

Rosie O'Donnell Comes Out Discusses G/L Parenting

MIAMI, FL - Entertainer Rosie O'Donnell went on network television and revealed more than the fact that she is a Lesbian. What she most wanted to share with millions of American viewers was her experiences as a Lesbian mom.

"I don't think America knows what a Gay parent looks like: I am the Gay parent," she told ABC News' Diane Sawyer in an interview, the centerpiece to a two-hour broadcast about Gay adoption in the United States.

O'Donnell has three adopted children - Parker, 6, Chelsea, 4, and Blake, 2. - and says she is in "a committed, long-term life relationship" with her partner of four years, Kelli Carpenter. She decided to go public principally, she said, to rally opposition to Florida's ban on Gay adoption.

"It took me a while to understand and to figure out all that things that made me me, where I was most comfortable, who I was, and how I was going to define my life," she said about her sexual orientation. "I found the coat that fit me."

Being a Lesbian she said, has never been nor is now "a big deal" for her. "Part of the reason why I've never said that I was Gay until now was because I didn't want that adjective assigned to my name for all of eternity. You know, Gay Rosie O'Donnell..." "I wanted there to be a reason," she said.

Fighting Florida's ban gave her the reason she needed, she said, and like so many kids issues in the past, O'Donnell made it her cause because of how strongly she feels about it.

The case in Florida revolves around Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau, who are raising five HIV-positive children, three of whom are foster kids. The state of Florida recently informed them they had to relinquish one of their foster children whom they have raised for 10 years. Lofton and Croteau would like to adopt Bert, but Florida law prohibits it.

O'Donnell read about the Lofton-Croteau case and said during the interview her thoughts went immediately to her eldest son Parker. "My Lord, if somebody came to me now and said, 'We're going to take him now because you're Gay,' my world would collapse. I'm lucky to have adopted my children, not in the state that I live, Florida. I'm lucky, because otherwise I would be in danger of losing my children."

"I know I'm a really good mother. I know it. I'm a really good mother. And I have every right to parent this child," she said. "It takes a lot to become a foster parent. You have to really want to save a child

who others have deemed unsaveable. And for the state of Florida to tell anyone who's willing, capable, and able to do that, that they're unworthy, is wrong."

Asked to comment on President Bush's statement that he thinks children ought to be adopted only by a man and a woman who are married, O'Donnell said simply, "He's wrong. President Bush is wrong about that. And you know, if he'd like, he and his wife are invited to come spend a weekend at my house with my children. And I'm sure his mind would change."

GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry said of the telecast: "Last night's show broadened America's understanding of the reality of and Lesbian families. Diane Sawyer's approach to this issue was both simple and boldly original: instead of presenting the issue of adoption through the stale cultural controversy over sexual orientation, she approached it from the perspective of the best interests of children. And the facts are now indisputable: there are people who are parents; they can be good parents; and when you talk to their kids, you'll learn first-hand just how healthy, loved and cared-for they are."

Rosie's conversation with Diane Sawyer was exactly what you'd expect from Rosie - she was genuine, heartfelt and passionate. Her coming out has fostered greater understanding of who we are as moms and dads, as sons and daughters, and as families. That's the gift Rosie's given to her kids and to Lesbian families across the nation - and she's just getting started.

"I don't know how anyone could have watched and listened to the stories of the Lofton-Croteau children without seeing the amazing love and care and devotion they receive from their dads. We hope that the continuing media attention to the ACLU's challenge of the Florida adoption ban will not only enlighten the American public, but also move people to get involved on behalf of these families."

ASOs Tell Bush 'AIDS Is A Security Issue'

WASHINGTON, DC - Calling the AIDS epidemic an urgent "national security issue," a coalition of major AIDS service organizations urged President George W. Bush to fight AIDS as aggressively as he has fought terrorism.

In a letter to the president a day before the first meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on AIDS (PACHA), the coalition said: "There are few other issues facing our nation and the world that need

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Dog Mauling Case In Jury's Hands

LOS ANGELES, CA - The trial of two San Francisco attorneys in the dog mauling death of a neighbor went to the jury after the judge threatened to jail a defense attorney for an improper objection.

In his final rebuttal, prosecutor Jim Hammer attacked defense attorney Nedra Ruiz for calling victim Diane Whipple's domestic partner a liar. But he said he wouldn't respond to Ruiz's allegation that he was trying to curry favor with San Francisco's homosexual community, reported the Associated Press.

"I am not going to give Ms. Ruiz the dignity of a response to her charge. ... I think it's all a diversionary tactic," Hammer said.

The panel received the case at midmorning after final instructions from the judge.

Marjorie Knoller, 46, was charged with second-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter and owning a mischievous dog that killed a person. She could receive 15 years in prison if convicted. Her husband, Robert Noel, 60, faces the latter two charges and could face up to four years. He wasn't home when Whipple was fatally mauled in January 2001.

The defense said the attack was a tragic accident and could not have been foreseen, but prosecutors said the couple's dogs were well known to be dangerous.

At one point Ruiz stood and objected to Hammer's recounting of evidence about whether a dog was on a leash. Superior Court Judge James L. Warren chastised her in front of the jury and warned her that another improper objection could put her in "a holding cell."

Whipple, 33, was attacked by Bane, one of her neighbors' two presa canario dogs, in the hallway of her San Francisco apartment building on Jan. 26, 2001. A second dog, Hera, was present but its role remained unclear. Both dogs were put to death.

Knoller's attorney hauled out bags of evidence she claimed were not adequately displayed, suggesting Hammer was hiding things.

"Maybe he wants to curry favor with the homosexual and Gay folks who are picketing ... and demanding justice for Diane Whipple," Ruiz said.

But Hammer argued that the dogs were "time bombs" waiting to go off. He said there were plenty of warnings that the dogs were violent, including incidents in which the animals lunged at people on the street and at the couple's apartment build-

ing. "It was perfectly foreseeable and they didn't stop it," he said of Knoller and Noel. "They got off on it some way — power trips."

"Do not let them get away with their lies and don't let Marjorie Knoller get away with murder," Hammer said.

The prosecutor also showed photos of Knoller's cut hands after Whipple's death. The defendant claimed the injuries were sustained when Knoller tried to save Whipple by jumping on her during the assault.

"My mother gets worse wounds gardening," the prosecutor said. "Compare those to what happened to Diane Whipple."

Ruiz, in her closing arguments, said her client didn't know the dogs could become killers. Ruiz also accused the victim's domestic partner, Sharon Smith, of lying when she testified that Whipple suffered a previous bite by one of the dogs and feared them.

"Sharon Smith has every right to sue for the wrongful death of her girlfriend," Ruiz said. "But she has no right to come here with false testimony and try to frame Marjorie Knoller for murder."

Bruce Hotchkiss, Noel's lawyer, took a more measured approach. Showing jurors a virtual family album of the dogs' life with the couple, he portrayed them as beloved pets whose behavior would not have triggered warnings of trouble ahead.

Amnesty International Renews Call For Egypt to Release Men Imprisoned On Sexual Orientation Charges

CAIRO, EGYPT - As the appeal case of four men sentenced to three years' imprisonment for their actual or perceived sexual orientation opens before a Cairo Court of Appeal, Amnesty International has renewed its call for the immediate and unconditional release of all those imprisoned on the grounds of sexual identity, stating that the trial never should have taken place.

The men, who have been in detention since their arrest in November 2001, were charged with "habitual debauchery." An Amnesty International delegate attended the concluding session in

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UPDATE

Information Sought In Phoenix Crimes

PHOENIX - In collaboration with the Phoenix Police Department and the AZ Hate Crimes Task Force, the Arizona Human Rights Fund, (AHRF) is seeking information on the homicide of Raymond Soos. Raymonds' body was found in the desert area near North Cave Road and East Jomax Road on Saturday, February 16, 2002, at 7:02 a.m. Soos, a 24 year old Native American Gay male was last seen by his family Friday evening.

"The extensive injuries on Raymond's body are severe enough to call the question of whether this is a hate crime. The police department needs more information to solve this homicide," stated Dilia Loe, Executive Director of AHRF.

Contact the Silent Witness line (480) 948-6377. A \$1,000 cash reward has been posted for any information that will help solve this crime. Callers will remain anonymous.

More information is also sought for the homicide of Alejandro Ray Lucero, a Transgender male to female. Alejandro's body was found on March 3, 6:45 a.m. in the alley near 18th St and Thomas Road.

In addition to these two crimes, AHRF has received information of an openly Lesbians high school student that was abducted and beaten by other students as she left her school.

"We are concerned about the increase of bias or hate crimes in the area. We caution the community to be mindful of their surroundings. AHRF staff continues to work closely with the police departments throughout the state.

In addition, we are lobbying for the passage of a bill that would include misdemeanors in the established hate crimes law," states Loe.

Please contact Kirk Baxter at AHRF, (602) 650-0900, for questions or comments. More information will be posted on the AHRF website as it is reported - www.ahr.org.

GLSEN Seeks Teenagers For Video Project

GLSEN is making a movie about GLBT issues in junior and senior high school. They need teenaged students to be interviewed on film for the project. A signed parental release is required. Filming commences this month. For information about the film project, E-mail: GLSENtucsonFILM@aol.com, or call (520) 730-4113.

Observer In Partnership With 'Out In America'

TUCSON - In the interest of providing the latest local news to its users, the Out in America Cities Network has partnered with the Gay and Lesbian news weekly, The Tucson Observer, making the site OutinTucson.com a complete web experience for the Tucson GLBT community.

The Out in America Cities Network provides Gay and Lesbian users with a unique web experience as the internet's only collective of Gay-specific city sites. With city sites ranging from OutinSeattle.com to OutinBoston.com, the interactive web community offers local news, net radio, arts reviews, personals, classifieds, advice and humor columns, cartoon serials, giveaways, promotions, member photos, profiles and more to over 2 million GLBT users every month.

It's local site, OutinTucson.com, will now feature Tucson Observer content every week in its local news section. "Our websites recognize the presence of local Gay communities," said Out in America Senior Editor Andy Seahill. "Strong Gay communities are popping up in cities all over the country, while national Gay papers and websites still focus on LA or New York City for news. Now with the addition of the Tucson Observer, the Gay community of Tucson can have a complete, informative and interactive web experience to call their own."

