Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

Observer

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City Of Tucson Prepares Non-Bias Statement

By M. Scot Skinner

TUCSON - The city of Tucson is asking agencies that receive city money to sign a broad statement indicating that they do not have a policy of "exclusionary discrimination."

The city's Community Services Department asked that executive directors and board presidents sign and return the statement by December 15.

"If you cannot sign this statement, please provide a letter of explanation by the same date," the form says.

The city is attempting to craft and implement a nondiscrimination policy adopted September 25 by the mayor and council.

Beginning July 1, agencies that hope to receive public funding must not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, age, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status or marital status.

The statement of nondiscrimination says organizations "may target a particular age group, gender or other designated target population, provided such organizations do not deny access to any qualified individual on the basis of race, color . . ."

"The mayor and council gave us the policy, and what we are trying to do is determine what kinds of problems we might have out there and what they are," said Karen Thoreson, community services director. "It's not a black-and-white issue."

Thoreson said there's not necessarily anything wrong with a group that targets a certain population for its services.

"What we're trying to figure out is what the range of that targeting is, and whether they are leaving out groups that should be served," she said.

"There are some instances where age, for example, is a defining criteria of the agency," Thoreson said. "You don't provide preschool services to 21-year-olds."

If a group serves only female victims of domestic violence, it would need to show the city what it would do if a battered man came in for help, Thoreson said.

"We would like to know whether that agency would refer him somewhere where he could be served," she said.

After the city hears from the various agencies that receive funding, Thoreson's department will make recommendations to the city manager and city attorney about how to write and implement the policy.

"We want to be able to give everybody time to comply," she said. "Right now, we are sort of just surveying the landscape."

In addition to the explanatory letter and the statement of non-discrimination, the city also mailed a list of definitions for each of the areas protected against discrimination.

Under sexual orientation, for example, it reads: "An individual's heterosexuality, homosexuality or Bisexuality, whether real or perceived."

The anti Gay policies of the Boy Scouts of America prompted the City Council to ban direct or indirect public funding to organizations that discriminate. The Scouts do not allow participation by Gay Scouts or Gay leaders.

[M. Scot Skinner is a reporter for the Arizona Daily Star from which this article is reprinted.]

COMMENTARY

By President Bill Clinton

Greetings to all those observing the 13th annual World AIDS Day. On this occasion each year, we join with all countries of the world to focus global attention on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the lives of those affected by this devastating disease.

While we have come a long way in the struggle to overcome the personal, social, and economic impact of this epidemic, the battle is far from over. Last year, 2.8 million deaths from HIV/AIDS were recorded, the highest global total since the epidemic began. In the United States alone, we have an unacceptably high number of new HIV infections every year. Every hour in our nation, two new cases of HIV are reported in young people under the age of 25. Racial and ethnic minority communities, women, and youth are being particularly hard hit.

HIV has reached catastrophic proportions in some areas of the globe and is about to explode in others. AIDS threatens the economies of the poorest countries, the stability of friendly nations, and the future of fragile democracies. We do not live in isolation from our global neighbors, and it is imperative that the United States join together with all nations to mobilize a greatly expanded world response to stem the rising tide of this disease. We must also continue our efforts to make care and treatment, including drugs, which are increasing the life span and improving the quality of life of many infected with HIV, accessible to all who need them.

This year's World AIDS Day theme, "All Men, Make a Difference!" focuses on men's ability, and responsibility, to exert powerful influence in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. It calls on all men around the world to embrace a new leadership role not only in prevention, but also in the care of their children and other loved ones whose lives are affected by AIDS.

As we observe World AIDS Day 2000, our task must be to work in cooperation and solidarity here in the United States and with our neighbors around the world to stop the spread of this devastating disease. The future of the world's children depends on our ability to achieve this goal together.

Navy Won't Force Gay To Pay

WASHINGTON, DC (NP) -The Navy finally backed down on its demand to make a midshipman who left the service because of alleged homosexual conduct to repay his tuition costs.

Former U.S. Naval Academy midshipman Tommie Lee Watkins Jr. is off the hook for the tuition costs he incurred while studying at Annapolis before he resigned under pressure amid allegations of homosexual conduct. On November 21, the Navy's last day to respond to Watkins' federal lawsuit protesting the bill, his attorney received a memo from Assistant Secretary of the Navy Carolyn Becraft saying, "After consultation with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, I have decided to give ... Watkins the benefit of the doubt as to the nature and severity of his misconduct as a midshipman" rather than try to collect from him. It had been Becraft's decision in March to try to recoup the tuition costs -- $67,000 in 1997 when Watkins left the Academy, now grown to more than $86,000 with interest -- even after the Navy's highest personnel panel, the Board of Correction of Naval Records, had recommended strongly against it.

Many discharged students are not forced to repay tuition. Watkins's attorney expects to be able to use his case on behalf

CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN

Gospel Mission Snubs Kolbe, Then Recants

TUCSON (NP) - Arizona's Republican congressman certainly isn't the first Gay to be excluded from Thanksgiving dinner, but in this case there was a happy ending.

Openly Gay U.S. Congressmember Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) was reelected for a ninth term this month by some two-thirds of his constituents, but that overwhelming support was not shared by a Tucson homeless shelter -- the board declined to let him repeat as a volunteer serving Thanksgiving dinner. Following a November 19 board vote, the Gospel Rescue Mission informed Kolbe in writing that, "This decision is based on your publicly announced sexual orientation that is diametrically opposite to admonitions in the Bible. This mission is founded on biblical principles, and we cannot give a public forum to a public official who is blatantly flaunting those principles."

A Gospel Rescue Mission board spokesperson told the Arizona Daily Star when the decision became public that Kolbe had been allowed to volunteer a year ago only because his visit had come as a surprise, adding that, "We wouldn't want anyone who advocated adultery to serve either" -- even though the mission had actually bragged about Kolbe's participation in a press release earlier.

Kolbe was more than gracious in his response, writing that, "It would undermine the very essence of Thanksgiving if the good works of the Gospel Rescue Mission and others were eclipsed in controversy. The Mission has provided noble service to [the] community and I wish it only the best in its efforts to feed and clothe the downtrodden." The rejected congressman continued,"'God made many diverse people in his image. Judeo-Christian tradition tells us that no people should be made to feel smaller than others. On this Thanksgiving, I am all the more grateful for the love and affection of family, and the demonstrations of support from so many friends in Southern Arizona."

Tucson's Salvation Army immediately and enthusiastically invited Kolbe to its Thanksgiving dinner (although reports were unclear as to whether he was made aware of it in time). With that example, and with widespread publicity leading to a number of angry phone calls, the mission board wrote a new letter to Kolbe November 24 saying, "The action we took did not properly effect our Christian belief that God loves and desires a personal relationship with every person. We hope that you accept this apology and we ask for your forgiveness."

Along with the apology came an invitation for Kolbe to help serve Christmas dinner and next year's Thanksgiving. Gospel Rescue Mission executive director Roy Tullgren told the Tucson Citizen that, "We were judging him, and we shouldn't have. That's not what we're about."

UPDATE

MCC December Update

TUCSON - Water of Life MCC will begin the month of December with a worship service of hope and healing in commemoration of World AIDS day on December 3.

The lighting of the AIDS candle and liturgy will be incorporated in the Advent service, with the acknowledgment that HIV infection/AIDS is still with us, and until HIV/AIDS is defeated we will continue to work, to hope, and to pray.

Water of Life MCC will celebrate the thirtieth (30th) Anniversary of the founding of the church December 9 - 10. The Anniversary celebration will open with a catered church dinner Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m., Sunday morning gala celebration worship service at 10:15 a.m., and will feature Marsha Stevens in concert Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. Marsha is the founder of BALM Ministries (Born-Again-Lesbian-Music) and is well known for her original hymn "For Those Tears I Died" (also known as "Come to the Water") found in all major hymnals today. Marsha and her partner Suzanne travel throughout North America presenting concerts in churches of all denominations; concerts which affirm the dignity and equality of all people, including the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual and Transgendered communities.

The church will also celebrate the Advent season throughout the month with the introduction of unique and uplifting Advent liturgy in the worship services. In addition to a special Christmas concert, Water of Life MCC will celebrate Christmas in a special and spiritually moving Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 10:45 in the evening. Members, friends and visitors will gather at the church on Christmas day for a special dinner. Water of Life MCC will complete the exciting month of December with a special Kwaanza worship service on Sunday December 31.

Rev. Cook is inviting everyone to come and join in Worship during this exciting Advent Season., with the special concerts and candlelight service that will be spiritually empowering and uplifting. Water of Life MCC is located at 3269 N. Mountain Ave., just north of Fort Lowell Road, and worships each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. For further information, please contact the church office at (520)292-9151 or you may contact the Pastor at WOL-MCC@aol.com.

Desert Voices Holiday

TUCSON - Desert Voices, Arizona's premiere Lesbian & Gay chorus, presents their annual holiday concert December 8 & 9 at the Proscenium Theatre at Pima Community College, 8:00 p.m.

The concert, Love and Light, shares songs of the winter solstice from Jane Siberry's hauntingly beautiful Are You Burning Little Candle? to Morten Lauridsen's lush O Nata Lux. Familiar carols abound in the second half of the concert as the chorus shares a festive holiday celebration within someone's home. The highly popular concert will feature selections by Alegria, the noted women's barbershop quartet and Four Brothers, the vocal jazz men's quartet. Storytellers will be featured and audience participation will be strongly encouraged throughout the concert! The concert will be ASL interpreted for the hearing impaired.

Tickets are $10/12 in advance and available at Tucson Trunk, Antigone Books or by calling the chorus hotline at (520) 791-9662. Season tickets are still available. You'll receive the best seats in the house, benefit coupons and invitations to special events. Group rates are also available. Voices and Visions, Desert Voices' twelfth concert season is funded in part by Tucson Pima Arts Council, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and the Stocker Foundation.

SAAF Positions Available

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

Gay Men's Health Project Outreach Specialist: energetic individual to provide outreach, recruitment, and health ed. for Gay and Bisexual men in Southern Arizona. Must be familiar with Gay bar culture and possess excellent communication skills. Bilingual/bicultural pref. Salary up to $22,000, excellent benefits.

Case Manager: exp. social worker to provide comprehensive case management to people with HIV/AIDS. Requires experience in provision of direct case management services and substance abuse programs. MSW pref. plus 2-4 yrs. exp. in human services. Salary up to $24,500, excellent benefits.

Housing Developer: experienced, motivated self-starter to develop housing for people with HIV. Exp. in low-income housing preferred. Familiar with HUD, HOME, and other funding programs desirable. Communication, grant-writing skills essential. Salary up to $35,000, excellent benefits.

RGMC Update

TUCSON - Plan now to spend an evening with ye merry gentlemen of Reveille Gay Men's Chorus at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 15 or Saturday, December 16 at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Tucson.

The men of Reveille will entertain you with traditional carols and songs of the season, such as "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," "What Child is This?" and "I Saw Three Ships!"

In addition, music spiced up with a "Southwest flavor" will include "Esta Noche," "Feliz Navidad," and the "Jalepeño Chorus." The concert closes with music from the movie White Christmas.

Joining us will be Tucson Diva Soprano Elena Todd, a frequent guest artist with Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, along with Wanda Brister, who brings a great history of performance with her as the newest voice faculty member at the U of A School of Music.

This promises to be a great Holiday Show, so get your tickets now! Tickets are $30 for season tickets (all 3 concerts). Individual tickets are $12 advanced purchase, and $15 at the door. Seniors (65+), students and children tickets are $12 advanced purchase or at the door. Season tickets are available by calling the Chorus Hotline, (520) 617-3100. Advanced purchase tickets are also available from Tucson Trunk, 5606 E. River Road; Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave.; Rainbow Planet Coffee House, 606 N. 4th Ave. and at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams.

