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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER | DECEMBER 27, 2000 | ISSUE 858

## GLBT Advocates Petition Mormon Church

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (GFN) - A group of more than 300 Gay and Lesbian Mormons and their family members are petitioning The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to reconsider its anti Gay stance.

A copy of the petition, signed "Mormon Advocates for Further Light and Knowledge," appeared as an ad in the Saturday, December 23 edition of the Salt Lake Tribune.

The document called upon LDS general authorities to review, repudiate and remove from church-approved policies and reading materials statements about homosexuality that are false and misleading.

This would include, the petition said, the church's overall position that "same-sex attraction is an undesirable and unnatural emotion, which, when acted upon results in sinful, Satan-inspired behavior."

The petition's author is Mac Madsen, a former Weber State University healthy-lifestyles professor and men's golf coach.

Madsen, from his Ogden home Saturday, described the petition as a last-ditch appeal to church leaders for meaningful dialogue about Gay and Lesbian issues.

For two years, said Madsen, he and others have pleaded with Mormon church officials to hear them out.

Indeed, many in the Mormon hierarchy have already seen the petition. More than a year ago, said Madsen, it was mailed to the church's top 125 officials.

"I received absolutely no response," he said.

The petitioners originally intended to place the $4,000 ad in an October edition of the newspaper, during the church's conference weekend, when a captive audience of Mormons from outside the state would be more likely to see it.

"But at that time we were short by $2,000," Madsen said.

Madsen also investigated getting the petition printed in at least two other newspapers – the Deseret News and Provo Daily Herald – but thus far it has only appeared in the Tribune.

The Deseret News rejected it, said Madsen, who, in the end could only come up with enough money for one ad placement.

Though no names appear in the ad, more than 300 individuals from 12 different countries and most of America's 50 states backed it, said Madsen.

"We had originally planned to print names," he said, "but there wasn't enough space."

Some individuals though, he acknowledged, were frightened to reveal their names for fear of reprisal from the Mormon church or being judged harshly by friends and neighbors.

Madsen, hoping to protect his wife and his daughter, who is Lesbian, also was hesitant to have his name printed in the newspaper.

But "there is nothing in the petition that I am ashamed of or that is inaccurate," he said.

The fact that people have spoken out in such a public way goes to show just how frustrated they are, said Gary Watts, who signed the petition.

Watts, a radiologist in Provo, and his wife Mildred, have six children.

"Four are straight. Two are Gay," said Watts, who wants all his children afforded the same opportunities in life, including acceptance and full fellowship in the LDS Church if they so choose.

When asked why he continues to embrace a religious group that doesn't reciprocate, Watts said, "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy.

"It is not just a religion. It is an integral part of your life and culture, and it is very difficult to divorce yourself from something that is a part of you," said the fifth-generation Mormon.

Madsen, who has received no response to the ad, acknowledges the petition probably won't result in immediate changes to church practices and policies regarding Gay members.

Among other things, the petition asks the church to extend full fellowship to Gays and Lesbians, and even support legislation to legalize same-sex marriage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

## Bush's A.G. Nominee Has Anti-G/L Record

### Possible Defense Secretary Nominee Even Worse

WASHINGTON, DC - In remarks delivered to the nation, the incoming President, George W. Bush, spoke of "respect for our differences," and said that he would be "president of every single American of every race and every background." His choice for Attorney General (A.G.) and his consideration of a conservative Republican Senator from Indiana for Secretary of Defense may show otherwise.

Sen. John Ashcroft, R-MO, chosen by president-elect George W. Bush to be the next attorney general, is one of the most conservative members of the Senate and has earned a 0 rating for his voting record from the Human Rights Campaign, voting against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and hate-crimes legislation.

"Ashcroft's dismal record for racial, gender, and sexual orientation civil rights issues raises serious concerns about his ability to enforce our nation's civil rights laws," says Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director.

Ashcroft was defeated in his re-election bid last month by the late Missouri governor Mel Carnahan. Carnahan was killed in a plane crash in October, too close to the time of the election to have his name removed from the ballot. His widow, Jean, campaigned after his death to fill his seat.

"John Ashcroft is the antithesis of the person required to lead the Department of Justice. With the possible exception of Senator Jesse Helms, I do not believe anyone in the United States Senate has a more abysmal record on civil rights and civil liberties," said Ralph Neas, President of People For The American Way. "The office of Attorney General is the worst executive branch position for George W. Bush to use as political payback to the far right. This nomination is an insult to every person who is committed to our nation's promise of equal justice for all."

While serving in the Senate, the potential Defense Secretary, Dan Coats, voted against a bill to prohibit job discrimination against Gays and Lesbians, refused to sign a non discrimination policy for his own office, and opposed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Coats said that Gay marriage was a sign of "deep moral confusion" and he strongly opposed the 1993 nomination of Lesbian civil rights lawyer Roberta Achtenberg as Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing, citing "some disturbing things about her background, character, and temperament" and claiming that opposition to the Boy Scouts' ban against Gays was "an example of a radical agenda that is outside the mainstream of civil rights."

As a former member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Coats spearheaded the opposition to Gays in the military, resisted gender integration in basic training units, and fought to prohibit abortions at overseas military hospitals. He equated President Clinton's proposal to allow Gays to serve in the military with condoning sexual harassment, claiming that Clinton's proposal "would allow the kind of conduct that took place at the Tailhook convention to be exempted from any military regulation."

## Montana To Ban G/L Bias In State Jobs

HELENA, MT (NP) - One of the most anti Gay states in the U.S. will protect Gay and Lesbian state workers from discrimination, at the request of the governor.

At the request of Governor Marc Racicot, a starring Republican attack-dog in the Florida presidential election recount escapade, Montana state employment guidelines now being finalized will add "sexual orientation" as a class protected from discrimination, Kathleen McLaughlin reported in three of the state's newspapers. A general overhaul of state employment policies has been completed including the addition made at Racicot's explicit request of more than a year ago. The guidelines, expected to be final in a few weeks, prohibit discrimination in state hiring, firing and other employment decisions. Those who feel they've experienced job discrimination at the hands of the state will be able to file a grievance, although the state's personnel division administrator does not believe there have been problems with anti-Gay discrimination to date. However, the state will not extend spousal benefits to unmarried partners, regardless of gender.

Karl Olson, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian civil rights group PRIDE of Montana, applauded the move as a "significant step" that would offer a good example to other employers. It's particularly significant because Montana has been one of the most anti-Gay states: Until mid-1997, it had the harshest sodomy law in the U.S., providing for up to ten years

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

# UPDATE

## LAPD Recruiting In Arizona For G/L Officers

PHOENIX - The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is lauching a recruitment effort for new officers in the Phoenix area.

Officer Amy Schieder of the LAPD Department Recruitment Section said that the written exam is open to the general public, but her goal is to actively recruit new police officers from the Gay and Lesbian community. She stated that herself and Officer Joe Torres will be staffing a recruitment booth at the Road Runner Regional Rodeo, January 13-14. Anyone from the Gay and Lesbian community, Schnieder added, considering a career in law enforcement should visit the booth.

The written exam will be administered at the Parkway Inn, 8617 N. Black Canyon Highway, on Monday, January 15, 2001, at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m, and will take approximately two-and-a-half hours. Picture I.D. is required. Minimum requirements: 20 ½ years old and no more than 34 years old. High School Diploma or GED. U.S. Citizen or have applied for citizenship and no felony convictions and be in excellent health.

The LAPD will offer full pay during Academy training starting at $42,-824 - $46,311, plus a $2,000 relocation bonus. LAPD offers family and domestic partner health and dental coverage. Paid vacation, sick leave and holidays are part of the package. For more information, call the LAPD at (323) 957-4529 or (800) 954-0321.

## Desert Voices Auditions

TUCSON - Desert Voices, Arizona's premiere Lesbian and Gay chorus, are holding auditions for their annual spring pops concert.

Auditions for "Heart & Soul," a tribute to R&B music, will take place January 8 and 15, 6:00 p.m., at the Armory Park Senior Center.

A guest artist will be joining the chorus for the March 17-18 premiere performances at the Berger Theatre. For more information, call (520) 791-9662.

## 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: experienced 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.

To apply, pick up job description and application instructions, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at 375 S. Euclid Ave., or call (520) 628-7223, or see www.saaf.org. Open until filled. AA/EOE

## Activists Challenge Petitions For Florida Anti-G/L Ballot Measure

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL (FSS) - Save Dade, a Gay rights group, has challenged some of the signatures collected by anti Gay activists to put on the ballot a measure to repeal Miami–Dade County, Fla.'s nondiscrimination ordinance.

