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The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Janee Starr Crowned Miss Gay Tucson America 2003

TUCSON - Before a near full house at the Inn Suites Resorts last Sunday, April 21, The Miss Gay Tucson America 2003 Pageant was held. At press time the complete story with all the details was not available , but our intrepid photographer was there to capture the winner, Janee Starr who is shown above with her crown and flowers and a few tears still flowing down her cheeks. Congratulations to Janee and all the contestants, performers, Holliday Productions and the myriad of others behind the scenes who made this pageant come off like clockwork. More pictures may be found on page five of this issue and the complete details next week.

Gay, Single And Planning Ahead

NEW YORK, NY (GFN) - Civil Unions not withstanding, in the eyes of the U.S. government all Lesbian and Gay people are single, whether they're in a relationship or not.

But aside from the government's annoying blindness to the reality of Gay relationships, many of us actually are single. No partner, no family and no one to fall back on in an emergency. This means you need a plan.

Single or not, a healthcare power of attorney is critical. It designates someone whom you've authorized to make medical decisions on your behalf if you can't. In a crisis, you'll want this designation perfectly clear. Choosing a best friend who understands what you want and how you would want things done regarding medical issues may be one of the best things you can do for yourself.

Even with a healthcare power of attorney, some Lesbian and Gay people who have designated their partners as the executor have had trouble having the ill person's wishes followed. But without it, there's no hope at all; you'd be at the mercy of your family or a medical establishment that may not know or understand what you really want. Create this and leave it with your best friend, family member, physician or lawyer.

A revocable living trust may be the best way for single Lesbians and Gay men to create an estate plan. The experts say it's more useful than a simple will – and more flexible. Even if you don't have a lot of assets to leave to heirs, a living trust goes further than a will. It names a successor trustee – the person whom you designate to act on your behalf, not only in distributing your estate, but in taking over if you're incapacitated.

To create a revocable living trust you'll have to retitle all your assets in the name of your trust. This means changing the title on your house or condo to the name of the trust, as well as on brokerage and mutual fund accounts. Changing title to your assets is not expensive, it just takes some letter writing. Retitling will almost never cost more than $100 and there are no tax consequences.

The living will really goes hand in hand with your healthcare directive. If you choose to have one, a living will tells your directive not to take extraordinary procedures to prolong your life in case of a terminal condition. It may also include your directives on donating organs for transplants. Like the healthcare directive, you'll want to keep a copy close to you, in addition to your primary physician, lawyer and best friend.

For many Gay people, our pets are as dear to us as children. However, sometimes we forget to name our pets in a will and make arrangements for them. You can make this part of your living trust, and arrange money for their care.

If you have extensive business dealings and partnerships, you might want to consider a "Business Power of Attorney." This would be used if you are unable to act; for single Lesbians and Gay men, this is a very useful thing to have. The business power of attorney insures that decisions that must be made can be made. The person to whom you designate this power may not be the same as your successor trustee in a living trust, or the person named in your health-care power.

Long-term care insurance becomes especially important by the time you reach your mid-50s. Being alone and ill is a very real concern – a prolonged illness can devastate the best-laid plans.

Many people don't seem to be familiar with long-term care insurance. So, what does it do? Long-term care insurance is designed to pay for care at home, or in a nursing institution. If you're buying in your mid-50s, you'll want to purchase lifetime coverage to keep up with inflation.

Perhaps most importantly, long-term care insurance offers freedom in how you're cared for, so you won't become dependent on friends, or in a worst-case scenario for many Gay people, become dependent on your family.

If you have no one depending on your income, you probably can do without a life insurance policy. (There are better ways to build up a tax-free nest egg, if you're young, like a Roth IRA.) Also, depending on who your employer is, if you died suddenly, your job benefits may cover funeral costs. Debts will die with you. So unless you want to leave life insurance proceeds to your parents, skip the life insurance. If you're a Gay parent, that changes matters entirely. But for now, we're talking about a single, independent, childless Lesbian or Gay man.

Remember, once you've made up legal documents, make sure the people who need them know about them and have them. Keeping them safe in a safe deposit box, or hidden in a special place at home, will do you no good; even if everyone had a key to your safe deposit box, getting there and getting the document in an emergency would be incredibly inefficient.

Painting Reopens Debate On Shakespeare's Sexuality

LONDON, UK (WS) - A painting recently identified as a portrait of William Shakespeare's patron Henry Wriothesley, the third earl of Southampton, has reignited a debate on Shakespeare's sexuality.

"He is wearing perfectly fashionable male attire of the day, but the earring and the hair are effeminate and unusual for the 1590s," the painting's owner Alec Cobbe told reporters.