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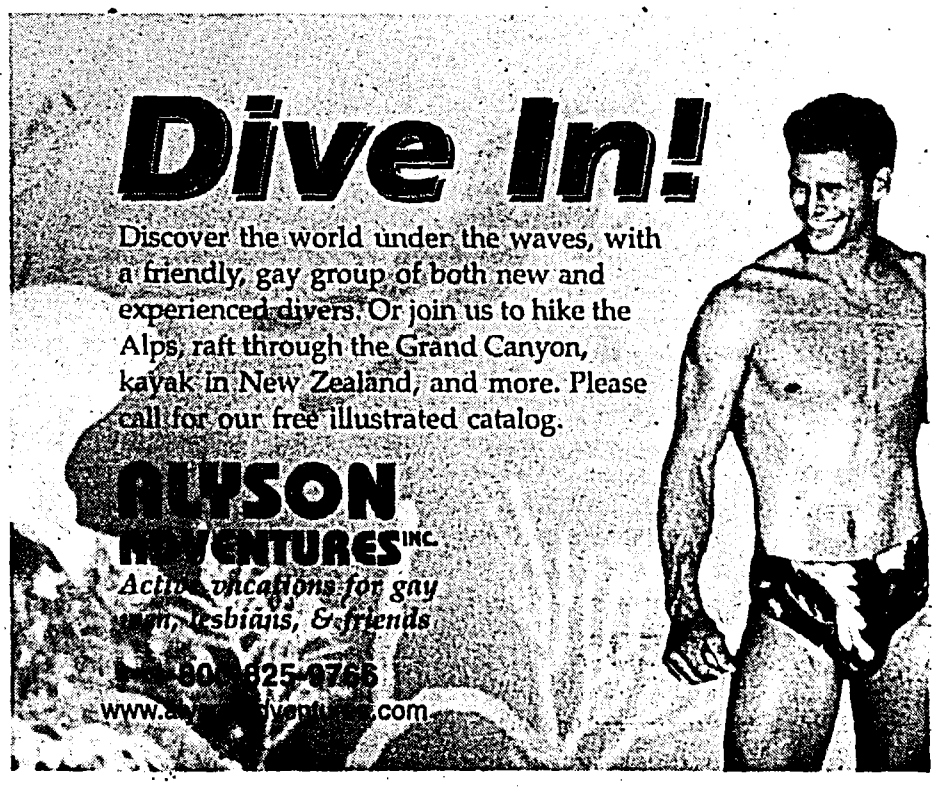

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Informing the Community..
The Observer

Woody's

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Dart Tournament Tuesday's W/Doc
7:00 pm - pot matched

Karaoke with Billy Dee
Sunday's and Monday's at 9:00 pm

Chili Feed Wednesday Night
5 til 9 pm, $2.50

Big Ass Glass All Draft Beers
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Woody's World Famous Steak Fry (Filet Mignon)
Saturday's
5 - 9 pm
$4.50

Sunday Afternoon Volleyball 5:00 pm
$2.50 1/3 lb sirloin burgers served til 9 pm

IBT's Thursday, November 30th Male Box Nite Hosted by Gay Men's Health Project
meat new friends and get lucky playing post office

IBT's Sunday Party Line-up for December 3rd.....

11am to 6 pm - Jeff's Bloody Mary and Recovery Buffet Bar

4:30 pm - 7:30 pm -Karaoke on the patio with Billy Dee

5:30pm to 8pm - Benefit B-B-Q/16oz Beer Bust for IBT's Arizona Angels Softball Team.

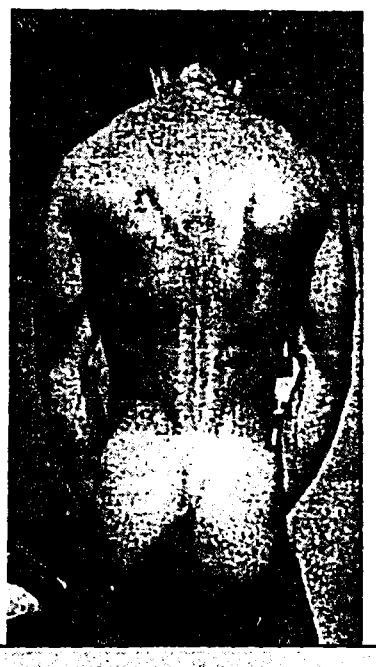
9:00 pm Special Fundraiser Show for the Arizona Angels Softball Team Featuring: Ajia Simone, Bunny FuFu, Deora Le Blanc, Stella Virgin, Janee Starr, and special guests

Tee's and Tattoo Tuesday 9pm til close, happy hour prices for those in their IBT's t-shirt ($5.00) or IBT's Tattoo's (.$50)

Wednesday, Dec. 6th, 9pm, 'The Girlie Show' hosted by Lucinda Holliday, featuring: Mr. Kenneth Blake, Bunny FuFu and special guests

IBT's.....Hot Men - Hot Dance - 7 Nights A Week!!!

4th Avenue Street Fair Dec 8th, 9th, and 10th,



Desert Divas Shows
Sat., Dec. 9th, 3pm ($1 cover)
Sun., Dec. 10th, 3pm ($1 cover)
" " " 9:30 pm (no cover)

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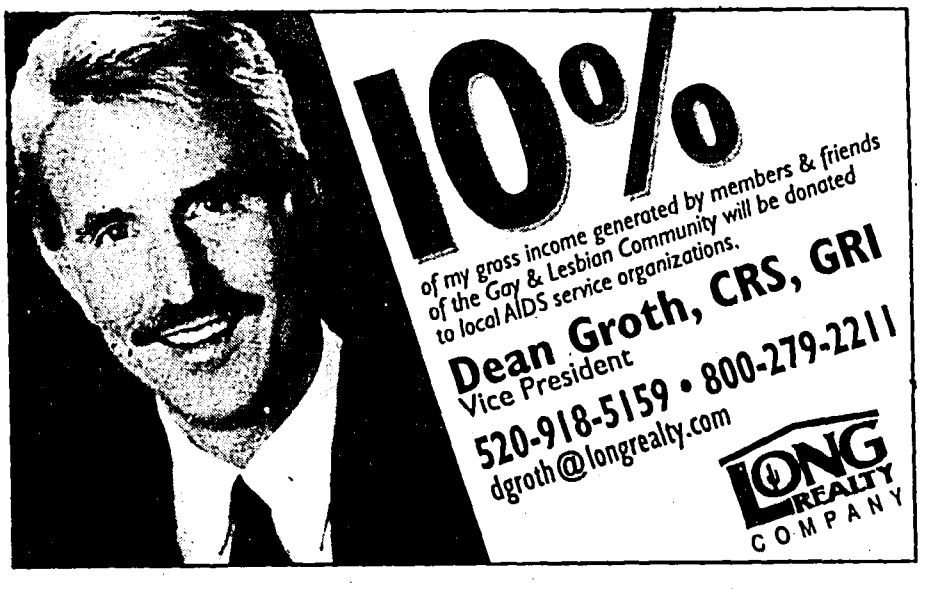

World AIDS Day To Be Observed In Tucson

TUCSON - World AIDS Day will be observed in Tucson Friday, December 1, from 11:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m., at the International Arts Center, 512 N. 5th Ave.

World AIDS Day has a special place in the history of the AIDS pandemic. Since 1988 1st December has been a day bringing messages of compassion, hope, solidarity and understanding about AIDS to every country in the world, North and South, East and West.

What prompted this extraordinary response? World AIDS Day emerged from the call by the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention in January 1988 to open channels of communication, strengthen the exchange of information and experience, and forge a spirit of social tolerance. Since then, World AIDS Day has received the support of the World Health Assembly, the United Nations system, and governments, communities and individuals around the world. Each year, it is the only international day of coordinated action against AIDS.

This year's ceremony, which begins at noon, will include the unfolding of the Tucson Remembrance Quilt, music, dance, and speakers living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Tucson's theme this year is "Unity Makes a Difference" and is reflected in the highly diverse ceremony and the range of organizations which are participating.

The Tucson Remembrance Quilt is modeled after the AIDS Memorial Quilt, panels of which are displayed around the country. The Quilt provides people with a tangible way to remember loved ones lost to AIDS, and the quilting itself can be a valuable activity in the process of healing Local quilt panels have been prepared by individuals and volunteers from several social service organizations.

In addition to displaying the Tucson Remembrance Quilt, the event also includes displays by numerous organizations of their AIDS-related services and programs. Anonymous HIV testing will be provided on-site by the Pima County Health Department.

This year's ceremony includes songs by a gospel choir, dance by Eno Washington, comments from a woman living with AIDS and a youth involved in the Queer Voice prevention project, and music after the ceremony by the Tucson High Mariachi Club.

Participating agencies include the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), Pima County Health Department, COPE Insiders, Intertribal Health Care, and Tucson Urban League. Contributions have been provided by Cactus Quilt Shops, Helping Hands Needleworks, Little Mexico, and Oncology Biotech.

On Thursday, November 30 the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will host their 7th annual Interfaith Service in honor of World AIDS Day. The service is being held at Temple Emanu-El, 225 N. Country Club, at 7:00 p.m. The service this year will feature the beautiful music and traditions of Judaism, along with inspirational speakers, music and prayers from all of our diverse traditions, brought together as an act of hope and remembrance of all people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS crisis in our world. We ask everybody in Tucson to come together in mutual support, as we join cities around the world, to immerse our hearts and souls in a collective prayer of hope, to acknowledge the impact of HIV on our lives, to grieve the losses we have experienced, and to offer thanksgiving for health and hope in the future. TIHAN is a compassionate coalition of 24 Gay-friendly and HIV-friendly congregations of all faiths.

AIDS continues to impact the Tucson community, as the rate of infection has remained steady and more people are living longer with the disease while still needing an array of support services and medical care, In Pima County, 2500 people are reported to be infected with HIV, and an additional 3000-4000 people are estimated to be undiagnosed.

An estimated 5.3 million people, including 600,000 children under age 15, were infected with HIV/AIDS this year, the World Health Organization said in a report.

This is the first year that the number of new infections in sub-Saharan Africa appeared to have stabilized, but that was offset by increases in morbidity - the rate the disease was contracted - and mortality in the same region during 2000.

An estimated 3.8 million people in the region were newly infected with HIV this year, as opposed to a total of 4 million there during 1999. The region is home to about one-tenth of the world's population but remains the world's hardest-hit. Not only did it account for 72 percent of new HIV infections last year, but the region also had 70 percent of the people living with HIV/AIDS and 80 percent of the AIDS deaths in the past year, according to WHO's Weekly Epidemiological Record.

Worldwide, a total of 36.1 million adults and children are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS. The adults are split almost equally between men and women, with an estimated 18.2 million men between 15 and 49 living with the fatal disease, the U.N. health agency said. It said that the decline in AIDS cases in industrialized countries is being offset by the increases in reports from developing countries.

In the two decades since the pandemic disease was recognized, an estimated 21.8 million adults and children have died from the disease. Of those, an estimated 3 million died this year. The numbers of women dying have continued to increase, accounting for an estimated 52 percent of such adult deaths this year, the WHO said.

Overall, the number of new HIV infections in these countries "has remained relatively constant over the past few years," it said. WHO statistics showed that the United States and Canada had an estimated 920,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, with approximately 45,000 new cases this year.

An additional 540,000 victims live in Western Europe, which had about 30,000 new infections in 2000. Australia and New Zealand have an estimated 15,000 people infected with the disease, and about 500 new infections this year, the report added.

People who injected drugs were responsible for most of the new infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the report said.

The Arts

NOW PLAYING THRU NOV. 22

Gallery Four Ten, 410 E. Ft. Lowell road presents "Hidden Faces: Uncovered Tucson Artists" . Gallery Director Richard Zelens presents, for the first time exhibit, the art of Greg Carmean, Tracy Featherstone, Ron Iwamoto, Darin Schoeny and Jorge Vergeli. Gallery hours 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p. Wednesdays through Saturdays.

NOW PLAYING THRU DEC. 3

"Into the Woods" performed by the Arizona Repertory Theatre at the University of Arizona Maroney Theatre. Ticket info 621-1162. A ravishing musical fantasy where fairy tales collide in search of "happily ever after". An award-winning Stephen Sondheim/James Lapine musical.

