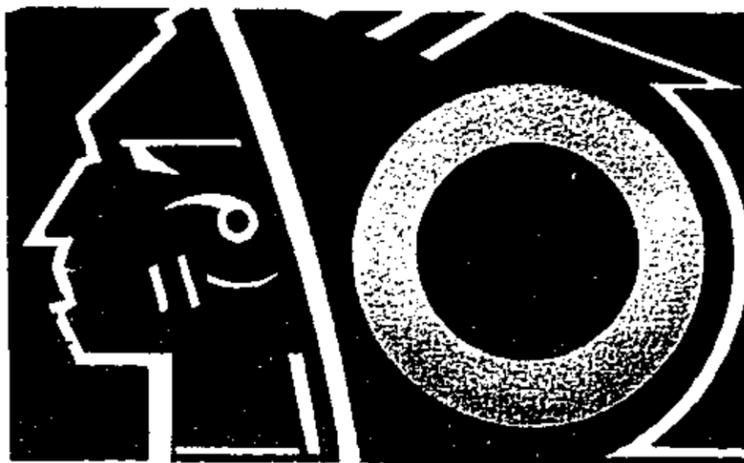


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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER

AUGUST 22, 2001

ISSUE 892

GLBT Commission Member Meets With City Officials Regarding Assault By Tucson Fire Fighter

TUCSON (ON) - A City of Tucson GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) Commission member has held a meeting with city officials regarding the assault of a Gay man by an off-duty Tucson Fire Fighter.

Alexander John Goodrum, co-chair of the City of Tucson GLBT Commission met with Tucson City Manager, James Keene, and Assistant City Manager Liz Miller, about the memos issued by both Keene and Tucson Fire Chief Dan Newburn, about actions the city would be taken regarding the assault of a Gay man, Fabian Padilla, by an off-duty Tucson Fire Fighter, Franchot Opela, on February 9, 2000, for which Opela was convicted of misdemeanor assault in June, 2001.

Goodrum reported the results of the August 13 meeting with Keene and Miller to the GLBT Commission at their monthly meeting, held Tuesday, August 21.

During the meeting with the city officials, Goodrum outlined the GLBT Commission's concerns about Mr. Keene's and Chief Newburn's memoranda that were subsequently sent, after that meeting, reminding Keene and Miller that "Chief Newburn had agreed to immediately issue a statement about the incident and that it would specifically include that he 'condemns violence, harsh language, bias or prejudice on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and that it would not be tolerated within his Department' and his affirmation that 'discriminatory behavior or harassment against Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered personnel within the Tucson Fire Department (TFD) will not be tolerated and will be subject to severe discipline,'" the timing of the diversity training and how Mr. Keene's memorandum set up a entirely different time line than the one recommended by the GLBT Commission and did not reflect the participation of the GLBT community in that training, and bringing in of an outside consultant to conduct a review and that review, would take the place of a board of inquiry.

Goodrum said Keene spoke a great deal about the logistics of each of these points and how the reality of city government and the way issues, specifically, of personnel and training are dealt with. While grateful for the information Keene

about the logistics and practical day-to-day issues and limits of attempting to deal with such issues when there are multiple layers of people, departments, workloads, unions, etc and the complexity of bringing all those things together, to the point where they can actually act. Keene, Goodrum continued, needed "to understand that the GLBT Commission, while our primary responsibility is to advise the city, is also to advocates for the GLBT community. I told him that we have to balance those roles carefully, doing justice to them both, in a way that works for all involved." Goodrum added, "I told Mr. Keene that we needed more information from him, regarding his memorandum and the recommendations he made in it, before we could present that information within the proper context to the community. I told him that we could not expect the community to trust the process if we ourselves did not."

Regarding the memorandum which Chief Newburn issued after the Commission meeting of July 17, Goodrum spoke of the fact that it was very important that "Chief Newburn had agreed that his memo would reflect the issue of anti-GLBT violence and discrimination against both citizens and GLBT personnel within the TFD, and that since it did not, we were concerned about his previously stated commitment to deal with such issues would not be follow through on." Keene, Goodrum said, agreed that it was important that such an explicit statement be included, particularly since it was an issue of anti-GLBT violence and discrimination by the personnel of the TED that brought this whole thing to the forefront.

Keene detailed to Goodrum the discussions he and his staff had with Chief Newburn about the diversity training, specifically including a segment dealing with GLBT issues. Keene said they felt it would be logistically impossible to have all 541 TFD employees complete the training in three months, given the unique work schedules of the employees plus the large numbers of employees to go through the diversity training. Keene's solution, Goodrum said, was to have all TFD Command Staff complete the training in three months, with the rest of the personnel completing it over the course of 18 months, because it would insure that the "training was not only gi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

Murder Suspect Captured

RENO, NV - A national manhunt for a 19-year-old suspected of killing two Gay men in Florida and assaulting another in San Francisco ended late Friday, August 17, with his arrest in Reno, the San Francisco Chronicle reports.

Reno police and federal agents arrested Adam Ezerski at the Holiday Inn & Diamond's Casino in Reno about 8:00 p.m. Ezerski's traveling companion, Troy Allen Young, 37, of San Francisco, was arrested on a parole violation.

Andrew Black, a spokesman for the FBI's San Francisco bureau, credited Ezerski's arrest to widespread reports about the case. "It was due in large part to publicity that was generated," he said.

The arrests capped a frantic manhunt in San Francisco that began last week after Ezerski allegedly beat up a man who allowed Ezerski to stay in his Tenderloin apartment.

"It's a huge relief," San Francisco Police Inspector Dominic Celia told the Chronicle. "Hopefully, at this point, we won't come up with any other victims."

Ezerski is the prime suspect in the July 26 strangulation death of Anthony Martilotto, a 39-year-old man at a hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He also is wanted in the slaying of Irving Sicherer, a 76-year-old man whose bludgeoned body was found

July 25 in his home in nearby Aventura.

Police widened their search along the West Coast, looking to blanket Gay communities where Ezerski might have fled. Wanted posters saturated the state, the San Jose Mercury News reports.

The Ezerski hunt drew parallels to Andrew Cunanan, the man who killed five men including fashion designer Gianni Versace in a 1997 cross-country murder spree before shooting himself to death on a Miami houseboat. Criticism over that case prompted the FBI to spread the word on Ezerski more quickly.

Special Agent Paul Russell of the FBI's South Florida Fugitive Task Force told the newspaper, "I think we've had a faster response this time, getting the word out to Gay communities."

Anna Damiani, president of the Golden Gate Business Association which serves as San Francisco's Gay and Lesbian chamber of commerce, told the Chronicle the police handling of the case was "exemplary."

"Their outreach to the (Gay and Lesbian) community, their very quick movement in getting the word out and getting his face out there on posters, was great," she said. "I think that's probably what led in large part to his capture because people were able to recognize him."

Pride Plans Cause Flap In Idaho

POCATELLO, ID - Residents are taking up sides on the issue of homosexuality as the city braces for three days of Gay pride celebrations.

