned out to be a "deal" for the person selling the product/service. I think we would all agree that "You get what you pay for" is one of those familiar sayings that really is true!

Perhaps this is why some people have trouble accepting the simplicity of the Christian gospel. It just seems to be too cheap! In a nutshell, the gospel is this: Jesus Christ took the punishment for the sins of everyone who ever has been born or ever will be born by dying on the cross at Calvary. If a person wants to have their sins forgiven and be assured of an eternal home in heaven, all that person has to do is accept Jesus Christ as savior. There is nothing else to be done. It doesn't matter if that person never goes to church or reads the Bible or gives money to a charity or is kind to his neighbors or, you get the picture. Salvation is not something to be obtained by doing anything! If we apply the adage "you get what you pay for" to salvation it would follow that salvation must not be worth much!

But let's look a minute at just what salvation really cost! While it is true that salvation does not cost the human sinner anything, there still was an incomprehen-

ble price which was paid. The Apostle Peter writes, "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world. ..." (1 Peter 1:18-20) This reveals to us that even before time began Jesus was prepared to leave his father in Heaven, come to Earth in human form, and suffer and die for the sins of all humanity! In the Garden of Gethsemane, before he was betrayed by Judas, Jesus prayed, "My father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39) Although Jesus knew before he came to Earth what his final destiny was, in his humanity he dreaded the ordeal which he faced. And finally, on the cross, "... Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (Matthew 27:46)

No cost to salvation? No cost to humanity, it is true, but cost beyond measure to our loving God, who willingly allowed his son, Jesus Christ, to leave Heaven and all its glories, live as a peasant for some thirty years, and suffer the most agonizing death which humanity in all its depravity could impose upon him. And probably the greatest cost paid was when Jesus hung on the cross and his loving father had to "forsake" him, because he was bearing the sins of the world, and God cannot look on sin.

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1 John 4:9-11

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2000 Census Urged

Continued from Page One

ed. However, a large enough count of same-sex households, with or without children, could help substantially in future efforts to be included in the Census count.

For each same-sex couple that describes their relationship as being "unmarried partners" on the Census short form, researchers will be able to determine the racial, housing, age and demographic mix of same-sex households, as well as the number of children in the household. For the one-sixth of households that will receive the Census long form, researchers also will be able to determine education, citizenship and income, among other things.

Fracas

Continued from Page One

tion the restrictions on clubs the board adopted after the GSA won its injunction, including banning all extra-curricular clubs at middle schools and requiring parental permission for participation in high school clubs; and to inquire why teachers in the district have not received raises for two years. (The district is facing legal actions by teachers as well as by the GSA.) Apparently the students hold more liberal positions than the school board, which is easily the most conservative in the state.

Also in the "Times," teacher Christine Baron has written about the 1993 formation of the first GSA group in Orange County at Fountain Valley High School, which is outside the Orange Unified School District. She noted that there had been all the same fears and objections raised there by what she called a "vocal minority" that have been heard in recent months at El Modena, yet today the Fountain Valley GSA has become an accepted part of campus life. When the "Orange County Register" contacted Fountain Valley's principal in the course of the controversy at El Modena, he actually credited the GSA with helping to make his school a more respectful and tolerant environment for all students. Baron grieves that Orange has apparently been unable to benefit from Fountain Valley's experience. She concluded expressing frustration "that this battle continues to be fought when there's no enemy," a situation she attributes in part to reporters' "focus on those spreading irrational fear."

In other developments: a supporter of a Gay-straight club in Southern California was arrested for allegedly biting a school principal during a fight that broke out at a school board meeting. The 17-year-old girl at El Modena High School in Orange was removed from campus, charged with assault and battery, and released to her parents. She was accused of biting principal Stan Pasqual at the meeting of the Orange Unified School District, which was attended by 30 masked supporters of the embattled Gay-straight alliance.

AGRA Announces Poster Contest

PHOENIX - AGRA is sponsoring a poster contest for the 2001 Road Runner Regional Rodeo, which will take place January 19-21, 2001.

The theme of the rodeo is: "2001: A Rodeo Odyssey." Judging for the contest will be by vote of the members present at the monthly AGRA meeting, June 10. All entries must be received by 5:00 P.M. that day. Entries may be delivered in person or by mail to: "RRRR Poster Contest" c/o Charlie's Phoenix, 727 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013, by the deadline.

Entries must be 17" x 22" finished size with the only lettering being "2001 Road Runner Regional Rodeo." Exception to the size requirement will be made for will be made for computer generated artwork, with the original art being on a Macintosh compatible CD or Zip disk. Sufficient space must be left within the design or, in a border included in the finished size, for dates, hotel information and sponsor logos.