NOW PLAYING THRU DEC. 10

Live Theatre Workshop will present "Busman's Honeymoon", a love story with detective interruptions at their performance space at 5317 E. Speedway. General admission is $12 with a dollar discount for Seniors and Students. The play focuses on Lord Peter Wimsey and his new bride Harriet Vane. They have moved to the countrty and upon their arrival at their honeymoon cottage, they discover a murder has taken place.

NOW PLAYING THRU DEC. 16

Gilbert & Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" will be performed by the Arizona Theatre Company at the Temple of Music & Art, 330 S. Scott Ave.,622-2823. The laugh-out-loud musical in a glorious new production filled with some of the most rousing, well-loved melodies ever written. Board the H.M.S. Pinafore and be swept away in a sea of laughter, love and lunacy.

PLAYING THRU DECEMBER 3

Uapresents "Ragtime: The Musical" Winner of four 1998 Tony Awards, at Centennial Hall. Box office info. 621-3341. "A ravishing pageant, a Broadway crowd-dazzler" says the New York Times.

DECEMBER 2

The Tucson Arts District Partnership invites the public to Downtown Saturday Night to celebrate the holidays with the annual Holiday Caroling Festival. Held in conjunction with the Downtown Holiday Parade, the festival begins after the parade at 7:00 p.m. with mini-carol sings at the Tucson Museum of Art, La Placita Village Art² (Art Square) and the Main Library. From these points, carolers will sing their way to the Ronstadt Transit Center, where all carolers will join together for a Community Carol Sing at 8:00 p.m. There will also be performances by local choirs and musicians until 10:00 p.m. Additionally, all the variety of Downtown Saturday Night with food vendors at the Ronatadt Transit Center and the Art² Fine Art Market, will be in full holiday swing. Plenty of parking is available. For more info please call 624-9977.

DECEMBER 7 - 22

Borderlands Theater presents "A Tucson Pastorela" by Max Brascomb and directed by Barclay Goldsmith, In This all new version, follow dazzling Estrella and join Bato and his flock on a journey filled with wacky adventure, and lovely Christmas carols sung in bogh English and Spanish accompanied by live Waila music. Pima Community College Center for the Arts Black Box Theater, 2202 W. Anklam Road. Reservations 882-7406.

DECEMBER 9- 10

The Boys Choir of Harlem performs vibrant, ionspiriational concert of holiday music in their Centennial Hall debut. Using music as a force for change in children's lives, The Boys Choir of Harlem has grown from a small church group of heavenly voices to a global sensation that has given hndreds of inner-city children the remarkable opportunity to pursue their creative potential. Performing a repertroire of clasical and modern music, spsirituals, gospel and jazz, the renowned children's choir offers a holiday concert of unequaled showmanship. Two performances onoy, Saturday, Dec. 9 and 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4:00 p.m. Tickets range in price from $22 to $34 .621-3341.

DECEMBER 15 & 16

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus will be in concert at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 8:00 p.m. both nights performing "Ye Merry Gentlemen!" Join Reveille for its traditional Holiday Concert that includes music with a 'southern" flavor and a "Tucson Style" Winter Wonderland. Performing with Reveille will be soprano Elena Todd and mezzo-soprano Wanda Brister, in the concert finale of music from "White Christmas". For tickets and information call the Chorus Hotline at 617-3100.

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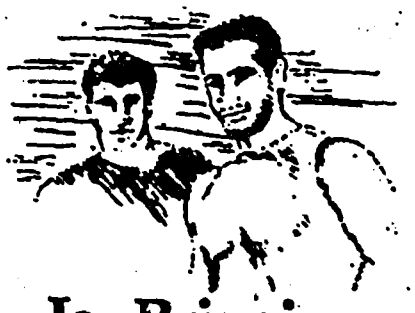
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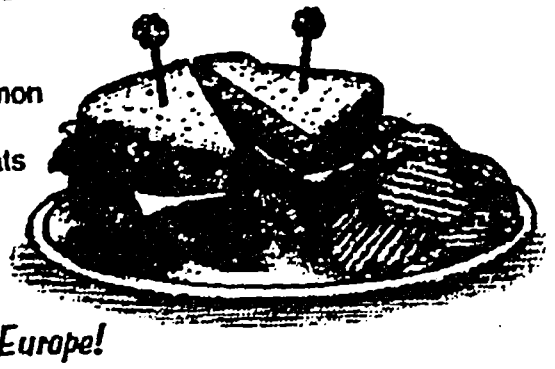

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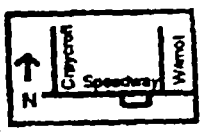

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New Gay Theatre Company Opens With Holiday Fare At Club Congress

TUCSON - For those who tire of Tiny Tim and "God bless us, everyone" each and every holiday season, Green Thursday Theatre Project, Tucson's new and highly talented queer theatre collective, offers up an outrageous alternative: Jeff Goode's The Eight: Reindeer Monologues. It's a comedy comprised of monologues from Santa's eight tiny reindeer; eight monologues that will change the way you think of the Jolly Old Elf forever. Directed by Samantha K. Wyer, the show will run at Club Congress, 311 E. Congress Street, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m., December 7 – 23, 2000.

It seems Santa has some employee-relations issues of the Clarence Thomas variety, and it's Vixen (who else?) who blows the lid off St. Nick's dirty little secret. As in all sex scandals, everyone – right down to Blitzen – has their own story. From Mrs. Claus' soused office party antics; to the elves' wandering hands at hitching time; to a tale from Donner (Rudolph's daddy) that will make your blood run cold, the goings on at the workshop are sure to shock the world. But who would believe it? It's a dark, riotously funny Christmas story unlike any other, and definitely not one for the kids.

The Eight is the first production for Green Thursday Theatre Project, a group dedicated to producing cutting-edge theatre with a queer bent. "When we say we're a queer theatre company," says co-founder David Hoffman, "we mean 'queer' in every sense of the word: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or simply out of the ordinary." Hoffman has been involved in a number of alternative theatres in Tucson, which thrived in the early 90's, including One in Ten Repertory Theatre, a.k.a. Theatre and MetaTheatre.

Co-founder David Morden is an accomplished actor and director and is the artistic assistant at Arizona Theatre Company. He recently moved to Tucson from Seattle, where he was involved in the popular and critically acclaimed Greek Active Theatre, a Gay-oriented theatre company renowned for their intelligent and irreverent re-creations of classic plays, as well as presenting cutting-edge new work. The two Davids created Green Thursday because, as Hoffman explains, "Since the mid-90's, there's been a void in Tucson where alternative theatre is concerned. Audiences looking for something outside the mainstream have nowhere to go."

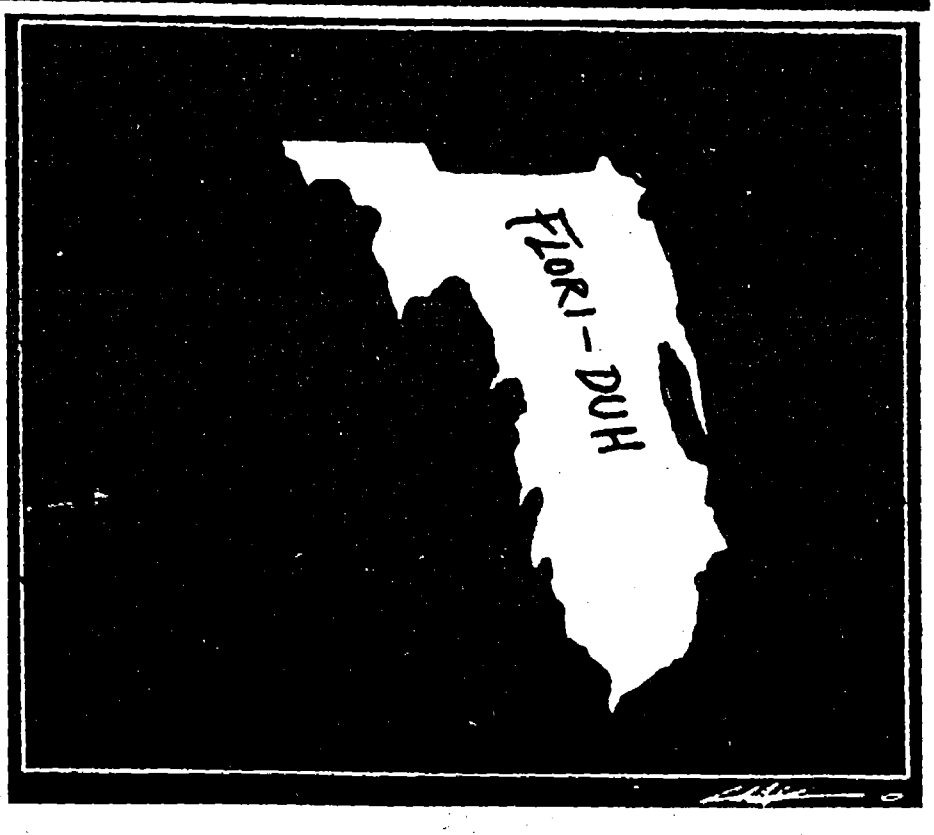
The theatre company was named in the tradition of using humor to co-opt derogatory language into a sign of identity and pride. "Green Thursday" refers to an old schoolyard taunt, in which wearing green on Thursday marked a kid as "queer."

Samantha K. Wyer, director of The Eight, has long wanted to direct this play, but was waiting for the right forum. "I went to school with [playwright] Jeff, and since then I've been holding on to the script, waiting for just the right place to let it breathe," said Wyer. "When [Morden and Hoffman] told me about their plans for this new company, I knew they'd created the perfect place." Wyer is the associate artistic director of Arizona Theatre Company where she will direct Wit this January, and is an adjunct instructor at the University of Arizona, where she teaches acting and will be directing Angels in America: Millennium Approaches in March of 2001.

Playwright Jeff Goode is the author of over 50 plays and musicals including Lesbian's Last Pizza; Portrait of the Virgin Mary Feeding the Dinosaurs; The UBU Plays; and Poona the F**kdog and Other Plays for Children. A cornfed Iowa youth, Jeff recently moved to California where he writes for MTV's "Undressed," and the F/X show "Fast Food Films."

Dec. 7-9, 14-16 & 21-23, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. Club Congress, 311 E. Congress St. Tickets are available at the Hotel Congress front desk $10 General Admission (For mature audiences – 18 and over only.), $8 for Seniors and Students (with valid I.D.). Call (520) 795-4322 for reservations

As I See It by Clark



'Leftover Turkey!'

On Sunday, November 26, Texas Governor George W. Bush, claimed victory in the 2000 presidential election, stating he was "honored and humbled," and was ready to move on and prepare his transition team to assume power on January 20, 2001.

His "fraudulency" is prepared to lead the free world, despite the five pending lawsuits in various county courts in Florida over the counting of military ballots and the suit before the U.S. Supreme Court, wanting to stop any future manual counts of ballots, despite supporting (and signing) legislation in Texas which gives manual hand-counts priority over machine tabulation.

Vice President Gore addressed the nation on Monday, November 27, calling for calm and for the ballots to be counted, and for a challenge of the incomplete tally of results, based on a certification issued by Republican loyalist and Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris, Sunday, November 26.

There is ample evidence to conclude the votes in Florida have not been accurately counted. Gore and most Democrat leaders believe a majority of Florida residents went to the polls three weeks ago with the intention of voting for the Democratic ticket. The 537-vote lead upon which Bush is basing his claim to the White House excludes known Gore votes in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties. The battle moves to the courtroom.

Gore's legal team pressed a circuit court judge in Tallahassee to declare the Vice President the winner, asserting local canvassing boards endorsed inaccurate and incomplete votes in three counties, Miami-Dade, Nassau and Palm Beach. Racing against the clock, a Florida judge moved swiftly on Tuesday to start work in Gore's legal challenge to the Florida certification of the presidential election that gave victory in the state to Republican George W. Bush.

Leon County Circuit Court Judge N. Sanders Sauls set a hearing for Saturday, December 2, and also said he would order that thousands of disputed ballots be brought to the state capital, Tallahassee, so they would be secure and ready if they need to be counted or examined.

