Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Support Long-Term HIV Survivor Carrying Olympic Torch In Tucson

TUCSON (ON) - As the ball dropped in Times Square, signifying a new year, more than 11,500 people are preparing for a special event, the Winter Olympics, to be held this year in Salt Lake City, Utah.

These people won't be participating as athletes, but these inspirational individuals will be doing something as important for the upcoming Winter Olympiad, carrying the Olympic Flame.

As of press time, the Flame is in the heartland heading West and will be coming through the Old Pueblo, where 49 individuals will carry the Flame through Tucson on Sunday, January 13. Tucson's media has been profiling many of those chosen to carry the Flame, but have overlooked an inspirational person chosen, Jim Valiton, a Gay man who has been living with HIV for 16 years, and is involved in a community effort of education and supporting others living with HIV and AIDS, with his work with the Tucson Interfaith HIV/-AIDS Network (TIHAN).

"The theme of this year's Olympic torch relay is 'inspiration,'" Valiton said. "I hope that, just as others inspired me to continue to walk this journey, I want to inspire others with my message that people living with HIV and AIDS can overcome hardships and obstacles and make a real difference in the world."

Valiton inspires those around him at TIHAN, who reacted to the news of his selection, stating that he: "is an inspiration, facing his HIV infection and other medical problems head on, with courage and determination, always maintaining a positive outlook on life," "embodies the Olympic values," "is a positive person leading by example," "has a way of communicating, and being with people that makes you really feel special," "embodies the spirit of overcoming challenges" and, "goes above and beyond what anyone expects him to do."

Jim was nominated by his life-partner, Dave Fredricks, because of the above mentioned and that Valiton "has an amazing willingness to keep striving to create a better community, and a better world."

"I didn't even know I had been nominated," Jim said. "So when I received word that I had been chosen to be a torch-bearer, I was honored and amazed to be able to be part of the Olympic tradition of striving for excellence and bring the world closer together."

Valiton speaks proudly of those who have inspired him along the way, crediting doctors and researchers who are making great progress in medical treatment, as well as his many brothers and sisters who are living with HIV and AIDS, and the countless volunteers who dedicate part of their lives to make a difference.

Although the honor of being chosen to bear the torch is great, so too is the pressure. Nervous about the possibility of taking a fall when all eyes are upon him, Jim is up to the challenge, just as he's faced many other challenges in his life. "During my segment of the torch run, I'm just going to focus on putting one foot in front of the other, and that's how I've had to live my life since I found out that I have HIV. You never know what life will bring you, and you just have to accept your circumstances and move forward." It's a philosophy that has helped Valiton overcome past hurdles and continue forward, knowing that by taking one step at a time, some of those steps small ones, you can make it through anything.

Neither the virus nor the side effects from the HIV medications have stopped Jim from leading a full life. Last fall, Valiton's health took a precarious turn when the side effects of his life saving HIV medications caused major complications with his heart, putting him in and out of St. Mary's Hospital's intensive care unit.

"It was touch and go," Jim said. "Now, because of great care and my supportive partner, friends and family, I'm thrilled to be feeling better today, so that I can participate in the honor of a lifetime, carrying the Olympic torch through my community."

Valiton, along with the 48 persons who will carry the Olympic Flame through Tucson, each will be running for two-tenths of a mile.

Jim will be carrying the Olympic Flame down Speedway. His segment of the run will begin just after noon, at the corner of Treat and Speedway. Valiton's family and friends, will gather in front of Catalina United Methodist Church, 2700 East Speedway, where he will be handed the Olympic Flame, and will be lining the route cheering him on, accompanied by other persons living with HIV/AIDS, as well as volunteers from TIHAN.

An inspirational member of Tucson's GLBT and HIV/AIDS populace will be taking part in a moment of a lifetime, something we should all be along the sides of Speedway cheering Valiton on, as he takes more steps, moving forward, for himself and us all.

G/L Cable Channel In The Works?

NEW YORK, NY - TVGuide.com reports that the cable networks MTV and Showtime are currently in "serious discussions" about launching a Gay channel.

The would-be developers are part of the Viacom media empire that includes CBS, UPN, Nickelodeon and VH1. However, they're not the only big-time players considering a Gay network. According to industry sources, there have been such discussions at HBO, USA Networks, as well as at Rainbow Media, the programming arm of Cablevision, which runs Bravo and AMC. But the proposed MTV/Showtime venture appears to be closer to reality, although both parties declined comment.

"It's being given real consideration," says a Viacom insider, who indicates such a network could launch within the next year. [As early as March, Showtime may begin a trial run with a four-hour Gay programming block on its companion service Showtime Too.] Little wonder such a network may launch soon. An already successful Canadian model exists: Pride-Vision, which launched last year.

"Look at the success Showtime has with programming like Queer as Folk," the insider says. "And MTV has a long history of being out in front on Gay issues and marketing to that community."

Both networks have been pioneers in bringing Gay storylines to television, long before Will & Grace became prime-time players. Real World, MTV's long-running hit reality series has included Gay participants since it began in 1992, as have the game-show Singled Out and the late-night teen soap Undressed.

Showtime got into the game even earlier. In 1984, the premium cable network launched Brothers, the first Gay-themed TV series. It also has offered Tales of the City, a recurring miniseries based on the Armistead Maupin novels about Gay and straight life in San Francisco. Queer as Folk, the drama based on a hit British series, recently began its second season. The show credited with boosting Showtime's audience.

"It's about time somebody had gone after that audience with a network," says Tom Wolzien, senior media analyst of the investment firm Sanford C. Bernstein & Company. "It's an important segment of the audience that has traditionally been under-served. The money is certainly there to support it."

According to the marketing publication Brandweek, research suggests that six percent of the adult population, roughly 15 million people, identifies itself as Gay or Lesbian, with combined annual spending in the $250-$350 billion range. Major advertisers including Miller Brewing and General Motors, have increasingly targeted Gay and Lesbian consumers, with select commercials and print ads.

"Whoever does this could win big," says Randy Barbato, co-president of World of Wonder, an independent production company that created The RuPaul Show for VH1.

MTV and Showtime are undecided if the proposed Gay network will be advertiser supported like MTV or a commercial-free pay service like Showtime. Some industry observers believe the latter might minimize resistance from anti-Gay groups against cable systems that would carry the network as part of a basic cable package. "You wouldn't have the content issues that you're inevitably faced with if you go the ad-supported route," Wolzien says.

Programming for the Gay channel may include existing and original programs, including Gay-hosted talk and music video shows, relationship game shows and news.

AIDS Cases Rose IN 2001

ATLANTA, GA - Preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that U.S. AIDS cases rose by 8% in 2001, marking the first annual increase after seven consecutive years of declines, the Albany [N.Y.] Times Union reports.

According to the figures, there were 42,008 new AIDS diagnoses reported in 2001, up from 38,864 in 2000. The increases were highest on the East Coast. New York City alone reported a 47% increase in AIDS cases. AIDS cases also climbed in the Southeast–up 41% in both Georgia and North Carolina and up 4% in Florida. Among states showing decreases were California, down 9%; Michigan, down 28%; and Kansas, down 22%.

CDC spokeswoman Kitty Bina said that final numbers would be released in June and that the "raw data" reported could change due to some AIDS cases being reported more than once and others being omitted from preliminary reports. However, the Times Union reports that in the past there has typically been little change between preliminary data and the final figures in the CDC's report.

AIDS doctors and researchers say the preliminary CDC data confirms what they have been seeing among their patients. Michael Wohlfeiler, a Miami HIV/AIDS specialist, said that physicians are again dealing with "those old AIDS infections that we actually haven't seen for years, the kinds of stuff we used to deal with day in, day out six or seven years ago." AIDS experts attribute the increases in reported AIDS cases to the failure of anti-HIV drug regimens among some HIV-positive people and a rise in HIV infections stemming from perceptions that AIDS is now a controllable disease. When any virus "starts to look like

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

UPDATE

POZ Cafe January 17

TUCSON - People living with HIV are invited to The Poz Cafe Lunch along with social and recreational activities on Thursday, January 17.

Poz Cafe is located at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC (corner of Swan and River Roads). Doors open at 11:30 a.m., with complimentary lunch served at noon. Following lunch there will be several games of Bingo (with prizes!), a very special raffle, and many friends to enjoy.

Volunteers from Congregation Ner Tamid are hosting this months lunch which will feature Brisket of Beef with Broiled Red Potatoes, Winter Vegetables, Fresh Fruit Salad and French bread. And Home-made Chocolate Cake for dessert. A selection of beverages, including iced tea and coffee will be available, along with a hospitality table of punch and snacks.

Like all TIHAN programs, it's Gay-friendly, free of charge, and no proselytizing or evangelizing is permitted. HIV+ people may have one adult guest accompany them if they so choose. {Each guest--partner, spouse, friend, volunteer--will be reminded of confidentiality concerns.}

This luncheon is fully sponsored, courtesy of generous support from the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, and other caring individuals and congregations of TIHAN. Reservations are requested and transportation can be provided with advance notice simply through one phone call to the TIHAN office. For more information about POZ Cafe, to make your reservations or request transportation, call the TIHAN office at (520) 299-6647 by Tuesday, January 15. Transportation deadline is Wednesday Noon, January 16.