Entries must be received with the artist's name and phone number in the upper right-hand corner of the back of the design. Entries received with the artist's name on the front will be disqualified. The winning design and artwork become the property of AGRA. All entries will be destroyed, unless arrangements are made to have them returned at the artist's expense.

The artist of the winning entry will be awarded a \$200 prize. For further information, contact Brian Helander, public relations director for AGRA, (602) 266-5726.

TLGA Launches Logo Contest

TUCSON - The Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance announced the logo contest for OUToberFEST 2000 "One Vision, One World."

All entries must incorporate the following information: OUToberFEST 2000, "One Vision, One World", TLGA or Tucson Lesbian & Gay Alliance, October 14th, 2000.

Entries can be as many colors as the artist creates. Please keep in mind the artwork will be used for t-shirts, baseball caps, b/w ads, and the color poster.

Mail entries to: TLGA, P.O. Box 40301, Tucson, AZ 85717. The deadline is Friday, March 24, 2000. All artwork submitted becomes the property of TLGA. Winning entry receives \$150. For more information, call the TLGA OUTline, (520) 677-3700.



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CATCH A MAN?!

MUNCH

THE OUTROUTE by Chris

An Investors Dilemma

NEW YORK, NY (GFN) - Gay investors who hold stakes in entertainment giant Viacom Inc. (NYSE: VIA) may be tempted to sell, given the recent decision by its Paramount Television division to launch a "Dr. Laura" program this fall.

Laura Schlessinger, who hosts a similarly named radio show, has come under attack recently from Gay activists. As a terse dispenser of advice, Schlessinger's comments on homosexuality make her appear homophobic at best. She has used her radio program to rail against Gays and Lesbians, whom she has referred to as "deviants," and "biological errors."

But investors should think twice before voting with their stock portfolios and dumping shares of Viacom. Prudent investing is rarely the product of reactionary decisions.

Just as haste shouldn't be employed for stock purchases, neither should it be used in stock liquidations.

Selling a company's stock may cause grave tax concerns, says Richard A. Gourley, executive vice president at Christopher Street Financial, a Gay-oriented financial-services company.

You have to ask yourself, "is it worth it?" Gourley says. "The bigger picture in investing is more important than what any company is doing at any given time."

For those investors considering buying into multi-media stocks, there are alternatives. "There are better buys than Viacom," Gourley says.

America Online Inc. (NYSE: AOL), which is merging with Time Warner Inc. (NYSE: TWX), would be my first choice. AOL is cheap right now. The combination makes them an incredible powerhouse."

Of course, there is also that icon of Gay-friendly companies, Walt Disney Co. (NYSE: DIS). At a recent price of \$35 per share, stock in the Magic Kingdom company can be had for about 55 percent less than Viacom's \$54 per share price. Also, while shares of Viacom are down around 10.5 percent for the year, Disney shares have surged 20 percent.

Other companies in this group include AT&T Corp. (NYSE: T), CBS Corp. (NYSE: CBS) and News Corp. (NYSE: NWS).

The latter has been a stellar performer this year. From a closing price of \$38.25 per share at the close of 1999, News Corp. shares have vaulted 60 percent to around \$61 per share.

A former component of News Corp. that has been since been spun off also deserves a look: Fox Entertainment Group Inc. (NYSE: FOX), which produces such well-known TV shows as "Ally McBeal" and "The X-Files."

While the stock hasn't been an exceptional performer, up just 2.8 percent for the year, it is a relative bargain at around \$25 per share. Bear Stearns & Co. has issued a buy rating on Fox Entertainment with a price target of \$50 per share.

And if you own Viacom...

Current investors in Viacom have options aside from selling. Investors in any publicly held company have a voice in what the company does. They have the right to

go to meetings, vote and speak out. Like-minded investors can petition a company's board of directors for changes.

"Activist" investors, as they are called, petition management for changes in corporate policy and company direction. A recent example would be Venator Group Inc. (NYSE: Z), formerly known as Woolworth Corp.

New York investment group Greenway Partners LP last year pressed company management to change the company's name back to Woolworth, among other things. In a filing with the Securities & Exchange Commission, Greenway urged shareholders to not vote until they received proxies — explaining Greenway's position — from Venator.

Protests, protests: Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, or GLAAD, whose staff has been actively pursuing Paramount's management to change its decision to produce the show, wouldn't comment on whether investors should sell or refrain from buying shares of Viacom.