He said that his family had assumed for centuries that the picture was of a Lady Norton.

But after discovering links between his own family and the Southamptons and a striking resemblance between the portrait and other representations of the 3rd Earl of Southampton, Cobbe was convinced that it is Shakespeare's friend and frequent host.

Scholars have long argued that Southampton was the handsome young man in his late teens to whom an early sequence of Shakespeare's sonnets was addressed.

The painting is dated to around 1590, when Shakespeare was writing early sonnets including one to the "master-mistress of my passion."

"It certainly illustrates that sonnet (number 20) very vividly. We are looking at the subject of the sonnet, I'm sure," said Cobbe.

Alastair Laing, the National Trust's adviser on art, first suggested to Cobbe that the picture was of a male.

"I was cataloguing this collection and realized that this was a young man with long hair, which one or two dandies of the time affected in this manner," he told reporters.

He is also convinced that the pic-

CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTEEN

UPDATE

Fourth Friday April 26

TUCSON - Wingspan's next Fourth Friday is scheduled for Friday, April 26, from 5 to 8 PM at the Presidio Grill, 3352 E. Speedway Blvd. Fourth Fridays meant to provide an alternative place for GBT men to meet and socialize.

The first Fourth Friday TGIF was held on March 22 at the Presidio Grill and consensus was it was a great success. The event was organized as a fund raiser for Wingspan by a group of community members and 25 people attended. In addition to raising funds the event was organized to offer an alternative TGIF event for GBT men. The $10 admission fee covered appetizers and allowed a donation to be made to Wingspan.

There was a cash bar. The Fourth Friday TGIF's are scheduled for May and June are May 31 and June 28, but the location has not been set. Call Wingspan, (520) 624-1779, to find out where they will be so you can get them on your calendar early.

Pride In In The Pines June 13

FLAGSTAFF (ON) - Northern Arizona Pride Association producers of Pride in the Pines, Northern Arizona's annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Pride Festival and Celebration announced their theme for the sixth annual event: "No Matter What... Love Who You Are", which will be held, June 15.

NAPA President, David Fiss stated, "This theme speaks to the very reason that we put on Pride in the Pines: to celebrate who we are, to create visibility, and to continue to strive for equal rights. It is a theme that everyone can support."

Pride in the Pines will be June 15, 2002 at Wheeler Park in Downtown Flagstaff, Arizona. The weekend will feature a Launch Party on Friday night, festival all day Saturday, Altitude the official Pride Party, and Pulse an evening of Live entertainment. More information and presale ticket info will be available at our Booth at Phoenix Pride.

NAPA is currently accepting any inquiries regarding advertising, sponsorship, vendors, or entertainment. Please contact NAPA at (928) 213-1900 or at flagstaffpride@yahoo.com or www.flagstaffpride.org

TIHAN Seekiing Volunteers

TUCSON - In the glory of summer, become a sunbeam in someone's life by volunteering your talents at TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) who is in need of dynamic, enthusiastic, and compassionate people to lend their talents in fighting the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS.

TIHAN is an organization that truly embraces diversity and is committed to providing an environment free of judgment and proselytism to those living with HIV/AIDS and the people they love. Our volunteers provide social, emotional, and practical assistance to those asking for our help through a variety of means. By helping at Paz Cafe you can feed the body and feed the soul of our Care Partners on a monthly basis. CareTeams will let your domestic skills be put to a great cause by providing non-medical care to one of our Care-Partners. Got a gift for gab? Then our speaker's bureau is in need of you for sending our message of love, compassion, and acceptance of those living with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. Are you gifted with a sense of organization and a talent within an office? Office help is always a blessing and hours can be as little or as many that you would like. As you can see, many talented people are needed in many areas to help in ending the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS. TIHAN's comprehensive training helps set the foundation for an experience that will be truly rewarding.

The training session will be from 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, at Congregation Ner Tamid (NW corner of River and Swan, Ner Tamid shares facilities with St. Francis in the Foothills Methodist Church). The cost is $15.00 per person, which covers materials and lunch; scholarships are available upon request. Before the training, prospective volunteers are required to attend a brief hour and a half orientation session to become familiar with TIHAN. The orientation sessions are: Monday, June 17 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 18 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m, Wednesday, June 19 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., and Thursday, June 20 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Congregation Ner Tamid. If needed, calling the TIHAN office and asking for Todd can set up an individual orientation.

If you are interested, call Todd at TIHAN to schedule yourself for an orientation and training by calling (520) 299-6647 or e-mail him at todd@tihan.org.

Wingspan Seeks Volunteers

TUCSON - Looking for a cool place to spend some of your free time before it gets too hot? Interested in making a difference in your community? Why not volunteer for Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center!