The city council approved a permit that will set aside some downtown streets for a dance. Opponents believe the first-time event is one of the worst things ever to hit Pocatello. They say they worry it will be used to promote homosexuality and recruit others into the lifestyle. But supporters say no one is trying promote anything or recruit anyone. And, they add, their right to celebrate is guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. "As a Gay community, we're not here to promote anything," said Amy Larsen, a heterosexual woman who is organizing the event. "We're here to support and be there for each other and celebrate within our own community. And that is it." But Mike Powell, pastor at the University Bible Church, sees it a different way. "By shutting off a street, we are implicitly promoting and encouraging a lifestyle that is against both the laws of the state of Idaho and the laws of God--and a lifestyle that is unhealthy to

those involved," Powell said. "I discourage hatred of any individuals, but that doesn't mean we need to publicly affirm their lifestyles."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, whose membership makes up an estimated half of Pocatello's residents, has been quiet about the upcoming event. Church spokesman Michael Purdy declined to comment specifically on the weekend's events. Purdy offered some past comments by LDS president Gordon B. Hinckley on homosexuality as a lifestyle and how it is interpreted by Mormons: "We love them as sons and daughters of God," Purdy said. "They may have certain inclinations which are powerful and which may be difficult to control. Most people have inclinations of one kind or another at various times. If they do not act upon these inclinations, then they can go forward as do all other members of the church." Organizers of the pride activities have hired security for the street dance and other events, though they do not expect any trouble.

UPDATE

Leal, Aboud Get AHRF Endorsements In Sept. 11 Primary Election

TUCSON - Incumbent Tucson City Councilmember, Steve Leal, Ward 5, and Paula Aboud, running for the soon-to-be vacated Tucson City Council Ward 3 seat, have received primary endorsements from the Arizona Human Rights Fund.

AHRF, the statewide Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender rights organization had sent out a questionnaire to the Tucson City Council candidates seeking their opinions on subjects ranging from the city's 24-year old human relations ordinance, to the city's extension of benefits to the same sex domestic partners of city employees, to the recent situation involving an off duty Tucson fire fighter, convicting in assaulting a Gay man.

Other candidates not facing a contested primary election also received the questionnaire. Tucson's AHRF Board, made the final decisions, also giving nods to Republican Kathleen Dunbar, vying for the Ward 3 Council seat, as well as the Green Party candidate, Ted O'Neill. In Ward 6, both the incumbent, Republican, Councilmember Fred Ronstadt, and his Democratic challenger, Gayle Hartmann, received the thumb's up from AHRF.

The City of Tucson primary election will take place Tuesday, September 11. For more information, call the City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213.

Jazz Artist Diane Schuur To Perform In Tucson September 15

TUCSON - Jazz vocalist Diane Schuur, two-time Grammy award winner and one-time Tucson, will perform with her jazz ensemble and Reveille Gay Men's Chorus and the Tucson Jazz Society Orchestra at "Crescendo," an evening of jazz, for a one-night only appearance, Saturday, September 15, 8:00 p.m., at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall, 260 South Church.

Tickets are \$50 and \$75 are available at the TCC Box office. Special supporter "encore" tickets are \$125, with which you will get premiere seating and a special reception with Diane Schuur at La Placita after the performance, including libations, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, plus entertainment by Tucson's top jazz musicians. Host tables for 10 are \$1,250.

You can also purchase your tickets from Ticketmaster, (520) 321-1000. For more information, call "Crescendo" at (520) 577-5525.

Miss Gay Arizona USofA Pageant Cancelled

TUCSON - Due to lack of interest in a pageant for larger Female Impersonators in Arizona, organizers decided to cancel the Miss Gay Arizona USofA At Large Pageant that was to be held August 26.

Organizers wanted to thank those who have supported the endeavor to bring something "new" to the community.

All tickets that were sold will be refunded.

The Legacy Of Gay West

TUCSON - One simple idea followed by one simple conversation that went like this, "What do you think about a Gay fund raising event out at Old Tucson Studios?" "Wow! It can be Tucson's version of Gay Day at Disneyland! What a great idea, let's do it!" And thus, Gay West at Old Tucson Studios (OTS)

History was in the making and the adrenaline was soaring when for the first time, GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) flags were raised to the top of the flagpoles at OTS. High anxiety and nervous anticipation of how the event would be received was quickly laid to rest when upon that very first time, the gates opened at 6:00 p.m., with a rush of "family," equally anxious to see what this was all about. Hearing the chatter on the two way radios of how quickly the attendance was jumping, that the parking was maxed out, how the car lights could be seen lined up through Gates Pass, only proved that one simple idea could so positively impact a whole community. The rallying, the support, the enthusiasm! And then, the bonus, the ability to give it all back to the ones who made it happen, the GLBT Community.

Gay West celebrated it's fifth year in 2001, in true GLBT pride tradition, culminating the week long activities in Tucson, marking the Stonewall Riots, and the birth of the modern GLBT rights movement. More than 2,000 walked through the gates of OTS, June 23, in celebration of Pride, raising more than \$12,750, distributed to eleven non profit organizations. A concept has turned into a reality, entertaining the community in a way that Tucson hasn't enjoyed before and supporting those organizations that support us. And every year, it promises to be bigger and better, so that folks keep coming back for more! See you next year.



Free Breakfasts For Persons Living With HIV

TUCSON - Mother Hubbard's Restaurant, long known for its generosity in the HIV and Gay communities, is offering vouchers through TIHAN for complimentary breakfasts for people living with HIV.

Mother Hubbard's, a small and friendly restaurant with great home cooking, located in the plaza at the northwest corner of Grant and Stone, and is open from 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Each Wednesday in the month of August, they will be offering free breakfasts to persons living with HIV who have obtained a voucher through TIHAN (one breakfast per person per week). Mother Hubbard's famous breakfast is served all day. Kal and Marcia Fisher, owners of Mother Hubbard's, wanted to do something to be of support, and approached Chuck Brady, a long-time supporter of TIHAN and a man living with AIDS, about the possibility of a breakfast for others living with the virus. Chuck jumped at the idea, and suggested TIHAN as the means to make it happen, and TIHAN said yes.

If you would like a voucher, please call the TIHAN office at (520) 299-6647, or email us at Breakfasts@tihan.org, then come out on Wednesdays between 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and present your voucher for a free breakfast in an informal, casual atmosphere. Mother Hubbard's offer is valid only for persons living with HIV who are registered with TIHAN, and only for the breakfast special.

TIHAN's New Office Now A Distribution Point For The Observer

TUCSON - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network's (TIHAN) new centrally located office is now a distribution point for The Weekly Observer.

The office is located at 492 N. Alvernon Way, and is on the bus routes. Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday as regularly scheduled, but a simple phone call to (520) 299-6657 usually finds us there earlier or later than that.

TIHAN welcomes everybody to come by and see our new office, and pickup an Observer!

Wingspan Community Potluck Dinner & Dialogue Aug. 30

TUCSON - Are you ready for a meaningful, cross-cultural dialogue? Wingspan, City of Tucson GLBT Commission, Gay Men's Health Project, and the YWCA present "It's Time to Talk Race," a community potluck dinner and dialogue, August 30, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

The forum on race will provide opportunities to: Share and increase your own awareness around issues of race. Increase your organization's commitment to diversity and, build alliances with organizations.

The program will include short skits followed by a facilitated dialogue at each table. The event is free, seating is limited, so RSVP's are strongly encouraged. You may RSVP to dvdirector@wingspanaz.org or call Cathy, (520) 624-1779.



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Could Genome Project Reveal 'Gay' Gene?