Community Forum Jan. 17

TUCSON - A community forum on the experiences of Gay and Lesbian persons with disabilities, will take January 17, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at Wingspan, 300 East Sixth Street.

This forum is another in a continuing series of forums on issues of interest to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community. This forum will have panel of disabled Gay people who will discuss their encounters with discrimination within the GLBT community itself. Discussions and a question and answer session will be part of the program.

For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

Special Meeting On Housing Resources

TUCSON - The Pima County HIV/AIDS CARE Consortium will hold their next quarterly evening meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at COPE Behavioral Services, 101 S. Stone Ave., in conference room B on the second floor.

The meeting will include a presentation on Housing Resources for People Living with HIV/AIDS led by danny Blake from the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. There will be a brief business meeting before the presentation, and refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

Call Beth Carey or Jay Moman at (520) 770-0800 for more information about the Consortium meeting.

TIHAN Training Sessions To Be Held

TUCSON - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will be conducting a volunteer training session on Saturday, February 9, 2002 at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church (2331 E. Adams).

There are four orientation times set for your convenience; one orientation must be made before training. The orientation dates and times are: Monday, February 4 at Grace St. Paul's 2 - 3:30 p.m. & 7 - 8:30 p.m.. Orientations at the TIHAN office (492 N Alvernon) are Tuesday, February 5 & Wednesday, February 6, both from 7 - 8:30 p.m. The cost for training is $15.00 which covers lunch and materials, scholarships are available upon request.

Volunteer staff give social, emotional, and practical help to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Volunteer staff are needed for CareTeams, Poz Programs, Educational forums, and community outreach. Come and join us in being a part of the solution in an effort to educate faith communities about HIV/AIDS. For more information on volunteer opportunities, pleas call the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647; and ask for Todd.

CyberCenter Opens At Wingspan

TUCSON - Wingspan, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center, has a new CyberCenter open for public use.

Six new computers, Internet access, and limited free printing are available. Open for general use Monday - Friday 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.; youth-only (age 13-23) hours are M-F 2:30-4:30 p.m. and Saturday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Stop by and get connected! For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

SPORTS

DESERT COYOTES LEAGUE STANDINGS

	Won	Lost
2 PP's & A HooHoo	19.0	2.0
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Big Ballers	12.0	9.0
One Is-Two Ain't	11.0	10.0
Even-Stevens	9.0	12.0
Bernadette's Peter	7.0	14.0
Tres Amigos	6.0	15.0
Beat Around The Bush	5.0	16.0
Sleaze Bearz	4.0	17.0
Gutter Snipes	4.0	17.0

Wingspan Seeking Volunteers

TUCSON - Is your New Year's resolution to make a difference, and have fun doing it? Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, is looking for fabulous, compassionate, smart people (just like you) to volunteer for our Information Referral Service, Domestic Violence Project Hotline, Youth Services, Library, Senior Companion Program, Facilities Maintenance, the newly-opened David Bohnett CyberCenter - and so much more!

So be a part of something larger! Learn new skills! Make new friends! Feel even better about yourself! You deserve it!

Training sessions begin January 12, but volunteer opportunities are ongoing! For more information and application, please contact Mark English, Volunteer Coordinator, (520) 624-1779 or volcoord@wingspanaz.org.

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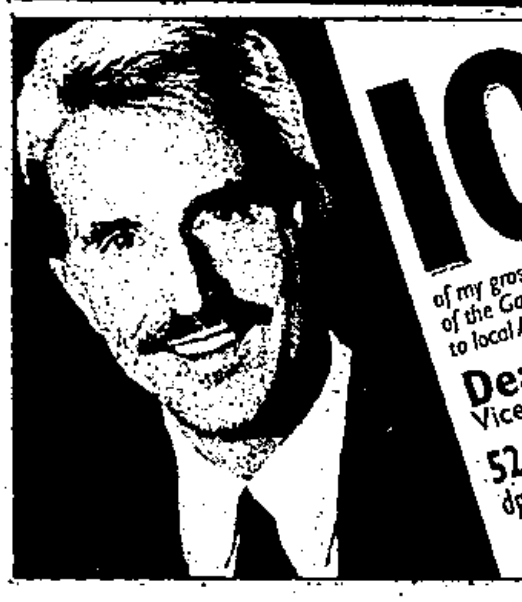

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UPDATE

Revolutionary AIDS Treatment Shows Promise

NEW YORK, NY - Scientists have developed an innovative new technique that shows long-term promise in the ongoing battle against HIV and AIDS, the journal Nature Medicine reports.

The new treatment involves removing T-cells from an infected person's immune system, priming them for battle against HIV, and returning them into the bloodstream to be more aggressive and effective weapons against the invading virus.

So far, participation in the experimental treatment has been limited to 10 individuals, but the results have been encouraging enough to justify broader efforts.

Researchers say the technique, called co-stimulation, modifies CD4-positive T cells in a way that makes them less susceptible to viral invasion. Patients in the study demonstrated depressed HIV levels in their bloodstream for several months owing to the treatment.

More intriguingly, say scientists, cells which had been modified seemed to be reproducing inside the patient's body, suggesting that protection might be long term.

Further studies are now being conducted which will yield more data as to whether this kind of treatment could prove a useful addition to the drugs already in use.

Reba Prefers Gay Men

NASHVILLE, TN (WENN) - Country singer Reba McEntire gets along better with Gay men than straight men, according to a recent interview.

The country songbird's confession may shock conservative Nashville, where no major player has come out of the closet, except for signer kd Lang.

Reba says, "As a female I can relate to Gay men better. They have a great sense of humor and can sympathize with women's problems.

"They're very good listeners and they're very easy going. I've got tons of Gay friends - and not only from the entertainment business. But that's where the majority of them are from." And Reba wishes people in Nashville would accept Gay men and Lesbians more than they do.

She adds, "If people would just let them be themselves, live their own lives and not be judgmental, the world would be a better place to live."

Grammy Nominations Include G/L Artists

LOS ANGELES, CA - This year's Grammy award nominations clustered around U2; with eight nods; India Arie, with seven; and Alicia Keys, with six.

But out artists did appear here and there in the listings. Elton John is up for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance with "I Want Love" as well as Best Pop Vocal Album with Songs From the West Coast. R.E.M. is up for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group With Vocal with "Imitation of Life," from Reveal--and out lead singer Michael Stipe got a nod in Best Recording Package for the album's art direction.

Michael Feinstein is nominated for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album with Romance on Film, Romance on Broadway. Melissa Etheridge is a nominee for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance with "I Want to Be in Love" from Skin. For a complete list of Grammy nominees check out www.grammy.com.

Saudi Arabia Executes Three For Sodomy

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - On the first day of the near year, the government of Saudi Arabia has reportedly executed three men convicted in a religious court of engaging in sexual relations with other men.

The Reuters news agency quotes the Saudi Interior Ministry as saying the three men were beheaded for "sodomy and marrying each other." Execution by beheading is the traditional form of capital punishment in the Saudi kingdom.

Ali ibn Hatan ibn Saad, Mohammad ibn Suleiman ibn Mohammad and Mohammad ibn Khalil ibn Abdullah were found guilty of engaging in what the Saudi statement called "extreme obscenity and ugly acts of homosexuality."

The statement read the three men were also found guilty of "molesting the young" though no details were presented or witnesses named to prove the substance of the allegations.

A Shariah court sentenced them to death, and the judgment was confirmed by the high court.

Arab News, the English language newspaper in the capital, said the executions took place in the southwestern city of Abha.

Gay Chinese Businessman Must Apologize To Co-Workers

HAIKOU, China - A 68-year-old Gay Chinese businessman has been ordered to apologize to three of his male coworkers after he was found guilty of kissing and fondling them, Agence France-Presse reports.

Wang Guang was also ordered by the court in the Hainan capital of Haikou to pay each of the men one yuan (12 cents) for their emotional stress. Wang Guang said he took the action with his coworkers because he thought they were Gay as well.

One of the three plaintiffs told the court that his pregnant wife divorced him and aborted the couple's child when she learned what happened between him and Wang Guang.

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5:30pm - 8pm- Benefit Bar-B-Que/16 oz Beerbust for Reveille Gay Mens Chorus
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AHRF Lobby Day In Arizona Jan. 28

PHOENIX - Do you believe that Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) people should have equal rights in Arizona? Do you want to meet your Arizona legislators and talk with them about issues that are important to you? Do you want to ensure that GLBT Arizonans are treated fairly in the workplace? If so, then you'll want to participate in the 4th annual Lobby Day on Monday, January 28, sponsored by the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF).

The goals of Lobby Day are to educate Arizona legislators about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues, to advocate for the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) during the 2002 Arizona Legislative session, to empower GLBT citizens to participate in the political process, and to introduce GLBT citizens to their elected representatives and vice versa.

AHRF is a non-partisan, membership organization whose purpose is to secure protect, and defend the rights and welfare of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered people. Each year AHRF selects an issue to address with the Arizona legislature. This year, AHRF's legislative agenda is passage of ENDA, which would bar employment discrimination against GLBT people in Arizona.

Lobby Day is a critical part of AHRF's strategy to pass ENDA and to educate Arizona legislators about GLBT issues. It is a personal connection with GLBT citizens that will persuade Arizona legislators to pass GLBT-friendly legislation, including ENDA.