With this Out in America partnership, the Tucson Observer joins with some of the premiere Gay and Lesbian publications in the country, including the Gay People's Chronicle in Ohio, The Las Vegas Bugle, The Midwest Times in Kansas, OUT-Sight Magazine in New York and Outlook Press in Tulsa.

Rainbow Support Group Update

TUCSON - Organizers announced that the 14 year-old Rainbow Support Group open to the LGBT Community and supportive friends will have a new format beginning in April 2002.

To accommodate the ongoing needs for support and sharing, the group will meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in Room 42 at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church. The group will no longer meet the 1st or the 5th Thursdays of the month. However, we will be meeting the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. (starting April 18) at the Rainbow Planet Colfechouse, 606 North 4th Ave. This meeting will be a social time for people to meet and talk and will allow the group to better meet the needs of the LGBT community.

The owner of the Rainbow Planet Colfechouse has graciously extended one of their new meeting rooms to us. Come on down and join us at Rainbow Planet or St. Francis on a Thursday evening. The Rainbow Support Group is sponsored by the Reconciling Committee of St. Francis UMC. For more information please call the Church office (520) 299-9063 for the contact person.

Observer: Facts vs. Fiction

TUCSON - The Observer, Tucson's GLBT weekly newspaper has been around for a long time, providing information on the current events to the Old Pueblo and the Southwest. Tucsonobserver.com, the online edition has been up and going for several years, but despite the time and the numerous editions printed and uploaded to the Internet, some misconceptions still abound, unfortunately.

First, the Observer uses WordPerfect to create/edit the weekly stories that are in both the print and online editions. What does this mean? The Observer can't open Microsoft Word attachments sent via E-mail. Time is wasted attempting to open the attachment and putting it into form. If the attachment is sent as a WordPerfect document or done as a cut and paste in the E-mail body itself, it would help the process along.

Second, the Observer does have its own E-mail address, info@tucsonobserver.com, for which items sent to it are forwarded to the Editor/Publisher, and the Associate Editor. So if you wish to send a press release, etc., send it to: info@tucsonobserver.com. If you haven't, change your online address books to this E-mail address. This would benefit everyone.

Third, the Observer gladly accepts letters to the editor, good, bad or indifferent, and publishes them, hopefully getting the readership to think about issues and events, local, national or otherwise. Some people though think sending multiple letters to be published in one week works but that's a big piece of fiction. It's one letter from one individual a week, and that is the fact on this.

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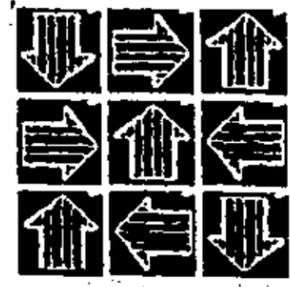


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Military Discharges of Gays & Lesbians Surge In 2001

WASHINGTON, DC - Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), an independent military watchdog and legal aid group, has criticized Pentagon and White House leaders for failing to curb anti-Gay harassment and discharges, citing a record number of discharges and harassment complaints during 2001.

According to SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn, "the discharge and harassment numbers are an affront to liberty, unity and military readiness. As Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual service members are fighting to protect our country from terrorism," Osburn said, "they should not be denied their freedom at home. Congress should repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

According to Department of Defense figures, the Pentagon fired a record 1,250 men and women - or 3-4 service members every day - for being Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual. The figure is the highest number of Gay discharges since 1987, seven years prior to the implementation of the Pentagon's current anti-Gay policy, known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The current policy requires Gay service members to keep their sexual orientation secret, or face expulsion from the armed forces.

The discharge figures were published today in "conduct Unbecoming", SLDN's annual report on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The report finds that the discharges were due, in large part, to record high anti-Gay harassment. The report cites 1075 incidents of anti-Gay harassment in 2001, up from 871 in 2000.

The report also finds that the

armed forces, throughout every branch, have virtually ignored a July 2000 Pentagon "Anti-Harassment Action Plan." The plan, adopted by then-Secretary of Defense William Cohen, called for annual, rank appropriate training for all personnel, among twelve other recommendations aimed specifically at curbing harassment. The Action Plan was developed in response to the murder of PFC Barry Winchell, in July 1999, by fellow soldiers who thought Winchell was Gay. The Bush Administration, the report says, has failed to implement the Action Plan, giving implicit approval for the continued harassment of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual service personnel. "It is nothing short of scandalous," Osburn said, "that the leaders of our country, through their blatant inaction, have demonstrated such callous disregard for our service members."

Until military officials are held accountable for harassment," the SLDN report says, and until their jobs are on the line, lives will continue to be ruined. Sadly, it is reasonable to foresee that, as the current Administration continues to do nothing, and bury its head in the sand, there could be yet another anti-Gay murder in our armed forces," the report cautions.

Despite Winchell's murder, the SLDN report finds that Army officials have failed to make substantial changes in improving harassment or discharge numbers. SLDN documented a record 513 incidents of anti-Gay harassment in the Army during the past year, the most of any service.

The Army also led all other branches in anti-Gay discharges for 2001, with

an alarming 616 men and women in the Army losing their jobs. Discharges from Fort Campbell totaled 222, more than any other Army installation, and 36% of total Army discharges. While the report gives the base's new commander, Major General Richard Cody, credit for taking proactive steps to improve base climate, it also alleges that "[Some Fort Campbell leaders continue to perpetuate anti-Gay attitudes within their units by tolerating hateful anti-Gay remarks." SLDN has made specific recommendations to Fort Campbell leaders for curbing harassment and reducing the number of discharges from the base, but it is unclear whether officials have adopted or implemented those recommendations. "The story in the Army this year," the report finds, "is about failed leadership and callous indifference."

In FY 2001, the Air Force discharged 191 service members (up from 177 in 2000). Navy discharges totaled 314 (down from 358 in 2000). The Marine Corps discharged 115 men and women (up 114), and the Coast Guard discharges for 2001 totaled 14 (down from 19 in 2000). These numbers do not include discharges during 'Operation Enduring Freedom,' as the Pentagon's fiscal year concludes on September 30th. Though stop-loss orders were implemented in wake of the war, those orders explicitly required continued processing of Gay discharges.

Ultimately, the ban on Gays in the military must be lifted," the report says, "and the United States must join the rest of the industrialized western nations who have abandoned their policies of discrimination.

[This policy] undercuts the very liberties and freedoms our military members fight to protect. It is time for discrimination in our nation's military to go."

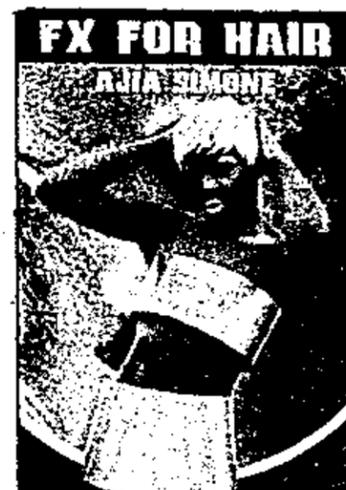
Among the report's other findings:

Women continue to be discharged at a rate nearly twice their presence in the service. While women comprise approximately 14% of the total force strength, 30% of Gay discharges were women. Most alarming is information SLDN has received that 43% of the Air Force's 191 Gay discharges were women.

Discharges at the Navy Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, South Carolina, dropped significantly, from

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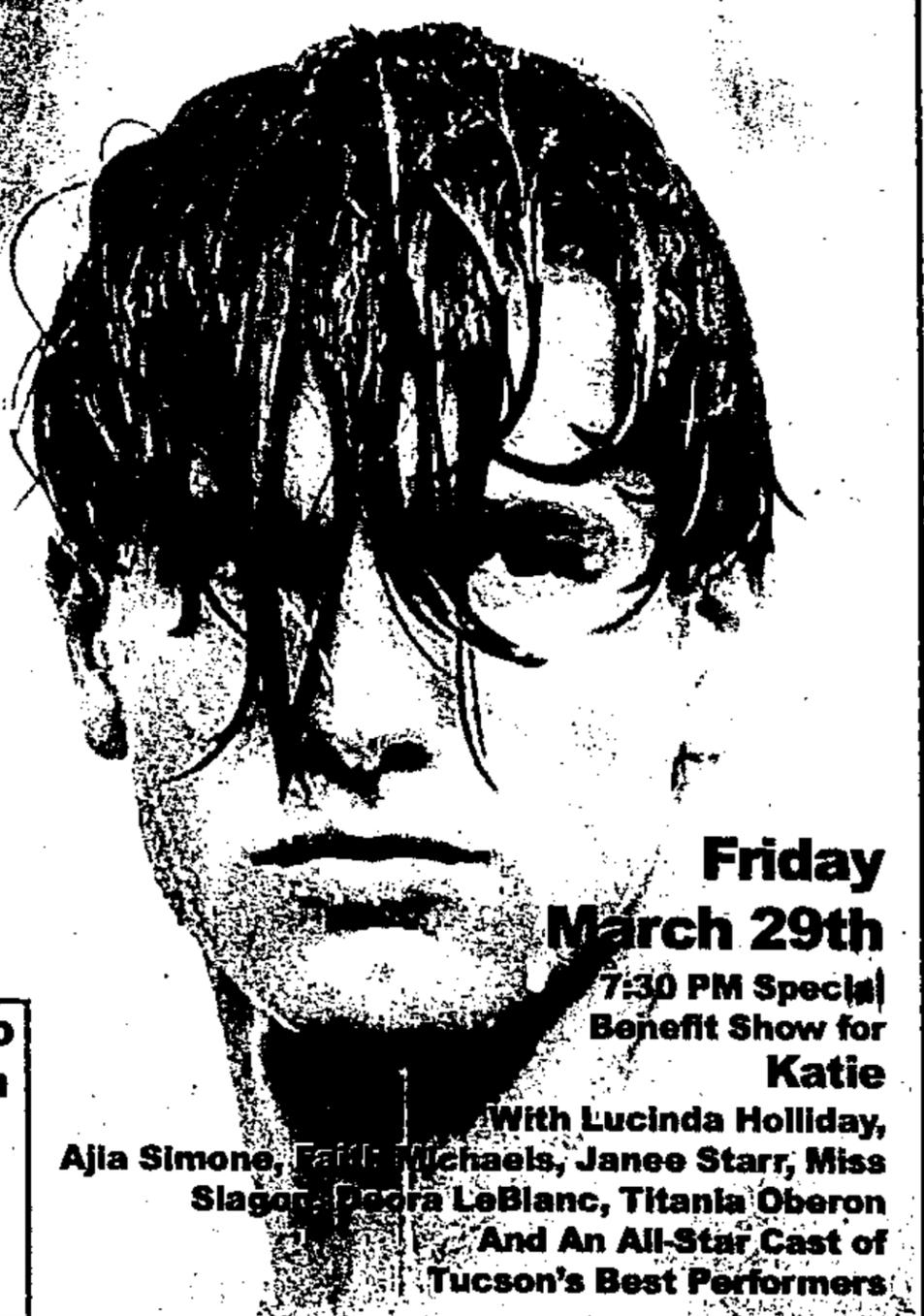


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Studies Reveal New Data On Lesbian STDs

SEATTLE, WA - Research released at a conference of medical officials suggests that Lesbians get sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) at a similar rate to heterosexual women, and may be more susceptible to an unpleasant disorder called bacterial vaginosis.