WASHINGTON, DC - As the National Human Genome Research Institute, which oversees the international Human Genome Project for the National Institutes of Health, begins to open the lid on examining differences between geographically isolated populations, some wonder what eventual impact the project could hold for Gays.

While the phrase "geographically isolated populations" may sound fairly innocuous, it translates in layman's terms to race. What scientists want to know is whether or not the genes that lead to some inherited diseases common to specific ethnic populations can be isolated. The proposed methodology is to compare a composite human genome—basically the chemical recipe for making people—of one race to that of another.

An earlier attempt, unrelated to the NHGRI, to conduct research that would have examined differences along ethnic lines fell apart due to concerns about racism. To avoid the same pitfall, the NHGRI is promoting a discourse among various racial communities, attempting to explain the science, as well as listen to community concerns.

What this exploration offers, scientists say, is a chance to identify genetic diseases predominant within particular racial groups. For example, such a comparison might uncover a disease like sickle cell anemia, a genetic disease that predominantly affects people of African descent.

As genetic science weaves its way through this potentially controversial milieu, Gay men and Lesbians may wonder

how long it will be before their genomes will be compared to those of heterosexuals. And to what end?

Would such a measure provide conclusive evidence that homosexuality is inherited? Could a test be devised to determine whether a fetus carries a "Gay gene"?

Some scientists see a connection between studying race and sexual orientation in the human genome. Some do not.

"It's really a whole separate question," said geneticist Dean Hamer. "Scientifically, they're really different issues."

With Peter Copeland, Hamer wrote "Science of Desire: The Search for the Gay Gene and the Science of Behavior." Hamer's work has hinted at a possible link between homosexuality in males and a gene or genes inherited along maternal bloodlines.

Hamer's position is more or less echoed by Michael Bailey, a psychologist at Northwestern University and author of a study that offered a genetic suggestion of homosexuality among identical twin brothers.

"I don't think there is any relation at all," Bailey said. "With race there is dread that there might be genetic difference linked to average behavioral differences among racial groups. ... Sexual orientation is not controversial in the same way."

Simon LeVay, a neurobiologist who compared the brains of Gay men to those of heterosexuals in search of a biological difference between the two, took a

more theoretical view. "Both race and sexual orientation have aspects that are rooted in biology," LeVay said. "It's basically a similar strategy. You look for differences in two different classes, whether its anglo-black or Gay-straight."

While Bailey, Hamer and LeVay are all scientists who have examined biological links to homosexuality, Hamer is arguably the best versed in genetics. He currently serves as chief of the Section on Gene Structure & Regulation in the Laboratory of Biochemistry of the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. He has been with the NIH for 24 years.

Accordingly, if Hamer sees little or no connection between race and sexual orientation in terms of the human genome, he has sufficient credentials to defend his position. But Hamer does grant, at least, that both race and sexual orientation are controversial topics for geneticists to explore. Nevertheless he remains loathe to sound any alarms, citing mechanisms already in place to ensure ethical use of the information gleaned by mapping the human genome.

"I think actually the one good thing that has come out of the Genome Project is that by law they're required to spend a part of their budget to spend time looking at ethical considerations," said Hamer. "There is a lot of ethical thought, a lot of consideration. There is a lot more consideration given to genetic ethical questions even though we're at a stage where none of this can be done."

Hamer pointed to the sensational

debate about cloning humans, despite strong resistance in Congress to allow such science to be attempted in the United States. Nevertheless, an Italian doctor announced Aug. 7, that he will attempt to clone humans, and the San Francisco-based Gay & Lesbian Medical Association has already passed a resolution recommending a legal right to privacy that includes an individual's genetic information.

Hamer said people looking for scientific, ethical concerns could turn their sights on situations that already exist.

"We should have much more consideration of biomedical science where there are already practical consequences," Hamer posited, offering inequities in access to HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals as an example. "Why are we letting 27 million people die because they can't get medicine?"

Bailey, who holds a doctorate in psychology, is also no slouch in the field of genetics and has published several articles in the journal Behavior Genetics. And he sees even less connection than Hamer in terms of race, sexual orientation and the genome.

Bailey guessed that it will be a long time, if ever, before the map of the human genome is used to offer any possible biological links to homosexuality.

"We're very far from that," Bailey said. "Even though my work suggests that there may be a [biological] connection [to homosexuality], we really don't know that, much less what the gene or gene groups

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN



website: ibts.net

IBT's Sunday Party Line-up August 26th

11am - 6 pm - Jeff's Bloody Mary/Recovery Bar

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

5:30 pm - 8 pm - Benefit Bar-B-Que/16 oz Beerbust for

the Gay Men's Health Project

8:30 pm - Special Fundraiser Show for GMHP's "Condom Brigade"

starring: Deora Le Blanc, Bunny FuFu, Faith Michaels, Jane Starr, Foxy

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Gay Recreational Use Of Viagra Cautioned

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Health officials have released a report warning that Gay men in the area are abusing the prescription drug Viagra in combination with illegal drugs at significant risk to their health.

A study overseen by the city's Department of Public Health found that Gay men who visited a health clinic were almost five times as likely as heterosexuals to have used the erectile dysfunction drug in the past 12 months.

Health officials in San Francisco surveyed 844 men who visited a clinic that treated sexually transmitted diseases from 2000-2001. Thirty-two percent of Gay men in the study reported using Viagra over the past year, compared to only 7 percent of the heterosexual men.

"It's a very powerful drug and really needs to be used under medical supervision," said Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, a medical director with city's health department.

Klausner says that while there are members of the Gay population who use the drug legitimately to alleviate impotence brought on by prescribed medications or surgery, there is another group that uses Viagra to counteract the effect of illegal drugs.

Doctors warn a variety of potential complications are possible when Viagra is mixed with drugs such as Ecstasy, Crystal

Methamphetamine, Special K and/or poppers. Side effects range from dizziness and loss of consciousness to heart attack, stroke and death.

Of those polled in the sample group, 43 percent reported taking Viagra with Ecstasy, 28 percent with crystal methamphetamine, 15 percent with poppers and 8 percent with the veterinary anaesthetic ketamine, or Special K. About three in every four of the men who used several drugs reported getting Viagra from friends.

Dr. Perry Halkitis, a researcher at New York University, and co-founder of the Center for HIV Educational Research and Training told GayHealth.com that Viagra rapidly entered the "club drug" mix after its introduction.

A good percentage of Gay men are using Viagra, he said, to offset what's referred to as 'crystal dick' - when male users feel a sexual high, but can't get hard. In combination, crystal provides a state of sexual excitement and Viagra supposedly counteracts the inability to maintain an erection while high.

In San Francisco, health officials hope to educate Gay men about the risks of Viagra, and Klausner is trying to enlist Pfizer in the effort. Although the Viagra Web site doesn't specifically address Gay men, it does warn about the possible side effects when the drug is used with poppers.

Study Details STD Risks For Lesbians

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (NP) - While some Lesbians tend to assume they don't need to worry much about sexually transmitted diseases, a new study suggests they're more vulnerable than many people think.

In a survey of 39 Lesbians who never had sex with men, 13 percent reported they had suffered from an STD. And only four of the Minneapolis-area women said they regularly got tested.

The risk of having an STD was even higher among Bisexuals and Lesbians who had sex with men in the past.