To prepare volunteers for Lobby Day, AHRF will hold a Citizen Lobbyist Training Day on Saturday, January 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Tucson-Pima Main Public Library, 101 N. Stone Ave., Tucson, and Tuesday, January 15, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., at the Community Church of Hope Public Library, 4400 N. Central, Phoenix. The goal of this training is to inform citizen lobbyists about the legislative process, train citizen lobbyists how to effectively lobby their legislators, and educate citizen lobbyists about ENDA. AHRF strongly encourages all citizen lobbyists to attend this free training.

You can register for Lobby Day and the Citizen Lobbyist Training by contacting the Southern Arizona AHRF office at (520) 990-5162, the Phoenix office (602) 650-0900 or saz@ahrf.org. You can also obtain a lobby day registration form from the AHRF website at www.ahrf.org.

Hepatitis C Treatment Breakthrough

NEW YORK, NY - Vertex Pharmaceutical and Eli Lilly are expected to announce they have developed a drug candidate that can attack the hepatitis C virus in much the same way several drugs attack HIV, the New York Times reports.

The two drug companies say that their compound, which they hope to begin testing in patients in 2003, is a variant on protease inhibitors used to treat HIV. It is designed to block a gene component in hepatitis C (HCV) that the virus needs to replicate itself.

The quest for such a drug has been long and difficult. "So far no one has succeeded," said Michael Lai, a professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at the University of Southern California. He said he was awaiting data from the Vertex and Lilly studies.

Joshua Boger of Vertex, a biotechnology company in Cambridge, Mass., said more tests are needed but that initial results seemed to bear out the compound was nontoxic and effective.

Charles Rice who leads the center for the study of HCV at Rockefeller University in New York, told the Times other companies might be close to developing protease inhibitors for hepatitis C.

"We're getting pretty excited about some of these new compounds that are entering into clinical trials," he said. "It's kind of like when the first protease and reverse transcriptase inhibitors were hitting the clinic for H.I.V."

About four million Americans have been infected with hepatitis C, which like HIV, is spread through infected blood or needles. The virus can lead to cirrhosis or liver cancer.

The main treatment now is the combination of alpha interferon and ribavirin, which some scientists think works by stimulating the immune system to attack the virus. But the drugs work in only about half of the cases, so the search has been on for drugs that attack the virus directly.

About one quarter of people with HIV in the United States are also infected with hepatitis C virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control. HCV is one of the most important causes of chronic liver disease in the United States and HCV infection progresses more rapidly to liver damage in HIV-infected persons. HCV infection may also impact the course and management of HIV infection.

The latest U.S. Public Health Service/Infectious Diseases Society of America (USPHS/IDSA) guidelines recommend that anyone testing positive for HIV should also be screened for HCV infection.

AIDS Cases Rose

Continued from Page One

less of a formidable disease, it tends to be transmitted much more than it did when people were much more afraid of it," said Nicholas Hellman, vice president of clinical research at San Francisco biotechnology company ViroLogic, a company that manufactures HIV drug resistance test kits.

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"Of The Five, He Was The First'

Flash back in time to November 1994, Arizona was holding the general election with many political offices on the federal, state, county level up for consideration, as well as many ballot propositions were up for consideration by the voters.

During this election, all 90 seats were up in the Arizona Legislature but most of these contests were already settled after the September primary elections, since all but a few of the legislative districts were actually competitive.

One of those few, competitive legislative districts was District 25, located in central Phoenix. In the 1994 campaign, a state House seat had opened up and the campaign for the position was fierce in both the primary and general elections, and one person was elected to fill the open seat.

This person had defeated six Republican candidates, three fellow Democratic candidates and two Libertarian party candidates to serve the two-year term. It was this person's second bid for the post, having run prior in 1992, losing to Democrat Cathy Eden, who served one term, then taking a job as a lobbyist.

Who was this individual, set to serve in the Arizona House of Representatives, a body dominated by Republicans, ultra-conservative to boot? Ken Cheuvront, an openly Gay Democrat, the first openly Gay candidate to be elected to political office in Arizona.

Unlike two other individuals, who had been elected and serving in federal and municipal office respectively, Cheuvront ran as an openly Gay candidate, being up front about himself and his positions on the issues of concern of voters in District 25, a refreshing trait which wasn't practiced by most state legislators, or for that matter, most other elected officials during that time.

So in January 1995, Cheuvront was sworn in as a state Representative, and was thrown into a "lion's den," since the Arizona House of Representatives was in Republican hands, led by the ultra-conservative, rabidly homophobic House GOP leadership. Cheuvront was the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community's voice, and only outlet, to deal with the usual array of homophobic and anti HIV/AIDS legislation introduced in each session of the Arizona Legislature, and during this time, Cheuvront battled to:

acquire funding for HIV/AIDS programs;

repeal Arizona's archaic laws, dealing with sodomy and cohabitation;

protect the rights of GLBT students to join or form GLBT school clubs;

protect the rights of GLBT Arizonan's in the workplace;

defeat a state Defense of Marriage Act proposal; and,

protect the rights of those people living with HIV or AIDS, and those people wishing to take a medical HIV/AIDS test.

These were just some of the GLBT issues, Cheuvront had to deal with during this time period, in addition to the many pressing concerns of Legislative District 25 and other parts of Arizona. On GLBT issues noted, Cheuvront was passionate and eloquent in his arguments for passage or voting down on bills. He suffered some defeat in the political battlefield, but one skirmish does not a political war make, and Cheuvront started his offensive, like the Allies landing in Normandy, which would lead to eventual victory.

With his election, much to the dismay of the House GOP right, Cheuvront brought the GLBT issue to the forefront with just his presence, making the lawmakers think twice, in some cases - think, when they voted on bills dealing with GLBT or HIV/AIDS issues. He met, talked, and lobbied with his fellow legislators, laying the groundwork for the future success (from 1998 on) with his efforts on: the repeal of Arizona's archaic laws; state funding for HIV/AIDS programs; and, expanding Arizona's domestic violence law to cover same-sex couples, naming the few of several achievements.

Hard work has been a core value with Cheuvront, the owner of a construction company and a former commodities trainer. Cheuvront has had an extensive education, working background, and serves as the Co-Chair of the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials, a world body of Gay and Lesbian elected officials. He is a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures, which sent him to Africa in 2001 to work with several governments on the continent, something he also did for the National Democratic Institute, who sent him to Niger in 2001 to work with their government. Cheuvront's work has not gone unnoticed, receiving the Barry Goldwater Human Rights Award, and selected as Man of the Year by a Phoenix based, GLBT publication. In 2001, he was honored by his fellow state House Democrats when he was elected as their leader, much to the dismay of the House GOP.

Cheuvront's service in the legislature paved the way for fellow state Representatives Steve May and Ed Poelstra. Even though they are of the opposite political party, the thought that an openly Gay person could run for the state legislature, win and be re-elected, became a reality thanks to Cheuvront.

With the second regular session commencing Monday, January 14, it will be Cheuvront's last in the Arizona House, due to term limits. Cheuvront will be running for the State Senate this year, and if he's successful in his campaign, he would be again, the first openly Gay candidate, to win election to the Arizona State Senate. He has stated that he will run as a "Clean Elections" candidate, receiving state campaign funding for his bid, meaning he will need to raise a certain number of $5 checks, from registered Democrats in his new district. Checks from outside the district can't be accepted.

Arizona's GLBT community should do the next best thing for Cheuvront, our first openly Gay elected official, and volunteer for his state senate bid by calling (602) 716-9845. He was there in the Arizona Legislature during the rough times, and this community must be there for him now.

VENTURE-N-TUCSON

FEATURING
FRIDAY - HOT SNACKS - 5pm
SATURDAY - BEERBUST - 3pm
SUNDAY - BOSSBURGERS - 5-7pm
SUNDAY - PATIO BAR OPENS at 3pm
DAILY - MEN, MEN, MEN - 6am to 1am

LA FIESTA DE LOS OSOS
17 - 21 JANUARY
VENTURE-N
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Music starts at 8:30pm
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Pima County Health Department is currently using Orasure™, the new HIV test that is administered orally. Orasure™ is easier, painless and just as accurate as previous testing methods. If you have any questions about Orasure™, please feel free to contact the Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP) at 628.7223 or email us at gmhp@aaaf.org.

El examen del VIH lo hacemos con Orasure™ El Departmento de Salud del Condado Pima esta realizando los examens del VI H con Orasure™. El nuevo examen del VIH es administrado oralmente, es facil, sin dolor y es igual de seguro que el metodo anterior. Si tienes preguntas del nuevo metodo de examen oral (Orasure™) confia y llama a The Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP) al 628.7223 o mandanos correo electronico a gmhp@aaaf.org.

Wed., Jan. 16, 2002
6:00-9:00pm

Woody's
3710 N. Oracle
292-6702

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

BETTER BODIES

Let's return to the first time you walked into a health club. You probably heard noises of chains clanking over pear shaped sprockets and most noticeably of all the clang of heavy iron hitting the floor. What was your plan when you walked through the doors of the health club? Did you have a training system, schedule or routine? You probably got your ideas from different people and various fitness magazines. The truth is there are many training systems on the market and absolutely none of these are perfect for everyone. There are some very important training principles that are of overriding importance in whatever system one follows. There are seven laws upon which all systems must rely if maximum effectiveness in training outcomes is to be expected.