But Lesbians aren't fully aware of the risks, said Dr. Jeanne Mrazzco, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Washington at Seattle who studies STDs and runs a related Web site, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

"There's not a lot of really specific knowledge," she said. "There's little really good educational information about what's happening."

Researchers released hundreds of reports at the annual STD conference sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. While many looked at concerns of Gay men, less than a handful dealt specifically with Lesbians.

In one, researchers in Chicago found that 16 percent of 230 Lesbian and Bisexual women surveyed reported that they had had an STD in their lives. That's comparable to the rate among heterosexual women, said the researchers, who work for the University of Chicago, the Howard Brown Health Center and the city of Chicago's Department of Gay & Lesbian Health.

The women were surveyed at a street fair and a Black Gay, Pride event. Seventy percent were black, and the rest were white; 35 percent said they'd never been tested for an STD.

Too many doctors ignore the STD issue during visits, Mrazzco said. "Providers don't know the first thing about what to tell these women because there's not enough data," she said.

The survey found that women who reported having had an STD were more likely to have had sex with men in their lifetimes. If a woman reported having sex with a man, she was three times more likely to have ever been tested for an STD.

Last year, in another study, researchers at the University of Minnesota found that 13 percent of 39 Lesbians surveyed had suffered from an STD, even though all those surveyed said they'd never slept with a man.

Experts consider Lesbians to be at risk for a variety of STDs, including chlamydia, genital warts, pelvic inflammatory disease and trichomoniasis, also known as trich, which can cause vaginal itching and burning. Lesbians also can get the human papillomavirus (HPV), which can lead to cervical cancer.

Some experts worry that Lesbians don't get enough Pap smears -- tests that detect early cancer -- because they are assumed to be immune due to their lack of male sex partners. In fact, an estimated 80-95 percent of Lesbians have slept with men.

Lesbians can avoid some risk from each other by not sharing sex toys or by cleaning them after use by a single person, experts say.

In another report released at the conference, Mrazzco said 25 percent of

Lesbians suffer from bacterial vaginosis, a higher rate than among straight women, of whom 9-12 percent appear to be infected.

It's not entirely clear how the disease is transmitted. Even so, "both members of Lesbian couples are very likely to have it (if one has it)," Mrazzco said.

While it doesn't get a lot of attention, vaginosis is the most common reason for women to visit the doctor, she said.

Vaginosis disrupts the "ecosystem" of the genital area, making it more hostile to healthy bacteria, she said. The symptoms include genital discharge, itching and unpleasant odor.

It's not clear why Lesbians suffer more from vaginosis than straight women. Sufferers usually don't have serious side effects, but the disease can cause major problems during pregnancy.

Vaginosis is treatable, but women often get the symptoms confused with yeast infection and use medication that doesn't kill off the disorder, Mrazzco said.

Military Discharges

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72, or 23%, of the Navy's total Gay discharges, in 2000 to 28 in 2001. The command has refused to explain why its discharges were so high in 2000 or what steps it took in 2001 to reduce the discharge rate.

Fort Bragg, North Carolina, reported only four Gay-related discharges in 2001, down from 29 in 2000. Two recent SLDN clients from Fort Bragg received discharges that were labeled for "completion of required service," despite the fact that neither had completed their term of enlistment. The SLDN report finds that Fort Bragg may be misrepresenting its total Gay discharges and the organization has called for an investigation.

The SLDN report also raises the possibility that officials at Lackland Air Force Base (LAFB) are counting Gay discharges as entry level separations. According to the SLDN report, in 1999, LAFB had 221 Gay discharges. Those numbers tumbled to 37 in 2000, but SLDN has received unconfirmed reports indicating the drop may be attributable to counting what are actually Gay discharges as entry level separations. The Air Force has repeatedly refused to provide information about its entry level separations.

Will & Grace Renewed Through 2005

HOLLYWOOD, CA (GFN) - NBC said Thursday it has renewed the top-rated comedy "Will & Grace" through the 2004-05 season. NBC will pay more than \$300 million for the honor of holding onto the award-winning show for three more seasons.

The network will pay in-house producer NBC Studios a license fee of about \$4 million per episode to keep the show on the air through May 2005, the end of the show's seventh season. That compares with a current license fee of about \$1 million per episode.

The new deal makes "Will & Grace" the network's fourth-most expensive series, behind "ER" (about \$8 million),

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COMMENTARY

By R. Zeke Fread

G/L Citizens Denied Equality By 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund

I have been outraged many times with the disgraceful and reprehensible treatment of the Gay and Lesbian citizens of our country. Upon learning of the final decision by Ken Feinberg, Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, on who will be eligible to receive compensation. My outrage and anger has never been more intense. Feinberg, who appeared on NBC News Meet the Press, on Sunday March 10, discussed the details on the dollar amounts in compensation and those who are deemed eligible to be compensated by the fund. Some of those who Feinberg stated were declared as eligible fund recipients, had me screaming at the top of my lungs at my television. I can't print my exact words, needless to say, they were extremely offensive at the least. This is a list of who is eligible, when you see who is included and excluded, you'll understand my utter disgust. Eligible Family Members: Spouses, Children, Infants, Fetuses, Illegal and Undocumented Aliens. Yes, Feinberg and Attorney General Ashcroft, have voided federal laws on illegal and undocumented aliens, in order for them to receive compensation, without fear of arrest or deportation. Now, I am not against these people who suffered a loss on 9/11, to receive compensation. My point is, to circumvent federal law to compensate non-citizens and to refuse to do the same to state law for U.S. citizens, is a travesty of our justice system. To not guarantee Gay and Lesbian victims survivors, the same compensation as illegal and undocumented aliens, is blatant discrimination of same-sex partners, if not unconstitutional. When

have the rights of taxpaying citizens of the United States of America, ever been so trampled on.

Feinberg has said that Gay and Lesbian's have not been left out of the compensation fund. But, he has refused to circumvent state laws on how they treat same-sex partners, domestic live-ins, etc. Instead, he will allow each states laws decide who is eligible. This I find most infuriating, because, this absolutely will guarantee Gay and Lesbians will not receive any compensation from the fund and Feinberg is well aware of this fact. One reason he stated why he won't dictate local law to cover same-sex partners was, "I would find myself getting sued in every state by people claiming that I'm not following how the state distributes money." He has to rely on state law in deciding on compensation for Gay and Lesbian's. Albeit, Feinberg has no problem with circumventing federal law to allow compensation for non-citizens.

To think, Feinberg got Ashcroft to pressure the immigration service to bend the law, so undocumented aliens will come forward, the families will not suffer any consequences. Yet, neither would do the same for the Gay and Lesbian survivors of victims. Who are being penalized and do suffer the consequences for being Gay and Lesbian tax paying citizens, not undocumented aliens. This just makes me sick to my stomach, it fill me with outrage and angers me to no end. My outrage and anger is not, with those, who are Illegal and Un-

documented Aliens, I want this to be clear. The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, should offer all who lost a loved one, fair and equal compensation for all survivors. No one's loss should be judged any less painful or deserve any less consideration, than of all others.

When, Ken Feinberg, Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and our U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft circumvent federal law to enable non-citizens to be compensated. Then to refuse to take the same or any other action to enable Gay and Lesbian citizens to be compensate. They are both knowledgeable as to the number of states with laws that might find Gay and Lesbians eligible to be compensated. (I would guess four states at most, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii and Vermont, each offer either domestic partners registry or civil unions.) In my opinion, Mr. Feinberg and Mr. Ashcroft have willingly and knowingly sealed the fate against Gay and Lesbian eligibility for compensation. Thus, Gay and Lesbians rights, have gone from second class citizens, to below the rights granted non-citizens. The most disgraceful example of supporting discrimination and bigotry against U.S. American citizens.

I plan to, and I pray many of you will, write to Ken Feinberg, Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and vent your anger and outrage to them.

September 11 Victim Compensation Fund: (888) 714-3385 (Toll-Free), (202) 305-1352 (Direct Dial) TDD: (888) 560-0844, victimcomp.advbenefits@usdoj.gov.

John Ashcroft, U.S. Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001, (202) 514-2001, E-mail Address: AttorneyGeneral_AskDOJ@usdoj.gov, Attorney General Phone: (202) 353-1555.

[R. Zeke Fread is the News Editor Coordinator for the Tampa Bay Coalition.]