"The perception that sexual relations between women are low risk or even risk-free needs to be addressed," said University of Minnesota epidemiologists Greta R. Bauer and Seth L. Welles, who report their findings in the August 2001 issue of the American Journal of Public Health. "(Women who have sex with women) should be provided with accurate information so that they can make informed decisions regarding their health."

Researchers interviewed 286 women who attended the 1997 Twin Cities Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Festival. As is often the case with studies of women who have sex with women, many reported a wide variety of sexual experiences; nearly 70 percent reported sexual relationships with both men and women during their lifetimes.

The Lesbians who never had sex with men reported STDs including chlamydia, genital warts, pelvic inflammatory disease and trichomoniasis, also known as trich, which can cause vaginal itching and burning.

The authors wrote that doctors must pay more attention to STDs among Lesbians and not assume they are immune to problems because they don't have male

partners.

"The sign of a good doctor is someone who asks about sexual history, is non-judgmental and does the appropriate screening tests," said Dr. Jeffrey D. Klausner, director of STD Prevention and Control Services for the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"Every doctor visit should have some discussion about sexuality. If women are not having those discussions with their doctors, they should seek other doctors," he said.

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COMMENTARY

Bush Administration Views First Amendment As 'Barrier'

By Ralph Neas

Bush administration officials have sought to bolster their case for more federal dollars for churches and other religious groups to operate social services. At a Brookings Institution forum, White House officials issued a 25-page report in which they attempt to show that religious groups face too many government barriers in their efforts to help the needy and claim that it is time for the federal government to "level the playing field."

The Bush administration's claims that religious social service missions are unduly hindered by government disingenuous, overblown and ignorant of constitutional principles.

It is troubling that the Bush administration would characterize regulations protecting constitutional principles or civil rights laws as barriers. The government cannot place itself in the position of advancing the missions of religious bodies. Equally troubling is the report's explicit recommendation that government should give free reign to religious groups to discriminate when operating their social service programs using government funds. The administration is indeed trying to alter the playing field in favor of religious groups. No social service provider, religious or secular, using tax dollars, should be allowed to flout laws barring discrimination or the Constitution's religious liberty protections.

John J. Dilulio, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI), presented a survey of five federal agencies and how they treat religious groups seeking to use federal funds to operate social services. Dilulio and other White House officials argued that in many instances barriers have been created by the government that keep religion from using federal funds to provide social services. As an example, the White House report, called "Unlevel Playing Field: Barriers to Participation by Faith-Based and Community Organizations in Federal Social Service Programs," cites HUD regulations for community development block grants that require religious groups to agree to refrain from exerting religious influence. According to the report, such regulations are "inappropriately restrictive."

The First Amendment bans government from directly funding religious missions. The HUD regulations targeted by the White House report exist to ensure religious groups use federal funds in a legal manner. The Bush administration's government-religion plan would open the door to government-supported discrimination and would erode the wall between church and state. It is disconcerting the White House feels compelled to distort First Amendment law to advance an unwise and unconstitutional plan.

[Ralph Neas is the President of People for the American Way.]

PERSPECTIVE

The Mystery Of Marriage

By Bob Buchanan

Recognizing same sex unions is a hot topic these days. Advances in recent years have meant that a couple of major Christian religions and one Jewish group now practice unions between people of the same sex. The Evangelical Lutheran Church just announced a study of the issue for the fifth largest denomination in the United States. Nations are starting to grant legal recognition to same sex couples, in spite of continued criticism from fundamentalists and the Roman Catholic Church. A coalition of Christian groups are trying to promote a constitutional amendment to declare same-sex unions illegal in the U.S. in spite of the success of Vermont civil unions.

Same sex union is a politically powerful concept that would mean acceptance and equality for millions of Gay and Lesbian couples. Legal recognition of Gay love would be a major step in overcoming the fear and prejudice that motivates so many to intolerance and hatred. It is indeed time for prejudice to be put aside and the right to join in union extended to all. Yet, union is far more than simply a political tool or maneuver, it is a spiritual mystery.

Debate arose at the triennial convention of the Evangelical Anglican Church this year. This inclusive Christian denomination practices Holy Unions, and has from its inception. However, the idea came up that even the term "Holy Union" promotes a kind of internalized homophobia. The argument was made that same sex unions should not be called anything differ-

ent than opposite sex unions. If the Sacrament or mystery, of Holy Matrimony is extended to some people, it must be extended to all. The discussion concluded with a sense that we should be doing marriages not holy unions, so that everyone knows that God is not discriminating against Gays and causing sexual minorities to be second class believers. True equality means the same Sacrament for heterosexuals and homosexuals.

This theological idea of same sex marriage gives added meaning to the political fight. Jesus encouraged marriage as a commitment of love between two people. Apostle Paul shared that this commitment meant total devotion to another, as a type of our total devotion to God. It is a mystical and spiritual bond that means so much more than a political statement or civil right. It is the essence of our spiritual being to share ourselves with another. Civil unions are a step in the right direction, but the practice of loving one another in total devotion is where the real joy and meaning is found.

[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.]



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UPDATE

Mass. Governor Grants Partner Benefits

BOSTON, MA (NP) - Jane Swift, the acting governor of Massachusetts, said that she is providing domestic partnership benefits to Gay and Lesbian state employees.

Jane Swift, the acting governor of Massachusetts, said that she is providing domestic partnership benefits to Gay and Lesbian state employees.

The benefits have already been extended to government social workers, according to the Associated Press, but will soon be made available to all 70,000 state workers.

Earlier that week, the Boston Globe published an interview with Swift's Gay septon, Brian Hunt, who criticized her

opposition to same-sex marriage. She said the benefits announcement was not made in response to the newspaper interview.

Swift, a Republican, acknowledged that supporting domestic partnership benefits is "a position that I'm comfortable with." She remains opposed to same-sex marriage.

"In my mind, the sanctity of marriage requires that it be confined to marriage between a man and a woman," she said.

The benefits include time off to care for an ill partner and bereavement leave if a partner dies. They do not include health insurance, which would require action from the state Legislature.

'Will & Grace' Star Helps Bleeding Man

LOS ANGELES, CA (NP) - Actor Sean Hayes says he doesn't feel like a hero. But to Courtney Cunningham he's a life-saver.

Hayes was driving home alone Friday night, August 17, when he saw Cunningham, lying in a pool of blood in the street in the mid-Wilshire area of Los Angeles. Cunningham had been shot in a robbery attempt by two men near the driveway of his home.

The "Will & Grace" star pulled his car over to help. He ripped off his shirt and stuffed it against the bullet wound. He also

alerted neighbors and called 911 on his cell phone.

Hayes stayed with the man until police and paramedics arrived, then drove home.

Cunningham was treated for a leg wound at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and released, according to the Associated Press.

Hayes is nominated for an Emmy Award for best supporting actor in a comedy series. He won the award last year for his portrayal of Will's flamboyantly Gay friend, Jack.

Versace's Mansion To Become Luxury Hotel

MIAMI, FL (NP) - Gianni Versace's Miami mansion, on the steps of which the designer was shot dead, is slated to become a luxury hotel and restaurant.

The new owner of Casa Casuarina has been given permission to convert the Mediterranean-style villa on South Beach's famed Ocean Drive into a hotel with rooms ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000 a night. The local Historic Preservation Board approved the proposal.

Versace was murdered by serial

killer Andrew Cunanan on the palazzo's front steps on July 15, 1997.