The first principle, The Principle of Individual Difference states that everyone is different. Genetics determine how we respond to different stimuli implemented upon our bodies. One training program may work wonders for one person, but will not have the same effect on another. We will have similar responses, but will not adapt at the same rate as someone else.

The Over-Compensation Principle is the second principle, which states that your muscle fibers grow in size and shape in response to training. Lacerated tissue develops scar tissue, which grows in such a way to overcompensate for the stress, which has been applied, much like calluses building on your hands as a result of friction.

Related to the Over-Compensation Principle is the Over-Load Principle, meaning, in order to grow in strength, muscle size or endurance from training, you must exercise against a resistance greater than that which is normally used. If you use the same resistance for the same number of reps every workout, your body will soon adapt and no longer achieve greater results.

The Said Principle, other wise known as specific adaptation to imposed demands clarifies that your body adapts to the type of training you do. For example, if your goal were to become a heavy squatter, you need to do squats and not leg extensions. Also to become a long distance runner in a marathon you'll need to train by running long distance, not to say that cycling or leg extensions won't help. It just won't help as much.

The Use/Disuse Principle means what it says. Use it or lose it. If you stress your body and its systems enough it will adapt to meet the stress. If you do not stress your body your functionality will diminish.

Last but not least is the Gas Principle, which stands for general adaptation syndrome. This principle is compromised of three stages. The first is called the "Alarm" stage caused by the application of intense training stress. The second stage is the "Resistance" stage, when our muscles adapt in order to resist the stressful weights more effectively. The third stage is the "exhaustion" stage, meaning to persist in applying stress will exhaust our reserves and then be forced to stop training. The recovery and overcompensation time must be taken so that further stress doesn't continue the downward spiral caused by trauma within your muscles.

When these principles are applied properly, a very effective training program is taking place. Principles mean nothing, unless they get used. Remember this: Trying new things, taking a chance, accepting challenges, and keeping an open mind are what separate those who thrive from those who survive. Oh, yes, and if you do nothing, you get nothing... it's that simple. Are you a thriver or are you a survivor? If you want to change and just don't know how, call me, I will completely transform you from the inside out. Don't hesitate, "just do it."

[E-mail me or send me a letter to: Jeramy Price, %Better Bodies, 6514 E. Carondelet, Tucson, AZ 85710. (520)975-7074 or e-mail: jeramyprice1@hotmail.com]

THE BOOK REPORT

I'm the One that I Want by Margaret Cho, Ballentine Books, 2001. It's easy to love Margaret Cho. She'll tell everything, she's fat as the rest of us, a consummate fag hag, and she can make us laugh over things that ordinarily might make us cry. Cho tackles racism against Asians, body image problems, drug and alcohol abuse, her childhood filled with alienation, and the nightmare that her television series All-American Girl turned into, turning it all into highly quotable wit made all the more shocking and delicious when you realize her mother has read every word.

Born in 1968 in San Francisco, Cho paints a hilarious yet affectionate portrait of her Korean mother, with unforgettable stories such as her mother's investigating the porn magazines in their bookstore on the infamous Polk Street Gay drag. ("Ohhh, Assmaster!") Cho reveals the horror of church-camp summers and feeling invisible or downright disliked as a child, and the kinship and solace found from the drag queens who worked in her father's store. "Drag queens are strong because they have so much to fight against," writes Cho, "homophobia, sexism, pink eye." To support herself at the beginning of her comedy career, Cho worked at FAO Schwarz; she also sometimes moonlighted as a phone sex worker. Occasionally the jobs would overlap, and she would find herself doing phone sex dressed as Raggedy Ann.

This book is based on her hilarious one-woman off-Broadway show/video, but is more painful in the print version. It doesn't have all the content of the stage show (the bisexual stories are missing!), and it does have more of a therapy feel to it ("I hated myself, but now I've found my inner goddess, and you can too.") But there is new material too, and the book acts as a big loving Band-aid for all of us who have ever been told we are not good enough, smart enough, pretty enough or just not enough, period.

Cho is presently on tour with her new show, The Notorious C. H. O. She already played Phoenix in November, but for additional tour dates check out her website, http://www.margaretcho.com. You can borrow Cho's book free of charge from the Tucson-Pima Public Library. Call at (520) 791-4010, or go online at www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us to reserve a copy today!

[Reviewed by Terry Nordbrock, Librarian, Tucson-Pima Public Library.]

Sparks To Keep Queer Michael In The Closet

NEW YORK, NY - Producers of the Showtime series Queer as Folk had planned to have the character of Michael (played by Hal Sparks) come out at work last season--Michael does, after all, have a super-supportive mother--but Sparks put the kibosh on it, according to TVGuide.com.

"I refused to do it," says Sparks. "I didn't think seeing all seven of us on a pride march every week would serve the audience. There are too many people who are in the closet living this double life, and we lose touch with part of our audience if we're all out of the closet and everyone's OK with it. That's not how life is."

Sharon Gless, who plays Michael's mother, Debbie, hopes that Michael won't get complacent about his workplace secret. "We're going to deal with that [during season 2], where Michael is going to come to me and say, 'You have to keep your mouth shut. It isn't your business.' And she's going to have to take it and back off," says Gless. "I still believe that Debbie is who she is, and she's going to hold her position and say, 'I know who you are, and I'm proud of it, and if you're ashamed, that's your problem.' They haven't written it yet, but I'm going to fight for it. But Hal feels very strongly that Debbie has overstepped her bounds. And we're having these little tiffs with the producers about...these issues."

But Sparks plans to remain firm on the subject: "I'd like Michael to stay closeted for as long as possible--at least in his workplace. It gives more depth to the character. If we all came out, what would the last season be? All of us attending the GLAAD Awards?"

Dear Dr. X:

The other night my boyfriend and I were talking and he got on the subject of having a three way! I thought we were happy with our sex life and didn't think it needed any outside help but during the conversation I agreed to "try it out!" Now when we go out my boyfriend is flirting and trying to hook up with guys for us. I'm having doubts and don't really want to go through with it. How can I tell him this without pushing him away?

Signed,
Stuck in the Middle

Dear Stuck:

First of all you need to talk to your boyfriend and find out what is happening with your sex life. If he is comfortable enough to bring up having a three way, he's probably mature enough to talk about what's missing from your sex life.

I'm sure there are a lot of things that you would like to try sexually, so why don't you try those first before resorting to a three way. I can also tell you if you feel this way now your going to feel worse after it's happened. If you do decide to have a three way, you and your partner need to discuss things beforehand. I would talk about your boundaries, how you are going to handle any jealousy issues that come up, and how this is going to impact your relationship.

Dear Dr X

What is hepatitis? Am I at risk for it? Is there a cure?

Hepatitis is a virus that affects the liver. There are many types of hepatitis which are differentiated with letters Hep A, Hep B, Hep C ...etc.

Health officials primarily focus on Hep A, B, & C. Almost all types of Hepatitis are transmitted from sexual contact or with bodily fluids. Rimming is a high-risk activity for Hep A due to fecal material. Hep B which is currently on the rise is transmitted through body fluids especially semen. Hep C is primarily a blood-based virus, which can be contracted from tattoos and piercing if the equipment is not sterile or new.

The strange thing with Hepatitis is a lot of people who are infected with it do not have any symptoms. Other people show flu like symptoms such as nausea, joint pain, and loss of appetite. People with many sex partners, men who have sex with men (MSM), and people who inject drugs are at high risk for Hepatitis. There are vaccines for Hep A & B. Hep A shots (one shot with a booster 6 months later) is currently being given in Pima County. Hep B vaccines are also available and are given as 3 shots over a 7-month period. There is no current vaccine for Heb C. Both shots are available right now at Theresa Lee Clinic. Call (520) 624-8272 for details. Theresa Lee Clinic also offers full STD screenings including Hepatitis tests and anonymous HIV testing. Make a day of it and go get your Hep shots, get an HIV test, find out what's causing that penile drip and get some lunch. Get your shots and keep healthy.

[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.]

WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT AHRF ENDORSES THE BEST CANDIDATES?

SINCE THE ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY AHRF AND SINCE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LOOKS TO CAN FOR ITS EXPERTISE ON CANDIDATES, IT IS CRUCIAL TO HAVE INFORMED AND EDUCATED COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

IN ORDER TO VOTE ON CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATIONS DURING THE 2002 ELECTION CYCLE FOR STATEWIDE AND LEGISLATIVE RACES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE, CAN MEMBERS MUST BE MEMBERS OF AHRF AND MUST ATTEND 4 OF THE 6 MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FROM JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2002.

AT ITS JUNE MEETING, THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL CREDENTIAL, BASED ON ATTENDANCE,THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS.

PLEASE ATTEND OUR NEXT CAN COMMITTEE MEETING, CALL KRISTEN FOR THE NEXT MEETING DATE 602.650.0900.

PARTICIPATE IN
4TH ANNUAL LOBBY DAY

Do you believe that gay, lesbian, biserual, and transgender (GLBT) people should have equal rights in Arizona?

Do you want to meet your Arizona legislators and talk with them about issues that are important to you?

Do you want to ensure that GLBT Arizonans are treated fairly in the workplace?