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<p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY MARCH 23 8:00pm OFF BROADWAY SHOW STARRING: TORI STEELE SAPPHIRE DIANA FLAIR JASMINE BOUVIER MISTI MALONE DAPHNE STEELE LAURA STANDARDS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY MARCH 24 6:00pm COME IN AND WATCH THE OSCARS WITH US! VOTE FOR WHO YOU THINK WILL WIN IN THE CATEGORIES AND WIN SPECIAL PRIZES!</p>
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SPORTS LINE

DESERT COYOTES LEAGUE STANDINGS

	W	L
Mama's Boys	21.0	0.0
Bernadette's Peter	18.0	3.0
Big Ballers	14.0	7.0
Erratica 6	14.0	7.0
Gutter Snipes	14.0	7.0
Free Your Balls	12.0	9.0
2 PP's & A HooHoo	10.0	11.0
Hardwhere?	10.0	11.0
Gay Divorces	9.0	12.0
Beat Around The Bush	9.0	12.0
One Is-Two Ain't	7.0	14.0
Tres Amigos	6.0	15.0
Sleaze Bearz	3.0	18.0
Even-Stevens	0.0	21.0

SEASON ACHIEVEMENTS

High Average: Bernadette's Peter, 592; JoAnn S, 174; Erick J., 217.

High Series Scratch: Bernadette's Peter, 1988; Erick J., 731; Heather H., 656.

High Game Scratch: Bernadette's Peter, 725; Keith D., 289; Heather H., 279.

High Series Handicap: Bernadette's Peter, 2186; Dave F., 799; Heather H., 806.

High Game Handicap: Bernadette's Peter, 798; Heather H., 329; Jack S., 307.

BOWLERS NEEDED FOR DESERT COYOTES

TUCSON - Two bowlers are needed for the Desert Coyotes, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian bowling league.

Skill is not important, having fun is since averages range from 100 to over 200 in the Wednesday night league, which bowls at 9:00 p.m. at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile.

The cost of bowling is \$12 a week plus a one-time sanction fee. If interested, show up a few minutes prior to the 9:00 p.m. start time. For more information, call (520) 323-6449.

SOFTBALL TOURNNEY IN TUCSON

TUCSON - The Tucson Invitational Games resume play this Saturday March 23. The games, a Collegiate Women's Fast pitch Softball Tournament started March 3, and now continues at Lincoln Park, 4325 S. Pantano Road (Pantano & Escalante)

Tournament Director Jim Tiggas expects larger crowds this weekend. "We have 8 teams coming in from all over North America to play in the last week of March, starting Saturday the 23rd. These teams are fun to watch, and provide good competition for others." The games are part of preseason scheduling that invites teams from northern climates to come to Tucson to compete.

Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, British Columbia) visited Hillenbrand Field to play the University of Arizona, and then plays three games each on Saturday & Sunday against traveling teams. The teams that will compete this weekend include Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, Pacific University, Portland, Oregon, Nebraska Wesleyan University,

Omaha, Nebraska, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby British Columbia, Canada, South Puget Sound Community College, Olympia, Washington, Highline Community College, Des Moines, Iowa, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa

The public is welcome and invited; there is a \$1 charge at the gate, for a full day of fun & softball. The games start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday and run all day.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED NAMES TUCSON ELECTRIC PARK TO TOP 5 LIST

TUCSON - Pima County's, TUCSON ELECTRIC PARK recently was named as one of the "five best places to watch exhibition (baseball) games".

According to the March 18, 2002 issue of Sports Illustrated Magazine, Tucson Electric Park was chosen to be in this elite group of stadiums because of the two teams that call it home, the World Champion Arizona Diamondbacks and the Chicago White Sox. The stadium was also described as being "immaculate".

Other stadiums listed were HoHoKam Park in Mesa, Arizona; the Holman, Dunedin Stadiums and Al Lang Field located in Florida.

Record crowds have jammed the stadium throughout the spring and it is well on its way to a record spring training season. While the Midwest continues to be dominated by cold air, guests from all over the country have come to Tucson to enjoy the incomparable warm, dry weather, the World Champions of baseball and bountiful world-class attractions.

The spring season continues through March 28 when the Chicago White Sox play the Chicago Cubs.

Tucson Electric Park is located in the Kino Sports Complex and the spring training home of the Arizona Diamondbacks and Chicago White Sox. The ballpark is also the summer home of the Tucson Sidewinders. The complex is located on 2500 East Ajo Way. More information can be obtained by calling (520) 434-1000 or www.kinosportscomplex.com.

Will & Grace Renewed Through 2005

Continued from Page Four

"Friends" (\$6 million), and "Frasier" (\$5.2 million).

"Will & Grace has been the biggest comedy hit of the last four years," said NBC Entertainment president Jeff Zucker. "And in this year when it's faced intense competition, it remains the second-highest-rated comedy [in demographics]," Zucker told Variety.

The landmark series has been lauded as being the first time a network series starred gay characters that proved to have great crossover appeal to mainstream viewers.

Ranked as the ninth most-watched prime-time series for the season to date, "Will & Grace" has received Emmy and Screen Actors Guild awards. "The show is just hitting its stride," Zucker said.

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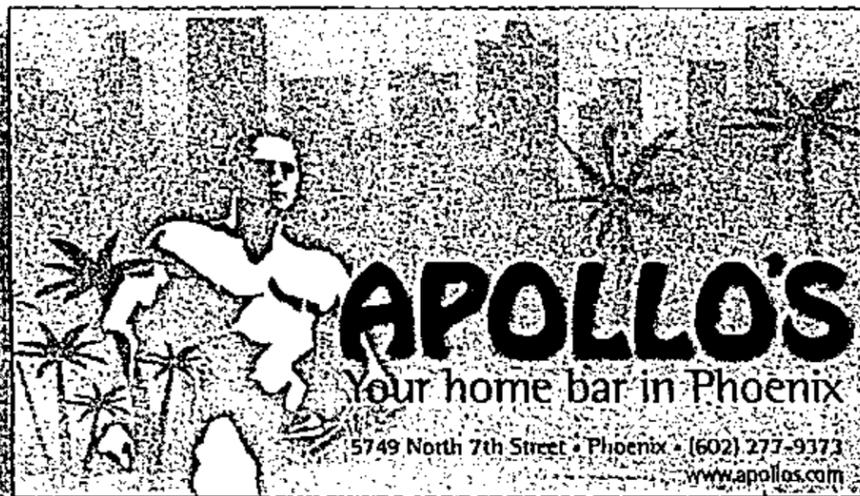
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POLITICS 2002

'An Evening At Botanical Gardens'

More than 200 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Tucson and Phoenix residents converged on the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Tuesday, March 19, for the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) - Tucson Chapter annual membership event.

A simple gathering of people, schmoozing, munching on food and drinking beverages and spirits, with a common interest doesn't describe the reasoning for the annual event.

According to Dilia Loe, Executive Director of AHRF, the gathering has several purposes, including: informing those in attendance about the purpose of the organization, which is to promote and protect civil liberties of Arizona's GLBT citizens; serving as a membership drive in Tucson and Southern Arizona, with the goal of developing a strong contingent from Southern Arizona when action is needed on the legislative level; discussing AHRF's goals and successes with the local membership, taking note of issues of concern; and, for outreach and capacity development for the organization and it's state and Tucson Board members and AHRF's new Southern Arizona representative, Bertie Lozano.

Elected officials, and political candidates, vying for posts up for consideration or otherwise, were present, because Arizona GLBT voters are a very knowledgeable group, thanks to AHRF's Voter Guide, which states the candidate's positions on issues of concern, plus the incumbent's voting record on legislation on such matters. As Kathie Gummerie, AHRF's legislative lobbyist summed up so well, the credo that GLBT voters in the state follow when they go to the polls, "If you don't vote for me, you're not for me."

Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall, Tucson City Councilmember Fred Ronstadt, R-Ward 6, were present for the event. State Senator Virginia Yrun, D-

Tucson, showed up for the event late, due to the budget crisis at the Arizona Legislature, which tied-up many of the Southern Arizona delegation, preventing their attendance.

Candidates running for political office were in attendance, including: Jesse George, the openly Gay candidate for the Arizona House from Tucson's west side, Joe Peyritz, a Democratic candidate for the Arizona House from central Tucson, and Mary Judge Ryan, the former deputy Pima County Attorney, who is now running for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives, to challenge the incumbent, Jim Kolbe, an ironic situation since Ryan is a heterosexual candidate, who showed she supports GLBT rights and would vote for measures that come up in Congress, and Kolbe, the Gay incumbent who didn't attend or have a representative at the event whose voting record raises many questions. For those GLBT voters who want to have actual representation in the U.S. House, make checks payable to "Ryan for Congress Committee," and send them to P.O. Box 16185, Tucson, AZ 857-32.

Even a former elected official, state Representative Herschella Horton, D-Tucson, who was one of Arizona's GLBT citizens strongest supporters in the Legislature, was present. Horton said that this is an important event, keeping people aware of the issues, the successes and the work that needs to be done to achieve them.

Addressing the crowd, Loe talked about what AHRF was currently working on, a statewide employment nondiscrimination act and a statewide domestic partnership registry. She also talked about AHRF's accomplishments in the past year, helping to get Arizona's seldom-used, but left on the books to discriminate, 100-year-old archaic laws, dealing with such matters what goes on in the bedroom and who could legally live together, repealed.

Kathie Gummerie, addressed the throngs of people, stating that what is needed to be done for AHRF to achieve more success in the next session of the Arizona Legislature in 2003 is for all GLBT Arizonans to get out and vote and support candidates and incumbents "who support us and vote for us."

Every year, the AHRF-Tucson event honors an elected official for their work and support of Arizona's GLBT citizens. This year's honoree was Arizona Attorney General, Democrat Janet Napolitano, who is running for Governor this year. Napolitano played an instrumental part in helping to overturn Arizona's archaic laws in 2001, and who had previously introduced legislation protecting the civil rights of Arizona's GLBT populace, naming a couple of many things she's done as the state's top prosecutor.

Napolitano thanked the crowd and the members of the AHRF Board for the award. In her speech, she said that "we've only just begun to make sure basic human rights are protected," and that she will continue to work to accomplish this, something all GLBT Arizonans should be doing, following Napolitano's advice.

For more information about AHRF, go to their Web site, www.ahrff.org or call (602) 650-0900.