The Gay-rights organization said that it is an interesting idea, but one that it needs to look into. According to the StopDrLaura.com coalition, Paramount is being "besieged" with emails and telephone calls. The StopDrLaura Web site, which was established to halt Paramount's plan to produce "Dr. Laura," said Schlessinger has hired a crisis-management firm.

Local TV stations, too, have been the target of protests. KPRC-TV in Houston has "found itself stuck in a roiling controversy months before the first show is even broadcast this fall," the alternative Houston Press reported.

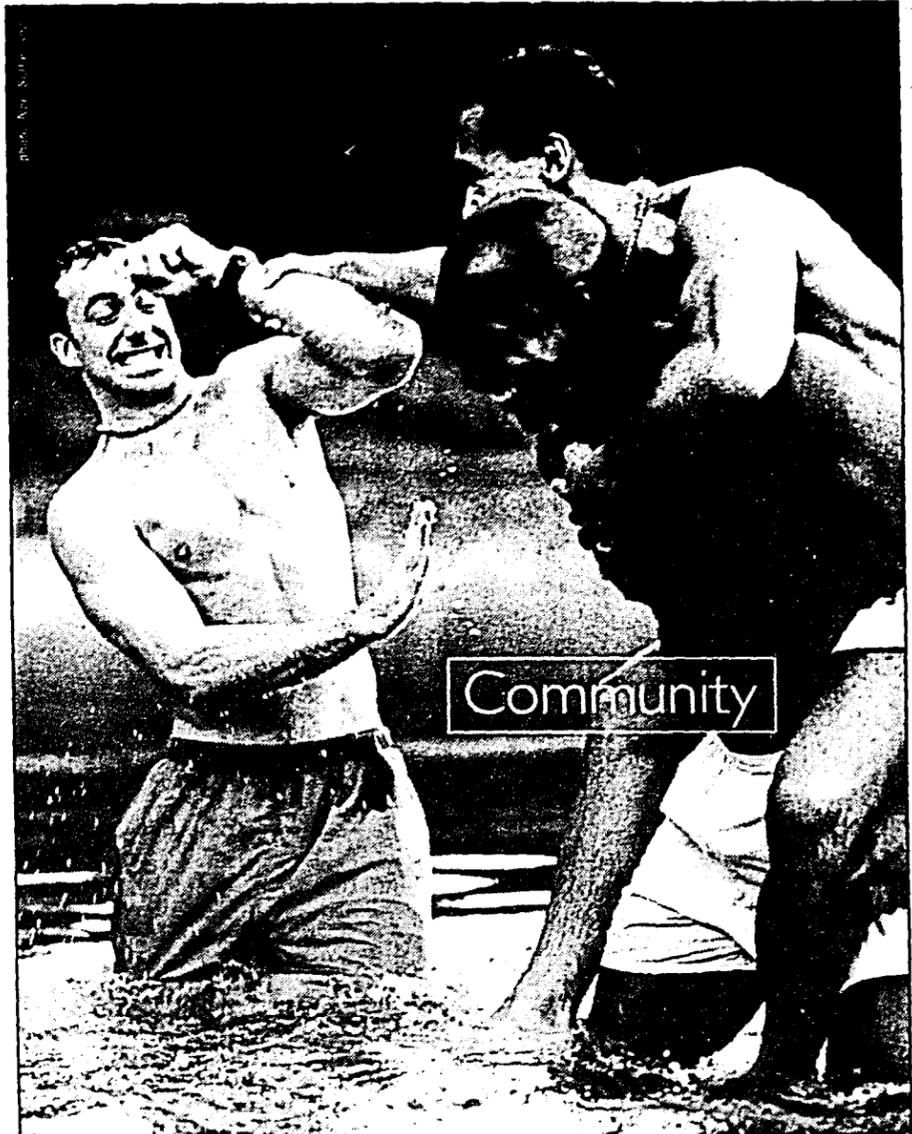
In San Francisco, the board of supervisors passed a resolution opposing Schlessinger's anti-Gay rhetoric. Activists began discussions about protesting at KPIX-TV, which also purchased "Dr. Laura."

All of which raises another crucial point: While Viacom may be producing the "Dr. Laura" TV show, dozens of other networks and television stations are the ones airing it.

Investors who find themselves selecting stocks based on their consciences instead of their wallets may find themselves too busy to do anything else.

As Christopher Street's Gourley says, "There are always alternatives. There is always something to do different or possibly better."

Note: Schlessinger issued a press release saying she regretted using words "that have hurt some people." While she appeared to apologize, she added, "Words that I have used in a clinical context have been perceived as judgement [sic]." So, Schlessinger would have her audience believe it isn't her message that is at fault, rather, it is her listeners.