Monday, January 28, 2002 | 9:00am to 3:00pm
AZ State Capitol Lawn | 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix

CITIZEN LOBBYIST TRAINING:

AHRF will hold Citizen Lobbyist Trainings in Phoenix and in Tucson. These trainings are being held to inform citizen lobbyists about the legislative process, train citizen lobbyists how to effectively lobby their legislators, and educate citizen lobbyists about ENDA. AHRF strongly encourages all citizen lobbyists to attend this free training.

PHOENIX: Tuesday, January 15, 2002 from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm at the Community Church of Hope, 4400 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.
TUCSON: Saturday, January 19, 2002 from 9:30am-12:30pm at the Tucson-Pima Main Public Library, 101 N Stone Ave.

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT AHRF AT (602) 650-0900 OR IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA, CALL (520) 990-5161.

AS AN AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION OF THE AHRFund, THE AHRFoundation ENGAGES IN RESEARCH AND PROVIDES PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING TO SECURE PROTECT, AND DEFEND THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF GAY, LESBIAN,BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE.

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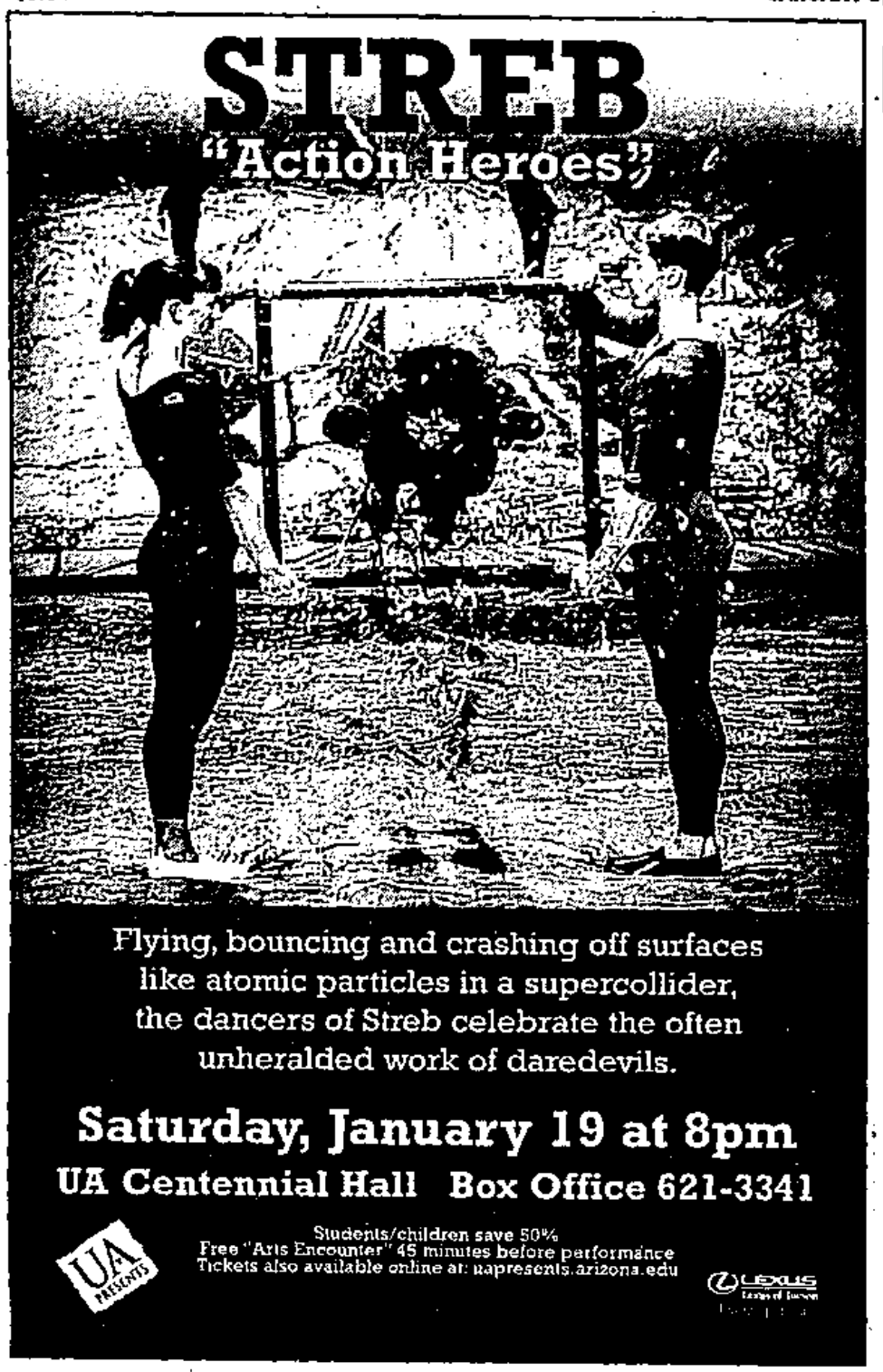

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

'Monstrosity On Speedway'

On the north side of Speedway, just west of Stone, a building of truly spectacular ugliness has recently been built. There are plenty of unprepossessing buildings in Tucson, and no reason why there shouldn't be, but this edifice is so aggressively hideous that it must be a cause of wonderment for motorists unlucky enough to find it on their daily route.

They, the unfortunate motorists of western Speedway, must wonder what it could possibly be. They must wonder why this vile monstrosity was inflicted on their city. What heinous injury could Tucson have perpetrated on some architect to cause him to take such a terrible and drastic revenge?

The passing motorist might assume that the building is a prison, but such a prison would surely violate the Constitution's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. Or perhaps it's a factory specializing in the production of toxic waste. Pay people enough and they'll work almost anywhere – dark, wet, cold, dangerous mines; torrid, snake-invested jungles; airless fire-prone sweatshops.

The building is blocky, clumsy, misshapen, ill-proportioned and seemingly unfinished, like something left behind by a child who's been playing with blocks so ineptly that boredom forces him away from his own squalid creation. The only interesting thing about the building, "curious" might be a better word, is its use of sewer grates like the ones used on Alvernon to reduce flooding as awnings, ugliness shading greater ugliness.

But the full force of this aesthetic disaster area can't be felt by merely speeding past it on Speedway. To feel the total spiritual assault one must park the car and walk around the place, letting its insipid inhumanity well and truly maul the soul.

Without saying anything negative about the building, I've been spending lots of time and energy in an effort to find out who's responsible for it. For anyone who thinks that getting a straight answer from the cops or from Tucson city bureaucrats is tough, it's nothing compared to the obfuscation they can generate at Pima Community College, the owner of this... thing. I started with a letter to their public relations people asking four simple, innocuous questions: Who decided that they needed a new building? Who picked the architect? What instructions were given to the architect? Who approved the final design?

The response I got was a long letter and several pages of supplementary information, none of which answered my questions. I was referred to a PCC web site containing staggering amounts of information about their building program that also didn't answer my questions. I followed up with a phone call that ended up with me being interrogated about who I was and why I was asking these questions, but the call didn't answer any questions. Then I was passed off to another department that might be able to answer them.

Sending the same simple questions to the next bureaucrat produced a very similar response, namely a lengthy evasion and a referral to another bureaucrat. In approaching my third bureaucrat, I decided to sharpen my questioning so there could be no mistake about what I was trying to find out. I said that someone at some point in time must have had the authority to choose an architect and to approve a plan. I'd like to know that person's name and job title. If it was a group decision, I'd like to know the names and titles of the folks who made up the group. I continued, "Forgive me if I'm over explaining, but by name I mean something like Lee Thorn or Paul Smith or Joe Doakes. By job title I mean something like Director of Architecture or Director of Design."

Why am I pursuing this? My theory is that one of the reasons why massive bureaucracies make colossal blunders is that the identities of the decision makers is not easy to find. This exercise has already proven that.

Another purpose for my pursuit is a real desire to chat with the decision maker in this particularly tragic case. If you were sitting down with him over a quiet cup of coffee, would he say, "I had to make the call because I'm the Director of Development and (1) I know nothing about architecture. Couldn't tell the Sydney Opera House from the Eiffel Tower. (2) My architect brother-in-law needed the work. (3) I took a big fat bribe. Don't put that in the paper. (4) It was the cheapest design and PCC was broke."?

[Thorn welcome comments, suggests for future columns, tips on local skullduggery ripe for exposure, etc. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754.]

Mass. Governor Chooses Gay Running Mate

BOSTON, MA - Acting Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift has selected an openly Gay , 33-year-old aide and state legislator as her running mate in the state's 2002 gubernatorial election, the Boston Globe reports.

Swift, 36, is already the nation's youngest governor. Her choice seemed to prompt more concern about the youth of the Republican ticket she is heading than her running mate's sexual orientation.

"I would match Patrick's experience against that of any candidate of either party," Swift told the Globe. She added that Guerriero had a perfect voting record as a state representative. "Our job is to go out and convince families that we have the experience and the priorities that they want leading the Commonwealth. I am convinced we can do that."

Guerriero will challenge millionaire James Rappaport, the former state GOP chairman and the only declared Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, in the September primary.

Swift has made it clear several times in public she has no intention of running with the more conservative Rappaport. For his part, Rappaport said Guerriero was a "nice young fellow," but that he was the more experienced candidate.

Swift, who appeared with Guerriero at the news conference, also downplayed her differences with her chosen running mate over Gay marriage, which Guerriero supports and Swift opposes.