On Friday, December 1, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in Bush's case, for which the Republican nominee wants to end manual hand counts and put a "legal finality" on the 2000 presidential election. ...

"Hunger sees no sexual preference," was the comment by Arizona Governor Jane Hull over the Tucson Gospel Rescue Mission's decision to bar openly Gay U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Tucson, from helping to serve meals at their Thanksgiving dinner, Thursday, November 23.

A Gospel Rescue Mission board spokesperson said when the decision became public that Kolbe had been allowed to volunteer a year ago only because his visit had come as a surprise, adding that, "We wouldn't want anyone who advocated adultery to serve either" -- even though the mission had actually bragged about Kolbe's participation in a press release earlier.

Kolbe was more than gracious in his response, writing that, "It would undermine the very essence of Thanksgiving if the good works of the Gospel Rescue Mission and others were eclipsed in controversy. The Mission has provided noble service to [the] community and I wish it only the best in its efforts to feed and clothe the downtrodden." The rejected congressman continued, "God made many diverse people in his image. Judeo-Christian tradition tells us that no people should be made to feel smaller than others. On this Thanksgiving, I am all the more grateful for the love and affection of family, and the demonstrations of support from so many friends in Southern Arizona." ...

On Monday, December 4, 7:00 p.m., state Representative Ken Cheuvront, D-Phoenix, the first openly Gay person to be elected to the Arizona Legislature, will speak and take questions at a forum sponsored by OUTReach, the faculty-staff-graduate student Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) association at The University of Arizona.

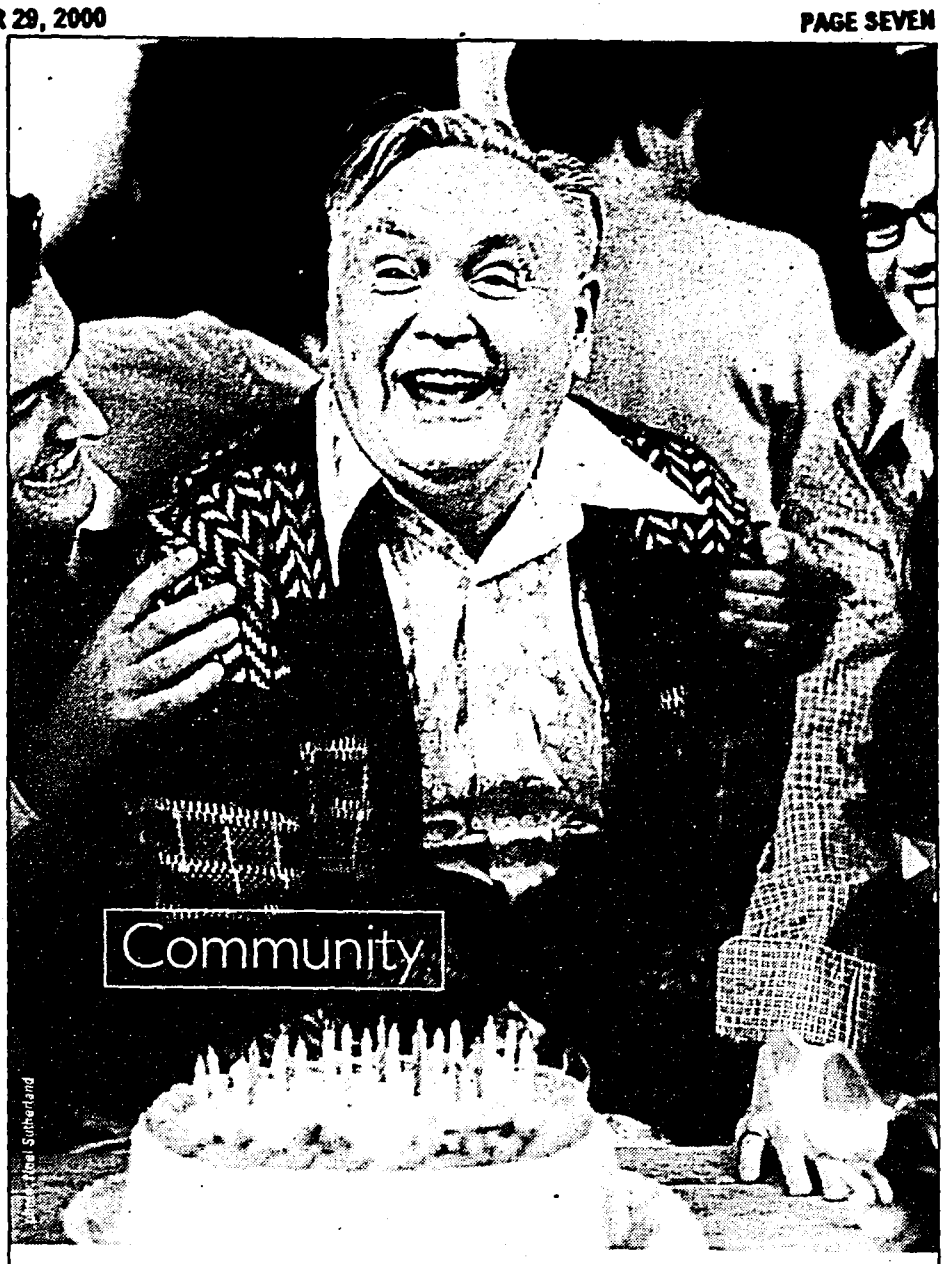
This forum will be held at the Kiva Auditorium of the College of Education building on The University of Arizona campus.

Representative Cheuvront is one of two openly Gay men serving in the Arizona Legislature. He will dissect the November election results and project the political effect on the GLBT community. He is also the current Co-Chair of the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials. This past week, the Phoenix representative was elected House Minority Leader by his fellow state House Democrats.

For more information about this forum, call (520) 626-9330. ...

"Oh, the other guy," an individual with the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a Washington D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian rights group, whose goal is to elected qualified Gay and Lesbian people to political office, commented when this reporter seeking comment on Ed Poelstra. "No, the openly Gay state Representative from District 14 in Tucson," this reporter responded. Despite what has been reported by the Phoenix based publication, which crosses their "I's" and dots their "T's" in the coverage, Poelstra strongly supports civil unions for same-sex couples. In an interview with this reporter, Poelstra plans to hold a town hall for the Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community in 2001, to discuss legislative happenings. ...

On Thursday, November 30, the first pre-trial conference will take place in Phoenix, regarding the pending case involving Colette Barajas, a former candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Arizona House of Representatives, for allegedly violating the state's clean election's law. A state grand jury charged Barajas, handing down a 20-count, felony indictment. If convicted, Barajas could face up to four years in prison.



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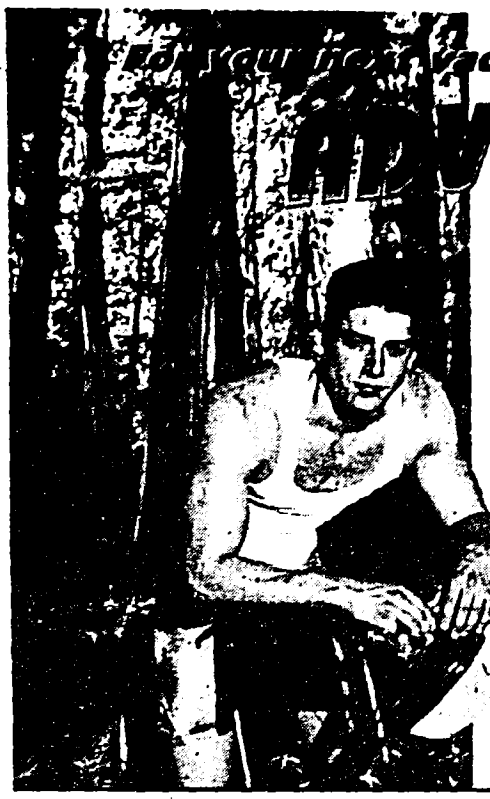
GMHP Gay Men's Health Project

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

Play Safe!



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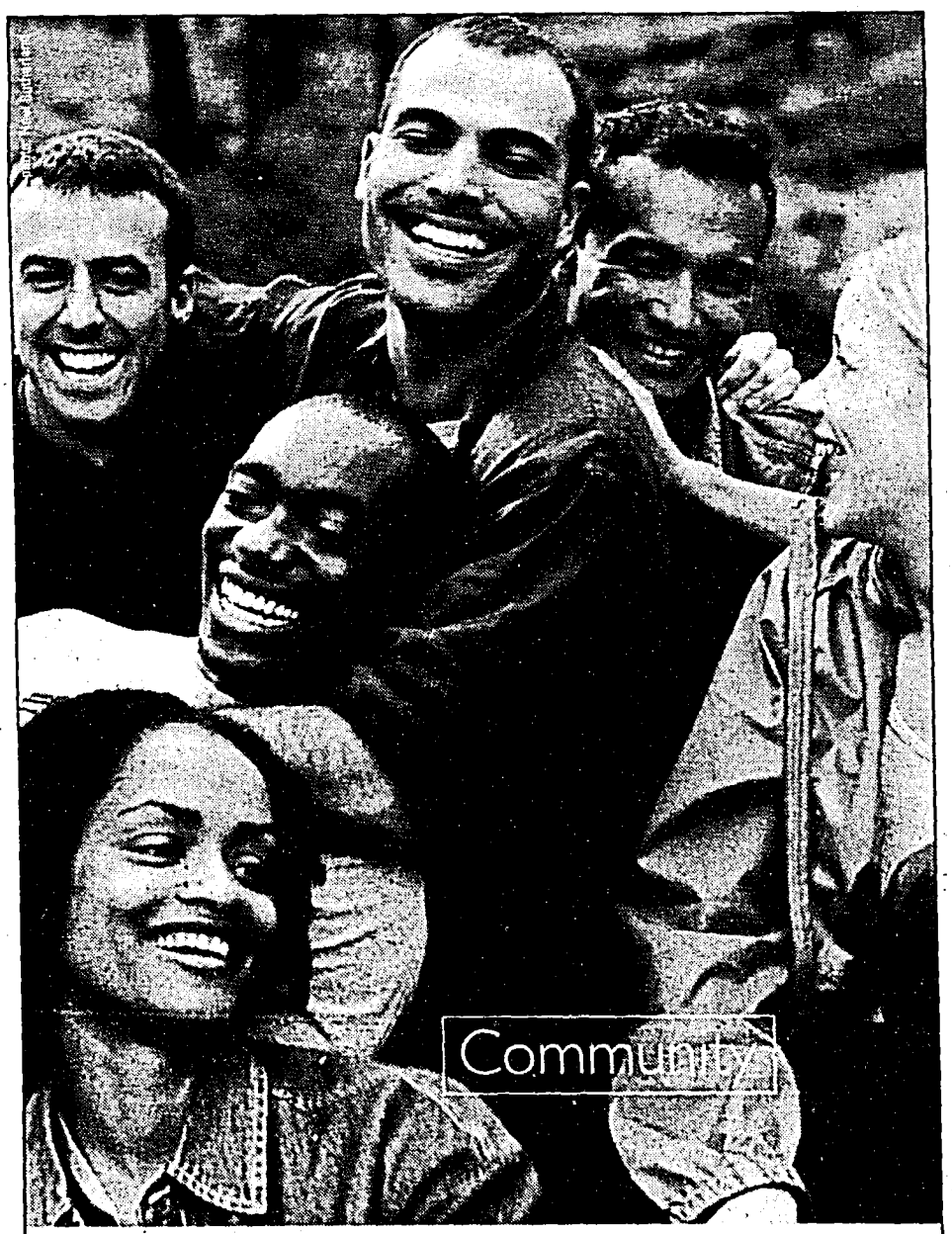

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HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

No sooner do we gobble gobble our turkey then holiday-mad December steps in the door. Have you been naughty or nice, cousin? For those of us who fear unwrapping a piece of coal, take heart; with all these planets in practical Capricorn and political Aqueerius, you'll have old Santa eating out of your hand by mid-month. Read ahead to see where you can score a few points or a few tricks:

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

While Gay Rams are not known for their subtle touch, you become a career diplomatic this December. Even a few gaffs here and there could result in political advances and prescient coups when all is said and done. Avoid the temptation to act first and explain later though; there is nothing as unseemly as getting caught with your fishnets up and your pants down.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Practical Gay Bulls become even more so this month when many planets transit through Capricorn and Aqueerius. The urge is to stay nestled in the safe tried and true but more can be accomplished by stepping Out into the vast unknown and letting life's experiences take you on a marvelous journey. Itchy hooves need to be scratched. How about scratching 'em in Maui?