Versace reportedly spent \$6.6 million decorating the mansion, and it boasts a pink volleyball court decorated with a rainbow flag. It sold last year for \$19 million to Peter Loftin, chief of BTI Telecom Corp.

Preservation board officials estimated that construction and renovations could be complete by January.

SPORTS LINE

DESERT COYOTES TO BEGIN NEW SEASON, SEPTEMBER 5

TUCSON - Tucson's Summer GLBT bowling league wrapped up their season on August 15, with The Nut Sack coming in first, which was a foregone conclusion since the team clinched the title a week prior.

Several teams were battling for the other two top positions, with A PP & 2 Hoo-Hoos finishing in second. Getting third was Jean Nate, who had plummeted to the second division of the league two weeks prior, and thanks to Paul Katona's 242, 264 and 226, 732 total series, Jean Nate ended up smelling pretty, in third.

With the summer season over with, attention now focuses on the Desert Coyotes, Tucson's GLBT bowling league, which will begin their season Wednesday, September 5, 8:00 p.m., at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile.

A league meeting will take place

at 8:00 p.m., to go over the rules, set fees, fill out vacancies on team rosters, which consist of three persons, and other league business. Bowling commences at 9:00 p.m., and will start at the same time for the rest of the league season.

For more information, call (520) 323-6449.

AMERICAN TEAMS AMONG THE WINNERS INTERNATIONAL GAY SOCCER EVENT

LONDON, UK The International Gay and Lesbian Football Association wrapped up its 11th annual soccer world championships in London.

The London Lions defeated Germany's Cream Team Cologne 1-0 to win their second consecutive Gay World Cup crown in the Men's Division 1. In the women's competitive final, Aztec Parma, a combined English and Italian team, came from behind to win their first title, defeating Dutch Team Warburgia 2-1.

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Dear Dr. X:

I work hard at my body and looks but I never seem to get the guys I want to meet when I go out. I don't know what else to do. It feels really competitive to me. The hot guys hang with the hot guys and if you aren't a ten you don't get to play with the tens. What can I do?

Signed, Mister Seven

Dear Mr. 7:

My advice is to let it go. If you do what you say, you are probably one of the tens out there that don't realize it. We are all attractive in our own right and if we label ourselves as a seven we are selling ourselves short. Take a good look at those guys and you may see the one thing they have that you don't is a ten attitude. This whole number system creates so many bad feelings in our society. We seem too concerned with how we rate compared to other people. If you are together spiritually, mentally and physically you are a ten on my scale. If you want to change this dynamic find the guys that think of you as an equal and hang with them. Physical attributes are not the only thing in life. Go with the abstract feeling we call chemistry and think with your heart, not your International Male catalog. If you really land one of your tens you may be disappointed (the fantasy is usually better than the reality). Realize your own potential to its fullest and you will be at the top of whatever scale exists. If you just want to have sex with a perfect specimen of the male body then go up to one and ask for it, you will quickly see that they are less than meets the eye. Good luck.

Dear Dr. X:

I have been in a relationship with this guy for about a year, but we have only been living together for a few months. Lately he has been changing and becoming more controlling. He wants to take care of all the money. He also has bad credit and wants me to get him a credit card in my

name. I'm not really comfortable doing that, but he says if I really loved him I would. He decides what we do socially and won't take no for an answer when it comes to sex (he even pushes me to do things I am not comfortable doing). He's also been making me choose between him and my friends. I love him but I'm confused. I don't want to lose him, but at the same time I want the relationship to be equal. What should I do?

Signed, Bound in Love

Dear Bound:

Wow...have you thought about the possibility that your partner could be a batterer? Battering can take many forms such as physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and verbal. I am seeing sexual, emotional, economic and psychological abuse in your relationship. Remember that the purpose of abuse is to get and maintain control and power over one's intimate partner. The batterer likes to isolate their partner and make them even more dependent on them, such as making you choose him over your friends, sound familiar? Are you afraid of your partner's temper? Are you compliant due to fear of how your partner will act? Do you go along with his decisions about social activities all the time? Do you censor yourself due to fear of conflict.

If you answered yes to any of these questions you may want to meet with a domestic violence advocate. Wingspan has a Domestic Violence Project specifically for GLBT people. They have trained advocates that can help you every step of the way. I urge you to call them at their 24-hour hotline, (520) 624-0348 and discuss your situation. Good Luck!

[Have a question for Dr. X? Contact him at GMHPoutreach@SAAF.Org or www.gmhp.org or SAAF, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719, Attn: Dr. X.]

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**Condom Controversy:
 Study Accused Of Misinformation**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - "Condoms significantly reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases," said William S. Gilmer, MD, president of the national Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA).

"It is a shame we have to reiterate that point," Gilmer said, "but some public figures have misrepresented a recent report on condoms from the [U.S.] National Institutes of Health. They are telling the public the report concludes condoms are ineffective against certain STDs, when in fact that is not the conclusion of the condom report at all. To engage in the strategy of intentional misinformation is not only cynical and irresponsible, but dangerous."

The panel who created the report, quoted in an U.S. Department of Health and Human Services release, was clear. They said the report conclusions did not address transmission of some STDs "...because of limitations in study designs...."

The panel also said "...the evidence available should not be interpreted as

proof of the adequacy or inadequacy of the condom to reduce the risk of STDs."

"We must stop manipulating science to advance political goals," Gilmer added. "Research shows that when used correctly and consistently the male latex condom reduces the risk of HIV and other STDs, period."

Gilmer also suggests that interested parties go directly to the HHS Web site for a copy of the government news release: www.hhs.gov/news.

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HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

As Mercury moves into position in Virgo, this gossipier squares off with both crabby Saturn and pushy Mars. Even the most carefully considered words pack a punch, pardner, so check your missives before you launch them. Ready... aim... fire..... ouch!

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Life on the job may be akin to a sweatshop but don't even think about a work stoppage when Mercury squares Mars and Saturn. Rainbow Rambos yearn to man the barricades and right any wrongs but the revolution can go awry. Before you know it, you'll be packing up your paperclips and contemplating your next move. Hmmm How about Maui?

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Proud Bulls are tempted to party till the cows come home as Mercury squares Saturn and Mars. But stay close to the farm for the time being. Your animal instincts lead you to expensive and wasteful dalliances that can break the bank. Don't be reduced to picking through the shopworn remainders at the end of the season. Try to pace yourself for top of the line quality, instead.

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

The Mercury, Saturn and Mars square shakes the foundations of partnerships, your sense of self and your home environment. It is a brief but meaningful tremor that will have proud Twins reviewing what they want and do not want in any type of relationship. Avoid drawing any line in the sand, however. Draw inclusive circles of love instead.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

The harder you work, the less likely you will get credit for your efforts. At least that is what Mercury square Saturn and Mars is whispering in my ear. Pink Crabs feel the need for approval but don't expect it this week, cousin. My advice, keep up appearances and keep your own counsel. Go for the gold next week. This week the market is in scrap metal.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Overly confident proud Leos will chafe at the energy of the Mercury / Saturn / Mars square to the petty jealousy of pals. If that is what you want to believe, so be it comrade. Let's just say that friends are unable to recognize true genius now.... Or true talent... or true charisma. Yeah, yeah, yeah. How about true over inflated ego and arrogance? That they recognize!