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"As the lives of gay and lesbian people and families become more visible through policy discussions on the state level...it is critical that the public, the media and policy-makers have accurate information. Hostile Climate is one of the most comprehensive and well-documented catalogs of discrimination against our community."

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The Ricky Ray Fairness Act

In 1981 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) began tracking an outbreak of rare infections and cancers which came to be known as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The cause of AIDS was unknown, but it was suspected to be an agent that could be transmitted through sexual contact.

By 1982 symptoms of AIDS were appearing in people who had received blood transfusions and in people with hemophilia who had received blood products to help their blood clot normally. As the result of these cases, scientists at the CDC concluded that the agent that caused AIDS could be transmitted through contaminated blood and blood products. On January 4, 1983 the CDC held a meeting at which representatives of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the blood collection agencies, and the blood processing industry were present. At this meeting the CDC scientists reported their conclusion that the agent responsible for causing AIDS could be transmitted from an infected blood donor to a recipient of whole blood or blood products. They made a strong recommendation that in order to reduce the risk of infection and death from AIDS, blood donors should be questioned about all potential risk factors for AIDS including sexual behavior. In addition, the CDC recommended that all blood donations be tested for hepatitis B core antibodies since this marker had a very strong correlation with AIDS.

The representatives of the blood industry objected to these recommendations on the grounds that they would be too expensive and that they would deter people from donating blood. They stated that the risk of becoming infected from blood products was "one in a million." They provided no evidence, scientific or otherwise, for any of these assertions. Unfortunately the FDA heeded the concerns of the blood industry and established no requirements, recommendations, or guidelines for the screening of donated blood.

In 1984 French and American scientists isolated the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and determined that it was the agent that caused AIDS. In March of 1985 a test for antibodies to HIV became standard for the screening of donated blood. By this time approximately 20,000 Americans had become infected with HIV as the result of contaminated blood donations, approximately 8,000 hemophiliacs and 12,000 blood transfusion recipients.

In order to understand how such a profound tragedy could have occurred, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services requested the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to undertake an investigation of the process that allowed so many infections to be transmitted through the blood supply.

In 1995 the Institute of Medicine issued a report on the blood crisis of the early 1980's entitled HIV and the Blood Supply: an analysis of crisis decision making. The report found:

"When confronted with a range of options for using donor screening and deferral to reduce the probability of spreading HIV through the blood supply, blood bank officials and federal authorities consistently chose the least aggressive option...responsible officials rejected options that may have slowed the spread of HIV... Given the serious nature and devastating consequences of AIDS, all parties vested with the protection of the public health or the safety of the blood supply would have been justified in initiating both direct donor questioning and blood testing.

A failure of leadership contributed to the delay in taking effective action. This failure led to incomplete donor screening policies, weak regulatory actions, and insufficient communication to patients about the risks of AIDS."

In response to the IOM report and the continuing devastation resulting from the blood crisis of the 1980's, Congress passed the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act in 1998. This bill compensates people with hemophilia who became infected with HIV during the early 1980's with a one-time \$100,000 payment. No provision was made for the compensation of people who became infected with HIV from contaminated blood who did not have hemophilia, despite the fact that their infection resulted from the same source and had the same devastating consequences.

In November of 1999, Sen. James Jeffords of Vermont introduced the Ricky Ray Fairness Act, an amendment to PL 105-369, which would correct the omission of people with transfusion-acquired HIV from compensation.

THE RICKY RAY HEMOPHILIA RELIEF FUND ACT

The Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998 act entitles people with hemophilia who are infected with HIV to be compensated with a lump sum \$100,000.00 payment. In order to be eligible for compensation, claimants must provide documentation that they received blood products between July 1, 1982 and December 31, 1987. Infected spouses, former spouses, and children infected in utero are also eligible for compensation. Many people who became infected with HIV during the period described have already died. In the case where an individual is deceased, the surviving spouse, children, or parents would be eligible for a single \$100,000 payment.

THE RICKY RAY FAIRNESS ACT (S.1932)

The Ricky Ray Fairness Act recognizes the inequity of compensating one affected group without providing compensation for another group who suffered the same devastation. The Ricky Ray Fairness Act would amend the Rick Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act to include those individuals who became infected with HIV through blood or blood products who did not have hemophilia.

Call your Senators and Representatives and urge them to vote for S. 1932. On the Internet, go to the U.S. House of Representatives web site at <http://www.house.gov> and the Senate's web site, at <http://www.senate.gov>.

[The author is a person by the name of Walter. He has been living with AIDS for 15 years. Walter contracted the virus from a blood transfusion during an operation.]