"It was not my goal or one of my main criteria in selecting a running mate to find a carbon copy of myself, but rather to find someone who is compatible with my political philosophy, and Patrick exceeds that criteria," Swift said.

Guerriero, an advocate for Gay rights, works on the governor's staff as a liaison with municipal officials, and helped persuade Swift to delay cuts in local aid last year. He is also an established Republican, having served as mayor in the Boston suburb of Melrose and three terms in the state House.

With the announcement Swift becomes the first sitting governor to name an openly Gay candidate as a running mate, according to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. If they prevail in November, Guerriero would become the highest-ranking openly Gay elected state official in the country.

"This is a long way from where we were in the past," the fund's Brian Bond told the Globe. "It wasn't too many years ago where somebody who was Gay - closeted or out - would be kept out of this position."

Guerriero has not publicly addressed his sexual orientation during his five runs for elected office, though it was known to many on Beacon Hill and in his hometown. At the news conference, he said he wanted to be open about it to show that he's comfortable with who he is.

"Those that don't know, now know," Guerriero said. "It's a small footnote to my personal story that we were so comfortable with that we thought we'd share it with you before you reported it."

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Sending our wishes for another great gay rodeo in Phoenix coming up January 18-20, 2002

along with our gratitude to the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) and all its supporters for helping fund HIV/AIDS awareness and services in southern Arizona.

Visit the TIHAN booth at the Road Runner Regional Rodeo 2002 on January 18-20, at Rawhide Wild West Town in Scottsdale, or we'll see you at Charlie's afterwards!

Poz Cafe, a monthly lunch and social program for persons living with HIV/AIDS in southern Arizona, is one of many great programs supported by proceeds from AGRA rodeos.

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FRIENDS

HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

Powerful Mars squares volcanic Pluto causing us to cast our best shots into the flowing lava. Will they harden into pumice or melt the ground beneath us? Better wear your hiking boots, just in case.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

That spark of enlightenment that sets the world on fire could be propane when fiery Mars squares nuclear Pluto. Avoid any grandiose displays that stir up the masses and then leave them in the lurch. Gay Rams are usually fearless pioneers who rush head first into battle. It is now advisable to use your head, look before you leap and avoid any plutonicon headaches. Aspirin anyone?

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Rainbow Bulls can rampage over the platonic battleline this week when feisty Mars squares transformative Pluto. Friendships can turn into much, much more in the passion of the planetary moment. Pluto takes no prisoners on your grand assault. Will it be a rocket trip to the moon on gossamer wings? Sweetheart, next week it may just be one of those spacy things.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

It is difficult to convince the powers that be that you're an evil corporate shark when you're such a mush with partners. Such are life's little ironies when Mars squares Pluto. Pink Twins are asked to manage the ebb and flow of relationships this week. Try to avoid being sucked into the whirlpool. You will need all your strength to grapple with the pinstripped gorillas instead.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Gay Crabs would rather play than work now. Chalk up this lethargy to the Mars square dance with Pluto which offers enticements to escape. But make sure that you're not leaving any loose ends before you leave. There is more verve than vision during this transit. Is there something that you are either not seeing or seeing incorrectly? Take another look, Sherlock.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Queer Lions are packing a pistol this week as feisty Mars squares hot Pluto. You are too hot to handle. The planets rev up the pleasure boat and skim the waters. Pluto encourages you to go one step too far though. Try to party within your means and your abilities. It's just one long, head over heels love fest this week, but will they respect you in the morning? Do you care?

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

The planets give you a new perspective on partnerships, sharing, family and personal space this week. This is good as long as you realize that this transit is fleeting and difficult. Don't overreact to seemingly intractable issues because Pluto and Mars are screaming now! now! now! Wait, wait, wait! Pluto is blocking a new light that you can cast in a dark corner next week.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Usually diplomatic Gay Libras lose their charming gift of glib at work this week if they become frustrated and angry. Count to ten and smile, cousin; the Pluto/Mars square could easily undo all the good will that you have been building over the past few months. Put your mouth into motion for more enjoyable pursuits and stay off work issues....unless you decide to work the room.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Pleasurable pastimes turn out to be much pricier than expected. Proud Scorps are not considered to be bon vivant spendaholics, but this week you have an itch to splurge on tawdry times. Chalk it up to the unstable Pluto/Mars square which revs you into frenzied party hearty mode and goads you to pull large denominations out of your billfold. No checks please.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Who you are can come into direct conflict with who your family would like you to be. Worlds collide. Blame it on the Mars/Pluto square which pushes any latent or long festering family problem to the foreground. Frankly, proud Archer, you have no issue to worry about. It's their problem. Just be your beautiful self and let the other world orbit around you.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Pink Caps can be fairly intuitive, but now during the Mars / Pluto square, your psychic signals get sidetracked. Avoid possible embarrassment by reigning in what you would normally say. This transit encourages you to blast your inspired nuclear missives from the rooftops without thinking about the fallout. The less you say, the wiser you will appear to be. Ain't it the truth!

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Hold onto your gotten gains when powerful Pluto squares off with volatile Mars. Naive Aqueerians want to save the entire world but wise ones learn to save a bit for themselves now. You're tempted to spend first and tally the damage later. Are compadres in need of a few bucks or some sage (read: free) advice? It may be hard to tell friend from freeloader now.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Guppies make quite a first impression this week when Pluto and Mars conspire to rip the seat of your pants just as all eyes turn your way. (Crotchless panties? Your call...) Meetings with the power cadre should be postponed until next week after the this unsettling transit has passed. In the game of corporate chutes and ladders, you could slide down into the sub-basement.

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Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00 pm

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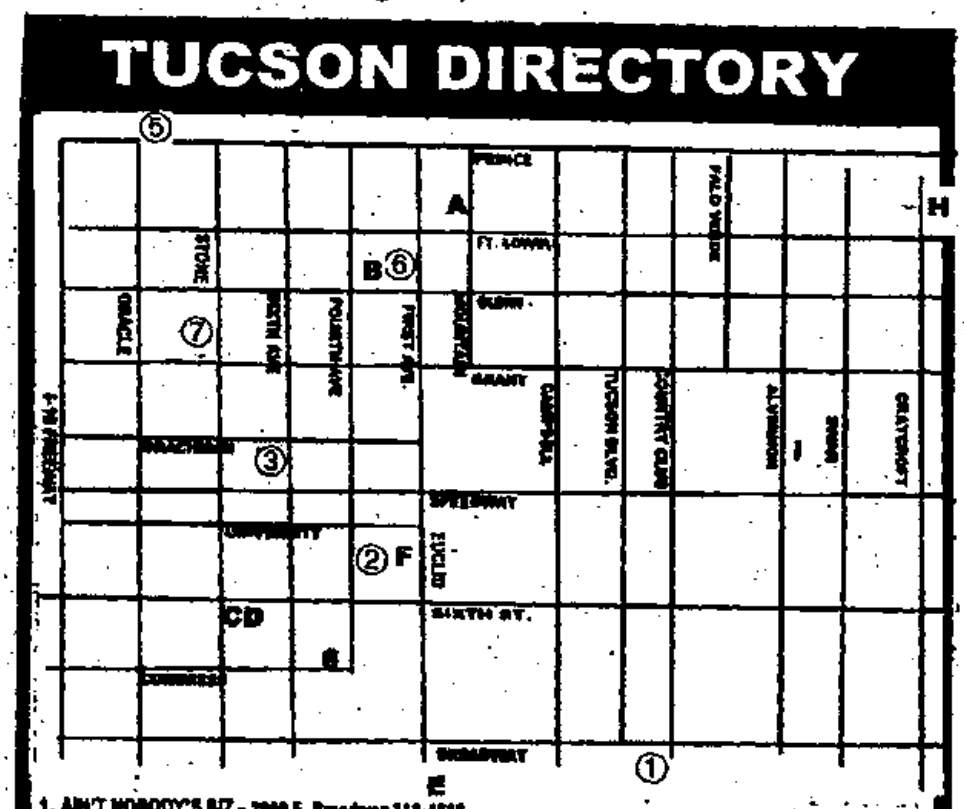

1. AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - 2000 E. Broadway 319-4836
2. INT'S - 616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
3. VENTURE-N - 1230 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. WOODY'S - 3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-8782
6. JAKE'S - 2021 N. First Ave., 624-8885
7. YARD DOG, 2440 N. Stone, 624-3858

CHECK THE BAR CALENDAR FOR DAILY SPECIALS

TAKE YOUR I.D. TO THE BARS It's The Law!

A. METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151
B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626
C. DESERT PRIDE - Gifts, Videos, etc.
300 E. 6th St. - 398-6628
D. WINGSPAN - 300 E. 6th St. - 624-1779
E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223
F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770
H. TUCSON TRUNK - Gifts, Cards, etc.
5805 E. River Road. - 529-8308
I. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
402 N. Alvernon, 298-8647

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Civil Unions Affirmed In Vermont Court

MONTPELIER, VT - Gay civil rights advocates across the country were handed a late holiday present with news the Vermont Supreme Court had turned aside a pair of challenges to the state's landmark civil unions law.

The Rutland Herald reports the decision not to hear the petitions was signed by all five of the court's justices. An anti-Gay coalition of conservative taxpayers, Republican legislators and a handful of disgruntled town clerks presented their objections to the court in November.