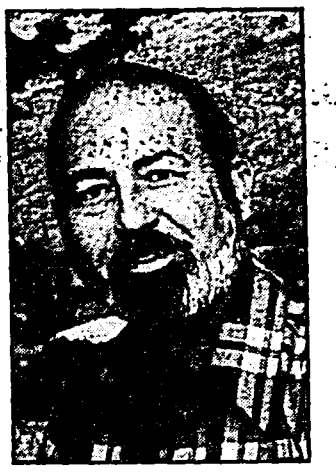
Led by the Christian Coalition and other religious right groups, supporters of the ballot measure collected 51,206 signatures to qualify the measure for the September 2002 ballot. The nondiscrimination ordinance was narrowly passed by the Miami-Dade commission two years ago. The referendum needs 34,991 signatures to qualify. Save Dade chairman Jorge Mursuli said that his group has noticed irregularities about some signatures, including duplicate signatures and improperly notarized petitions. "I think there's enough evidence here to question the legitimacy of this process," he said.

Eladio Jose Armesto, a spokesman for Take Back Miami-Dade, the coalition formed to promote the ballot measure, said his group can withstand the challenge. "The experts calculate that at the most there may be anywhere from 5% to 6% that are unverifiable," he said. "That would still give us over 45,000, which is 10,000...more than we need."

## IN MEMORIAM

During the past few weeks, two Funeral Notices appeared in the Arizona Daily Star that are of importance to the local GLBT community.

**Bart Andrew Hust**
**June 21, 1964 - December 15, 2000**



**Jose "Joe" Murrieta**

59, beloved brother and Tio, passed away onDecember 3, 2000. Donations may be made to the American Lung Association, 2819 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716.

## Plea Issued on Behalf of GLBT Students

NEW YORK, NY - The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network issued a call, directing its membership and other concerned members of the community to press the new Republican administration in the White House to be sensitive to the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) students.

"Our next Secretary of Education inherits a growing body of data showing that anti Gay harassment in America's schools is the rule — not the exception," said GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings.

"Our message to the President-elect is clear," Jennings continued. "'Leaving no child behind' means making appointments and establishing policies that are sensitive to and inclusive of all students, including those who happen to be Lesbian,

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

Thank you to the community for all your support.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

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COPY EDITOR: Mark Kerr
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**Midnight Free Champagne and Party Favors**

**New Year's Eve Gala Celebration**
**Sunday, Dec. 31st**
**4:30 til 7:30-** Karaoke on the patio with Billy Dee
**5:30 til 7:30-** Light Buffet
**8 pm- Special New Years Eve Show** featuring:
Lucinda Holliday
Mr. Kenneth Blake
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**Midnight Champagne & Party Favors**
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**Wed., Jan. 3rd, 9pm, 'The Girlie Show'**
Hosted by: Lucinda Holliday
featuring: Mr. Kenneth Blake, and Samantha White

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# DON'T DRINK & DRIVE !

## JUST A REMINDER

The Pima County Sheriff's Department will be conducting sobriety checkpoints during the Holiday Season to identify and remove impaired drivers to make the streets safer for everyone.

DUI SURPRISE #1. You can be guilty of DUI even if your blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) is below the legal limit (0.10%).

There are two ways an adult can be guilty of alcohol-related DUI in Arizona. One way is to have a BAC of 0.10% or greater within two hours of driving or being in "actual physical control" of a vehicle. [Remember that alcohol can affect our judgment, mood, behavior, thinking and ability to drive before our BAC reaches 0.10%]

The second way you can be guilty of DUI is to be under the influence of any intoxicating liquor and "impaired to the slightest degree." This means that you do not have to have a BAC of 0.10% or more to be found guilty of DUI in Arizona.

Consequently, if your BAC is measured at 0.10% or greater, you will probably receive <u>two</u> separate DUI citations, one for having a BAC greater than 0.10% and another for being impaired to the slightest degree.

If a blood or breath test indicates that your Blood Alcohol Content is 0.10% or greater, your license will be confiscated immediately by the arresting officer.

SURPRISE #2: You can be guilty of DUI even if you never actually "drive" or move our vehicle., So long as you are in "actual physical control," (i.e. if your car is readily capable of being driven), you can be arrested for DUI.

SURPRISE #3: A DUI arrest does not require that you have been driving a <u>car</u>. You can be arrested for riding snowmobiles, boats, motorcycles, and other recreational vehicles if under the influence.

SURPRISE #4: The driver of a commercial motor vehicle can be guilty of DUI if his or her BAC is only 0.04% or greater.

SURPRISE #5: If you are a juvenile, it is illegal to drive if you have <u>any</u> amount of spiritous liquors in your body!

SURPRISE #6: Driving while there is an illegal drug in your body, in <u>any</u> among, subjects you to the same penalties as an alcohol related DUI.

SURPRISE #7: Even those taking lawfully prescribed medications, if the drugs involved impair their ability to drive to the slightest degree, can be convicted of DUI.

SURPRISE #8: If a blood or breath test indicates that our BAC is 0.10% or greater, your license will be confiscated immediately by the arresting officer.

SURPRISE #9: In any DUI case, if the arresting officer asks you to submit to a breath or blood test, and you refuse to submit to or fail to successfully complete the test, your license will automatically be suspended for <u>twelve</u> months.

SURPRISE #10: You can be guilty of an <u>aggravated</u> DUI if you are caught driving under the influence while your license is revoked, refused, suspended, or canceled <u>for any reason.</u>

SURPRISE #11: If you are convicted of aggravated DUI, the vehicle you were driving at the time of the arrest can be permanently forfeited to the state.


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As I See It by Clark

# Survey Shows Young Gay Men Taking Part In High Risk Sex

BALTIMORE, MD - Reuters Health reported that despite years of AIDS awareness campaigns in schools and communities, at least some young men who have sex with men continue to put themselves at risk, according to results of a new study.

"Our findings show high levels of unprotected sex, drug and alcohol use, and HIV among young men who have sex with men and who attend Gay dance clubs and bars," researcher John B. Hylton of the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland, told Reuters Health in an interview.

Results of the study conducted by Hylton and David D. Celentano, were presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (news - web sites) held last month in Boston, Massachusetts.

The researchers interviewed 61 young men, aged 15 to 22, who had had sexual experiences with other men and who were attending Gay bars or dance clubs in Baltimore. More than one third of these men said they had not used a condom the last time they had sex, and 21% said they had been high on drugs or alcohol the last time they had sex. HIV testing showed that 9% of the young men were HIV positive.

"These are shocking numbers, and those of us who work in HIV prevention are alarmed," Hylton told Reuters Health. "We are still trying to figure out why this is happening and what to do to help."

Ironically, Hylton suggests that one reason for these young men's lack of concern about HIV is actually the emergence of more successful treatment options such as HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy).

"What you're seeing in the popular media is that HIV isn't such an awful thing to have, that it is a manageable chronic disease," Hylton explained. "That's changing young men's thoughts about the dangers of contracting it."

In addition, the researcher said, men in this age group are not old enough to have seen what AIDS can do. "These young men haven't seen men with AIDS walking down the street covered with Kaposi's sarcoma, or men wasting away to nothing." Kaposi's sarcoma--a cancer that commonly strikes immunocompromised patients--is characterized by purple skin lesions.

Many of these young men also lack the support of family, friends, teachers, and groups that can help them deal with issues of sexual identity and sexual behavior, Hylton added.

"The programs that have been successful with this population are very labor intensive. They involve being out in the community, attempting to build social support networks for these young men, finding ways for them to talk about these issues," he pointed out.

Hylton and his colleagues are still working to find out why some young men appear to be so careless about their risk of contracting HIV. In the meantime, he said, these findings do have some direct implications.

"They tell us that outreach in bars and nightclubs is still an important idea, because of the high level of risky behavior among young men who frequent them. They also tell us that we need to be out there reminding people that there's still an epidemic: AIDS hasn't gone away," he added.

# G/L Related Golden Globe Nominations

HOLLYWOOD, CA (NP) - Some of the big and the small screens' queerest offerings are as good as gold, including Will & Grace, If These Walls Could Talk II, Billy Elliot, and Before Night Falls.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association on December 21 announced the nominees for its 58th annual Golden Globe awards, and it was like the Emmy nominations all over again for NBC's Gay-themed sitcom Will & Grace. The show was named for Best TV Comedy Series and all four of its regulars were nominated in the acting categories: Eric McCormack (Gay "Will") for Best Actor - Comedy, Debra Messing (straight "Grace") for Best Actress - Comedy, Sean Hayes (Gay "Jack") for Best Supporting Actor, and Megan Mullally (tipsy "Karen") for Best Supporting Actress. The Best TV Comedy Series competition is familiar too: Ally McBeal, Frasier, Malcolm in the Middle, and Sex in the City.

Gay icon Bette Midler also received a nod for Best Actress in a TV Series for her struggling first-year series Bette, while Vanessa Redgrave is shortlisted for Best Supporting Actress for her Lesbian role in the Lesbian trilogy If These Walls Could Talk II.

Showtime's Dirty Pictures, which recounts the 1990 censoring of a Cincinnati museum's exhibit of photos by the late Gay Robert Mapplethorpe, is in the running for Best Movie Made for Television and earned James Woods a Best Actor nod in that category. Alfre Woodard is up for Best Actress in a Movie Made for Television for her role in Holiday Heart, whose lead character is a Transgender cowboy.