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Lust may feel as hot as fuzzy animal slippers when Victorian Capricorn and cool Aqueerius rule. Proud Twins are not the most passionate of signs unless one is into intellectual stimulation. Despite this, the month brings more activity than usual in areas where the deeper one goes, the better. Hint: Some folks get a kick out of pajamas with feet, but most prefer leather peekaboos.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Practical energy dominates the landscape this December and Gay Crabs are forced to face relationship issues head on. Are you giving too much or too little? Maybe it's time to tally up the score and see who is ahead. For those ragged claws who are still scuttling across the floors of silent seas, take this time to map out your route to fulfillment and follow it. Hello sailor!

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

The bad news is that Capricorn turns up the speed at work. The good news is that Capricorn turns up the speed at work. Regal proud Lions will be working the assembly line like any other mangy schlub this December, but hey, won't you be productive! The secret is to write down all instructions so no one misunderstands. Loud, bellowing roars just won't do the trick. Neither will whining.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Queer Virgos are in their element with planets in Capricorn and Aqueerius this December. Although your idea of fun is not as stimulating as those of other folks, you'll manage to have quite a blast this holiday season, probably culminating in a little too much to eat or drink. Try not to fall into the canapes dear queer friend; The food stains would be a killer to remove.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

The focus will be on family and home-related issues this December when planets in Capricorn and Aqueerius turn up the stress level for you. Don't be surprised if communications go awry initially. Gay Libras may reach a wall, but walls can be surmounted with pride, application and gumption. The most important thing is to be true to yourself, bad hairstyle notwithstanding.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

December is the month to sit quietly and keep your opinions to yourself. Conspiracy theories abound based on very little reality. Blame it on Pluto if you must, queer Scorp, but also give a little credit to your overactive imagination. This is the perfect time to gather kindred souls together for a delightful, unemcumbered evening of mirth and camaraderie. Don't discuss politics.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Rainbow Archers are not the most practical of folks and December will prove the rule. Finances can take some twists and turns so read contracts and bills carefully to insure that more is not less. Pluto continues to conjunct your Sun (ouch!) so expect radical upheavals in important parts of your life in the next year. Sadly your appearance is not one of those areas. Pity.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

All the personal planets in your own sign tunes up your life like an orchestra this December. While retrograde Saturn needs extra time to get in step, most of the other players are ready and raring to play. Gay Goats can make impactful first impressions, although I advise listening rather than speaking as a rule for most of the month. Who knows, you may learn a little something.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Aqueerians receive a few lucky breaks this December especially if they display their rainbow colors proudly. Maybe you'll find yourself wedged next to the celebrity du jour at a club. Maybe you'll stumble into the epicenter of power at work. Make each opportunity an opportunity of a lifetime but don't foul it up by stringing mistletoe on a wire and wearing it over your head.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Friends can be a blessing or baggage for December. Expect a certain level of disharmony and miscommunication for most of the month, thanks to retro Mercury. All is not lost however; Proud Fish may need the chance to swim on their own for a while and experience new schools of thought. Volunteering for a great Gay cause has great Gay impact so dive right in.

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HATE IS NOT A FAMILY VALUE

TO: ROBERT MILLER

I apologize for chastizing you for parking in the handicapped parking place. I now know that you are indeed handicapped.

Again, I am sorry the incident took place.

Sincerely
James M. Dondson
Owner - Venture-N

EDITOR:

On Tuesday, November 14, the Correa family of Yuma, Arizona had the misfortune of having a home fire which destroyed everything they owned. Not only did they lose all of their belongings, but they were all injured. The fire began due to a small space heater.

Seven family members, severely injured in a fire, are fighting for their lives in a Phoenix area hospital. All are listed in critical to extremely critical condition.

The parents are Marlene and Ernesto Correa. The youngest victim, Abel, 7 months, is listed in extreme critical condition with burns over 70% of his body. The other victims include Sara, 19 months; Alex, 4 years, Sally, 5 years, and Josie, 9 years.

Within the next week, two of the children may be released from the hospital to immediate family members. This family is in desperate need of money donations, and we are struggling to find material items and basic necessities such as diapers for the 19 month old (Pampers, size 4), clothing for the 19 month old (2T), and the 9 year old (girls size 11), winter coats, bedding, and so much more. Also needed are items for the rest of the family as they recover and are released.

Stephanie Archie, a longtime Tucson resident, is sister to Marlene and aunt to the 5 children. Since this tragedy, Stephanie has remained at their bedsides in Phoenix. As a pillar of strength to her family, she reaches out to her community for much needed support. It's clear the family has lost everything due to the blaze that took their home. We are asking our community, on her behalf, to help rebuild a life for her sisters' family.

Information on extended family hardships can be obtained by sending E-mail requests to pat.terry@att.net. The SOS Foudnation has set up an account for the family. Donations can be made to the foundation, 4108 N. 19th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85016, or by calling (602) 728-0161, in the name of the Correa family.

Every year, my friends and I have sponsored needy families for the holidays. Last year, we were able to sponsor five families for $500 each. This year we have decided to give all monies raised to this family.

I need to thank our faithful audiences at IBT's for giving so generously so far this season. In the past two Wednesday night shows, we have raised $655.27 for the family. Last Wednesday, I challenged the audience to help me raise at least $5,000.00 by January 1, 2001. We have a benefit barbecue and show scheduled for December 17 at IBT's. We have an all star cast coming to perform and raise as much money as possible. I need your help to get us to the $5,000.00 mark. If you cannot donate money, we are also collecting nonperishable food items, cleaning supplies and toiletries. You can bring them to the Girlie Shows, at IBT's every Wednesday night, at 9:00 p.m. I will keep you informed on our progress towards our goal.

In conclusion, we realize the most important need is prayer in their struggle for life. Anything you can do is greatly appreciated. We all thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Larry Moore
a.k.a. Lucinda Holliday &
Patricia Terry
Tucson, AZ

EDITOR:

I would like to commend SAAF and their staff on their continual support to the community and to the individuals who rely on their services. SAAF offers a multitude of services, and many of those services go beyond the expectations of consumers and the community, making SAAF and invaluable asset to the people and community they serve.

I, particularly, want to thank Teri Mills and Mark Blocsom, their response to my needs was immediate, making my transition from the rehab hospital to home a safe and easy one. In order to be released from rehab, it was necessary for my home to become handicap accessible. I called Terri asking if SAAF could provide the appropriate equipment. In less than 24 hours, Terri shopped, had a check cut, and purchased what was necessary and delivered it to my house. Mark, on the other hand, picked up my medication and delivered them to my home. I can't thank Teri and Mark enough.

And, I want to thank Rodger for his hard work, time and support.

I'm so appreciative and thankful to everyone who took the time to make the transition stress-less.

Lynda Poss
Tucson, AZ

EDITOR:

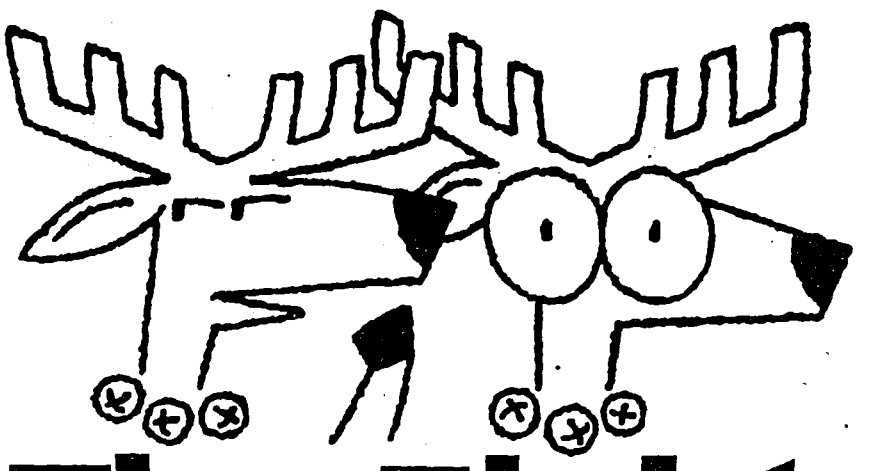
Hurrah for Arizona Gov. Jane Hull for expressing her disappointment toward Evilyn H. Haugh, board member of the Gospel Rescue Mission, who would not allow Rep. Jim Kolbe to volunteer at a Tucson homeless shelter.

Someone needs to remind Haugh what, not only Thanksgiving, but the Bible is all about. Should Haugh be stranded, I am sure she would welcome anyone, regardless of their sexual orientation. Tell me, how many homosexuals do you turn away from your shelter? The Bible does not tell of a person that Jesus turned away. Are you telling me that not one of those people were Gay? You judged a man that day and the Bible says, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:1-2 You tell me he is wrong? I tell you, you are wrong, if you believe the Bible.

I would like to thank Rep Jim Kolbe for wanting to donate his time for such a worthy cause. May God bless him and Gov. Jane Hull for their outreach and feelings. Gov. Hull is so right in saying "hunger sees no sexual preference. "If there are poor among you, in one of the towns of the land of the Lord your God is giving you, do not be selfish or greedy toward them. But give freely to them, and freely lend them whatever they need." Deuteronomy 15:7-8.

Rev. Elton Godfrey
Shreveport, LA

Th Green Thursday Theatre Project
Tucson's new queer and quirky theatre company merrily presents



The Eight: Reindeer Monologues
by Jeff Goode
Directed by Samantha K. Wyer

TUCSON'S NEW QUEER THEATRE COMPANY!

Scandal erupts at the North Pole when one of Santa's eight tiny reindeer accuses him of sexual harrassment. As mass media descends upon the event, the other members of the legendary sleigh team demand to share their perspectives – and a horrific tale of corruption and perversion emerges, which seems to implicate everyone from the littlest elf to the tainted Saint himself. For mature audiences – 18 and over only.

Dec. 7-9, 14-16 & 21-23, 2000 · 7pm
Club Congress, 311 E. Congress St.
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$8 for Seniors & Students
Tickets available at the
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Call 795.4322 for Reservations

*Wear green on a Thursday night performance and receive $1 off the general admission price (cannot be combined with any other discounts or promotional pricing).

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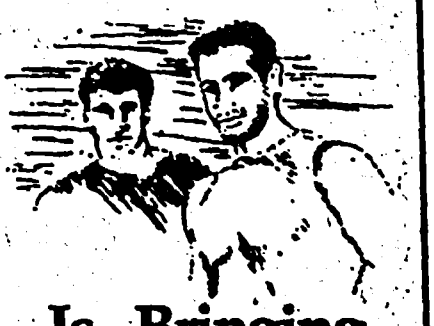

Is Bringing Men Together

Navy Won't Force Gay To Pay

Conntinued from Page One

of those in similar situations, both Gay and non-Gay, as evidence that the Academy requires repayment "arbitrarily and capriciously."

Watkins's attorney William Ferris told Alabama's Birmingham News that, "It is fairly remarkable they had 130 days ... to decide to do this and they used 129 of them. This memo make clear the decision was made grudgingly." And indeed, "The Navy didn't make this decision. It was made for them," an anonymous Pentagon official told the "Washington Post". (No military official has yet been willing to comment on the case to reporters except anonymously.)

Watkins had been an aspiring pilot and an outstanding midshipman, twice elected president of his class and also selected for the prestigious post of battalion commander -- one he never got to fill. In 1997, late in his junior year, another midshipman alleged that Watkins had made sexual advances toward himself and others. Then and now, Watkins has maintained that although he discovered at the Academy that he is Gay, he never did anything more physical than kiss another man.