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Mercury stirs up a hornets nest in your own sign as it squares Mars and Saturn. Queer Virgins feel that they have to make a move either in career or with family issues but the wise move is in looking at the long view and ascertaining what new options can be put in place over the next few weeks that will help you balance all your weighty projects. Plan now, act up later.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Gay Libras can get tangled in the wide world web when Mercury knots up Saturn and Mars. Your bark may have an even larger bite and it would be a shame to spread your misguided ideas around the globe. Plot your world takeover and make your move next week when the coast is clear and the lines of communication are receptive. Speak up proud and queer.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Compadres offer you their best advice but it will fail to have any lasting impact on you when Mercury squares Mars and Saturn. In fact pink Scorps are so sure of themselves that they are prepared to take a leap of faith in love or financial affairs. Now is not the time, cousin. This week, leaps lead to splats. Pack the spatula and the cooking oil.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Proud Archers are destined to march to their own tune this week as Mercury squares Mars and Saturn. Professional and personal commitments collide and conflict and you may not be sure which wheel to grease. Both sides are asking too much of you. So, instead of choosing sides, why not take a break from both? Hey, I'm always in favor of avoidance!

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Your thoughts lift towards the heavens but your feet are shackled to the grindstone. Ain't it a shame when Mercury crosses Mars and Saturn? Hardworking pink Caps feel like doormats but keep your sunny side up. Some of your brighter visions definitely have some staying power. Pack them in your pocket for future use. We can always use some extra staying power.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Lusty thoughts fail to meet their target when Mercury, Saturn and Mars square. Aquarians can't understand why their sex appeal fails to... well... appeal. It's not you, cousin; blame the strain on the planets, park yourself around good pals and give your feisty urges a bit of a rest. There will be plenty of time to let it all hang out next week.... and you will!

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Guppies give more attention to their career this week, possibly letting partnerships suffer under the strain. You feel that professional choices must be made when Mercury squares Mars and Saturn but the right decision is to avoid choosing until the square has passed. In the meantime, do patchwork and leave the fuller renovations to next week.

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A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship.

I just finished exercising in a water aerobics class. Its great fun because although the exercised is grueling, the water is refreshing. Now I may be stretching this a bit but isn't a water aerobics class kind of like a metaphor for friendships? I know, you think I've lost it now, but just hear me out.

In the water we feel lighter than normal and we can be buoyant, floating at ease. But that same water which refreshes and eases our muscles can also become our adversary. As soon as we try to make quick, forceful movements we encounter resistance. The harder I push the more resistance I encounter. But when I work with the natural properties of water I can actually use the water to assist me in my movements. So the same water is both my friend as well as my adversary.

Often times in life, the relationships we have resemble that water, don't they? We can learn to work together, accessing each others strengths to minimize our weaknesses, or we can work against each other and ultimately encounter resistance.

In the water aerobics class we often times do activities with a partner or as a whole group. And in those activities we generally create a current. So at times we can easily go with the current, but at other

times we must go against it. Its interesting to note how fast we can move through the water when we work in unison and move through the water with the current and what a struggle it is when we try to go against it.

So often we look to others when we have a problem with someone. We look for others to join our side, support our point of view and get the current going our way. How many times have we purposefully pushed someone we disagreed with into the current so to speak, leaving him/her to sink or swim.

In an exercised class I look for the current to go against. After all, I want to get the most benefit from my time in the water. But in life, in relationships I need to be looking to still the water, or create a positive current for all to float in.

Jesus taught us that we are to love everyone, live at peace with everyone, and put others' needs first. Lets stop stirring up the water. Lets stop going out of our way to hurt people. Lets begin to create peaceful environments for ourselves and others. Lets do things God's way. And you know what the result will be? That's right, a calm soothing environment that promotes God's love instead of our petty hatred. Lets leave "going against the current" for the aerobics class.

Television Series With Transsexual Character Praised

NEW YORK, NY - The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is praising a move by the writers and producers of a new CBS dramatic series this fall for featuring a Transsexual character in a major recurring role -- a first for American broadcast television.

The show, The Education of Max Bickford is a drama starring Richard Dreyfuss as a college professor whose colleague, Steve, undergoes a sex-change operation to become Erica, played by Helen Shaver.

Though Gay and Lesbian characters are practically the norm on many prime-time television shows, there has never been a regular Transgender character before.

The New York Post writes that concern over how Shaver's character would be written about in the national press

prompted GLAAD to reissue guidelines on how media outlets should write about and describe the character to their audiences.

GLAAD urged, for example, that only female pronouns should be used when referring to Erica. It said that to use quotation marks around "female" and "woman" when describing the character is offensive, as is any reference to her not being a "real woman."

"Transgender television characters have appeared primarily on "very special" episodes of medical, legal, police dramas (usually during sweeps) as pathetic and tragic victims," read the GLAAD release. "They are typically sex workers, suicidal, homeless and/or dead..."

"CBS and the producers of 'Max Bickford' have chosen to include a regular Transgender character on this show and this is a significant first for television."



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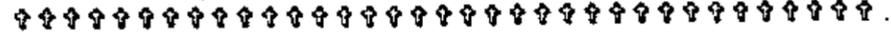
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Study: Many PWAs Delay Getting Tested

WASHINGTON, DC - While medical officials have spent years hammering home the importance of regular HIV tests for Gay men, the message doesn't seem to be getting through, according to two studies released.

While medical officials have spent years hammering home the importance of regular HIV tests for Gay men, the message doesn't seem to be getting through. In two studies released, researchers found that more than 40 percent of patients who tested positive for HIV already had full-blown AIDS or developed it within a year.

That means many of the patients could have been carrying HIV for as long as a decade without being tested. Patients who don't know they're infected miss out on early treatment and are more likely to engage in unsafe sex, experts said.

"There's so much stigma attached to HIV that people don't comfortably consider getting tested for it. If HIV were regarded in the same light as hypertension (high blood pressure), we'd have people lining up in shopping malls to get tested," said Leo Hurley, who supervised a Kaiser Permanente Health Plan study.

Kaiser Permanente and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention both examined the records of patients who were diagnosed as HIV-positive. They released their findings at the National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta.

The CDC looked at 25 states from 1994 to 1999 and found that 41 percent of patients diagnosed had already developed full-blown AIDS when they got their first positive HIV test or went on to do so within a year. In a more intensive study of 18,850 patients in 12 states from the same time period, researchers found that men and women were equally likely to get tested late; blacks and Hispanics were more likely to do so than whites.

When people develop AIDS, their immune systems deteriorate to a low level at which they are prone to developing a number of illnesses. It can take as long as 10 or 11 years after HIV infection for AIDS to appear.

The 8 million-member Kaiser Permanente HMO examined the medical

records of 434 patients who were diagnosed with HIV in 1998. Of those, 44 percent already had full-blown AIDS.

Kaiser Permanente researchers looked at individual medical records with names attached. But the researchers had to sign confidentiality agreements, Hurley said.

Researchers also found that Kaiser Permanente doctors were aware that many of these patients had risk factors for HIV well before they were tested. Forty percent of the medical records showed that the patients were members of one or more high-risk group - men who had sex with men, injection drug users, people who had previous sexually transmitted diseases or some combination of the above.

"This is a signal we need more testing, we need more awareness of risk factors and more open communication between providers and patients about the presence of risk factors," Hurley said.