The Golden Globes are unusual in honoring both television and film productions. Javier Bardem is in the running for Best Actor in a Drama for his role as the late Gay Cuban poet Reinaldo Arenas in the biographical Before Night Falls. Billy Elliot, the tale of a working class boy who wants to be a ballet dancer -- and who fends off homophobia himself as well as warmly accepting his Gay best friend -- is up for Best Picture - Drama, with Julie Walters a possible Best Supporting Actress as well. The very fey tale of dogs and their owners Best in Show is a nominee for Best Picture - Comedy. The story of the last days of the Marquis de Sade Quills brought nods to Geoffrey Rush for Best Actor and to Doug Wright for Best Screenplay. Wonder Boys, which has a significant Gay character, won notice for Best Picture - Drama, Best Actor - Drama (Michael Douglas), Best Screenplay (Steve Kloves) and Best Original Song (Bob Dylan's Things Have Changed). Mel Gibson, protested in the past for homophobia, tries on women's clothes and cosmetics in What Women Want -- and got a Best Actor - Comedy nomination for it.

The winners will be announced at a widely-watched televised gala on January 21.

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# VIEWPOINT.....

## Time To Put On Our Marching Shoes

By Elizabeth Toledo

George W. Bush is heading to Washington, and now is the time for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender activists -- arm in arm with all social justice activists -- to be visible and vocal. Right now is the moment when our movement must demand exactly what we want -- and we must do it in a way that is powerful.

The fact of a Bush Presidency is a technical defeat. This country understands that the combination of privilege, electoral corruption and mismanagement, and sheer luck put George W. into the White House.

He appealed to the fear and bigotry of homophobia as a stepping stone to power. He rejected feminism, racial justice, economic justice, and the basic building blocks of democracy in his quest for the White House. In past elections this platform might have launched him to power in a decisive vote. Today, he moves into power the clear loser. A president-elect who lost the nation's popular vote and won the electoral college vote only by blocking the free and fair count in Florida, Bush prepares for inauguration under a dark cloud of electoral scandal and voter disfranchisement.

I concede that Bush will sit in the White House, but I concede no power to his politics. The stench of this election will remain in the voters' consciousness. At one moment in time I might have thought the best we can muster in a Bush administration is to hold the line. I thought we'd dig our heels in the turf and prevent our progress from slipping a decade or so.

I don't think that anymore.

I now believe the movement must again reaffirm the power of local organizing, which historically has been ingrained in the mission of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Let us make sure that every person in every city of the country has an opportunity to be politically active. Let us blanket this country with town hall meetings, rallies, protests, pickets, and campaigns. Let us demand that our voices as social justice activists be heard in every part of the media -- on talk shows and call-in shows and in print.

Among the many lessons that the Florida vote miscount ought to teach us is the power of local leadership. Who ever imagined the importance of the election boards? Every one of us ought to think about running for an office, being appointed to an office, or helping someone else capture an office. The next election is 23 short months away, and I expect to campaign for social justice every single one of those months.

Recently, I was invited to the Vice President's residence for a holiday party. I encountered a number of GLBT insiders there -- from party activists to donors. We should all take a good look, it will be some time before we're truly invited back in. And that's not necessarily a bad thing.

First, we must not give up on the federal level. Advances are possible, even under a Republican Administration. After all, such breakthrough legislation as the Ryan White Care Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act were signed into law by George W.'s father. Of course, it is important to note that these advances only came after national protests were organized, many by ACT-UP. Again, it is time to take to the streets!

Second, we need to take all of the power that the movement amassed inside the beltway and unleash it at the community level. The power of our movement lies in activism -- organized, strategic activism in every state.

Third, it made some sense to compromise when we had friends the White House. Our movement made practical decisions in an effort to win whatever gains were in our reach. But even President Clinton acknowledges that the most famous compromise of all -- the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy -- was an abject failure.

And so now, our opponents -- and sometimes, even our friends -- will urge upon us compromise. They will urge us to accept narrow possibilities of progress. But now is the time to be truly visionary. If we are not going to put out an agenda that will truly challenge homophobia, nobody else is going to do it for us.

Coalitions are forming and major protests are on the way. Thank goodness, it will feel empowering to take off our tuxedos and put on our marching shoes.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force intends to be a clearinghouse for activism in this Bush era. Join us. Collaborate with us. Help us. Go to www.ngltf.org and sign up to be on our activist listserv. Check out the web site every day.

Let's link arms. It's a new day in this country, and despite his "victory," George W. Bush doesn't automatically get to be at the helm.

[Elizabeth Toledo is the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.]


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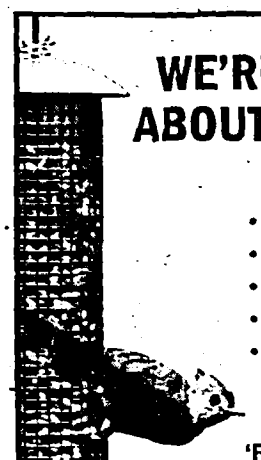

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# POLITICS 2000

by Mark R. Kerr

## 'Good Things Can Come In Strange Packages'

Tuesday, December 26, "the day after," consumers across the state and nation flocked like lemmings to their respective shopping malls to return those gifts that didn't either fit, work or weren't really wanted.

Gays and Lesbians, in the state, probably took part in this age-old "tradition," as well but there was one good gift which came in a strange package that wasn't returned, and surprisingly, it came from the Arizona Legislature.

Arizona's Gay and Lesbian community had already received several, early stocking-stuffer's, with the defeat of Barbara Blewster, Jean McGrath and several other anti G/L state legislators in the primary and general elections but even with that, there was another "package" from the folks on West Washington, which came last week in the form of committee assignments.

In the state Senate, there are a total of 13 committees, plus two appropriations subcommittees. Seventeen committees and three appropriations subcommittees are in the state House. Of these committees, candidates who were endorsed by the Arizona Human Rights Fund, will chair five committees in the Arizona House and more than a majority, 9, in the Arizona Senate.

As previously reported, openly Gay state Representative, Steve May, R-Phoenix, will chair the House Ways and Means Committee, one of the most powerful committees in the Legislature. The two previous chairs of this committee went on to become Speaker of the House. In addition to chairing Ways and Means, May will also serve on the Commerce & Economic Development Committee, Financial Institutions and Insurance and Public Institutions and Rural Affairs Committee.

State Representative Ken Cheuvront, D-Phoenix, will lead the House Democrats during the upcoming legislative session and also serve with May on the House Ways and Means Committee.

For freshman legislators, the advice usually given is to "get along, you need to go along." Pima County's openly Gay state Representative, Ed Poelstra, R-Tucson, didn't follow that.

With the "leg up he had," stated in a previous interview, Poelstra successfully lobbied to get on three House committee, Appropriations, Retirement & Government Operations and the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, being named Vice-Chair of the latter, succeeding Steve May in the post.

Poelstra said he was pleased with his assignments, being able to serve with state Representative Carol Somers, R-Tucson on the Appropriations committee and being named Vice Chair of Financial Institutions, where "real reform of public policy can happen during this session."

One of his goals, Poelstra said, for this session, is to get legislation passed to overhaul the state's retirement system for Department of Correction's Officers, who have to work 25 years to get a full retirement pension while other state employees only have to put in 20 years.

Poelstra got the news of his committee assignments after just arriving back from a national legislative conference held in Washington, D.C., which he called a great learning experience.

His experience, the son of a noted lobbyist has helped Poelstra in becoming a public servant since after his election in November, by 192 votes, Pima County's openly Gay state Representative-elect has been working constantly, even before being sworn in, meeting with other state legislators, participating in the party's legislative caucus functions and attending meetings with local elected officials, community leaders, etc., and served his time as a prospective county juror.

All this before the "fun" really begins when the Arizona Legislature convenes, Monday, January 8, 2001, for which Poelstra expects the legislative session to run more than the 100 days, since this Legislature must approve a biennial (two year) budget for the state government.

Meanwhile, over in the upper chamber, bipartisanship broke out, since the Republicans and Democrats both have 15 seats in the state Senate.

Nine AHRF endorsed candidates chair Senate committees, of which, Tucson Senators Ruth Solomon (D), and Elaine Richardson (D), chair the two most powerful committees, Appropriations and Judiciary respectively but more important news, is the rise of the moderates in the Senate.

State Senator Randall Gnant, a Republican from Phoenix, will serve as Senate President, thanks to five Republicans and the fifteen Democrats, who agreed to a power sharing agreement.

Gnant is also committed to changing Senate procedure. Committee heads no longer will have the power to pigeon-hole a bill, effectively killing it. He also has pledged to reject strike-all bills, which is substituting one bill for another.

Gnant's rise and the centrist power sharing means voters can expect to see less morality legislation such as prohibiting coed dormitories at state universities. It also means that antiquated laws dictating morality have a better chance of being erased from the books. State Senator Ed Cirillo, R-Sun City, stated he will again introduce a bill that would remove three statutes that prohibit cohabitation, lewd and lascivious conduct and crimes against nature.