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Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:30 p.m. Join Jerry for a Lunch Out to Nonie's. This New Orleans bistro serves up the best southern cooking this side of Louisiana. For directions and reservations, please call Jerry at 298-7415.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:00 p.m. Richard & Doug host a Lunch Out at Szechuan Ornel today. For some of the best Asian cooking in town, join them and other MSN family members for a memorable meal. For details, please call Les at 690-9565.

POZ Cafe Monthly Luncheon providing a delicious free lunch, along with friendship, games and social activities. Open to all HIV+ adults and one guest (partner, family, friend or volunteer respecting confidentiality/privacy concerns). Doors open at 11:30 - lunch is served at noon - and games, crafts and social time until 2:30 p.m. Located at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, a Gay-friendly church at the corner of River and Swan. Reservations requested. To reserve your space or request transportation, call the TIHAN office at 299-6647 by Monday, March 13.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

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, March 16 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, MARCH 18

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 9:00 a.m. After the recent attack of a Gay student on 4th Avenue, now may be the perfect time to learn about self defense. The 1 In 10 Self Defense class is a day-long hands-on experience on how to avoid dangerous situations, and how to take care of yourself if you find no other way out. Cost is \$45.00. For reservations and directions, please call Donn at 331-3056.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Robert for a singles sleep-over. Bring your pjs and get ready for a fun night with your Gay family. For reservations and directions call Robert at 408-7114.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 9:00 a.m. There's a hiking expedition for single guys to the Tanque Verde Falls this morning. For details, directions, and reservations, please call Robert at 408-7114.

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

Men's Massage Group Spring Equinox celebration meets today at 5:00 p.m. This is a special 3 1/2 hour group. Call for more information. It will be a lot of fun. 881-4582. Small fee.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. The first day of spring brings on changes, and one man has big changes in store for him in "In & Out". Join Bill for this hilarious movie about a man who is outed on the Oscars. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 297-3569.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m.ish. Join Donn for an Oscar Nominee Movie-"American Beauty". This dark look at the American dream gone awry is this year's most nominated film. Please call Donn at 331-3056.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:00 p.m. Bob hosts a Lunch Out at Las Margaritas today. For some good Mexican food, join him and other MSN family members for a fun fiesta in the middle of the day. For reservations, please call Bob at 888-2725.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

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 Premiere of "Common Ground", the recent Showtime movie about growing up Gay in the 50s, 70s, and today. This trilogy is thoughtful and well done-with a nice comedic episode at the end. For reservations & directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

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 the future of MSN. What would you like to see from the group in the coming year? Come give us your input. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 10:00 a.m. Join Bill for his annual shopping expedition to the Caca Grande outlet stores. We'll carpool up, and after shopping,

Bar Calendar

Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. The Girlie Show hosted by Lucinda Holiday with Bunny FuFu, Phaedra and Faith Michaels.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

STONEWALL - St. Paddy's Day starts early here with all well drinks and drafts only \$1.00. Cherry Bombs 50¢ plus free hot dogs and popcorn.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

IBTS - St. Patrick's Day party. Get set for the Corned Beef and Cabbage from 5:30 p.m. until ??? Plus drink specials!!!

STONEWALL - Celebrate St. Paddy's Day here with all well drinks and drafts only \$1.00. Cherry Bombs 50¢.

VENTURE-N - The annual Hides of March begins here with three fun packed days and nights. Check in tonight, there's food and drink specials. And it's Uniform Night! Wear your uniform and get 50¢ off of your mixed drinks.

VALENTINA'S - Celebrate St. Patrick's Day here with the live band 'Desert Rage'. Some great sounds for listening and dancing!

WOODY'S - St. Patrick's Day Party! Corned Beef and Cabbage with all the trimmings. 5:00 p.m. Beer Special: Killian's on tap 12oz glass \$1.50, small pitcher (22oz) \$2.75. Erin Go Braugh!

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

IBTS - 10:00 p.m., a CD release party and special appearance of Musty Chiffon performing songs from her new CD with give-aways of her CD and music videos and "Reel Gay" videos.

STONEWALL - Third day of St. Paddy's Day Party. Start off with their Hangover Cure: Smirnoff Screwdrivers, Bloody Marys and Mimosas \$1.50. Then continue Paddy's Party with all well drinks and drafts only \$1.00. Cherry Bombs 50¢. Free hot dogs and popcorn too!

VALENTINA'S - Showtime here at 9:00 p.m. hosted by Crystal Abrams.