Marty Algaze, spokesman for Gay Men's Health Crisis, agreed. "People very often don't want to get testing because they're afraid, so they don't really know what their HIV status is until they get sick with something," he said. "But there are options now, and it's not smart to bury your head in the sand."



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Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

*Scouting For All rally will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Muse, (formerly International Arts Center) at the corner of 6th Street and 5th Avenue (Across from Wingspan and Desert Pride). Join with communities across the nation this day calling for the Boy Scouts to rescind their policies of discrimination against Gay scouts and leaders. Come on out Tucson, and show our community as a force to be reckoned with. For more information check out www.scoutingforall.org

Bears of the Old Pueblo Coffee at Coffee Etc. 7:00 p.m. 2830 N. Campbell. Coffee, food, conversation and Bears. Everyone welcome

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us as we get out our monthly 10-page newsletter. It's simple, and you get a chance to meet new guys as we assemble the newsletter. The work goes quickly, and is usually done with 45 minutes. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:45 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of the Oscar winning film, "L.A. Confidential". For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Arlan for Game Night. Board games and card games of all sorts will be available, and you're invited to bring a favorite of yours. For more information, please contact Arlan at 323-7414.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 a.m. Bill will be hosting a recreational softball practice. For more information, please call Bill at 297-3569.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 a.m. Join Steve for a fun trip to the Tucson Zoo as we tour this compact, yet well done zoo. For reservations and details, please call Steve at 318-9162.

#3. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 11:30 a.m. After the zoo tour, Steve will offer up the chance for all the guys to have lunch with him at the well-known El Torero. For reservations and directions, please call Steve at 318-9162.

#4. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Join Bill for a fun evening of Pinochle. Like all our games, we're willing to teach if you'd like to learn. It's a nice way to spend an evening with good guys! For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 297-3569.

Bears of the Old Pueblo Salt River Tubing Trip down the Salt River. Meet at the Venture-N parking lot at 8:15 a.m. Leaving at 8:30 a.m. to caravan to the river. The tube and all-day shuttle bus costs \$10. Bring plenty of sunscreen and something to drink on the trip. You will be spending approximately 4 hours on the river. Contact Jim at 574-8573 for more details.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 a.m. Join Gene for a morning of Hummingbird Heaven as they explore Miller Canyon for the striking hummers to be found in the area. For reservations and directions, please call Gene at 625-8109.

MONDAY, AUGUST 27

Tucson chapter of the Tucson Prime Timers meets for lunch at 1:00 p.m. at the Wildcat House, 1801 N. Stone. Call 529-9344.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Peter hosts Bridge Night. If you're a beginner or an old pro, join the guys for a fun, relaxed night of Bridge. For reservations, please call Peter at 615-8974.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

Bears of the Old Pueblo Coffee at Coffee Etc. 7:00 p.m. 2830 N. Campbell. Coffee, food, conversation and Bears. Everyone welcome

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

Wingspan, GLBT Commission, Gay Men's Health Project, Gree Thursday Theatre Project and the YWCA present "It's Time To Talk Race". A Community Potluck Dinner and Dialogue. 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop. Program includes short skits followed by a facilitated dialogue at each table. Event is free. Seating limited. RSVP Encouraged. Cathy at Wingspan 624-1770 or director@wingspanaz.org

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): Time to be announced. Bill will host a sunset picnic at Windy Point, near Mt. Lemmon. For more information and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

Bears of the Old Pueblo Movie Night & Potluck 7:30 p.m. Bring a dish or beverage to share. This month's movie is John Waters comedy "Cecile B. Demented". All are welcome. RSVP as seating is limited.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

TGNel Arizona presents "Southern Comfort" a film by Kate Davis 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the Modern Languages Building, Room 350, 1423 E. University on the UA campus. "Southern Comfort" tells the story of Robert Eads, a female-to-male transsexual who died of ovarian cancer after doctors refused to treat him because he was transsexual. The film movingly documents Robert's story and the love and support of his family, and is a testament to the power of love and the courage of the human spirit. Tickets \$10.00, students or low income \$8.00. Available at Antigone books, Wingspan or by calling (520)566-4591.

BAR CALENDAR

OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. "The Girlie Show" hosted by Lucinda Holiday and featuring Deora Le Blanc, Samantha White and Tucson's Black Cat, Aja Simone.

WOODY'S - Something new here today and every Wednesday. Party with Ruben inside or play volleyball with Raul on the patio. \$2 Margaritas or Coronas from 9:00 p.m. to closing.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

IBTS - Special Pre-Pageant Show 8:00 p.m. USofA In Review. Korl, Miss Gay USofA-AL 2000, Tori Steele, Miss Gay Arizona USofA 2001; Kyra Starr; Mr. Kenneth Blake and Aja Simone.

VENTURE-N - Jungle Party time again. The Party gets underway at 7:00 p.m. with lots of action. Prizes will be awarded for the best "Missionary" and the best "Native"! And that's only the beginning. Also there will be Jell-O shots available to benefit John Duts. (Get wet, John).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

IBTS - Party line-up includes Jeff's Bloody Mary Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to grnhp - Gay Men's Health Project. Then at 8:30 p.m. a special fund raising show for GMP's "Condom Brigade" starring Deora Le Blanc, Bunny FuFu, Faith Michaels, Janee Starr, Foxy, Miss Saigon and special guests.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. "The Girlie Show" hosted by Lucinda Holiday and featuring Phaedra, Mr. Kenneth Blake and Faith Michaels.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

IBTS - It's Male Box Night here beginning at 9:00 p.m. (the same time as "Underwear Thursday" begins). Male Box nite is hosted by Gay Men's Health Project. Come on by and meet a new friend.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

IBTS - 9th Anniversary Party "It Came From Outer Space!". Watch for details.

YARD DOG SALOON - It's Grand Opening Weekend-long Party for Tucson's newest watering hole. There'll be lots of events starting at 4:00 p.m., and today Ray has cooked up a Mexican Buffet which will be served starting at 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

IBTS - 9th Anniversary Party "It Came From Outer Space!". Watch for details.

YARD DOG SALOON - Day two of the Grand Opening Party and festivities start at 4:00 p.m. A Hawaiian Luau is planned with food being served at 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

IBTS - Monday Morning Madness starts at 11:00 a.m. this morning. Celebrate Labor Day weekend.

WOODY'S - 3:00 p.m. It's Beach Volleyball and Free Burgers. Patio Bar Open. Watch for details and specials.

YARD DOG SALOON - Grand Opening Celebration continues this Labor Day afternoon beginning at 4:00 p.m. with a Bar-B-Que served plus lots of other festivities. Congratulations to Ray and his staff.

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Daily Bar Calendar

NOTE: Bar owners or managers are responsible for keeping this standard listing up to date. Check with the bartender to be sure the specials listed are actually available.

Sunday

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

IBTS - 8am-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 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer bust 3-7. Burger Bar-B-Que 5-7. (Donation only).
WOODY'S - Open Noon. Dart tournament 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Volleyball games 5-7. \$2.50 sirloin burger or chicken 5-9pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee 9pm to close.

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody marys or Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

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.

IBTS - 9am-4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well and domestic beer 4-7pm. 7-9pm \$1.50 well and domestic. Small pitchers Bud/Bud Light \$1.50 from 9pm to close. DJ Rayman plays house music 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio open 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

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.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Pool toumey 7:30pm. \$3 entry, pot matched. \$1.50 longnecks for pool players. \$2 Pitchers all nite. Country music with DJ S. 8:30 to closing.