Arizona's 45th Legislature commences Monday, January 8, 2001 and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community may finally realize that "good things can come in strange packages."

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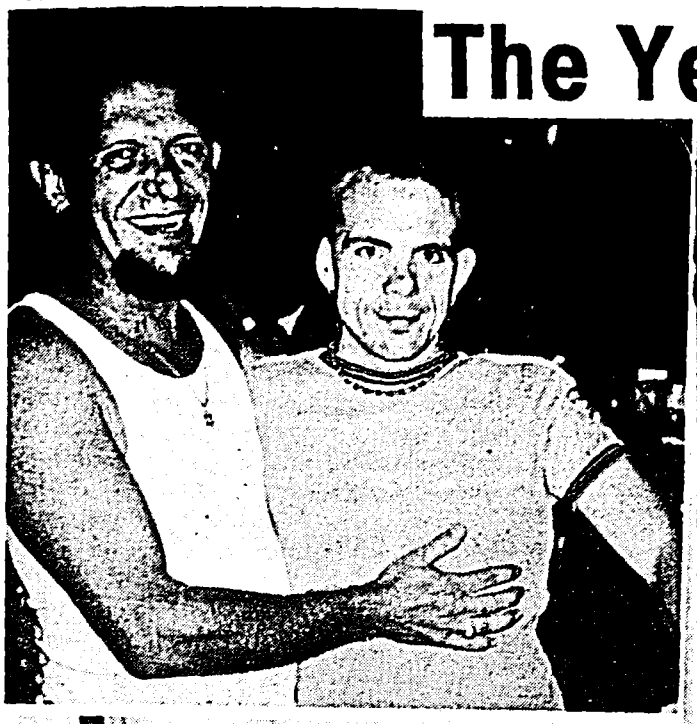
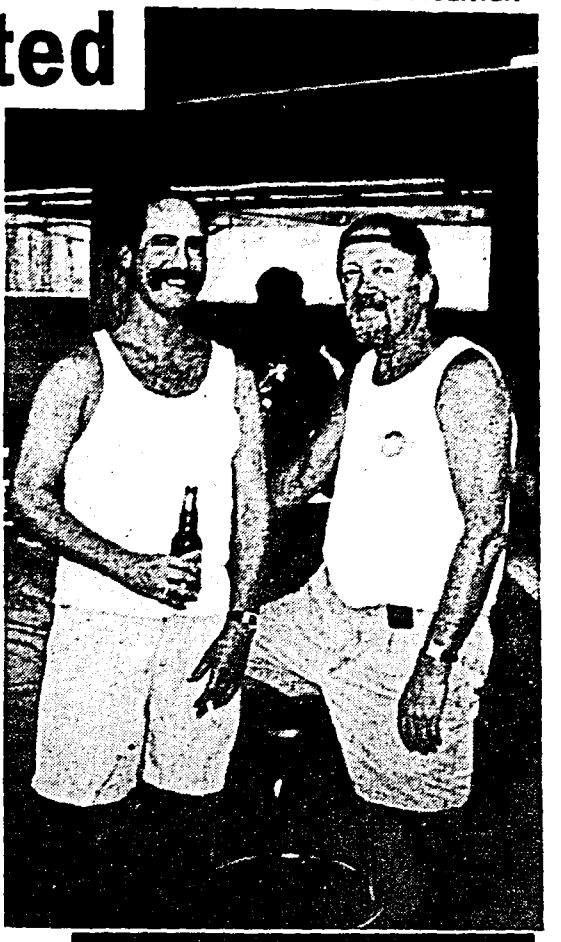
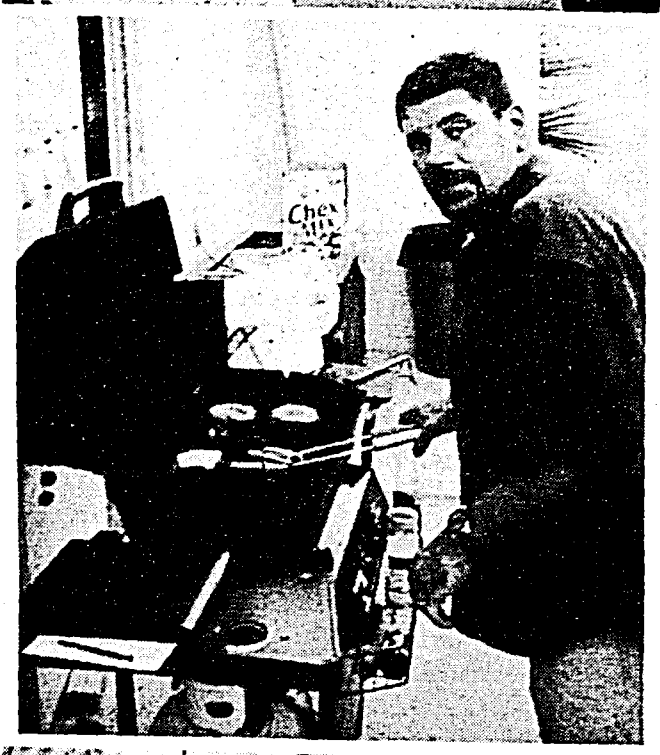
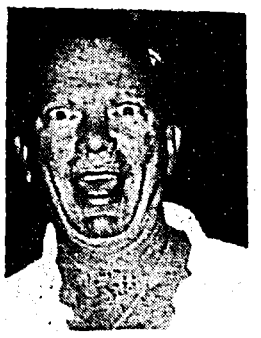
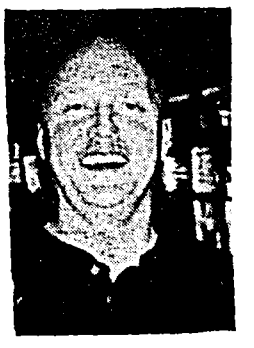
# The Year 2000 Revisited











# HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

Forget all that nonsense about 2000 beginning the next millennium. We know of course that 2001 is really the year that launches the next thousand. The most defining element is the ying/yang of Pluto opposite Jupiter which occurs three times this year. Hold on tight kids as we celebrate the new, new millennium - Here's to a prideful 2001+1000. Pop your corks and drink up!

## ARIES
### MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Love: Gay Rams heed the call of the wilde as Pluto expands your base of operations. Long lost loves reemerge and long distance rumblings shiver your timbers. I see an exotic stranger who will wax and wane through your life this year. Enjoy it through its phases. Money: Launch a web business in 2001 as Pluto emails your fiscal yearnings into cyberspace. But costs can escalate out of control; gluttonous Jupiter can't get enough and neither can you. Don't bite off more than you can chew cousin, tempting as it may be.

## TAURUS
### APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Love: Expect more than a few boiled eggs as Plutonium energy radiates your love nest. Proud Bulls try a few new sexual techniques to hit the stratosphere. But what goes up must come down. Can you keep it up? Money: Jupiter jangles Pluto and jingles your checkbook. Maybe you will come into an inheritance. Maybe you will hit the lottery. Considering the odds, perhaps you should try mending family fences or finding a well endowed benefactor.

## GEMINI
### MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Love: Life is a balance and 2001 tips the scales between your need for freedom and the interdependence of a relationship. Gay Twins are legends in their own mind. Don't become a historical footnote. Money: Money greases your axle and gets your road show rolling. Pink Twins realize that they need to spend big to get big and the bigger the better. Use 2001 to move mountains. Hey, move these mountains!

## CANCER
### JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Love: Proud Crabs find love in all sorts of places in 2001 including some surprisingly seamy detours. Keep an open mind as you search; your soulmate will always be in the last place you look. Money: Hard work brings its own rewards, but 2001 delivers you a few lucky breaks. Psst... I have it on good authority that part of your success is serendipitous. (Burn a little incense for Jupiter, bubbele.)

## LEO
### JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Love: Single pink Lion cubs swirl into the party punch in 2001 as compadres provide the delicious intoxication. For those already in a relationship, expect it to bubble like a frothy pink cocktail. Bottoms up! Money: Money primarily surges out this year, but what do you care? With Pluto and Jupiter tete a tete'ing through 2001, life is a grand fete that has its price tag. Sigh, doesn't just about everything?

## VIRGO
### AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Love: There is nothing as alluring as power. At least that is what queer Virgins believe as dynamic Jupiter powers your corporate ascent by any means necessary. You attract and are attracted to those on top. Isn't that the way it always is? Money: Professional advancement may revamp your living situation this year. Jupiter and Pluto can push and prod you to relocate or supply you with a huge bonus that moves you uptown to fancier digs. How will you pack all those tschochkas?

## LIBRA
### SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Love: Gay Libras are smooth operators so your incarnation as a Lothario in 2001 is an obvious next step. As you weave words of love to some hapless fly be careful of ripping their wings. Your tongue may be firmly in cheek but they may not get any of it. Money: Ask for what you want, even if it's the moon. The Pluto / Jupiter opposition throughout 2001 expects big ideas, grand actions and global results. Hmm how much of a pile up can you handle cousin?