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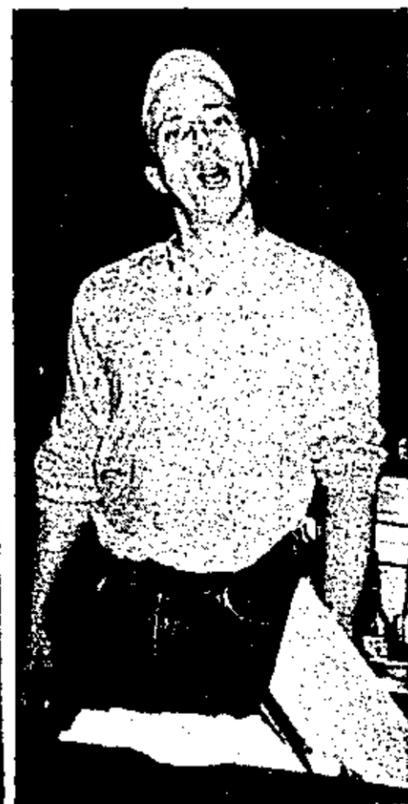
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Picture This!



HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

PLUTO, lord of the underground, beats a retreat this week that lasts until August. This retrograding masked marauder likes nothing better than to bite us on the butt without warning. I wouldn't mind except it's tough on the material.

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Just where do you think you're going, bud? Retro Pluto can put a cramp in any wilde and woolly adventure. Rainbow Rambos are advised to stay close to home, sip a cup of camomile and stay away from the slippery slopes. Can you avoid any legal dealings until August? Just when you thought it was safe to dive into the pool, someone poured in the pet piranhas.

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

They say that proud Bulls are the "last of the red hot lovers". As volcanic Pluto retrogrades, you may be better known as "last in line". A stinky wind gusts through a particular fresh romance and can wilt your stem. Think of the next five months as a time of quiet contemplation and spiritual nourishment. Yeah, and that's about all the "nourishment" you're gonna get, pal.

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Relationships have their surprises (ahem) when transformative Pluto retrogrades and stirs your honey pot. The path of true marital bliss can become a falling rock zone. Watch out! Tread carefully, queer Twin; Ready or not, this can be the time for dramatic and possibly necessary change. Can you compromise? Where must you compromise? Single Twins may savor the solitude.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Retro Pluto turns any really great effort into ... err... just a really great effort. Just as Sisyphus continuously rolled that boulder back onto his toe, so can all your hard work come back again and again and again. Pink Crabs are better served by taking time off and enjoying life for a while. Use this time as an excuse to recharge and relax. Take five. Better still, take twenty-five!

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Where's the party? Not where you expect it to be when volcanic Pluto retrogrades. This orb has a way of turning any good time into an affair to really remember. Proud Lions just love to be the center of attention but this astrologer suggests that you to fade into the background for the next five months. Weave your magic behind the scenes, Houdini. Hey, watch that magic wand!

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Queer Virgos insist on having everything in its place and everyone behaving politely towards each other. Well forgetaboutit for the next five months, cousin. As much as you will strive to maintain domestic and familial harmony, retrograde Pluto conspires to turn your house and your family issues upside down and inside out. But that's okay, as long as it's Out and about!

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Gay Libras pride themselves on always being politic and diplomatic. Let's guess how long your bon mots will last as tittering Pluto retrogrades for the next five months. Weigh all your words very carefully. This may not be the best time to state your case unless, of course, your case is ready to rest. When in doubt, keep a stiff upper lip. Some people prefer it that way anyway.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

If you think the current stock market is having its ups and downs, just wait until wilde Pluto retrogrades and casts a moldy green eye over your finances. Proud Scorps can go from riches to rags if they fail to remain firm during the shifting and swirling sandstorm. On the other hand, if you can keep your eye on the bottom line, you'll remain quite well endowed.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Crafty Pluto retrogrades in your own sign and makes you a legend in your own mind. Queer Archers can be prone to gross acts. (Often when prone.) Now even a small slip can catapult you into the center of the cream pie. Maintain a great sense of humor and wear something washable during this five month circus. Better still, save on the cleaning bill and wear nothing at all.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Even your best laid plans could go awry when transforming Pluto retrogrades for the next five months. Pink Capricorns are careful planners and conservative implementers. Pluto is packing the dynamite these days as many of your plans will turn out to be, shall we say, surprising. Variety is the spice of life. Prepare for a heavily spiced time. Just pack the pepto, pal!

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Aqueerians may not play well with others when itchy Pluto retrogrades. Friends can lose patience with you and vice versa. This may be a stressful phase especially if you are personally planning a grand summer bash. Perhaps you should delegate the social planning to those who are currently better equipped to handle the stress of differing opinions. Yeah? Sez who??

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Little Guppies become appetizers for corporate sharks if they are not careful during retro Pluto. Career potholes deepen and darken and it will take an extra effort to discern the real opportunity. What seems to be a gift from the gods may turn out to be a grind from the gonifs. My advice is to do just what you need to do and stay under the radar. Cause a bit of static in the fall.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

'Police Recruitment'

You'd think that the whys and wherefores of police recruitment would be an open book. You'd be wrong. It turns out, in Tucson at least, to be a subject shrouded in impenetrable mystery.

Here are three seemingly simple questions on the matter that the police are unwilling or unable to answer: (1). The starting pay is 35K for a rookie cop and you're only asking for a high school education. Beginning teachers in TUSD only make 27K. Why shouldn't TPD require a bachelors degree? (2). What does the written exam measure? If IQ, how low can it be? If personality, what traits are you looking for and what traits are you looking to avoid? (3). Considering that polygraphs aren't even reliable enough to be used as evidence in court, what possible good can they be in the recruitment process?

Chief Miranda's written response, after nearly 20 days of deliberation, to the question of why no degree requirement was, "...this is not a requirement at this time." If the Chief believes that "this is not a requirement" is an answer to the question "Why isn't this a requirement?" he is suffering from a severe case of autism, or perhaps he's actually starting to enjoy being kicked around in this column. Happy to oblige.

The Chief's non-response to the question of what the written exam attempts to measure: "The questions are general knowledge. There is also a...psychological examination." But what are the questions about general knowledge and the psychological examination attempting to determine?

The Chief's answer to what good is the notoriously unreliable polygraph: "There is also a... polygraph examination." Beautiful.

If you've seen him on TV know that the Chief is too young to be completely senile. What's the point of these evasions? We're talking about police recruitment, not induction into some secret religious cult or nefarious political society. When dissatisfaction and incredulity were expressed about the Chief's non-responses, a high-ranking officer from TPD's Human Resources stepped in to take the Department's second swing.

To why not require a degree, he wrote, "We do not require... a bachelor's degree..."

To what gives with the psych exam, he said that there's a "comprehensive psychological assessment." They do not want to say what it comprehends or what it assesses.

On the IQ test, the officer tipped his hand: "a Wunderlich IQ test... and the score obtained therefrom is not necessarily regarded as a disqualifying item in and of itself. That seems to say that it's okay to flunk the IQ test.

On the polygraph, it's used "as part of (a) background investigation and verification of qualifications..." Unless the TPD has a polygraph that the rest of the world doesn't know about, it's not a reliable means of verifying anything.

Why should the police department be unable or unwilling to answer simple straightforward questions about recruitment?

Theory one: They didn't know what to do so they just went out and bought a textbook on the subject and followed its directions. The problem with this theory is that the textbook would surely have some rationale that even the Chief would be able to parrot.

Theory two: TPD wants officers who aren't very bright, aren't very well educated, and are possessed of personalities that incline them to thuggery. When called upon to play peeking tom in the city's notorious porn-shop extortion racket, when called on to lie in City Court, and when called on to push certain categories of citizens around, these types of individuals are ideal.

There are surely other possible theories, but the Chief ain't talkin'. One thing we know for sure is that, according to the Independent Police Auditor, TPD gets three times the number of citizen complaints than other departments of similar size get.

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754.]

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EDITOR:

As a regular on-line Observer reader, and professional newspaper writer, I thoroughly enjoy Lee Thorn's column, "Notes From the For-Real Side." I admire Thorn's seemingly effortless ability to "show me, not just tell me" his interesting story, regardless of topic. Through his rich vocabulary, and passion for detail, Thorn always entertains and educates.

Thank you. Steve Shay Chicago, IL

EDITOR:

On March 9th 2002 a benefit show was held at Jake's bar/nightclub and titled "Tips For TIHAN". I wish to thank Sapphire, Miss Gay Tucson USofA 2002, Jasmine Bouvier, Miss Reyna, Daphne Steele, Miss Kristin, and our newly crowned Miss Carousel 2001 Diana Flair for all your hard work and efforts in making this show a huge success.

I would also like to thank the production staff; Mark for making us shine on lights, Eduardo our DJ, for spinning our music, and David "Buns", our bartender for making us look so pretty. Remember, "the more you drink, the prettier we look". All of us, with the Tucson community's support, were able to raise \$300, benefitting the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network. I'm so glad that we have such a good group of entertainers performing at Jake's. As the show progresses throughout the evening on stage, the audience is unaware of the show the goes on back stage. I don't know who had more fun, the audience or the entertainers. I've always said "if your having fun, it will reflect in your performance". Thanks again for your support. I'm sure the community can't wait to see what we have in store for them in the future. Finally, I wish to thank Jake for his cooperation and support in allowing us the opportunity to entertain in such a fine establishment.

Ric Reyna a.k.a. Misti Malone
Tucson, AZ

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Kansas Supreme Court Decision Defies Logic

The Kansas Supreme Court ruled that the marriage of J'Noel Gardiner to her late husband, Marshall Gardiner was invalid. Chief Justice Donald Allegrucci wrote that despite undergoing all the medical and psychological procedures associated with being a transsexual, "J'Noel remains a transsexual, and a male for purposes of marriage under Kansas law. A post-operative male-to-female transsexual does not fit the common definition of a female." He further determined that Kansas has no "full faith and credit" duty to recognize Wisconsin's judicial determination that reissued Mrs. Gardiner's birth certificate recognizing that she is female and that Kansas marriage can exist only "between a biological man and a biological woman."

said he doubts legislators will deal with the issue. He said he was disappointed by the court's ruling. "As old as our laws are, do we have to anticipate everything in order for common sense to prevail?" said O'Neal, a Republican.