VENTURE-N - Hides of March continues today with a big Beer Bust, Tucson Knight Ows 'Body Wash', dinner and a 'Village People' show.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

IBTS - 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The benefit bar-b-que and 16oz Beer Bust goes to PFLAG. 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. it's Karaoke on the patio with Billy Dee. 9:00 p.m. a Fundraising show for Phaedra who is a candidate for Miss Gay Cosmopolitan and featuring Lucinda Holiday, Bunny FuFu, Deora Le Blanc, Shaundriana and Stella Virgin.

STONEWALL - St. Patrick's Day weekend winds up today with all well drinks and drafts of \$1.00. Cherry Bombs 50¢ plus today Sal and Kathy are serving up a free Corned Beef Dinner.

VALENTINA'S - Benefit show for SAAF hosted by Stella Virgin and featuring special guests.

VENTURE-N - Hides of March winds up today with a send-off Brunch with Bloody Mary and Screw Driver specials. Wear a Village People outfit and get 50¢ off your mixed drinks.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. it's The Girlie Show hosted by Lucinda Holiday and featuring Aja Simone, Kenneth Blake and Patsy La Croix.

FRI-SAT-SUN, MARCH 24-25-26

IBTS - This is home base for the 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair. Shows hosted by Lucinda Holiday and Aja Simone and featuring Kenneth Blake, Adrienne Alexander, Bunny FuFu, Veronica Lake, and from Phoenix, Virginia Sacrifice, Phaedra and Devina. Showtimes Saturday and Sunday 3:00 p.m. And an additional show on Sunday for the community at 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

VALENTINA'S - The First Annual Miss Valentina Pageant will be held here tonight. For more information call (520)557-1189.

we'll go to his very Gay-friendly parents' home for dessert. For details, please call Bill at 546-7539.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Bill as he hosts Pinocchio 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.

Desert Voices will be in concert at Pima Community College Precerium Theatre in a tribute to Billy Strayhorn, best known as Duke Ellington's collaborator. Strayhorn was a master composer of swing music, beautiful ballads and openly Gay. The concert, "Lush Life" begins at 8:00 p.m. For more information and tickets call (520)791-9652. There is another performance tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

3. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. The MSN family gathers to listen to our Gay brothers & sister sing at the Desert Voices Concert: "Lush Life". For more information about this, please call Davey at 886-1208.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Desert Voices will be in concert at Pima Community College Precerium Theatre in a tribute to Billy Strayhorn, best known as Duke Ellington's collaborator. Strayhorn was a master composer of swing music, beautiful ballads and openly Gay. The concert, "Lush Life" begins at 2:00 p.m. For more information and tickets call (520)791-9652.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

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

IBTS - 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 - Bar open Noon. Smirnoff Sundays /make your own Bloody Marys bar. Flashback Sundays in the Dance Club. Open 9pm. Music of the 70s and 80s with DJ Rob. New Digital Karaoke sound system in the bar 9pm to close. Free popcorn and Hot Dogs. VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour 11am to 7pm. Bloody Mary & Boaler maker specials. BBQ (\$2.50 & \$5.00) from 4-9pm. All request DJ 9pm to close.

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. Karaoke with Bill Dee now on Sundays 9pm to close.

Monday

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

IBTS - 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 - Bar opens noon. Dance Club opens 9pm. Hot dance mix with DJ Rob. Free Popcorn and Hot Dogs.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: BBQ (\$1.50) 4-9pm. Big screen sporting events. Dart Tournament. All request DJ 9pm to closing.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Dart Tournney 8pm, pot matched. Patio opens 5pm WOODYS - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

Tuesday

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

IBTS - 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 until 7pm. Dance Club opens 9pm. DJ Eduardo. Free Popcorn and Hot Dogs.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Extended Happy Hour til 9pm: BBQ (\$1.50) 4-7pm Oh So Scary-oke (Karaoke) 9pm - 12:45am.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio open 5pm. 1st Tuesday TKO Spaghetti Feed WOODYS - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Trivia Party 8pm-close. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. Sky's the limit \$2.25

Wednesday

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

IBTS - 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. Happy Hour prices til 7. Dan e Club opens at 9pm with DJ Rob and his hot mix. New Digital Karaoke Sound System 9pm til close in the bar. Free Popcorn and Hot Dogs.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 9pm. Pool touney 7:30pm (pot matched). Lounge Lizards Paradise: 50¢ shot sampler/bartenders choice. All request DJ 9pm

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

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

IBTS - 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 until 7pm. Dance club opens at 9pm. Dance with DJ Eduardo. Free Hot Dogs and Popcorn.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7: \$1.50 Well or Domestic 9-11pm. Karaoke 9pm-12:45am.