## SCORPIO
### OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Love: Jupiter juices up your love prospects throughout 2001. Put on the squeeze and quaff your thirst. So who says money can't buy love? Prove 'em wrong as you bathe in the glow of an appreciative, well greased entourage. Keep the receipts, just in case. Money: This is the year to reassess your financial goals. Queer Scorps are apt to take things to the extremes but you don't have to risk everything to push your fiscal strategy forward. They say slow and steady wins the race... and that ain't bad for a variety of other activities too.

## SAGITTARIUS
### NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Love: Pluto continues to take you into uncharted territory. Proud Archers must now capitalize on all new ventures. Concoct a new 2001 look for yourself. It elevates you to a new competitive league or gives a moribund partnership a new lift. We can all use a lift now and then. Money: Some queer Sags are willing to be "kept" in 2001 and lucky Jupiter provides the sugarparent. Others assume that role themselves. Expect grand gestures that can lead to luxurious overspending. Hey doesn't everyone need a personal lap dancer?

## CAPRICORN
### DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Love: If you seriously pursue a disciplined exercise regime, 2001 is the payoff year. Attract a caucus of admirers with your constitutional amendment and proudly display your solid support. You are a shoe in. Money: Gay Caps realize that their value system needs a recount so grab a calculator and add up the points in 2001. The Jupiter / Pluto oppositions demonstrate the value of sweat equity and community outreach. There is no price tag on karma, buddy.

## AQUARIUS
### JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Love: Aqueerians usually love humanity rather than a particular human. With Pluto opposite Jupiter throughout 2001, your ability to spread the love is tested... and retested. Just like a box of chocolates you may take a little bite out of each before you decide. Yummy. Money: Creative inspiration is the spark that ignites your fiscal engine this year. Tap into your Gay muse and take ideas to the outer limits. Aqueerians have moxie to burn. Perhaps in 2001 you have money to burn too.

## PISCES
### FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Love: Traumatic and all consuming career changes may throw off your carefully balanced home and family life in 2001. But prickly Guppies may secretly be yearning for some sort of relief. Be careful of what you wish cousin. Money: It's an either / or year, pink Fish; Either you forge new in roads in your professional development or give up your corporate ascent to tend to family or home issues. It's a guilt trip. Will you feel guilty? Nah!

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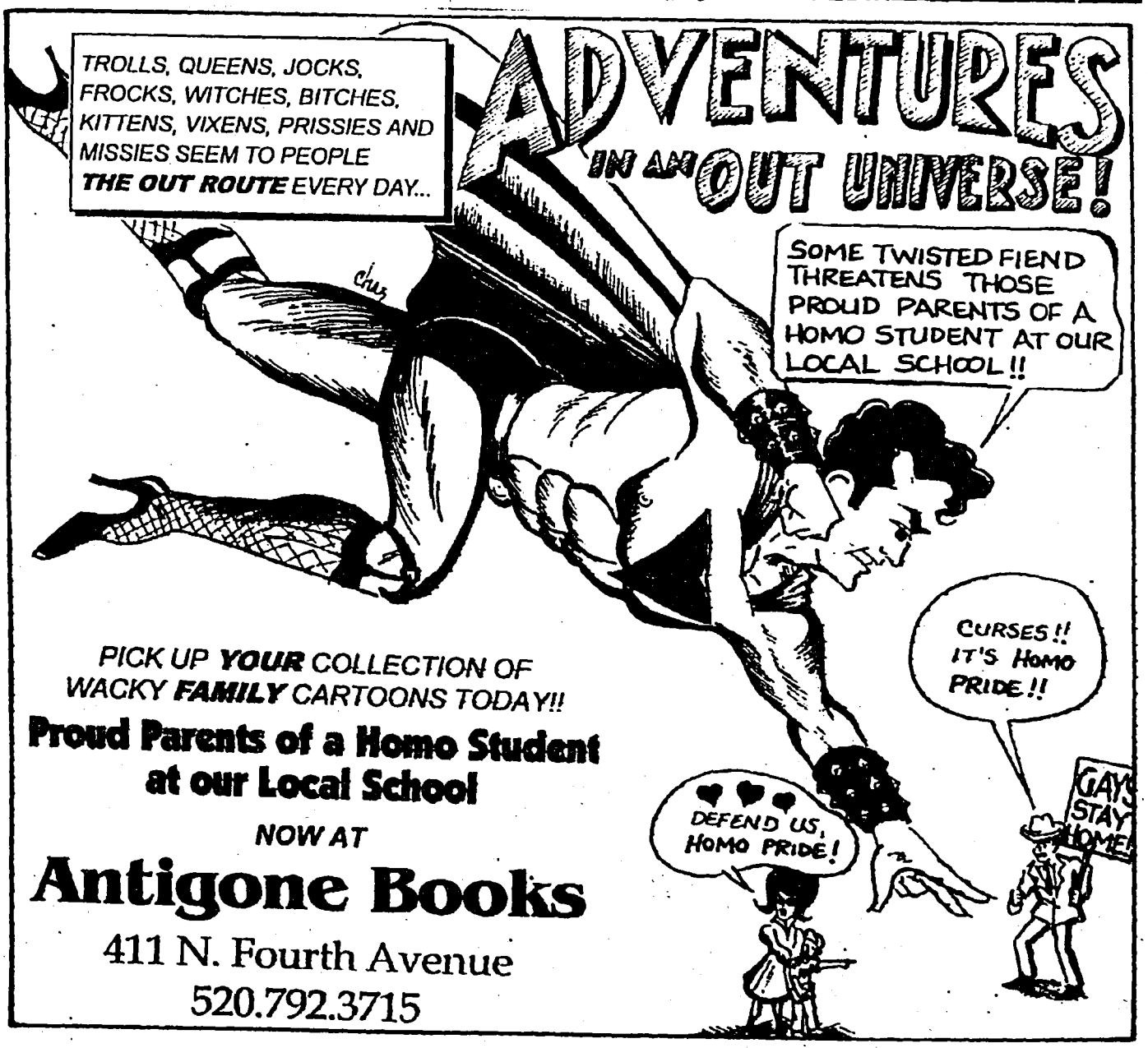

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# PERSPECTIVE

## A Holiday Message

By Elizabeth Birch

This year was the 20th anniversary of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Twenty years ago, a small group of men and women gathered to create an organization they imagined would transform the world through the democratic process. Imagine that these young men and women had never heard the word "AIDS." They could not have envisioned how an epidemic would force an entire generation to learn to comfort the dying and bury the dead.

From the beginning, they built a bipartisan organization. But they could not have imagined that for the next three administrations their government, in the midst of the largest health crisis of the century, would turn away in silence. They could not have imagined that even the most basic equal rights would not have been realized at the federal level even by the year 2000.

But they had a dream — and mostly they could not imagine how strong and wise they would become. And one after another, other dreamers and thinkers — men and women of good conscience — have come to the Human Rights Campaign to build a strong, vital foundation for equality, one stone upon another.

Time has proven the wisdom of these early leaders.

But too many Americans — too many parents, loved ones and common-sense observers — now see the lengths to which our enemies will go to perpetuate their prejudice. All through 1999, the battle lines were shifting — from the polls and editorial pages to dinner tables and water coolers. And the margins were widening to embrace equality.

I am proud that the Human Rights Campaign has been at the forefront of the effort to make equality a mainstream issue, worthy of the support of every fair-minded American. The evidence is everywhere.

Parents, loved ones, co-workers and friends of Lesbians and Gays continue to join our membership. Candidates — Republican and Democrat — go out of their way to approach us on issues, both to learn more and to pledge their support. Reporters and editorial boards view our advocacy as "common sense" rather than "special interest." Our workplace advocacy has transformed the landscape of corporate America, with Gay-inclusive policies becoming standard practice, from the Big Three automakers to that quintessential U.S. brand, Coca-Cola.

Much of HRC's work in the past year has involved eye-to-eye confrontations with the proponents of anti-Gay bigotry. And we will continue to face them down, and take the action necessary to blunt their attacks. But more and more, we are energized not simply by outrage, but by hope and a shared sense of purpose.

We are working with diverse allies across the spectrum, to rally a new American majority behind a movement of fairness, tolerance and community — secure in the knowledge that ours is truly a human rights campaign.

In particular, the Human Rights Campaign would like to thank the tens of thousands of individuals — often unacknowledged — who make our work easier by standing up for fair-minded values in their homes, schools and workplaces countrywide.

On behalf of everyone at the Human Rights Campaign, I want to wish you all the happiest of holidays. Let us strive to keep the season's spirit of civility and common decency alive throughout all of the challenges of the New Year. Happy holidays to each of you and your families.

[Elizabeth Birch is the Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign.]