The plaintiffs filed two claims they hoped would lead to the law's repeal. The first centered on a group of 14 state House members who wagered $1 on the outcome of the civil union vote. Lawyer Matt Staver, representing the petitioners, argued state House rules prohibit members from voting on an issue in which they have a direct interest – in this case a $14 pot.

The other claim, filed by a small group of town clerks, charged the civil union law was an unjust state imposition on their free exercise of religion as it "forced" them to issue civil union licenses to Gay men and women, individuals they viewed immoral.

On the first point, the high court said it was up to the House to decide whether the legislators who placed the $1 bets should have been disqualified from the final vote tally. It said the dispute involved "matters constitutionally entrusted to the sound and exclusive judgment of the House, not to this court."

Vermont's Assistant Attorney General Bridget Asay, who defended the law before the court, said that both the House rules and Mason's rules of parliamentary procedure required that someone who believed a particular lawmaker had a conflict of interest was compelled to raise the issue at the time.

Asay noted a Republican lawmaker opposed to civil unions did complain at the end of the debate about the betting pool and consulted with then-House Speaker Michael Obuchowski, also a Republican. The next day Obuchowski concluded that, while the betting pool may have been unseemly, it was not sufficient to invalidate the vote's outcome.

As to the religious freedom argument, the justices said it was a "highly questionable proposition that a public official ... can retain public office while refusing to perform a generally applicable duty of that office on religious grounds."

The court also noted the law accommodates the town clerks' concerns by explicitly permitting them to appoint an assistant to issue the licenses if they personally feel uncomfortable officiating the civil union ceremony.

Erik Stanley, a lawyer for the anti-Gay petitioners, said they have no other legal recourse. "Really, I guess, the next option would be for the people of Vermont to go back to the Legislature and get the Legislature to deal with the problem by repealing the law or by enacting more stringent laws prohibiting gambling on the House floor," he said.

UPS Threatens Billy Doll Retailer

ATLANTA, GA - The United Parcel Service, the world's largest parcel carrier, is threatening legal action against the makers of the anatomically oversized Billy Doll for offering the adult novelty item in a brown uniform that looks suspiciously like those worn by UPS employees.

BeProud.com, which sells the Billy, Tyson and Carlos series of adult dolls, features the brown "BPS" uniform along with a series of other doll costumes. The Gay-owned company, based in Hanford, Calif., received a cease and desist letter in October, demanding it turn over all unsold merchandise bearing the "bps" logo for destruction.

Audy Morgan, co-owner of BeProud.com, said there was more to the letter than dry legalese. "There's no doubt in my mind that the language used in the letter was over the top," he said. "The attorney could have made his point and left it at that, but he decided to take it to another level and add his own two cents."

The letter notes that the Billy doll is anatomically correct – "grotesquely so."

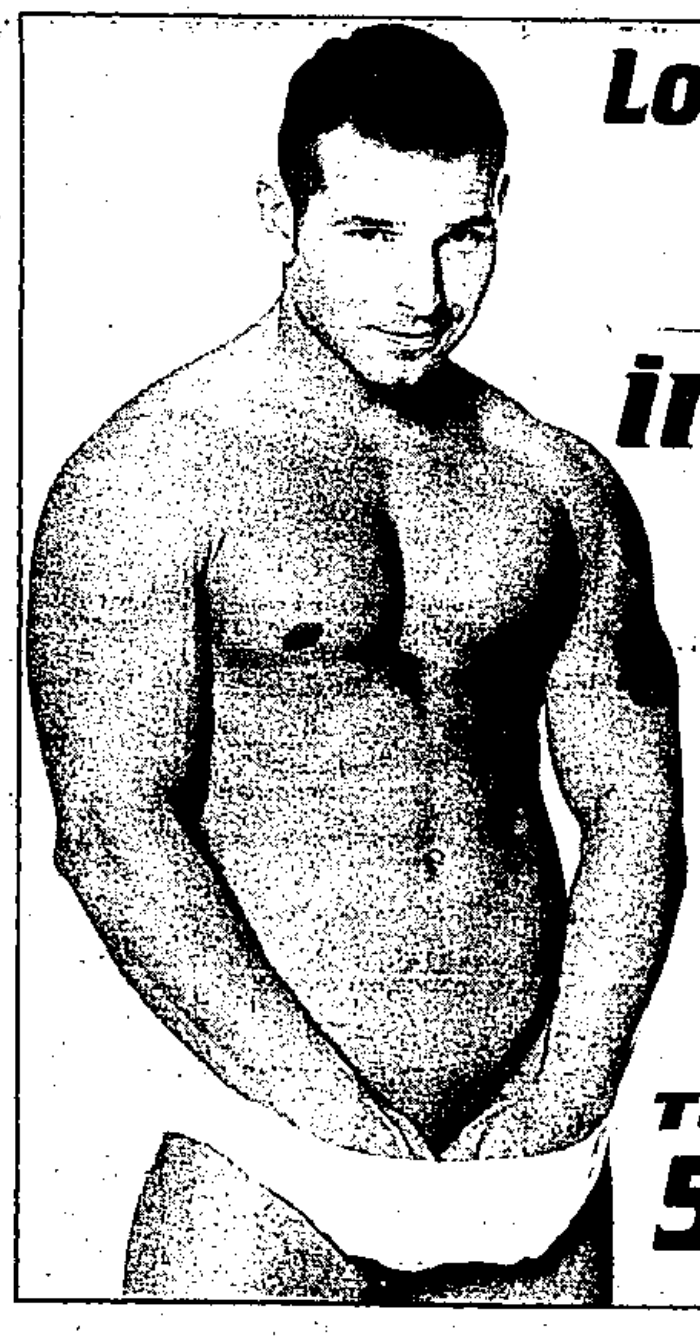
"No matter how humorous your company may consider the noxious doll, that product creates an undesirable, unwholesome and unsavory association with our client's well-known trademark," the letter reads.

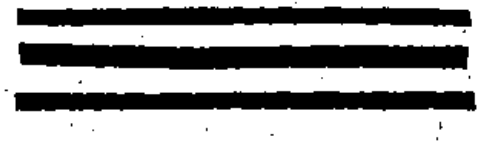
The outfit is nothing more than a simple parody, said Morgan, referring to the brown uniform worn by Billy with the initials "bps" – for Billy Parcel Service – inside a package logo.

"You can't have a parody unless you carry some similarities to the original," he said. "And there is no likelihood of the public confusing this doll with an official UPS product."

The company plans to continue selling the doll and will go to court should UPS follow through with a lawsuit, Morgan said. He noted ironically that all Billy dolls are shipped via United Parcel Service.

"How in the world can a male having a large penis hurt anyone's reputation?" Morgan said. "It's not our fault if some people at UPS feel insufficient compared to Billy."





Non-Bar Calendar
Groups / Clubs / Organizations

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Join Jorge for Dinner Out at one of Jorge's last minute choices. For details and reservations, please call Jorge at 690-9565.

Tucson Prime Timers, Breakfast at 9:00 A.M The Egg Connection 3114 E. Fort Lowell Rd., SE corner of Ft Lowell Rd. & Country Club.

Tucson Prime Timers, Video Night at 7:00 P.M. Movies with a non-pornographic Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11
7:00 P.M. Pot Luck Dinner for Man to Man members and prospective members. Call 881-4582 for info and sign up.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 a.m. Join Curt for a moderate hike (3-5 miles). This first hike will get your new year off to the right start. For more information, please contact Curt at 722-1842.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Marv will host Pinochle & Pizza beginning with a chance to share some pizza and meet and greet the other players over pizza ($5), followed by Pinochle at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13
Miss Gay Tucson USofA 2002 will take place tonight beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Flamingo Hotel, 1300 N. Stone Ave. Tickets at $10 in advance or $15 at the door. (Includes a free drink). For tickets and information call Jorge Reyna (520)322-0001 or Tori Steele (520)514-2410.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 318-1650.

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch at 1:00 P.M. The Wildcat House 1801 N. Stone Ave., South of Grant Rd.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Joe for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For directions or more info, please call Joe at 886-1536.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16
Pima County HIV/AIDS Consortium quarterly meeting from 5:00to 6:30 p.m. at Cope Behavioral Services, 101 S. Stone in conference room B on the second floor. For more information call Beth carey or Jay Moman (520)770-0800.

Tucson Prime Timers, Video Night at 7:00 P.M. Movies with a non-pornographic Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for Pizza Night, as we enjoy an evening of good food and camaraderie with the guys. This month, the party will be on the east side of town. For reservations and directions, please call Joe at 546-9685.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 a.m. Join Rick and Jack for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Rick at 818-1616, or Jack at 881-5733.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch/Business Meeting at 12:00 Noon. The Hometown Buffet 5101 N. Oracle Rd., Just north of River Rd.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 a.m. Join Curt for a moderate hike (3-5 miles). For more information, please contact Curt at 722-1842.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 318-1650.

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch at 1:00 P.M. The Wildcat House 1801 N. Stone Ave., South of Grant Rd.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Joe for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For directions or more info, please call Joe at 886-1536.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Tom 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 Tom at 326-6196.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23
Tucson Prime Timers, Video Night at 7:00 P.M. Movies with a non-pornographic Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24
#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 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.