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

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free pool 2-4. Free food at 5:30pm. Dance music 9-1 w/DJ Hil. Drink specials every 1/2 hour

IBTS - 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. Dance Club open 9pm. Dance with DJ Marquis. Free Popcorn and Hot Dogs.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7. Girl z will be Boyz drink specials posted above the bar. All request DJ 9pm to close.

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 Martinis \$2, Cal Martinis \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Drink specials all day. Pool Tournament 5:30pm \$3 entry. Pot matched. Dance music w/DJ Hil 9-close. Drink specials every half hour.

IBTS - 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. Dance Club opens at 9pm. Dance with DJ Marquis. Free Hot Dogs and Popcorn.

VALENTINA'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour til 7. A variety of shows hosted by Crystal Abrams. 9pm. All donations go to charity. All request DJ 10pm to close.

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.



6303 East 27th Street
Tucson, Arizona 85710
(520) 743-0963
Fax (520) 571-9363
Open Daily until 11 p.m.

8800 E Tanque Verde
Tucson, Arizona 85749
(520) 760-2890
Fax (520) 760-2891
Open Daily Until 2 p.m.

OPEN FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 24 HOURS

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 Care Teams 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 1 to 2m new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-8676 or 327-4293.

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

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 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 322-8057 (evelfen@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. Dezerz Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Dezerz 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@mail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagae@mail

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

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

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)817-4661, or http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/5098

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 (602)534-8219 (Phoenix)

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

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

WOMEN 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.

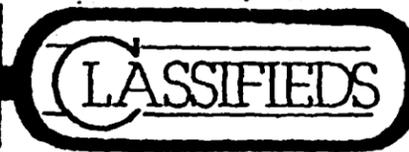
LUTHERANS CONCERNED - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 4th Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 8809 S. Cardinal Ave. For more information write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

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)

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

HKE & BIKE DYKES. Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Call 327-7239 for info.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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 effected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saaaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

RELATIONSHIP SURVIVORS. For Lesbians whose relationship has just broken up. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am to 10am. For info call Dorian Easty, group facilitator. 882-7723

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-8264. 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 - 328-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 745-8977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

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

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

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 85803 / (602)432-5591. Rap Group, Youth Group, Social and Political Events.

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

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 624-6766.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 323-9466 or Ray at 749-5247.

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7266.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus rehearses Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9682.

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

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

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

HOUSING/FOR RENT

RENOVATED DOWNTOWN APARTMENTS. Come reserve yours now. 8 apts. left. Each apartment is different. Very cute. A must see. Available in April. 29 W. Kennedy or call 270-2810. Gay managed. 817

1 BR ADOBE HOUSE. Living room, dining room, kitchen, bath. Hardwood floors. Fenced ard. Available 1st April. Speedway/Alverson area. Call for appointment to see late afternoons or evenings. Ask for Bill 795-8881. 820

HISTORIC 3 BEDROOM, 1 BATH HOME/OFFICE. Wood floors, fireplace, central heat/cool. Enclosed yard, garage. \$850/mo. 603E. Speedway. 623-5721 or 323-7264 818

VARIOUS CENTRAL TUCSON LOCATIONS. Large 1 and 2 bedroom apartments unfurnished. Clean, private, quiet. Many extras. Special move-in prices. Call 620-0130 821

ROOMMATES

HOUSEMATE: 2 bedroom duplex. Good location near the U and bus stops. Renting for \$285 all utilities paid except phone. First and Last Months Rent. NO DEPOSITS. Washer/dryer. Off street parking. Will prepare a continental breakfast and dinner for an added \$65. For the cost of food. Quiet neighborhood. Looking for a mature gentleman tired of living alone and cooking. It is a very good price for room and board. AVAILABLE NOW. Call Bob @ 903-1800 820

PERSONALS

READY TO MEET YOUR DREAM DATE? Call our Gay Dateline: 1-900-255-8189 X3527. \$2.99/min, 18+

VERY LONELY GAY MAN looking for relationship. Please write: Yashewa, P.O. Box 64665, Tucson, AZ 85728 USA. Thank you 828

GREAT PHONE SEX. No international charges. (213)213-6900. 819

ATTENTION - ATTENTION - ATTENTION Si eres hombre que tiene sexo con otros hombres y quieres ayudarnos a extender y apoyar los programas para Los Latinos, llama para una entrevista estrictamente confidencial al 628-7223, ext. 248 y pregunta por Ernesto. 821

If you are a Latino man who is having sex with other men and you want to help us support and expand our programs for Latinos, call for a confidential interview at 628-7223 ext 248 and ask for Ernie. 821