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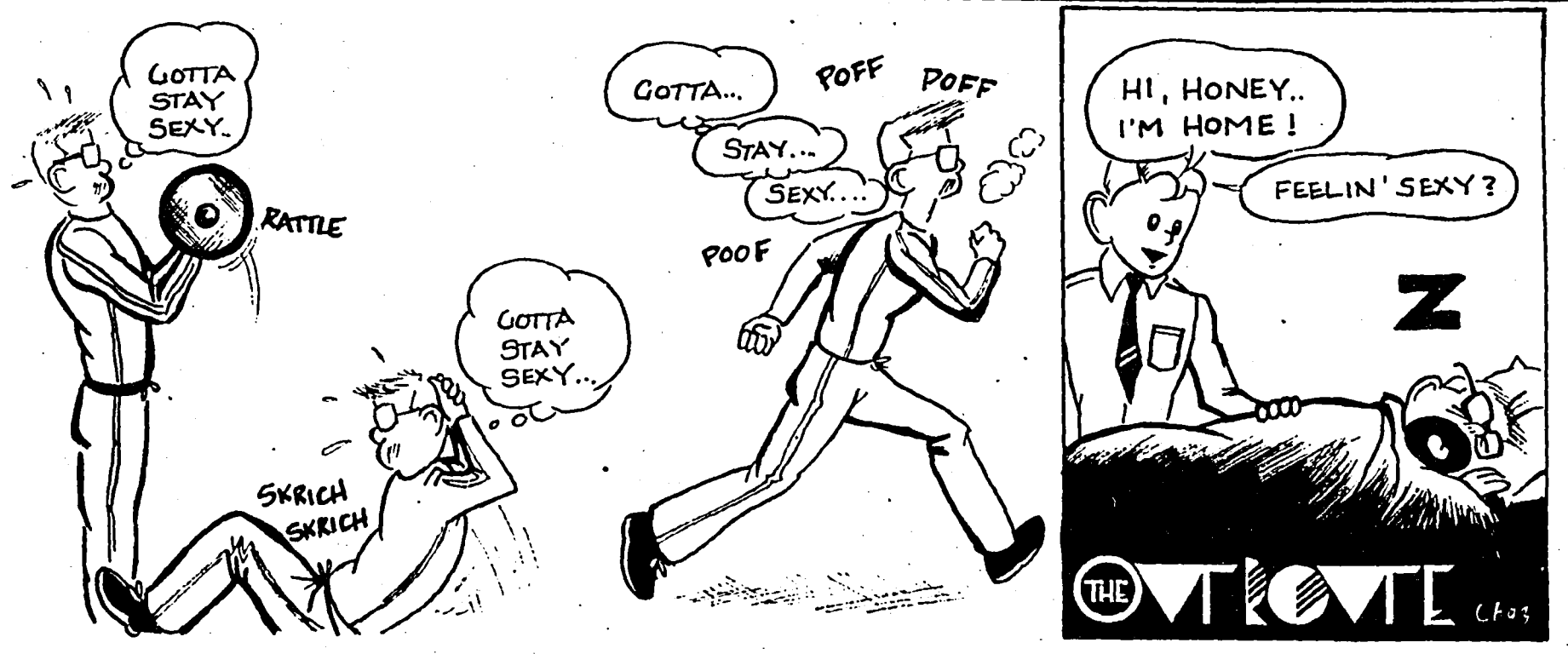

# COMMENTARY

## Different Spirit: Sacred Sodomites

By Bob Buchanan

"What about the story of Sodom? That proves you can't be Gay and a Christian." This is the age-old challenge for Gay men and women. The story from the Bible is held in high regard by the three largest of the world's religions, including Christianity. It is often presented as proof that being Gay is a moral evil. However, the mistake that is commonly made is to think of the story as a modern one, when it was written to ancient primitive people.

At the time of Abraham and his nephew Lot the world was primarily agrarian. The religions of the day were often related to fertility in order to seek the success of crops and breeding of animals. There were various fertility gods, and their worship nearly always included sexual practices. The ancient fertility temples had benches throughout where one could worship by having sex with a prostitute. The funds from this prostitution went to support the temple. Fertility gods were both male and female and included both homosexual and heterosexual sex.

In Hebrew, the language this part of the Bible was written in, the word for Sodom means "sacred one" in masculine form. The name of the town indicates the commerce of the community. This was a center of sacred worship of the fertility gods that included sex with other men. Lot, a new Hebrew resident, had criticized this practice. The townspeople didn't take kindly to his judging them, and became outraged when he received two angelic visitors.

We really can't know what these visitors would have looked like, but there was something about them that indicated they were special. They were in male form, and perhaps they had radiance about them, or were so unblemished that everyone took notice. It wouldn't take long for rumors to spread through a small town. Soon, people started thinking that two gods were visiting Lot. (There is literature from the period to indicate that strangers were often thought to be visitations from a god.) The people of the town became jealous that Lot would receive the blessing of the gods. A mob surrounded Lot's house, and nearly broke into riot. They wanted to worship the gods sexually and be blessed.

The next time someone criticizes Gays by using this story. Be sure to let them know that the story had nothing to do with loving or pleasurable sexual relations between two people of the same sex. Instead, the town was condemned for idolatry greed and violence.

Loving acts are nowhere condemned in the Bible. God accepts everyone equally and does not condemn us for the very diversity God created.

[Bob Buchanan is a psychotherapist and Evangelical Anglican minister who lives with his partner in Durham, NC 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.]

# LETTERS

EDITOR:

While it is extremely rare for People For The American Way to oppose an Executive Branch nomination, we must oppose strongly the nomination of John Ashcroft to be Attorney General of the United States.

The Attorney General of the United States is not only the lawyer for the President but also the lawyer for the people of the United States. He is the principal enforcer of our nation's civil rights laws.

John Ashcroft is the antithesis of the person required to lead the Department of Justice. With the possible exception of Senator Jesse Helms, I do not believe anyone in the United States Senate has a more abysmal record on civil rights and civil liberties.

The office of Attorney General is the worst executive branch position for George W. Bush to use as political payback to the far right. This nomination is an insult to every person who is committed to our nation's promise of equal justice for all.

The nomination of John Ashcroft as Attorney General is a particular poke in the eye of African Americans after Ashcroft's incredible irresponsible behavior to block the judicial nomination of Judge Ronnie White.

This is truly as astonishingly bad nomination.

Ralph G. Neas
President,
People For
The American Way

EDITOR:

I have a moral question to pose. This is an imaginary situation, but I think it is fun to decide what one would do.

The situation: You are in the Midwest, and there is a huge flood in progress. Many homes have been lost, water supplies compromised and infrastructures destroyed.

Let's say that you're a photographer out getting still photos for a news service, travelling alone, looking for particularly poignant scenes.

You come across George W. Bush, who has been swept away by the floodwaters. He is barely hanging on to a tree limb and is about to go under.

You can either put down your camera and save him, or take a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of him as he loses his grip on the limb.

So, here's the question and think carefully before you answer:

Which lens would you use?

Name withheld by request

**He who has a thing to sell and goes and whispers in a well, is not so apt to get the dollars as he who climbs a tree and hollers.**


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*John 3:16*

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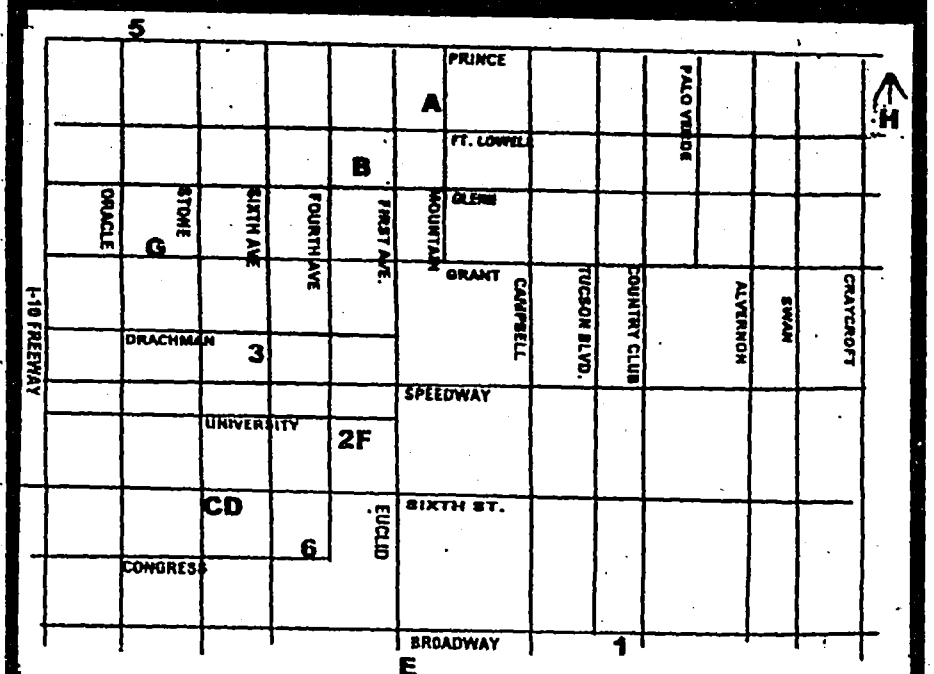


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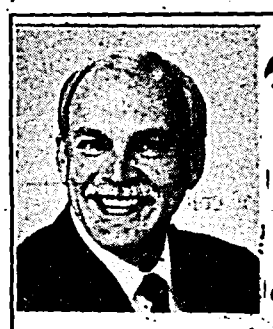

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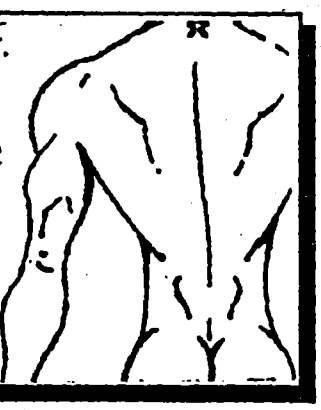

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# THE GLAAD BULLETIN

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION, INC.