The biological man and woman argument is clearly based in religion and denies, in addition to modern research, medicine, and law, the right of marriage to post-operative transsexuals and intersexed individuals. Indeed, Jay Sekulow, Chief Justice of the conservative American Center for Law and Justice said "this is the first shot across the bow in the war against the scourge known as transsexuality."

"It strikes me as the Supreme court trying to bury its head in the sand and ignore the reality of 21st century science and medicine," said Jennifer Middleton of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, in that the decision is largely based upon three-decade-old medicine and case law, ignoring modern science and current decisions.

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) views this ill-considered opinion to be a travesty of justice and clearly in denial of Kansas' full faith and credit requirements set forth in the United States Constitution. "It absolutely defies logic," fumed Yoseño Lewis, Board Chair of NTAC, "that the very same state that created law which allowed for the issuance of a valid marriage certificate to Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner [would] later determine that their own state procedures for marriage could be deemed invalid!

"Judge Allegrucci and the other justices have invalidated their own procedures, their own laws."

Kansas Rep. Mike O'Neal, chair of the state's House Judiciary Committee,

"The decision appears rooted in biblical philosophy," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, Media Director for NTAC. "But what I see is revisionism of the teachings of Jesus: What the Lord has joined together, let 'the Courts' tear asunder? This began as a perfectly legal union. It says a lot when any marriage can be suspect, closely scrutinized, and rendered void solely at the discretion of the Court."

"So much for the institution of marriage...."

NTAC calls for individuals and organizations dedicated to civil and social rights to rise up in action as a coalition in support of same-sex civil unions and marriage of which no court may tear asunder. If a court of law, purely of their own initiative, may undo a legal marriage, what rights may be undone by the courts next?

[NTAC, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, is a §501(c)(4) political advocacy coalition working to establish and maintain the right of all Transgendered, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.]

A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

'Being Protected'

By Joy L. Childress

How many times have you seen the picture of Jesus holding a little lamb and really thought about the significance of that picture? In 1992 when I retired, my spouse Sally and I started traveling in an RV. We joined an RV resort and starting going from resort to resort.

One resort where we stayed is in the hill country just outside of Ramona, CA. I decided one afternoon to hike up a hill and take our dog, Buffy. I started up the hill on the trail. After about a mile, the trail stopped. The underbrush had grown so thick it obliterated and kind of pathway. I started brushwacking. The bushes grew thicker and thicker. I knew I was lost. Buffy couldn't even get through the thicket. I picked her up and carried her. Listened for the traffic noise and started going in a straight line to where I thought the traffic noise was. My arms and legs became all cut up from the stiff bushes while I was trying to protect Buffy. I finally got back to the RV, all bruised and scratched and in pain. Jesus carries me. His little lamb, protecting and getting all the cuts, scratches, bruises and pain for me. Even in my darkest hours. I know that Jesus is my shepherd. I am his little lamb, and I know

his voice and I know his voice and I follow him and no one or no thing can snatch me out of his hands. I hope you have that assurance also. ...

My sheep listen to my voice: I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish: no one can snatch them out of my father's hand. I and the father are one. - John 10:27-30

Though I walk through the darkest valley's and the sky is cold and gray. Though I climb the steepest mountains, he will never let me stray. Like the lamb who needs a shepherd. By my side he'll always stay. Till the end of life's long journey he will lead me all the way - Ralph Carmichael. ...

Cornerstone Fellowship would like to invite everyone to Cornerstone's Easter Celebrations: Good Friday Service - 3/29, 6:00 p.m., Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, 3/31, 6:00 a.m., followed by a potluck breakfast, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m., Easter Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. Cornerstone Fellowship is located at the corner of Geronimo and Laguna (two blocks west of First Avenue, one block north of Glenn). For more information, call (520) 622-4626.

Cornerstone Fellowship
 2902 N. Geronimo
 Phone: 622-4626
 E-mail: ChristineAll@juno.com

Service Times:
 Sunday School - 9:00 am
 Morning Worship Service - 10:30 am
 Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00 pm

"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
 John 3:16

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Dear Dr. X:

My friends call me a major pot-head. It's true I smoke everyday and have bong and other stuff but I really don't think I'm addicted. I mean its just pot. I know lots of people that do harder drugs and aren't addicted so how can I be? Pot mellowes me out and I get way more creative to do my art. Do you think smoking every day is bad?

Signed,
Reefer Madness

Dear Reefer Madness:

After getting your letter I had to sit and do a little research on just what are the dangers of Marijuana. I know all the basics. The impaired judgment! The paranoid! The munchies! But I realized that in this day and age Pot is looked at as a non-threatening drug. I have friends that are major potheads and they still manage to lead functional lives and keep their jobs with no problem.

After doing more research, I have come to the conclusion that the major problem with Marijuana is that it is illegal. That being said, Dr X went and got a second opinion. Then a third, then a fourth...etc. The question that kept coming up is "Is it disrupting your life?" Just like all substances, when you get to the point where it disrupts your job, your friends, and your life, it's become a problem. If you feel like any of these parts of your life are being disrupted, you need to make some changes.

Dear Dr. X:

Recently, one of my friends found out that he has testicular cancer. It really shocked and scared me. We are both in our late twenties, and I thought that it only happens to older men. I am really scared now that I might get it, and was wondering what I should do? Can I prevent this from happening to me?

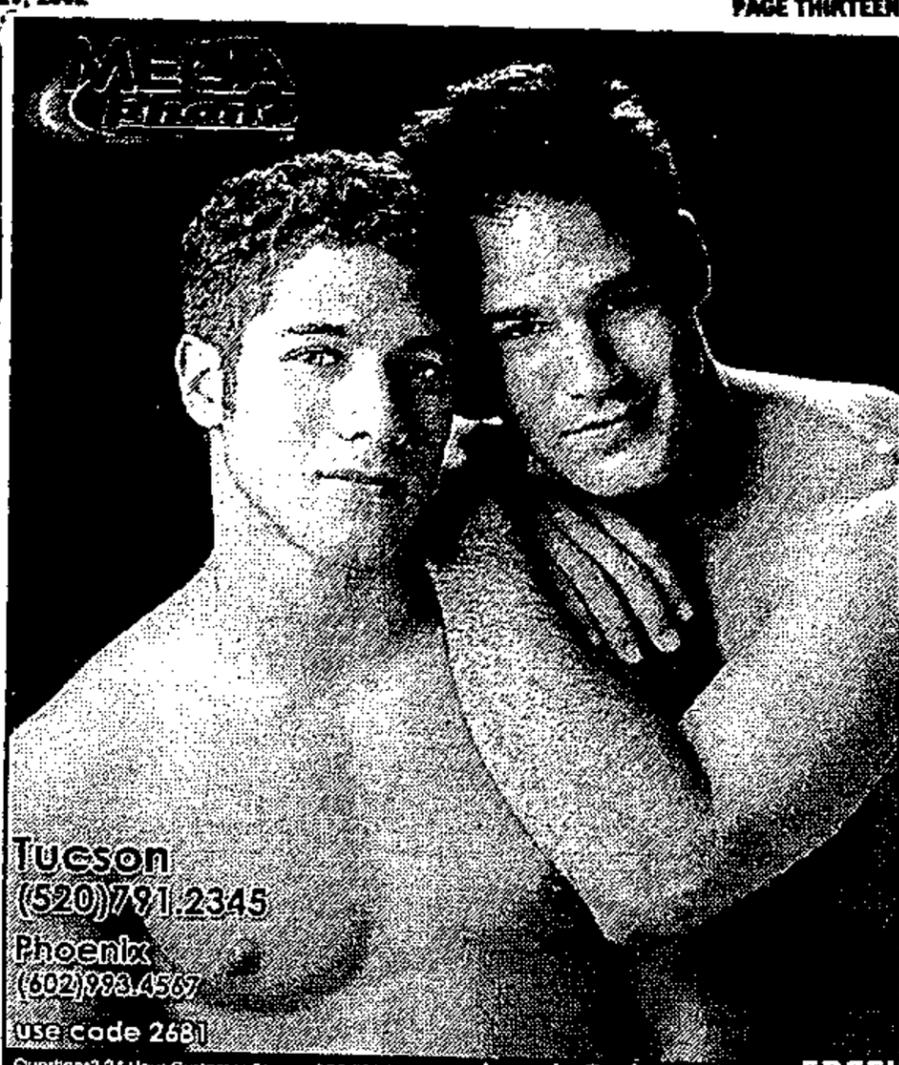
Signed,
Touchy Subject

Dear Touchy Subject:

I'm really sorry to hear about your friend. Unfortunately testicular cancer is a young mans' disease. White men between the ages of 14-35 are at the most risk for the disease.

If it's caught soon enough there is a 90% recovery rate. There are many factors for contracting testicular cancer such as family history, or an undescended testicle. As far as prevention from testicular cancer you need to check your testicles for any lumps or soreness at least once a month. You can also add a little spice to your relationship by having your partner check your testicles for you and vice versa. I had a female friend who noticed a lump in her boyfriend testicles and alerted him to his cancer. If you do find something or suspect something is wrong get yourself to your doctor and have it checked out.

[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.]