But now he has provided more details in interviews with the Miami Herald, describing a consensual "dating relationship" of more than a year with a midshipman "from a prominent U.S. military family" who later became frightened and claimed Watkins sexually harassed him; that man is still in the Navy. Their friendship drew attention from others in part because Watkins is African-American and his friend is white. Officials pressured Watkins to resign, and he agreed because he believed homophobia would prevent him from receiving a fair hearing, even though a legal officer believed evidence was lacking for some of the allegations against him. So the case against Watkins was never heard -- much less proven. But Becraft's memo makes it clear that even today she has presumed him guilty of sexual misconduct.

Watkins was handed his whopping tuition bill along with his discharge papers in 1997. When his appeal reached the Board for Correction of Naval Records, it declared in November 1999 that he "was treated unfairly" compared with two dozen midshipmen ejected in 1994 for cheating who were never asked to repay their tuition. It further cited the Pentagon's own 1994 policy limiting "recoupment" from those at service academies discharged for being Gay (as opposed to "a specific written finding" of homosexual misconduct, which the Board noted was absent in Watkins's case). But Becraft overrode the Board in March 2000 on the grounds that Watkins's departure was "voluntary" and he had not explicitly mentioned being Gay in his resignation.

Having exhausted his appeals within the Navy, Watkins filed his federal lawsuit in June in U.S. District Court in Baltimore, Maryland. The Navy requested a series of delays, making no response to the filing until now. However, when a number of Congressmembers jointly sent a letter to Secretary of Defense William Cohen in June raising a variety of questions about the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, they included mention of Watkins's case, seeking "justification for allowing recoupment in cases when the department's own policy is that homosexual orientation itself does not provide a basis for recoupment."

Watkins went on to finish his bachelor's degree and obtain a pilot's license at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla. He then taught high school mathematics in Miami. Today Reverend Watkins is project director for an HIV/AIDS ministry through Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Overton, Florida. While he now will not have to pay the Navy the $86,008.01 it asked on its last bill ($82,886.55 according to one source), it did cost him about $8,000 to contest it

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THE GLAAD BULLETIN

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION, INC.

Ally McBeal defames Transgender people: Ally McBeal, David E. Kelley's Emmy Award-winning comedy, featured a male-to-female Transgender character in a three-part story arc that aired on Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13. Cindy, a Transgender woman, hires Ally's law firm to sue her place of employment because she does not want to take a mandatory physical. Cindy has not had sex-reassignment surgery and does not want her Transgender identity revealed at work. After winning her lawsuit, Cindy becomes involved with Mark, a lawyer in Ally's firm who does not know that Cindy is Transgender.

GLAAD was encouraged by the setup for the third episode of the storyline. Although Mark reacts insensitively after learning that Cindy was not always a woman, he realizes that he loves her and wants to continue the relationship, saying, "I can't see you as anything but a woman." However, the final episode in the storyline was offensive and defamatory. Mark backtracks, saying that he considers Cindy "aberrant," and that he could "never be sexual with her."

Cindy was a well-written, multi-dimensional character. However, she was surrounded by situations and commentary that were so offensive, they completely overwhelmed any positive impact her character might have made. Bigoted comments by every regular character on the show went unchallenged, and every character ended the storyline as Transphobic as they began. (Nell hysterically claimed that Mark's relationship was a "circus act" that was "embarrassing for the entire firm." Fish gargled and used mouth spray because a Transgender person kissed him. Cage called Cindy "it.") GLAAD has written a letter to Kelley requesting a meeting to discuss the manner in which Ally McBeal portrays Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people. Please contact David E. Kelley and urge him to meet with GLAAD, and to create fair, accurate and inclusive stories about Transgender people - instead of simply exploiting them for ratings during sweeps.

Contact: David E. Kelley, David E. Kelley Productions, 1600 Rosecrans Ave., Building 4B, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. You may also register your comments and opinions with Fox Television at askfox@foxinc.com. Please note that this comment does not go to David E. Kelley but to Fox Television.

The official Ally McBeal website has a message board where the show is discussed. If you wish to participate in the discussion about the Mark/Cindy storyline, you may go to http://www.allymcbeal.com/unisex/index.htm.

NEWS FROM WATER OF LIFE MCC

Marsha Stevens In Concert and Advent Celebration

TUCSON AZ - Water of Life MCC will begin the month of December with a worship service of hope and healing in commemoration of World AIDS day on December 3. The lighting of the AIDS candle and liturgy will be incorporated in the Advent service, with the acknowledgment that HIV infection/AIDS is still with us, and until HIV/AIDS is defeated we will continue to work, to hope, and to pray.

Water of Life MCC will celebrate the thirtieth (30th) Anniversary of the founding of the church December 9 - 10. The Anniversary celebration will open with a catered church dinner Saturday evening at 6:00 PM, a Sunday morning gala celebration worship service at 10:15 AM, and will feature Marsha Stevens in concert Sunday evening at 7:00 PM. Marsha is the founder of BALM Ministries (Born-Again-Lesbian-Music) and is well known for her original hymn "For Those Tears I Died" (also known as "Come to the Water") found in all major hymnals today. Marsha and her partner Suzanne travel throughout North America presenting concerts in churches of all denominations; concerts which affirm the dignity and equality of all people, including the gay, lesbian, and bisexual and transgendered communities.

The church will also celebrate the Advent season throughout the month with the introduction of unique and uplifting Advent liturgy in the worship services. In addition to a special Christmas concert, Water of Life MCC will celebrate Christmas in a special and spiritually moving Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 10:45 in the evening. Members, friends and visitors will gather at the church on Christmas day for a special dinner.

Water of Life MCC will complete the exciting month of December with a special Kwaanza worship service on Sunday December 31.

Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church, a member congregation of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, was birthed on December 12, 1970 with a first meeting in Tucson. Initially leadership from the Metropolitan Community Church in Phoenix assisted the new group in their ministry. Over the years the congregation has met in a variety of settings. In 1993, the congregation purchased the church facility at 3269 North Mountain Avenue, where the congregation meets today. Seven pastors, and many lay leaders, have offered leadership to the church over the years. Pastor Rev. Joyce Cook accepted the pastorate of Water of Life MCC in February 1997. Since her arrival in Tucson the congregation has experienced unprecedented growth, development and stability.

Rev. Cook is inviting everyone to come and join in Worship during this exciting Advent Season., with the special concerts and candlelight service that will be spiritually empowering and uplifting.
Water of Life MCC is located at 3269 N. Mountain Ave., just north of Fort Lowell Road, and worships each Sunday at 10:15 AM. For further information, please contact the church office at 520-292-9151 or you may contact the Pastor at WOLMCC@aol.com.

PERSPECTIVE

Different Spirit: Holiday Outcasts

By Bob Buchanan

Tim is in the hospital this holiday, while most of the world enjoys fine food, friends, and family. He is 15 years old. I've changed his name to protect his identity. I became aware of him months ago at his first hospital stay. He lives in a very rural part of the country with his parents. Tim's dad is a minister at a local church and his mom has a severe illness. Last summer, at 14, he tried to kill himself because of his guilt for his attraction to other guys on internet porn sites. He was stabilized and sent home with some medication to take.

His parents didn't know what to do. They decided to send him to a Christian farm boarding school. He is small for his age and perceived by others as effeminate. Tim was constantly teased, called names and made fun of at the all-boys school. Last week he was beat by twelve other students at once. The episode was broken up before he was seriously hurt physically, but Tim went into emotional shock. He was so traumatized by these events that his depression became so severe that he nearly lost his mind. He went to the infirmary and asked for help. Now he is in a psychiatric unit again.

Tim doesn't know if he is Gay, and says he hasn't had sex with anyone. He was simply perceived as queer and therefore the object of hate by his fellow students. How strange that he was hated in a school that supposedly taught Christian values. Maybe it's not so strange. Christians have spent the last thousand years using Gays as scapegoats. The other boys at school may have even thought they were doing God a favor by persecuting him. Maybe they thought they were going to help him become a man, not a queer man, by practicing tough love and beating some sense into him. When people are treated as outcasts and evil because of who they are, these kinds of ideas develop easily.

The holidays can be difficult for sexual minorities for a great number of reasons. The rejection of family and friends as well as that of one's own faith can bring torment into innocent lives. The good news is that Jesus never hated or condemned. Those who have been alienated from the church can still find voices of faith to help us find our way. While enjoying the holidays this year, I can't help but think of Tim and all the others who suffer. We have indeed come a long way, but there is so much further to go until everyone is equal regardless of racial, sexual, or social boundaries. We have not yet arrived, but as caring Christians wake up to the truth, we will be a lot closer to the goal of genuine love.

[Bob Buchanan is a psychotherapist and minister who lives with his partner in Durham, NC, serves Grace Community Church in RTP, NC, (Evangelical Anglican), and is the author of Love, Honor & Respect, a book on Christianity and Gay prejudice, which is available at your bookstore or iuniverse.com. Bob can be reached at BobnDurham@aol.com.]

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John 3:16

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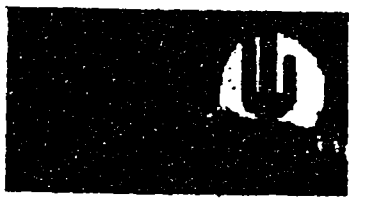

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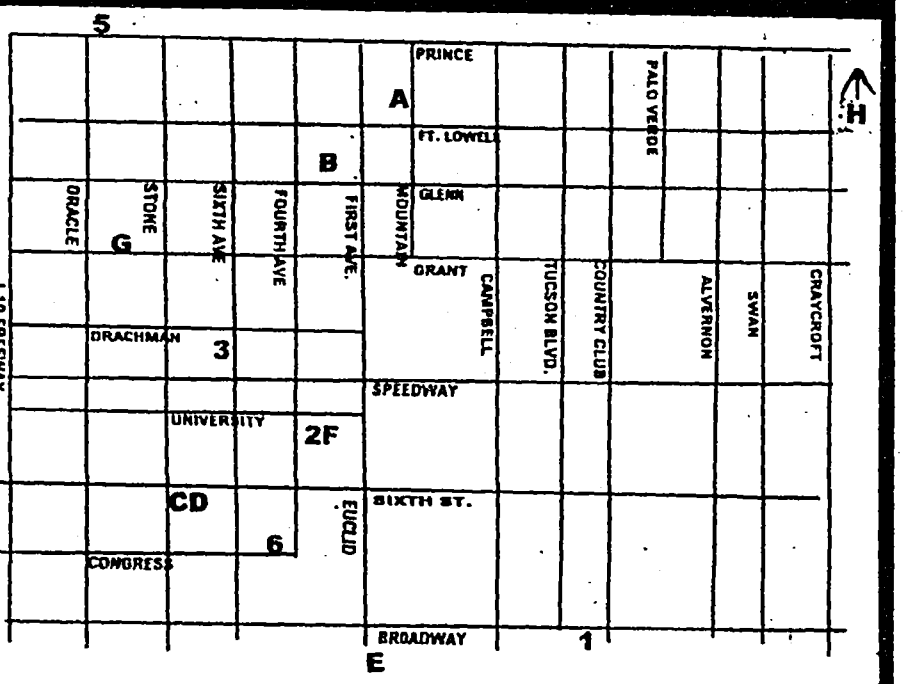

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GO IN GOOD HEALTH...

BY REV. ANDREW [illegible]

This week commemorates another World AIDS Day, December 1st. AIDS has had such a heavy impact on the gay community, that it is hard for us to ignore it. Yet, despite all the education, all the readily available information, and the facts of the epidemic being presented constantly, there are still far too many young gay men willing to risk infection by knowingly engaging in unsafe sex.

I have seen "Bareback" rooms in the chat section of gay.com, and have talked with "poz" guys on-line who are bewildered that anyone would be alarmed that they are wifully engaging in bareback sex with men who do not know their status! Plainly put, my dears, unsafe sex with an anonymous partner is a stupid thing to do! So many gay men have gotten tired of playing it safe, and have the erroneous impression, that due to the new AIDS cocktail of protease inhibitors, that AIDS is no longer a deadly disease. Not true.