Gay teens in cyberspace: The Dec. 13 issue of The New York Times Magazine tackles the issue of rapidly expanding Internet usage by Lesbian and Gay teenagers. The access to the Internet has changed the way these teenagers, many who were once isolated and closeted, are relating to themselves and to others. Jennifer Egan's lengthy article "Lonely Gay Teen Seeking Same" is the result of her interviewing teenagers over the Internet and meeting a few in person.

The piece is eye-opening in that it addresses the special needs of Lesbian and Gay teenagers, especially those away from urban centers. The Internet provides access for them to similar teenagers, providing a sense of belonging and relief from loneliness. Also highlighted is how the Internet can supply these teenagers with resource centers, news articles, personals, message boards and more to find answers to questions they may be unable to seek help with at home, school or church. The article provides reasons as to why Internet filtering is not a good practice.

The most important point Egan makes is how Lesbian and Gay teenagers are not that much different from their heterosexual counterparts. It is also good in that she includes responses from the people of color community, an often invisible group in media coverage of the LGBT community.

For all its good points, the article does have some problems. Because Egan specifically identifies the ethic origins of some interviewees, but not all, we are left to assume the people not so identified are white, which makes the people of color seem to be not the norm.

The article's over-focus on sex, porn sites and chat rooms is also problematic. Readers could have the impression that these Internet features are mostly what Lesbian and Gay teenagers are attracted to. The art used along with the article - one drawing is of a nude teenage boy sitting on a bed and another is of a boy in T-shirt and underpants sitting in front of a computer - only adds to the unnecessary sexualizing of the article's subjects.

Please let The New York Times Magazine know that the inclusion of this article is appreciated for its potential to shed light on the lives of Lesbian and Gay teenagers, but that in the future more attention needs to be paid to tone and message. The article can be viewed at http://archives.nytimes.com/archives/ by searching with the author's name. There is a fee.

Contact: Gerald Marzorati, Features Editor, The New York Times Magazine, 229 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036-3959; fax: (212) 556-3622; e-mail: magazine@nytimes.com.

Same-gender couples have an advocate in Rev. Hawkes: The Dec. 17 edition of the Toronto Star features faith and ethics reporter Leslie Scrivener's "Gay pastor 'called to lead people to freedom.'" The article is both a biography of the Rev. Brent Hawkes, who has been fighting 20 years for Lesbian and Gay rights, and a look at the issue of marriage rights for same-gender couples in Canada.

Hawkes, a pastor with the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, is planning to marry a Lesbian couple and a Gay couple in January. He will then go to Ontario's registrar-general to have the marriages officially recognized. If refused (as is expected to happen), legal action will be pursued.

Scrivener's article shows the depth of Hawkes' commitment to his community and to securing its members full and equal rights. It is also a look at how religion and sexuality do not have to be exclusive of each other. Of Hawkes, an interviewee says: "As a Gay man, he has reconciled his Christianity with his homosexuality and been able to speak to us from a deeply spiritual level." Hawkes says of himself: "It's passionately important to me that this not become Gays versus God. I think the religious right wants to paint us as godless Gays."

By publishing this insightful article, the Toronto Star opens the door for understanding of the struggles Lesbians and Gay men face on issues of religion and civil rights. Scrivener sums it up well by concluding the article with a quote from one of Hawkes' parishioners who says: "If rights (marriage, property transfer, making decisions when your partner is in the hospital) available to the majority are denied to Gays and Lesbians, how is it they are viewed as 'special' rights? If we had the same rights as straight people, we'd be happy."

Contact: Alan Marshall, Editor, Toronto Star, 1 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M5E1E6; fax: 416-869-4328; e-mail: lettertoed@thestar.ca.

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# Non-Bar Calendar

## Groups / Clubs / Organizations

### 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.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

1:00 p.m., Tucson Prime Timers Luncheon at ELLE Restaurant, SW corner Broadway and Country Club. Call 622-1835 for details.

### 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.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry and Les as they host the annual New Year's Eve Game Night. Games begin at 7 and go past midnight, as we ring in the new millennium together. Sparkling cider and grape juice is provided for toasting in the New Year. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

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, JANUARY 5

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join the guys for Hearts Night as we play this fun, but vicious card game. If you don't know how to play, it's easy to learn, and we'll teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

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.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Desert Voices, Arizona's premiere Lesbian and Gay chorus auditions for their annual spring pops concert. Auditions for 'Heart & Soul' a tribute to R&B music will take place at 6:00 p.m. At the Armory Park Senior Center. Another audition will take place Monday, Jan. 15.

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, JANUARY 9

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Peter as he hosts Bridge Night. Beginners and seasoned players are welcomed. For reservations and directions, please call Peter at 615-8974.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Jorge for Dinner Out as we go to Pipian's. Please phone in your reservation to Jorge as soon as possible so we can notify the restaurant of the number of men attending. For directions and reservations, please contact Jorge at 886-7219.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join us for the latest showing of "Queer As Folk" at Jerry & Les' house. For reservations and directions, please call them at 690-9565.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

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, JANUARY 15

Desert Voices, Arizona's premiere Lesbian and Gay chorus auditions for their annual spring pops concert. Auditions for 'Heart & Soul' a tribute to R&B music will take place at 6:00 p.m. At the Armory Park Senior Center.

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.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

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, January 18 at noon so we can order the proper number of pizzas (but we do order a couple of extra pizzas just in case this isn't read until the day of the event).

# BAR CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

IBT'S - 9:00 P.M. "Puttin' on the Lips" talent night. $50 first place. Hosted by Lucinda Holliday and Phaedra.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

*NEW YEAR'S EVE*

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Celebrate New Year's Eve here with DJ Hill playing from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Test Tube-Shots, Free Party Favors and champagne at Midnight. Happy 2001.

IBT'S New Years Eve Party begins with a Karaoke with Billy Dee from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. A light Buffet will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. followed at 8:00 p.m. with a Special New ears Eve Sow featuring Lucinda Holliday, Mr. Kenneth Blake and Ajia Simone. Traditional Champagne and party favors at midnight and all the trimmings. No Cover.

VENTURE-N - New Year's Eve Fetish Ball. "Balloon Busters Ball 2001. Bring in the New Year with a Bang!

WOODY'S - New Year's Eve Special Steak Dinner and hors d' Oeuvres served from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on the volleyball court. (Advance sale tickets available at Woody's and IBT's. Limited number available so buy them early). $7.50. No Cover. New Year's Eve complimentary Champagne and Party Favors at midnight.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

IBT'S - 9:00 P.M. 'The Girlie Show'.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Marc & Jeff for a Topic of Discussion on "Putting Your Best Foot Forward" when meeting men. For reservations and directions, please call Jeff at 299-1194.

2. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 8:00 p.m. Lloyd sponsors the Lois Brandwynne concert. This classic pianist grew up in Tucson and is returning for this special concert. For details, please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 22

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, JANUARY 23

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join Peter as he hosts Bridge Night. Beginners and seasoned players are welcomed. For reservations and directions, please call Peter at 615-8974.

### WEDESDAY, JANUARY 24

1. 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 "Relax...It's Just Sex"-a movie that starts out as a light and breezy comedy until something shocking happens in the middle of the movie and changes the lives of everyone. Out gay actor, Mitchell Anderson plays the gay man at the center of the story. For reservations and directions, please call Les or Jerry at 690-9565.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 7:00 p.m. Join us for the latest showing of "Queer As Folk" at Bill's house. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

1. Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 1:30 p.m. Join us for our "almost annual" Miniature Golf Tournament. Dan will host this event. For reservations and directions, please call Dan at 690-9565.

2. 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.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Men's Social Network (Gay men of all ages; guests always welcome). 4:00 p.m. Super Bowled out already, and the game hasn't even been played? If so, join us for an alternative-a day Down Under. We'll start with two movies: "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" at 4, followed by "The Sum of Us" at 6. Around 8ish, we'll tune in to "Survivor 2" which is set in Australia. For directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 29

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.

# Daily Bar Calendar

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 8 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 6am. 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 6am. 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 6am. 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 6am. Patio open 5pm. Day prices for men in leather 7pm to close. Pool Tournament 7pm-ish. $3 entry. Hides Leather shop opens at 8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Trivia Thursday 8pm-close 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 6am. Snacks served at 5pm. Patio open 5pm. Hides Leather Store opens 8pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's $2.50 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 6am. 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.