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

HOT GAY WEBSITES! www.gaysexlive.com Live XXX Models; www.gay-chat.com Free Gay Chat www.marinesstud.com Real Military! www.latinstud.com Hot Latin Hunks www.studmail.com Free E-mail Account. (800)363-7883 Talk Live With Men 18+ 839

CYBER CRUISE - Meet Arizona Gay men and women as well as people all over the U.S. Gay owned. www.movo.com 821

EMPLOYMENT

SALES AND MARKETING. Gay and Lesbian film distributing company. Experienced professional salesperson needed to maintain and expand national business to business account base. Contact Michael 622-2400 or fax resume to 622-2992 819

SERVICES

TIRED? RESTLESS? Full body private, discreet massages for men only. \$45/hour. Donald 319-1678 817

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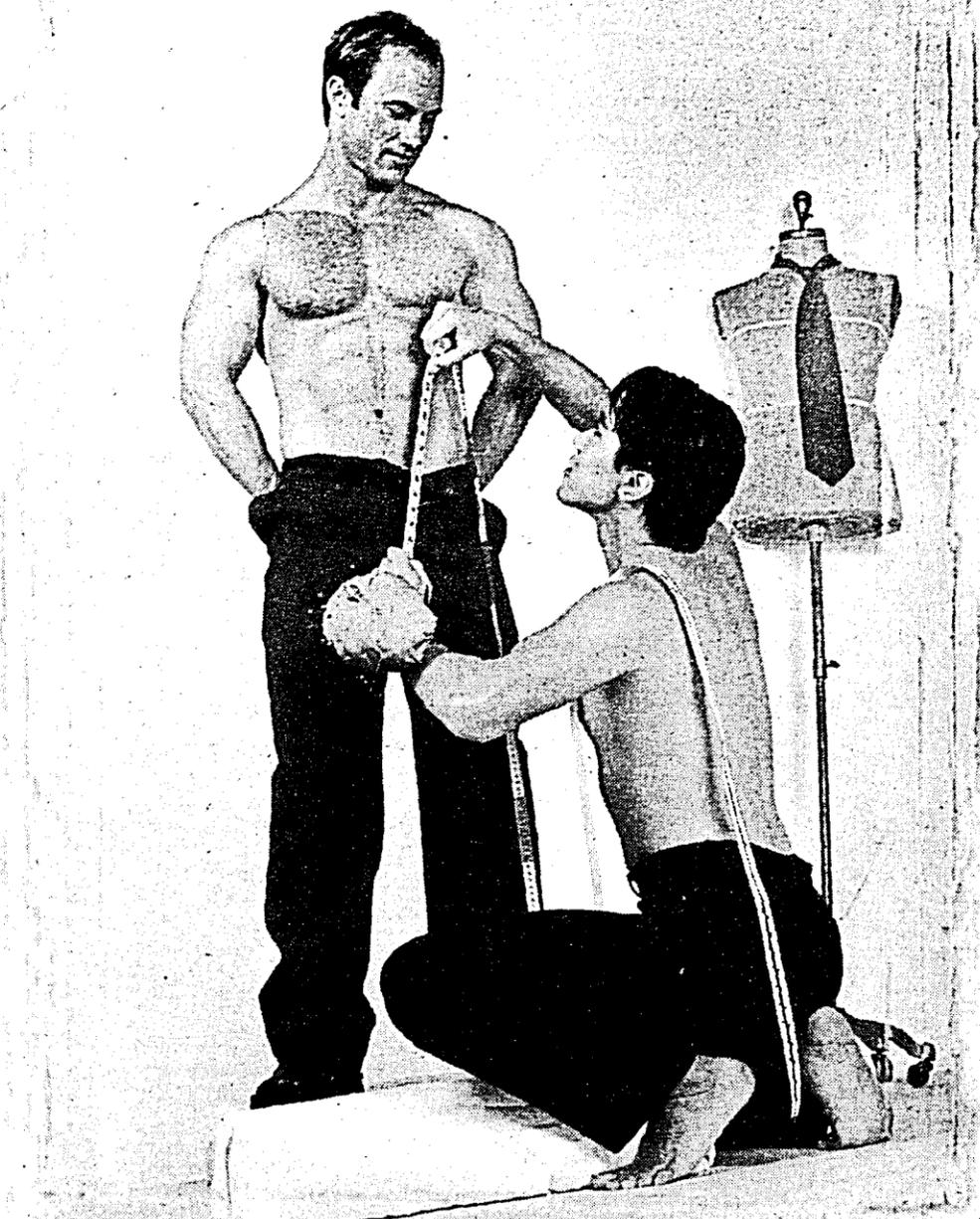
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