Tantra video 8:00 p.m. Have more passion in our life and improve relationships. Call Marc 881-4582 for more information.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of the "All Over the Guy", a comedy drama about a blind date with two guys who don't seem like a good fit. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The boys are back in town!-Join us for the new season of "Queer As Folk" as we show the first 2 episodes if the 2nd season. For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch at 1:00 P.M. Red Sky Cafe 1661 N. Swan Rd., SW corner of Swan and Pima Rds.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Bill will host Pinochle & Pizza Night beginning with a chance to share some pizza and meet and greet the other players over pizza ($5), followed by Pinochle at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call Bill at 297-3569.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 a.m. The latest birding expedition gives you the chance to see the Sandhill cranes that make an annual trek through the area. For directions and more information, please call Gene at 625-8109.

SeniorRap from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. An open discussion group addressing the interests and needs of senior LGBTs. All genders are welcome.

New Men's Message Group 3:45 -6:00 p.m. A great way to meet new men. Fee. Call 881-4582

MONDAY, JANUARY 28
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 318-1650.

Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch at 1:00 P.M. The Wildcat House 1801 N. Stone Ave., South of Grant Rd.

9:00 p.m. Full Moon Slumber Party. Call Marc at 881-4582.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Joe for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For directions or more info, please call Joe at 886-1536.

Tucson Prime Timers . Dinner at 6:00 P.M. El Graco Grecian Gardens 4635 E. Fort Lowell Rd., Just West of Swan Rd.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry and Les for the MSN Premiere of "Chocolat", a charming film about an unconventional woman who settles down in a very conventional village. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

Tucson Prime Timers, Video Night at 7:00 P.M. Movies with a non-pornographic Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0620

BAR CALENDAR
OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9
IBT'S - "A Night Of Comedy" with Lucinda Holliday and Ajia Simone.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12
JAKE'S - Miss Gay Tucson USofA pre-Pageant show and Party starting at 6:00 p.m. Watch for details.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13
IBT'S - Smirnoff Sunday - Smirnoff in the Well all day. Jeff's Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. $1.50 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. 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 Reveille Gy Men's Chorus. Then at 9:00 p.m. it's "Vanilla Sky" Soundtract CD Release Party. Free raffle of "Vanilla Sky" memorabilia and CD's. 9:00 p.m. to close $2.50 Stoli Vanil; $2.00 Skyy Vodka drink specials.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16
IBT'S - 9:00 P.M. "Dive-Licious" presents Phoenix Nite at IBT's hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Barbra Seville and Phaedra.

JANUARY 17 - 21
VENTURE-N - La Fiesta De Los Osos is being celebrated here for five days. Check it out!

MONDAY, JANUARY 21
IBT'S - New Order CD Release Party.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28
IBT'S - Stevie Nicks CD Release Party.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14-Valentine's Day
YARD DOG SALOON - Big 1st Anniversary Mardi Gras Party here. Watch for more details.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday
AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers. Latin Music with DJ Hill 8:30 to close. Shot specials all night.

IBT's - 9am-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 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well 1.75.

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

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
AINT NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Football Madness $1.75. 75¢ drafts 8 to close. No Cover.

IBT's - 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. 9pm to close, 'Undie Mundie' Happy Hour prices for those in their undies. Plus, small pitchers Bud/Bud Light $1.50. DJ Raynman plays house music 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 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 8am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Tuesday
AINT 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 Bottle Bud products. 8-close. Country music with DJs. 8:30-1

IBT's - 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.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. 7pm Dart Tournament with Doc. Trivia Party 8pm-1. Top score on NTN per game wins special prizes. $3 Zombies, Jungle Juice or Mai Tai.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Wednesday
AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 2-7. Beer Bash $1.25 Pitchers Bud/Bud Light 8-close. Dance music 9-close.

IBT's - 9am to 4pm, $2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-7pm. $1.50 well & domestic 4-8pm All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm. Patio Bar open 7pm-Midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Vodka until 7pm Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Thursday
AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS -Karaoke w/Stephanie 9-close. $2 Kamikazees and $1 Hot Sex.

IBT's - 9am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour $1.75 Well & domestic 4-9, $1.50 well and domestic 7-9pm. Hi NRG dancing 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75. Dance Room open 9pm-1am. Latino Night.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. 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 8am.50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Friday
AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free food at 5:30pm. Dance music 8:30-1 w/DJ Hill. Drink specials all night.

IBT's - 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.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75. Dance Room open 9pm - 1am. Country Music Nite

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7pm.

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

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Saturday
AINT NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 8:30pm $3 entry. Pot matched. $2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ Hill 8:30-close.

IBT's - 9am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm plus live Jazz on the patio 6-9 with Susan Artemis and Tracy York. Dance 9-1. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Well $1.75. Dance Room open 9pm - 1am. House Dance Nite

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour 3-7pm. Pool Tourney 2pm. Patio Bar & Volleyball Court open 6:30 - close. Steak & fish Fry 5-9pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish with trimmings & roll $4.50

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, $2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

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NOTICES

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 298-6647.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays 1 to 2pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-6676 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 and 4th 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 Ernie Slaight 721-2003.

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 Jennifer at 792-4607, Ext.398

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyan@theriver.com and request guidelines.

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Wednesday at 6:03 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI. The show "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show is aired at 5:30 pm every Wednesday.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 886-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 18th year! (2nd in Tucson).

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

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

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

DESERT DOMINION TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational, Educational, Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, D&S and TV community. For more info call (520)792-6424 or http://www.desertdominion.org

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS - a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-8219 (Phoenix)

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

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-8624.

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 617-3100 for more info.

TGNetArizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-variant communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tgnetarizona.org - e-mail address: algoodrum@uswest.net org

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.

"OUT ON THE TRAILS" - EQUESTRIAN FUN! Rider Club forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: "Out On The Trails" P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

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. 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 575-8680 or write P.O. Box 36284, Tucson, AZ 85740-6284. All replies confidential.

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, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

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

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

SUPPORT GROUP: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals meet weekly for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Meetings Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 43. For more information call the church at 299-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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)225-0444.

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)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.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.

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 at 888-6541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 561-8850 or Ronn 968-2364.

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

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

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

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

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Phamily! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 or David 323-7943.

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 791-9862.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #345, 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 690-0585 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

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.

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.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7895 or go to our web site http://www.tgasoftball.org

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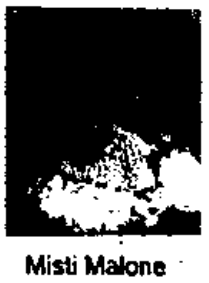
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Study Finds Gays & Straights Equally Happy

LOS ANGELES, CA - Researchers have learned that Gay and straight adults in the United States are equally happy with their overall quality of life.

Led by David L. Weis, a professor of family and consumer sciences at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, the research team wanted to test the idea that GLBT people in general are less happy than straight people due to discrimination and difficult life circumstances, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

Data was collected from seven surveys conducted by the National Opinion Research Center, and the results were published in the Journal of Sex Research.

"We found little support for the idea that as a group, Gays and Bisexuals face more serious problems than do other groups," Weis said. "Whatever affects quality of life is more complex than that."

Approximately 1,500 survey participants self-evaluated various quality-of-life issues, such as recent moods, overall life satisfaction and physical and mental health. They also had to identify themselves as heterosexual, homosexual, Bisexual or not sexually active.

The study did not ask GLBT participants if they were "out of the closet" or not, and the researchers noted that those who are not out may experience a lower quality of life.

Initial reactions from GLBT mental health professionals were mixed.

Dr. Robert P. Cabaj, a psychiatrist who is a former president of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), expressed some reservation about the report.

"Quality of life is difficult to measure and does not exclude having problems," he said via e-mail. "People who are oppressed may believe that they have no other option and therefore report satisfaction with life. Also, many GLBT may expect to have barriers and discomfort as part of their lives and therefore do not factor that in when evaluating quality of life."

Another psychiatrist, Dr. Jerrold Polansky, who chairs the education committee for the board of GLMA, said: "If the methodology is solid, the conclusion that happiness is more complex than the gender of the person one has sex with certainly makes sense from my experience with treating heterosexual, homosexual and Bisexual people."

Larry Kramer Released From Hospital

PITTSBURGH, PA - AIDS activist and author Larry Kramer has been discharged from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, two weeks after he underwent a liver transplant.

The Associated Press reports Kramer, 66, will remain in Pittsburgh for several more weeks so doctors can monitor his condition until he's well enough to return home to New York, hospital officials said.

A report published and circulated over the wires by the news agency on Dec. 26, erroneously claimed that Kramer had died after he was moved from intensive care. The story was later retracted.

A spokeswoman at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center said Kramer was transferred without incident after the operation and moved to a private room in the liver transplant inpatient unit. His doctors reported then his condition was progressing as expected.

"He's doing extremely well," hospital spokeswoman Lisa Rossi said shortly after he was discharged this week. He left the hospital, accompanied by his friend Rodger McFarlane, the former director of Gay Men's Health Crisis, an AIDS organization Kramer helped found.

Kramer has spent the last seven months on the Pittsburgh Medical Center's waiting list for a liver. He moved to Pittsburgh in early November so that a transplant operation could be performed the moment one became available.

Kramer's HIV has been relatively well controlled, but he has suffered recently from end-stage liver failure caused by hepatitis B.

Kramer is the author of the plays "The Normal Heart" and "The Destiny of Me" and books about the front line of AIDS and Gay activism. His screenplay for the 1969 film "Women in Love" was nominated for an Academy Award.