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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.

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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.

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, 6809 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.

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.

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

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

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-6850 or Ronn 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 693, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 325-6878 or 327-4293.

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

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 (eveiten@ix.netcom.com)

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tysn@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 888-6010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

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.

## NOTICES

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 745-3977 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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO -- a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)327-1820 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910, or come to our general meetings the second Friday of every month. Location listed on our hotline.

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 624-1779 for more information.

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, 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

## ROOMMATES

SEEKING LESBIAN OR GAY-FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL FEMALE ROOMMATE for fun, stable, professional Gay male in wonderful NW home. Quiet, established neighborhood with large lots. Recently remodeled. You will have your own bath, bedroom and study and full run of the rest of the house including the kitchen. Available first of the year. House is partially furnished but there is room for plenty of other furniture. $375/mo + 1/2 utilities (negotiable). House includes pool, patio, cable, barbecue, W/D, 2 fireplaces, covered carport, lots of storage and closets, living, dining and family rooms. Gourmet kitchen. 390-5170 857

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## SERVICES

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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 856

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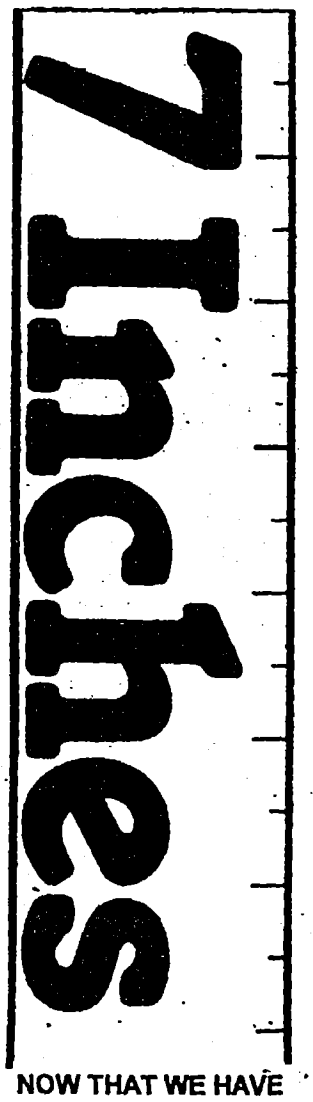


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## Mormon Church

Continued from Page One

The LDS Church has poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into campaigns fighting same-sex marriage in Hawaii and other states.

The petition also requests that false and inflammatory remarks made in public or found in church-sanctioned reading materials be repudiated and removed, citing church pamphlets, such as To Young Men Only, which implies Gays are predisposed to bestiality.

Regardless of whether the LDS Church heeds these demands, the petition has value, Madsen said, as an educational tool.

Madsen would like to erase some misconceptions he says the church has about homosexuality, chiefly that it is an alterable behavioral trait that should be remedied.

The petition takes issue specifically with counseling and therapy practices employed by the church to rid Gays and Lesbians of their same-sex desires including: counseling them to marry non-Gay members of the opposite sex, aversion or shock therapy and reparative or conversion therapy, which is no longer endorsed by most mental health professionals and organizations.

He also hopes Mormons, who might not otherwise be exposed to information about the church's policy on Gays and Lesbians, find the petition insightful.

The policy, as the petition points out, "is rather obscure as far as its origin. It wasn't a revelation and it is not canonized or anything," he said.

There were no policies targeting Gays for the first 125 years of the church's history, he said.

"It wasn't up until the 1950s and on into the 60s when President [Spencer] Kimball started counseling young males against same-sex desire," and the church began printing handbooks and policy statements to that end, said Madsen.

This effectively means the policy is amendable, said Madsen, who ended the petition asking for just that.

"President Kimball and other church leaders in the 1970s did not originate the policy which restricted blacks from holding the priesthood. They inherited it – and eventually changed it . . . We encourage you to reconsider and then change the current church position relative to our homosexual brothers and sisters, and thus welcome yet another disenfranchised segment of our church community into full membership."

Church spokesman Dale Bills said it was too early to respond to the particulars of the petition. But, "President Gordon B. Hinckley has repeatedly expressed the Church's compassion toward homosexuals," he said.

## Montana

Continued from Page One

imprisonment and a fine of up to $50,000 for private, non-commercial homosexual acts between consenting adults. That year the state legislature rejected a repeal bill, but the law was struck down by the Montana Supreme Court.

This year, Montana State University students' preparations for National Coming Out Day in October were ruined by vandals. The Gay and Lesbian group Q-MSU had built a symbolic closet on the campus' central mall, with signs saying closets are for clothes, not people. As described in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, first "someone dismantled it using power tools" and "Ropes that had been tied to sandbags, serving as ballast inside, were reworked into hangman's nooses." Q-MSU rebuilt it and posted guards by it overnight. The next day Christian groups prayed around it, and that night someone set it on fire. Also, a request for domestic partner benefits by employees of the state university system was unanimously rejected by regents in May.

Racicot's move is remarkable among Montana politicians, who PRIDE's Olson said view Gay and Lesbian issues as "the kiss of death." PRIDE had sent 300 surveys to candidates across the state before last month's elections, and among those at the top of the ticket (U.S. House and Senate and state Governor) Olson found a "general lack of support for Gay rights issues." The survey asked only whether the candidate would support addition of sexual orientation as a protected category under the state's human rights act and hate crimes law, both proposals expected to come before the state legislature in 2001. Some candidates refused to reply at all, among them failed Democratic gubernatorial candidate State Auditor Mark O'Keefe, whose campaign office "cited unfavorable feedback from focus groups and polls as the reason for his silence," according to PRIDE's newsletter. O'Keefe's successful opponent for the state's top job Republican Lieutenant Governor Judy Martz said she opposed both.

## Plea Issued

Continued from Page Two

Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered. We must use the next four years to end the abuse that all too often prevents these young people from taking full advantage of their educational experience."

GLSEN hopes to generate thousands of letters to the President-elect through GLSEN.org – its online action center. With the names of Secretary of Education candidates circulating and the transition team promising to name all Cabinet nominees by the end of the year, GLSEN officials say there isn't a moment to lose.

"President-elect Bush stated time and time again that our schools must be held accountable – and we hope that he will help to hold them accountable to protecting some of our most at-risk students," said GLSEN Public Policy Director Mary Kate Cullen.

"We look forward to the new Secretary of Education setting a positive tone and adding his or her voice to the growing chorus of voices working to end anti-Gay harassment in K-12 schools."

Many Gay and Lesbian rights activists familiar with the issue are fearful that a conservative or ideologically rigid Education Department could very quickly undue the years of progress that have been made in protecting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered students.

A sudden reversal on using Title IX standards regarding student-on-student harassment could be issued, for example, effectively robbing Gay teens of their most effective tool in insuring a safe learning environment – holding schools accountable for their protection.

## Dine In/Take Out/*A review for the road*

Kiss My Knish & The European Fry Company, 806 E. University Blvd., isn't the Jewish deli you might expect. It's a mix of a vegetarian's dream menu and a healthy version of raiding the deli case — but yes, they do have knishes.

A knish is usually defined as a light, flaky pastry filled with kasha, mashed potatoes, chopped liver, cheese or cream cheese with fruit. It is the kind of comfort food that one wakes up crying for in the night.

KMK puts a vegan (food not made with animal products) spin on the exquisite knish and offers huge ones filled with kasha, plain potato, potato mixed with various vegetables such as spinach, broccoli, mushrooms (all $2.75 each), and dessert knishes ($2.95), which are cheese versions mixed with blueberry or cherry (plain cheese is also available).

They fill you up. Indeed. Put one of these dense suckers in your pocket and you'd drown if you jumped in the pool. We loved the cherry cheese.

The sandwiches (both vegan- and carnivore-style) were equally filling and were also takes on urban and Jewish deli delights. The Fat Cat Phil ($3.75 for a half) was a juicy Philly with thin beef steak, provolone, grilled peppers and onions with greenleaf lettuce and tomato on flatbread.

The Fat Cat Tree Hugger, a remarkably moist double veggie burger with sautéed pepper and onions, greenleaf lettuce and tomato, was great on spicy chickpea flatbread.

Fries (served Belgian-style with mayonnaise or a variety of other toppings) would be better eaten on site rather than suffering from the chill caused by travel.

We liked that they had Dr. Brown's soda, including the eccentric Cel-Ray, and there is an abundance of other beverages, including juices.

You will find a variety of other items on the menu, such as soups, salads, snacks, curries, the Fat Cat Yenta (smoked salmon, cream cheese, tomato, red onion and capers, which they suggest be paired with warm onion flatbread, $5.95) and daily specials.

Hours for dining in or taking out are Tuesdays-Saturdays 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Free parking in available all day Saturdays at the Second and Euclid and the Fourth and Euclid parking garages. For more information, call 529-7277.

• *By Charlotte Lowe-Bailey, Arizona Daily Star*

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