Those who are infected and on the medications can pass on drug-resistant strains of those infections, meaning, it is then much harder to treat you with the drugs, since the strain of the virus that infected you is already resistant to the drugs used on the original patient. Sobering thought, indeed.

I know as gays we would rather party all night and pick up hot men and have fun sex all night and not think about it, and just live life on the edge, but engaging in self-destructive behavior is unwise. We have lost too many good men in the community. And the straight community is being devastated as well. Drinking and using recreational drugs and engaging in dangerous sex practices are the sure road to ruin. I am sorry to say that in the gay community, sex addiction is rampant, and dishonesty and shallow, temporary relationships are causing a lot of gay men to give up on finding true love and a decent, stable lifestyle in favor of the thrill of the moment.

It is time to step back from the ledge and look inward. I personally have lost too many friends to AIDS, and can think of several wonderful men, bears included, that are gone now. When I light my candle this Friday and say my prayers for all those suffering with AIDS, I am also going to say a prayer and have a moment of reflection on all those we have lost. Some were famous people, like Freddie Mercury. He was a talented musician. I personally miss Jimmy McShane, who created that hit song in the 80's "Tarzan Boy".
That was a neat song. I wonder what else he might have created muscially if his life had not ended early.

There are so many wonderful people that are gone now. I know it's not fun to think about AIDS when you would rather go out and just have fun, but have fun SAFELY. The consequences of one careless act could be with you the rest of your life! True, the newer treatments are giving people hope, and longer lifespans, but having a serious, chronic, life-long illness is no picnic.
This is true of many health conditions. Now, there is a resurgence of syphilis and other STD's in the gay community, and these can be prevented with a little caution.

Think before you act. And I personally am tired of that weary old line, when you ask someone to be safe during sex "But don't you trust me?" Well, I might trust the person, and be as horny as hell at that moment, but I do not trust the virus. A lot of times someone does not know they are infected. So, no matter how hot the passion is getting, take a moment to be safe. It will not detract from the fun, and incorporating safe sex precautions in your lovemaking can be fun and erotic too.

So, when you celebrate World AIDS Day this December 1st, say a prayer for all those we have lost, and for all those suffering right now. I am going to pray that the researchers find a cure or even better treatments so that this global epidemic can finally end. In the meantime, be safe!

There are herbs that can boost the immune system, such as Cat's Claw, Suma, Goldenseal, and others, but prevention is definitely worth it, because right now, there still is no cure. It is most definitely something to think about. Goddess bless. And to all those who I have lost, I miss you deeply!

Rest in peace, and may your souls have peace in the Light! And to those who are struggling with the virus, my thoughts and healing prayers go with you!

Til next time, Go in Good Health! Be strong, be healthy, be wise!

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Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

OPENING DEC. 7 & PLAYING THRU DEC. 23

Green Thursday Theatre Project, Tucson's new queer and quirky theatre company presents "The Eight Reindeer Monologues" by Jeff Goode Thursday thru Saturdays Dec. 7-9 / 14-16 / 21-23 at 7:00 p.m. at Club Congress, 311 E. Congress St. $10 general admission, $8 seniors and students. Tickets are available at the Hotel Congress front desk. Call 795-4322 for reservations. Scandal erupts at the North Pole when one of Santa's eight tiny reindeer accuses him of sexual harassment.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 11:00 a.m. Join the men of MSN for an afternoon of lunch-and gambling, at the Casino of the Sun. For details and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Prime Timers of Tucson Lunch, 1:00 pm. At Dakota Cafe, 6541 E. Tanque Verde Rd. (N. Side 1st driveway East of Budget Rental by Trail Dust Town w/covered wagon landmark). Call Sylvan 747-5669.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Potluck & Social Gathering as we sit down to eat with some of the nicest gay guys in town (like you!). It's a nice, safe place to meet 80 guys all at once! The Potluck is held at the Casas Adobe Congregational Church at 6801 N. Oracle. Please call Jerry at 690-9565 for directions and any questions you may have.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:30 a.m. Join Gene & Rich for a birding event to see wintering Sandhill Cranes, as well as eagles, hawks, and others. For details, please call Gene at 625-8109.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 6:30 p.m. Tom leads the Triangle Tribe-a support group with MSN which is designed to teach openness and communication. For reservations and directions, please call Tom at 318-1650.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Terry as he hosts Bridge Night. Beginners and seasoned players are welcomed. For reservations and directions, please call Terry at 577-3545.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 6:30 p.m. Join Steve for Dinner Out as we go to City Grill. Please phone in your reservation to Steve as soon as possible so we can notify the restaurant of the number of men attending. For directions and reservations, please contact Steve at 546-4047.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. The Investment Club (Tucson Stockmen) meets the first Wednesday of each month. There are new openings in the Stockmen, so please call for more information. For reservations and directions, please call Carl at 331-4238.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN as they go the Desert Voices Concert: "Life, Love & Light". If you need tickets or other information, please contact T. Jay at 881-7919.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Pinochle is the game we're playing-and you're invited. If you don't know how to play, but want to learn, we'll teach you. If you already know how, you'll fit right in. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 297-3569.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 6:30 p.m. Tom leads the Triangle Tribe-a support group with MSN which is designed to teach openness and communication. For reservations and directions, please call Tom at 318-1650.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Les for a showing of the Showtime series "Queer As Folk". We'll show the premiere episode and the 2nd one. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

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. It's a chance to meet 60-75 new faces. 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, December 14 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, DECEMBER 16

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN as they go the Reveille's Christmas Concert: "Ye Merry Gentlemen!". For tickets or more info, please contact Bill at 577-0645.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Due to popular demand, we're showing the "Rites of Passage" again this month. It was "sold out" in October-and for a good reason: it's a great gay thriller about a young man at an isolated cabin with his brother, a homophobic father-and killers on the loose. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

Bar Calendar

Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. It's "The Girlie Show" hosted by Lucinda Holliday and featuring Phaedra, Faith Michaels and guests.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

IBT'S - Party line-up includes Jeff's Bloody Mary Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to IBT's Arizona Angels softball team. Then at 9:00 p.m. a special fund raising show for the Arizona Angeles Softball Team hosted by Ajia Simone and featuring Bunny FuFu, Deora Le Blanc, Stella Virgin, Janee Starr and special guests.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

IBT'S - 9:00 P.M. "The Girlie Show" hosted by Lucinda Holliday and featuring Mr. Kenneth Blake with Bunny FuFu and special guests.

VENTURE-N - Competition night here while Mr. Venture-N 2001 is chosen in a contest that always is great fun. There is still time to enter the contest or to nominate someone else. During the evening the nominees will be judged wearing street clothes, cruising attire and loin cloth. Nominees will be required to respond to three questions which will be given in advance so that they may prepare their answers. For further information call the Venture-N 882-8224.

WOODY'S - Spaghetti is out and Chili is in for the winter here. Chili Feed Wednesday 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. $2.50.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

IBT'S - Every Thursday is TEE's and Tattoo night 9:00 p.m. to closing. Happy hours prices for those in their IBT T-shirt ($5) or IBT Tattoo (50¢)

FRI., SAT., SUN., DECEMBER 8 - 9 - 10

IBT's - Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair. Make this your headquarters while you're at the Fair. Desert Diva's Shows: Sat. Dec. 9 3:00 p.m. ($1 cover); Sunday, Dec. 10 3:00 p.m. ($1 cover), 9:30 p.m. (No cover).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 6:30 p.m. Tom leads the Triangle Tribe-a support group with MSN which is designed to teach openness and communication. For reservations and directions, please call Tom at 318-1650.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Terry as he hosts Bridge Night. Beginners and seasoned players are welcomed. For reservations and directions, please call Terry at 577-3545.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

The Gay and Lesbian Reading Group meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at Barnes and Noble on Broadway. Tonight's meeting the group will be reading Anchee Min's "Red Azalea". Newcomers are expecially welcome. 5130 E. Broadway (at Rosemont)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Help us in getting out he newsletter for the coming month. It's quick and simple, and you get to know the guys you're working with! We also have door prizes and dessert. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. Join us as we show "In The Flesh"-this month's second good, gay thriller. A young college boy works as a hustler at night, and he may the key to a brutal murder. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Pinochle is the game we're playing-and you're invited. If you don't know how to play, but want to learn, we'll teach you. If you already know how, you'll fit right in. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 297-3569.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:00 p.m. A traditional Holiday Dinner is offered for all who wish to join in with the MSN family. The main dishes will be provided, and if you'd like to bring a side dish or dessert, you may. If you're home for the holiday, spend it with your gay family. We'll also be showing 2 movies: "Mr. Hulot's Holiday" at 4, and "The Wizard of Oz" at 6. Games will also be out for those interested. For directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Bill as he hosts a Video Grab Bag. The participants will bring movies, and the winning movie will be shown that evening. If you don't have a movie to bring, just come on over and watch whatever may be chosen. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Jeff as he hosts a Topic of Discussion on "Meeting Men in a Healthy Way". Are you always meeting Mr. Wrong? Looking for love in all the wrong places? Come and share you thoughts on the subjects, and maybe come away with new ideas for meeting men. For reservations and directions, please contact Jeff at 299-1194.

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open noon. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm 75¢ draft, $2 pitchers. 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 3-7 pm. Pick-up Volleyball games 5:30 pm. B-B-Q 5-9pm. $2.50 sirloin burger. Karaoke with Billy Dee 9pm to close. Patio Bar Open.

Monday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. $1.50 Wells 8-midnight, 25¢ cups of draft 6 to closing.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Dart Tourney 8pm, pot matched. Patio opens 5pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close Special drink prices 8pm to close for American Airlines - American Express - AOL employees.

Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm. $3 entry, pot matched. $1.50 longnecks for pool players. $2 Long Islands all nite. Dance to music w/DJ S. Country music 9 to close

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 5pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. 7pm Dart Tournament with Doc. Pot matched. Trivia Party 8pm-close. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. Skyy's the limit $2.25.

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. $1.50 pitchers 9-close. 80s Retro & house music with DJ Sarafina.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio opens at 5pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Pick-up Volleyball games start 7pm. Spaghetti & meatballs 5-9pm $2.50. Patio bar open.

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-7pm, 2for1. Karaoke with Liz 9pm to close. $1.50 Tequila & 75¢ Watermelons.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. 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 plus 50¢ off all Big Ass drinks.. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender. Patio Bar Open.

Friday

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Snacks served at 5pm. Patio open 5pm. Hides Leather Store opens 8pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's $2.50 all day. Call Martinis $3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender. Patio Bar Open.

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Drink specials all day. Pool Tournament 6:30pm $3 entry. Pot matched. $2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ Hill 9-close. Drink specials every half hour..

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

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender. Steak Fry 5-9pm Filet Mignon, vegetables, salad, potato & roll $4.50. Patio Bar Open.

COMING SOON 9
520-882-8224

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Helath Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

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

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 11am. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian Easty, 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 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

ARE YOU GAY OR LESBIAN and someone else's drinking is getting to you. Call Wingspan at 624-1779 about a new Al-Anon group being organized in Tucson.

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 WORLDWIDE 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 529-9344, leave name and phone number.

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

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

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

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.

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

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

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

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520)570-1225 for current 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 information visit www.lctucson.org 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)

REVEILLE 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.

NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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 615-6436 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.

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

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

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

DESERT DUNGEON TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational, Educational. Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, D&S and TV community. Call us at (520)325-0131, or-http://www.azds.net/dd

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)534-6219 (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.

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.

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays 1 to 2pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-6676 or 327-4293.

NOTICES

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

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

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

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

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6788.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9466 or Ray at 749-5247.

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

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

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

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

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.