IBTS - 9am-4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. Tee's & Tattoo Nite, wear an IBT's T-shirt or IBT tattoo 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. Daily specials til 7pm.

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.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS - Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 2-7. Dance Music with DJ S. 9pm-close. \$2 Long Island and \$1 Puckers all night.

IBTS - 9am to 4pm, \$2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-7pm. \$1.50 well & domestic 4-9pm. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio opens at 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Shirtless Volleyball games start 7pm. \$1.50 well drinks for shirtless players and spectators. Patio bar open 7pm-midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Vodka until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS - Karaoke w/Stephanie 9-close. \$2 Kamikazes and \$1 Hot Sex.

IBTS - 9am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour \$1.75 Well & domestic 4-9. \$1.50 well and domestic 7-9pm. Hi energy dancing 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Pool Tournament 7pm. 3 entry. (Special prices for players).

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 7pm to midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS - 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

IBTS - 9am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan & Tracey 6-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 6am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Martini Party - Well Martinis \$2.00 all day. Cali Martinis \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm \$3 entry. Pot matched. \$2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ Hill 9-close. Drink specials every 1/2 hour.

IBTS - 9am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour \$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. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Pool Toumey 2pm. Patio Bar & Volleyball Court open 5:30 - close. Steak Fry 5-9pm Filet Mignon, vegetables, salad, potato & roll \$4.50.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass. \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

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NOTICES

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 888-6541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 988-2384.

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

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Liz at 624-8788.

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 889-7288.

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

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

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus rehearses Monday evenings from 8:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 8th Ave. Call 791-9862.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3561 N. Campbell Ave. #385, 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 690-8585 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

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

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-8647.

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6438 for more info.

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

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 8 weeks. 694-7063.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION http://www.tgsasoftball.org

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health 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. 626-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saafof.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

NOTICES

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 8:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-8977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1778.

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. For more information call the church at 299-9063 and ask for a contact person.

HKE & 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@gpplcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual ratings 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)780-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.bolop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

SENIORRAP, a discussion group for older LGBTs, meets from 7 to 9 pm on the last Sunday of every month at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St.

PFLAG - 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 575-8560 or write P.O. Box 38264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. 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. 8th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1778.

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 529-8344, 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 Referrals 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

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

PERSONALS

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2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH CONDO near First and Grant. W/D, patio. Two story unit. \$700/mo. Call Russell 368-9642. 890.

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GLBT Commission Member Meets With City Officials

Continued from Page One

ven, but was effectively given to all personnel in a way that could have a last effect." The timing, Keene added, would also be best for the City of Tucson Equal Opportunity Office (EEO), who would be responsible for the training. They felt, Goodrum said, that follow-up training would take place, using the videotaped training of the TFD Command Staff as a start, with input from the GLBT Commission and community.

Regarding the convening of a TFD board of inquiry to deal with Opela's conviction, and the alleged participation of another off-duty TFD fire fighter, Todd Thompson, Keene said TFD had never convened a board of inquiry to deal with the issue of off-duty behavior of an employee and that the City doesn't have a policy dealing with off-duty behavior of any of its 7,000 employees. The issue of internal discipline by TFD of Opela and possibly Thompson "is a problematic one," Keene said, "partially because of the above regarding there being no policy regarding off-duty behavior of city personnel and also because of issues of employee rights and confidentiality and the involvement of the union that represents TFD personnel."

Goodrum said Keene spoke of the wider policy implications beyond simply the disciplining of an employee. He said that they discussed the option of having Mr. Opela's conviction and the response to that conviction as well as the larger issues of policy dealt with internally by the TED. Keene felt that to do so internally "would not be the best option because the impression many would have that the TFD would be biased in their own favor in their conclusions, and that their recommendations could very well reflect that bias." "As such, any internal review would be subject to

criticism simply because it was internal. People do not respond well to bodies policing themselves and do not trust the process of them doing so because of the inherent bias such processes could reflect, even given the best of intentions of the department involved," Keene said, according to Goodrum. Keene felt that to have an outside and neutral source review not only the assault and conviction but how this issue impacts and effects city policy and to make recommendations on both, would bypass that bias and lead to a more fair resolution.

Any possible disciplinary action for Opela, and for Thompson, wasn't discussed, pending the outcome of the investigation by Gloria Ybarra, and that further investigation for both's EMT license was a state matter. Keene added "that this outside review would be quicker, hopefully completed within the next month, at most within the next two months. An internal review, because it has to go through so many layers of involvement and input, could take months longer."

Goodrum requested that Chief Newburn would issue a new memorandum, that deals specifically with anti GLBT bias within TFD. Goodrum said Keene agreed and a copy of the new memorandum was given to the Commission, by Assistant City Manager Liz Miller, at the meeting. Goodrum also requested Keene to issue another memorandum detailing the process, and the discussion on the issues, for which Keene agreed.

Goodrum said the meeting was both productive and balanced. "I believe," Goodrum added, "that Mr. Keene is willing to do is a step forward in the right direction in a timely manner given the constraints of what he has to deal with in terms of city structure and politics."

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**SUPPORT GROUPS FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS
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Genome Project

Continued from Page Three

would be. ... There has been a candidate gene study and that did not turn out. And Dean Hamer's research current status is controversial. And I don't see anybody rushing to fund a replication of Dean Hamer's [work]."

Bailey added, "I think it's kind of cool that so many Gay people are scientifically interested [in the Genome Project], but I don't think they need to be politically interested."

Of the three, only LeVay, whose background is in neurobiology rather than genetics, appeared to see any relevance to wondering about the theoretical possibilities of what may be in store for Gays in light of the steps now being proposed to examine racial differences in the genome.

"In either case, there is no black and white," LeVay explained, comparing race to sexual orientation. "There are all shades of race and all shades of sexual orientation. The Genome Project will probably, eventually find these differences. ... It's basically a similar strategy. You look for differences in two different classes, whether its anglo-black or Gay-straight. And it's getting easier to look."

LeVay listed the two obvious poles bound to surface when discussing Gays and genetics. On one hand, a proven genetic link would validate the argument that homosexuality is, at least to some extent, innate, rather than a "lifestyle" issue involving a moral choice.

"In the case of sexual orientation, people—particularly homophobic peo-

ple—tend to deny that it's a case of biology at all," LeVay said. "The Christian Right is opposed to people like me who stress a biological element. They feel it undercuts their privilege of hating Gay people."

If studying the genome uncovers a "Gay gene," that knowledge might foster greater validation of Gay people. The other extreme, as explored in Jonathan Tolins's play, "The Twilight of the Gods", is that such knowledge could be used to screen out Gay individuals or fetuses.

"It's a legitimate fear, it's something people should discuss," said LeVay, adding that he would not be in favor of banning such a test, nor would he be in favor of any legislation that would ban abortions in cases where a tests on a fetus indicated the likelihood of homosexuality.

"A basic tenet of feminist ethics is that mothers should have the decision," LeVay said. "I myself would say you should not ban these tests. It's so important to create the kind of world where people won't want to do that, where there will be a sense that Gay children will be a blessing and not something to be afraid of. It's a bit of a neck-and-neck race."