XOXO
Hug a PWA today!
XOXO

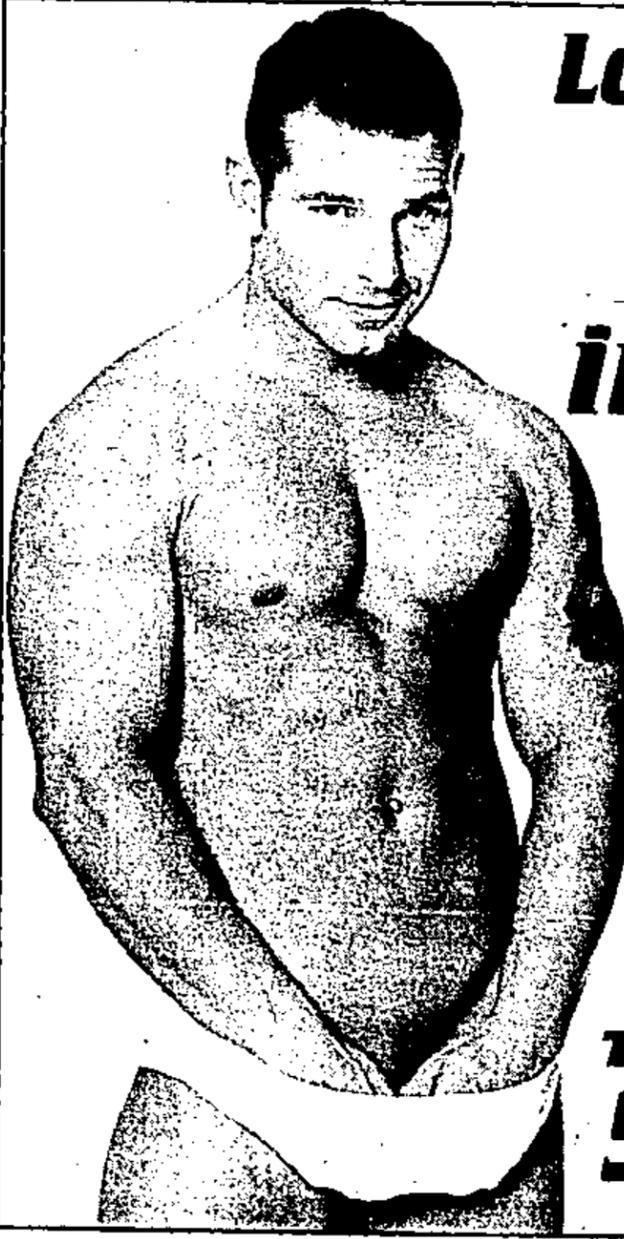
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Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

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 Video Night - 7:00 P.M. A non pornographic movie with a Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0820 - David Eyde

Bears of the Old Pueblo, Every Wednesday night, 7 pm. Bear Coffee Night: Coffee Etc., 2830 N. Campbell. All welcome.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

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

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premier of the "Moulin Rouge", an Oscar-nominated film that sets the musical on its ear! For reservations and directions, please call Lea at 690-9565.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Arlan for an evening devoted to the game of Hearts. If you've never played, this fun game is easy to learn. For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

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.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 P.M., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd. North of Prince Rd. Phone: 622-1835

Cornerstone Fellowship announces a Christian Support Group for recovering addicts and alcoholics. This group meets every Saturday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at 2902 N. Geronimo. For more information call 622-4626 or 750-6404.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:30 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 Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Art and Jeff host a video of "Smoke Signals", a comedy about young American Indians discovering themselves. They'll also serve pork and rice and have you bring a salad or dessert to share. For more information, directions and reservations, please call Jeff or Art at 782-9135.

#3. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Join Bill for MSN's annual Oscar Party. It's your chance to join the guys for a night of self-congratulation as only Hollywood can do it! For reservations, please call Bill at 546-7539.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch & Museum - 11:00 A.M. Meet at Marriott University Park Hotel, 880 E. 2nd St. for lunch. Meet at Arizona Historical Society 949 E. 2nd St. at Noon. Phone: 622-1835. (Free parking in garage at Euclid Ave. and 2nd St. provided for Arizona Historical Society.)

MONDAY, MARCH 25

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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

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.

The Guy's Book Club meets each month on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Rainbow planet. Tonight's book is Armistead Maupin's "Night Listener".

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 1:00 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave., South of Grant Rd. Phone: 622-1835

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 P.M. A non pornographic movie with a Gay theme will be shown. Phone: 740-0820 - David Eyde

Bears of the Old Pueblo, Every Wednesday night, 7 pm. Bear Coffee Night: Coffee Etc., 2830 N. Campbell. All welcome.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP) and Wingspan present 'Male Cancer Forum' tonight from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Join healthcare professionals and cancer survivors as they talk about male cancer, screening and treatment options. Wingspan, 300 E. 6th street. 624-1779.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

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 more of the new season of "Queer As Folk". For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

BAR CALENDAR

OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. "DivaLicious" Show hosted by Lucinda Holiday, and starring Bunny FuFu, Angela Dodd and Adrienne Alexander.

JAKE'S - Free anonymous HIV testing from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. by Pima County Health Department in conjunction with the Gay Men's Health Project.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

VENTURE-N - Torn and Tattered Party! Check the bartender for times and more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

IBT'S - 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair. Catch the beautiful people on the Avenue and stop in at the 4th Avenue Headquarters - IBT's!!!!

VENTURE-N - Hides of March weekend here. Booze and brew specials all weekend. Tonight: reception and registration. Lots of men! See bartender for schedule of events.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

IBT'S - 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair. Thousands and thousands of people walking the Avenue! Big drag show here at 3:00 p.m. (\$2 Cover). Show stars Lucinda Holiday, Aja Simone, Janee Starr, Bunny FuFu Adrienne Alexander, Samantha White, Faith Michaels and from Phoenix, Devina, Angela Dodd and Phaedra.

JAKE'S - 8:00 p.m. Off Broadway Show starring Tori Steefe, Sapphire, Diana Fair, Jasmine Bouvier, Misti Malone, Daphne Steele and Laura Standards.

VENTURE-N - Hides of March weekend here. Booze and brew specials all weekend. Today Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) will be serving breakfast and tonight there's a big underwear party and wet jockey contest! The best Man Show of the year. See bartender for schedule of events.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

IBT'S - IBT'S - 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair. Thousands and thousands of people walking (and some working) the Avenue! Big drag show here at 3:00 p.m. (\$2 Cover). Second show with no cover at 9:30 p.m. Show stars Lucinda Holiday, Aja Simone, Janee Starr, Bunny FuFu Adrienne Alexander, Samantha White, Faith Michaels and from Phoenix, Devina, Angela Dodd and Phaedra.

JAKE'S - 6:00 p.m. Come in and watch the Oscars. Vote for who you think will win the the categories and win special prizes!

VENTURE-N - Hides of March weekend here. Booze and brew specials all weekend. Today breakfast will be served in the morning and Bossburgers in the afternoon. See bartender for schedule of events.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. "DivaLicious" Show hosted by Lucinda Holiday. Show stars Ivonna Bump, Chane Jordan and Janee Starr.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

IBT'S - Special Benefit Show for Katie's fund for Surgery hosted by Aja Simone with Lucinda Holiday, Faith Michaels, Janee Starr, Deora Le Blanc, Mis Saigon and Tania Oberon.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 - EASTER SUNDAY

IBT'S - Easter Egg Hunt and Party! Watch for their ad.

WOODY'S - Easter Party and Basket Contest.

YARD DOG SALOON - Easter Bonnet Contest here. Watch for time and prizes etc. etc. etc.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - The best blues band in Arizona will be playing here from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Don't miss hearing Sista-Blue. They're great! Tickets \$5 in advance, \$7 day of show.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

1. Tucson Prime Timers Breakfast - 9:00 A.M., Blue Willow Restaurant, 2616 N. Campbell Ave. Phone: 622-1835

2. Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 P.M., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd. No of Oracle Rd. Phone: 622-1835

Cornerstone Fellowship announces a Christian Support Group for recovering addicts and alcoholics. This group meets every Saturday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at 2902 N. Geronimo. For more information call 622-4626 or 750-6404.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for a traditional Easter Dinner. We'll supply the main dishes and ask you to bring a side dish or dessert to share with others. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

Seniorrap an open discussion group for older LGBTs, meets from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. For more information call 640-0620

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Rubyfruit Journal is holding a picnic today at Reid Park, Ramada 28 starting at 10:00 a.m. Rubyfruit subscribers, advertisers, volunteers, friends and children are invited to get together and have some fun. Bring your outdoor games, footballs, frisbees, etc. Rubyfruit will provide soft drinks, water and charcoal for the grills. You bring the rest. Wine or liquor is not permitted. No Glass containers. Canned beer only. Call 324-0320 for more information.

Daily Bar Calendar

Monday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10. \$1.25 pitchers. Latin Music with DJ HIL 8:30 to close. Shot specials all night.
IBT's - 10am-6pm \$1.50 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas... Benefit 8-8-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-8pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or HI energy dancing. (Call for details). All drink specials not available during special events.
JAKE'S - Open 11am daily.
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 11am. \$1.50 Bloody Marys, crewdrivers, Mimosas; \$4/well or domestic beer 11-4. Happy Hour 4-9pm \$1.75 well or domestic beer. Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Volleyball games 5-7. \$2.50 airbnb 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.

Tuesday
AIN'T 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 4-9pm. 9pm, "Aja Says" nite, \$1 off all drinks (except draft beer/shots) for those who do as Aja says. DJ Raynman plays house music 9pm to close. All drink specials not available during special events.
JAKE'S - Open 11am daily.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.
WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. \$1.75 well or domestic. Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close.
YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Wednesday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Pool tournament 7:30pm. \$3 entry, pot matched. \$1.50 longshots for pool players. \$2 Bottle Bud products. 8-close. Country music with D.J.s. 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 close w/DJ-Q
JAKE'S - Open 11am daily.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.
WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. \$1.75 well or domestic. Tropical drink specials 8 to close. \$3 zombies, Jungle Juice, Mal Tail's.
YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Thursday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free food at 5:30pm. Dance music 8:30-1 w/DJ HIL. Drink specials all night.
IBT's - 9am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-10. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 8-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party with DJ Raynman 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.
JAKE'S - Open 11am daily. Dance Room open 9pm - 1am. Country Music Nite
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7pm.
WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. \$1.75 well or domestic. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.00 all day. Call Martini's \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Courts Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.
YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Friday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 8:30pm \$3 entry. Pot matched. \$2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ HIL 8:30-close.
IBT's - 9am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-10pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.
JAKE'S - Open 11am daily. Dance Room open 9pm - 1am. House Dance Nite
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.
WOODY'S - Open 11am \$2 well or domestic beer. TI 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. \$1.75 well or domestic. Patio Bar opens 5pm. Steak & Fish Fry 5-9pm Fllet Mignon or Swordfish with trimmings & red \$5.
YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass. \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

Saturday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 8:30pm \$3 entry. Pot matched. \$2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ HIL 8:30-close.
IBT's - 9am-4pm \$2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour \$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-10pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.
JAKE'S - Open 11am daily. Dance Room open 9pm - 1am. House Dance Nite
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open at 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.
WOODY'S - Open 11am \$2 well or domestic beer. TI 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. \$1.75 well or domestic. Patio Bar opens 5pm. Steak & Fish Fry 5-9pm Fllet Mignon or Swordfish with trimmings & red \$5.
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

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

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 9am 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.saaaf.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. 852-7723

PFLAG - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-8264. 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 529-8344, leave name and phone number.