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 322-6057 (evelten@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 6:03 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI. The show "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show is aired at 5:30 pm every Wednesday.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

ROOMMATES

DISABLED GAY WOMAN LOOKING FOR A ROOMMATE (Roommate Only) to share large three bedroom house in Starr Pass area. One room is converted into a gym, also have a jacuzzi and nice backyard. $300/mo. $100 dep. and 1/2 utilities. Smokers OK, must be pet friendly. Gay male or female preferred. Please call Norma 622-5348.

AJO/LA CHOLLA seeks responsible housemate to share large home. Lots of amenities and serenity. Call 792-4726. $360/mo. 853

HOUSING/FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT IN ARMORY PARK. Saltillo tile floors, large closets, on-site laundry. $385 + Deposit. Water paid. 628-8725. 854

POSITION WANTED

PERSONAL ASSISTANT. EXTRAORDINARY CARE FOR YOUR HOME, FAMILY & PERSONAL NEEDS. Serving the discerning in Southeastern Arizona. Call Barbi 518-0789. 852

EMPLOYMENT

MALE ASSISTANT WANTED by partially disabled, ambulatory foothills man part-time. Good wages, working conditions. Flexible hours, private heated pool and spa. Dependability, helpful attitude essential. Serious only. Please call 615-3510 for more information and possible interview. 854

SERVICES

CELEBRATE YOURSELF with a full body tantric massage. Tantra is an ancient ecstatic healing approach that breathes new life energy into your body and integrates the spirit. Intuitive. Experienced. Greg Carmean. 481-3247 859

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Private, quiet studio. Full hour $35. Rick 299-1792. 858

ATTRACTIVE MAN offers very relaxing, sensuous, one-hour massage at a very reasonable rate. Days, evenings, weekends. Michael 584-9243 859

A SPECIAL TOUCH. Full body massage with complete relaxation. Young and professional. In/out calls. 7 days. Joe, CMT, 617-0837 855

LET ME PAMPER YOU! With a Full Body Swedish massage in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. $35 for a full hour. Ralph, 883-7496. 855

MASSAGE FOR MEN. All ages welcome. Treat your stressed-out body to one hour of total pleasure. Peaceful, private setting. Full hour $35. Marvin 299-9651 858

FULL BODY ORIENTAL MASSAGE. Experience the difference. By Appointment only. 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call Danny Chong 481-0803 857

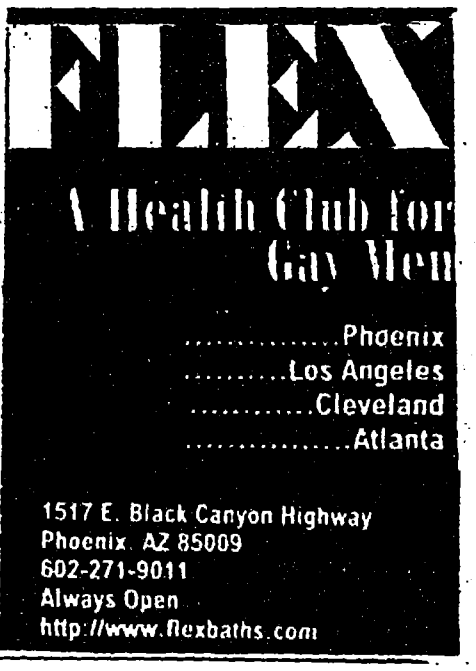
TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a Full Body Rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. 271-3660 days, evenings. 857

ENJOY TRUE QUALITY & POFESSIONAL RELAXING MASSAGE. 20 years experience/legitimate. Feel great with tanstric bodywork. Call strong/gentle Marc, 881-4582. 856

HEAVEN SENT ME! The healing of Hawaiian Lomilomi is combined with the soothing strokes of "Esalen" Swedish to create a massage that is out of this world. Be touched, soothed and nurtured by strong, yet gentle hands. Deep tissue work is available, always working to your comfort level. Days and evenings, sometimes at a moment's notice. Both in and outcalls available. Be an angel. Call Glen, CMT at 907-2551 for the touch you so richly deserve. 853.

FOOTHILLS MASSAGE. BEST IN TUCSON. New York trained. 10 years experience. Near Glenn & Campbell. In & Out calls. Greg Stickroth, 401-8560 857

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS
Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Merle Hudson, 888-7264 in Tucson. 856



VIEWPOINT.....

A Lower Level Of Celebrity

By NewsPlanet

With the proliferation of stars in today's media, it may be time for a new level of celebrity -- the sublebrity.

When any of today's dime-a-dozen cultural pundits mention fame or celebrity, they predictably invoke Andy Warhol's overly well-known epigram, "In the future, everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes." What is seldom touched upon, however, is the fact that Warhol's old saw is clearly outmoded, having come to pass somewhere around 1994. Nowadays, the forms of entertainment media have multiplied so rapidly that new celebrities of varying half-lives are created constantly.

As a result, the achievement of stardom has become ridiculously easy. Gone are the days when the laurels of public acclaim were reserved for the heroic and esteemed. In our Jerry-Springerized age, all you need to do is start your own 'zine, stick a yam up your ass with government funding, or murder your six-year-old beauty queen daughter and suddenly you're being name-dropped on The Gossip Show. With the rise of the Internet, the personal computer has virtually been transformed into a fame vending machine. Go ask Jenni, Sean Patrick or RZRaceBoy if you don't believe us. Or better yet, witness the cultish devotion lavished on such relatively marginal figures as Christian Bale, Olivia Newton-John and Rachael Leigh Cook, and marvel at the new forms of fan societies that the use of Daddy's Internet account hath wrought.

Given this rapid democratization of fame, can the term "celebrity" serve the purposes of entertainment journalism any longer? Can we, in good faith, pretend that Tom Cruise, Madonna and Jodie Foster exist in the same phenomenological stratum as Joey Buttafuoco, Harry Knowles and Lili Taylor?

Clearly, for those of us who care deeply about showbiz chitchat, the answer is no. Therefore, in the interest of conversational clarity and sociological preciseness, I hereby convey upon the world a new category of fame: the sublebrity.

The sublebrity could be an up-and-coming, or a has-been, or, for that matter, a never-really-ever- was. The sublebrity may be a "cult star", or an underground figure known only to those in-the- know, a "subcultural celebrity." Many sublebrities have been engendered by the explosion of new media like 'zines, websites, trash talk shows and backwater cable channels. Unlike the poor celebrity, whose entire existence is controlled, monitored and ruled by fame, sublebrities live comfortably with their manageable amount of fame.

We have become accustomed to the small press, the specialty label and the microbrew -- why not a new understanding of our small stars, our specialty celebs, and the micro-famous? I have developed the notion of the sublebrity from working in the twilight world of underground film, where the gaggle of subterranean superstars could simply not be understood by any other taxonomy. The term gained further currency when I began advising a friend of mine to use it in the promotion of her indie film, which features a former '70s sitcom star, a certain '80s MTV VJ, a local tabloid journalist, a notorious East Village lunatic, and the surviving half of Milli Vanilli -- in short, an almost allegorical illustration of sublebrity's many faces.

While the alchemic law we might call Warhol's Lemma dictates that the logic of fame is operable on all levels, the life of the sublebrity differs greatly in quality from that of the celebrity. The sublebrity, for example, does not need to devote as much concern to the possibility that they may be brutally murdered by a psychotic stalker, have a President shot in their honor, or get their after- dinner plans ruined by a cadre of overzealous, motorbiked paparazzi. If a sublebrity is convicted of a crime, he will be spared the ignominy of serving out his sentence in the form of a public service announcement. A sublebrity, if she so wishes, can selectively cultivate a classy, in-the- know type following. Conversely, the unfortunate celebrity has no control over who the fickle finger of fame will point his way. Without warning, a given fanbase may shift suddenly from chic urbanites ages 18-30 to squealing suburban 'tweens ages 10-12. In short, sublebrity status is inherently cooler.

Yes this all makes sense, you may be saying to yourself, but what does this have to do with Gaydom?

It is because of my unwavering loyalty to my Velvet Mafia familia that I have chosen PopcornQ as my forum in which to go public with this vital new term. Heed my warning, O lavender brethren and sistren! Understanding of sublebrity is crucial to the survival of homosexual dominance in the increasingly important sphere of gossip-mongering, rumor-spreading and star- f**king. In today's rapidly changing world, there are both openly Gay celebrities and Gay sublebrities, though for every Ellen DeGeneres or Scott Thompson, there are probably hundreds of David Drakes and Aileen Wuornoses.

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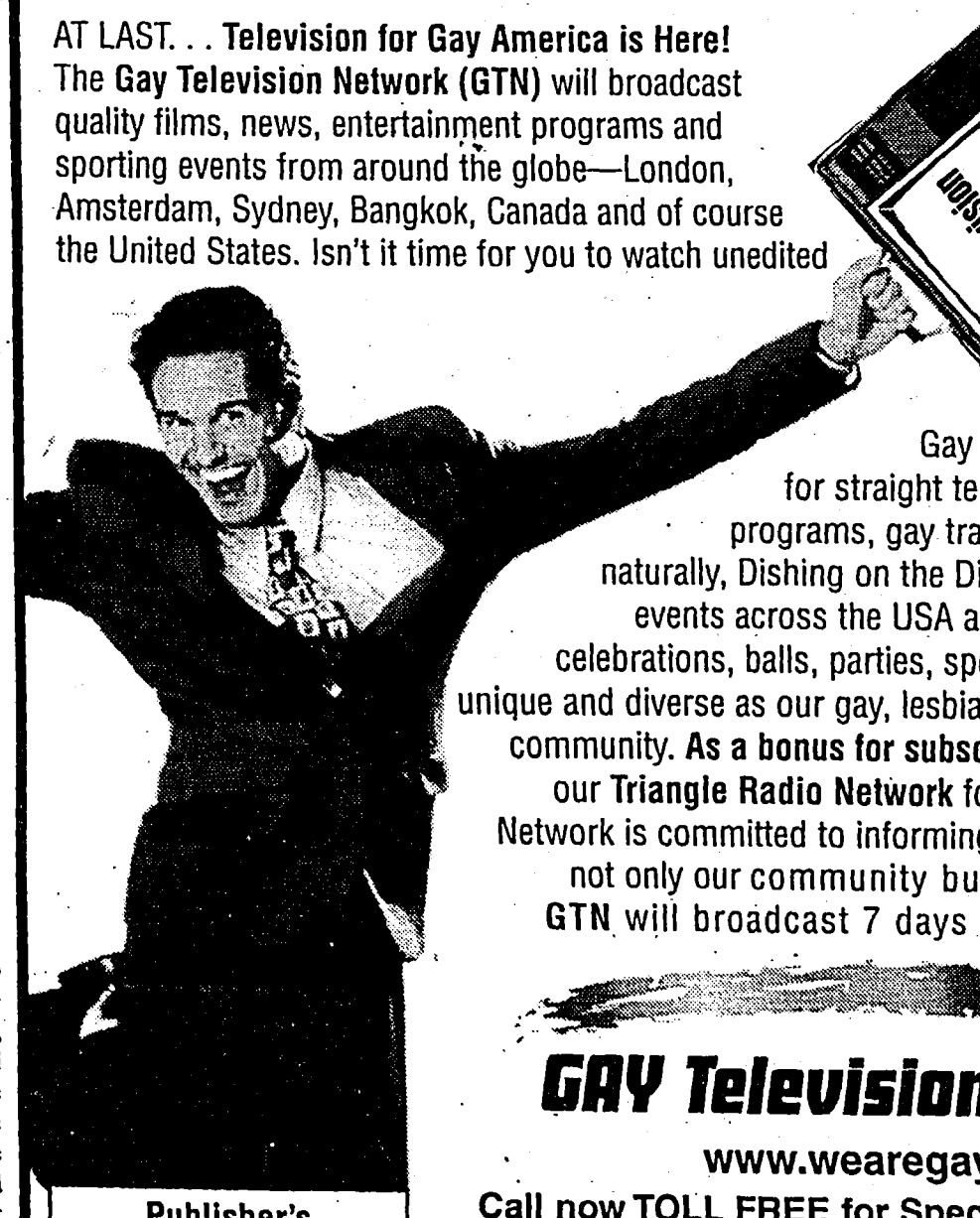

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