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL For information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call information and Referral 581-1794 - 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON LESBIAN/GAY ALLIANCE (TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street at 7pm. TLGA produces Pride events. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit TLGA website www.tucsonpride.com

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 8 weeks. 684-7083.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7898 or go to our web site <http://www.tgasaftball.org>

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer Care Teams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 289-8647.

LESBIAN/GAY/BI-SEXUAL OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Saturdays 1 to 3pm new location Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Contacts 325-8678 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 791-7674.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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.lcbtucson.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)

REVELLE 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.

TGNArizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-varient communities of Arizona. Website URL: <http://www.tgnarizona.org> - e-mail address: algoodrum@uswest.net or

SENIORRAP, a discussion group for older LGBTs, meets from 3 to 5pm on the last Sunday of every month at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. For more info call 640-0620

"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

MEN TALK - A new group forming for Gay men that explores ourselves, our community and encourages positive growth. A great way to meet people. Meeting 3rd Tuesday of each month at Wingspan. 7-9pm. Call 760-8714 for more info.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR RECOVERING ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS. Group meets every Saturday 7-8pm in Cornerstone Fellowship hall, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626 or 750-6404.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA STONEWALL DEMOCRATS meet 3rd Monday of each month 7pm at Pima County Democratic Headquarters, 2617 E. Broadway. Call Jesse 743-4320 or Maurice 323-2293. All LGBT Democrats and supporters welcome. TucsonStonewall@aol.com

GUYS BOOK CLUB meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm, Rainbow Planet Coffee House, 606 N. 4th Ave.

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, 1438 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Emie Slaght 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 81.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI. The show "This Way Out", a nationally syndicated Lesbian and Gay radio show is aired at 5:30 pm every Wednesday.

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

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

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.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 8523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 802-279-4805.

DESERT DOMINION TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational, Educational, Safe Space for the B&D, G&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).

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

NOTICES

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

RAINBOW SUPPORT GROUP: LGBT and supportive friends meet for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Support meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 42. The 3rd Thursdays of the month, the group will meet at 7:30pm at Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse (606 North 4th Ave.) as a social outing. For more information call the church at 289-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgcc.org or call (802)225-6444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-6655. Leave message.

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers welcome too. Send stamp for information: Maverick, 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. 579-8020

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 of visit our website at www.botoo.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potluck 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 CLUBS, 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 888-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2364.

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

CRONES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 824-6788.

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 889-7288.

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 8:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9882.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #385, Tucson, AZ 85719.

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

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)745-8059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)334-8218 (Phoenix)

PERSONALS

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1br or 2br., 1 ba. Ea., covered parking, oversized, private patios, Mid Town \$425 or \$525. 3Br 1Ba house Ajo and I-19 \$750. Gay owned and operated. Call 331-5488. 920
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HOUSEMATE TO SHARE 14' WIDE MANUFACTURED HOME. 2br, 1 1/2 ba. Smoke and drug free. Prince/Oracle area. No pets. \$200/mo. References checked. 888-7264 924

ROOMMATES WANTED to share 3 bedroom Eastside home. 722-1481 920.

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CHECK US OUT Mate Ortiz pottery; pre-Columbian pottery; Paper Weights; Entertainment Center, dinettes, aromatic candles, lovely artificial flowers, clocks, mirrors, bedroom furniture, sofas, recliners and lots of other things! We are now carrying store and factory liquidations. Everything to make your house a home. Jean's Furniture, 2404 E. Grant Road., 325-9494 925

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MANLY KNEADS. Professional massage by a fit, friendly guy. Certified and experienced. \$45. Short on time or cash? Try my 1/2 hour session \$25. Short-notice calls welcomed. Jake, 444-6004 926

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A SPECIAL TOUCH. Full body massage with complete relaxation. Young and professional. In/out calls. 7 days. Joe, CMT, (520)617-0837 921.

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ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 930

'AIDS Is A Security Issue'

Continued from Page One

your immediate attention and support, and that of your administration, more than that of ending the toll of HIV/AIDS."

Accompanying the letter was a coalition report that evaluated the Bush administration's leadership and funding of research, prevention, care and minority initiatives, among other AIDS-related efforts. Fashioned like a report card, it gave the administration mostly near-failing marks in most areas, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Research funding emerged with the highest grade (B+), due to the president's support for doubling the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). On the other hand, Bush's leadership in the area of HIV prevention earned him an F due to his support for abstinence-only programs and for the undefined goals and scope of a federal review of all HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

Noting that 59 percent of Americans living with HIV/AIDS remain untreated and that African Americans and Latinos account for an estimated 70 percent of new infections, the report declared, "HIV is an issue of homeland security."

"As the epidemic continues to expand to disenfranchised communities, it runs the risk of destabilizing public hospitals and emergency rooms," said Ernest Hopkins, director of federal affairs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF).

"It is ill-advised to put the public health infrastructure at risk," he added, citing current national concerns about readiness for terrorism and bioterrorism

attacks.

Global problems from AIDS also threaten U.S. interests, the report's authors said.

"As it focuses on national security, the administration's focus must include HIV/AIDS, which is destabilizing entire regions of the world," said Fred Dillon, SFAF's policy director. "HIV continues to devastate nations of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and increasingly Eastern Europe."

The letter urged the president to fill important posts at the NIH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Last month, reports surfaced that the White House was stalling on appointing Dr. Anthony Fauci to head the NIH because of political reasons.

In addition, coalition members requested a meeting with the president and "key officials" from the administration.

Activists and health professionals have expressed concern that the president's advisory council may have limited impact because it meets only a few times a year and is co-chaired by former Rep. Tom Coburn, R-OK, who is a heavy supporter of the abstinence-only approach.

The 17-member coalition that signed the letter includes SFAF, Project Inform, the Gay Men's Health Crisis, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, National Minority AIDS Council, Whitman-Walker Clinic and AIDS Services of Dallas, among other agencies.



Amnesty International

Continued from Page One

the trial of the four men before the Court of Misdemeanours in the Cairo District of Bulaq Daisrur on February 3, 2002, when the verdict was pronounced. During that session, the delegate was able to speak to some of the accused, who reported that they had been subjected to brutal treatment while in police custody, including suspension by the wrists and beatings with a thick stick.

"In Egypt, Gays -- or those perceived to be Gay -- face a real and constant threat of imprisonment simply for being who they are," said Michael Heflin, Director of Amnesty International USA's OUTfront program. "The Egyptian authorities must send a clear message that torture and ill-treatment cannot be tolerated, and that all instances will be properly investigated and those responsible brought to justice."

Egypt's prisons currently hold a number of men solely on account of their perceived or self-expressed sexual orientation, and Gays in Egypt face a heightened crisis of torture in police stations and prisons. Charges of "habitual debauchery" under Law 10 of 1961 on the Combat of Prostitution are commonly used in Egypt to criminalize consensual homosexual relations. In general, the practice of torture and ill-treatment in detention centers around the country is widespread and indiscriminate. Victims come from all walks of life, including women and children, and those who are marginalized by society are particularly vulnerable.

The case falls within a pattern of arrest and detention of men for their

alleged sexual orientation. Just last week another five men were sentenced to the maximum three-year prison sentence on similar charges. The men were arrested, along with three others, in January 2002 and were initially held in the police station of Damanhour's first precinct. The men were forced to undergo medical examinations, conducted in order to determine whether the accused had engaged in anal sex. Such examinations amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Egypt is a state party, protects individuals from torture and ill treatment, and from arbitrary discrimination of any kind.

**WHAT'S
BLACK
&
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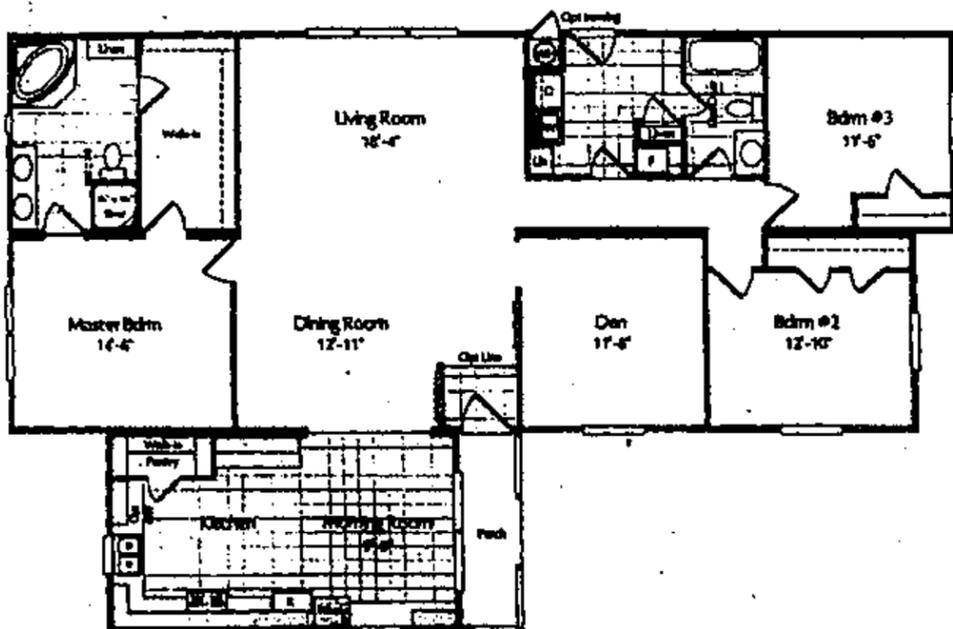


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