Wingspan is seeking volunteers for a variety of areas, including Information & Referral (Front Desk) Services, Youth Programs, Domestic Violence Project, Library, CyberCenter, Administrative Office, I&R Data Entry, Mailings, Facilities Maintenance, Senior Companion Program... and so much more! The next Volunteer Orientation for all new Wingspan volunteers will be held 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, with another one 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., on Saturday, May 11.

Additional training sessions specific to Information & Referral Services (Front Desk) and the Wingspan Domestic Violence Project (phone-only advocates) will also be offered at various times in May. Although an orientation session is required for all volunteers, you can start on-the-job training for many volunteer positions right away!

Volunteer opportunities are open to people of any sexual orientation or gender identity. People of color, bilingual speakers, youth (18-23), seniors, people living with AIDS, people with disabilities, sign language interpreters, and people with computer skills are encouraged to volunteer.

For information and a volunteer application, please contact Mark, Wingspan Volunteer Coordinator, (520) 624-1779 or email: mark@wingspanaz.org.

AVIV Monthly Shabbat Service May 3

PHOENIX - AVIV the Jewish GLBT Chavurah is having their monthly Shabbat services in North Central Phoenix on Friday evening, May 3, 7:30 p.m., followed by a wonderful Oneg.

Partners, friends, and family are always welcome. Call the AVIV INFO-Line, (602) 952-1612 for more information and locations.

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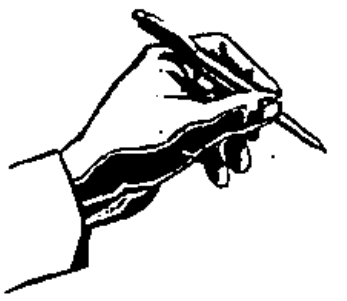

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New York Archdiocese Disavows Remarks

NEW YORK, NY - The New York Archdiocese issued a statement distancing itself from statements made from the pulpit of St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, April 21, blaming the Catholic sex abuse scandal on homosexuality, liberals and a "sex-saturated" society.

"He was speaking for himself," spokesman Joseph Zwilling said of Msgr. Eugene Clark, who presided over Mass at St. Patrick's on Sunday as Edward Cardina Egan travelled to Rome to meet with the Pope.

Gay civil rights groups responded furiously to statements made by Monsignor Eugene Clark, a subordinate of Cardinal Edward Egan from the pulpit of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"Blaming homosexuality within the ranks of the priesthood for the current problems confronting the Church is unconscionable and requires us to strongly condemn Monsignor Clarke's message of bigotry and hate," the Empire State Pride Agenda said in a statement.

"Msgr. Clark's message yesterday is clearly part of an effort by conservatives within the Catholic Church to deflect the public's attention from the Church's responsibility in the pedophilia cover-up scandal by scapegoating Gay priests," the statement continued. "Homosexuality is not the disorder. Sexual abuse and harassment of teenagers and young children by priests they trusted is the disorder and it afflicts both straight and Gay members of the clergy.

"Msgr. Clark's message unjustly tars Gay priests with the ills of those who use their authority positions within the Church to prey on the innocent and the young," the Pride Agenda said. "This message unjustly seeks to equate abuse with Gay life, Gay orientation and the majority of Gay priests who serve with humility and honor.

The statement compared the paucity of Clark's remarks to the dedication displayed by so many Gay priests, including NYC Fire Department chaplain Father Mychal Judge, who was killed on September 11 while administering Last Rites to a dying fire fighter. The commitment displayed by Father Judge and countless others like him "should not be discarded so blithely," Empire said.

The statement also faulted Edward Egan for having a lieutenant "serve as his surrogate to deliver this message of intolerance while he prepared to leave for the Vatican." Speaking for so many in the community, the organization expressed its hope the message did not presage the beginning of a public relations campaign by the Catholic Church to "dump all the ills of its sex scandal on Gay prelates within its ranks."

Using the scandal to advance a political agenda would be a grave mistake, the group warned, as would the presumption by members of the Gay community that the church speaks for all New York Catholics.

Clark also issued a statement stressing he did not discuss his sermon in advance with Egan and had not spoken since with the cardinal. Clark also argued that his homily, as reported in the New York Daily News, had been "misconstrued and misinterpreted."

Clark — a conservative cleric who serves as the rector of the cathedral — argued that homosexuality, liberal campaigns and the immorality of the entertainment industry led priests to victimize children.

Patrick Connolly, who serves as a cantor at the cathedral, told the Daily News he nearly turned his back on the altar in protest. "For that sermon to have even touched on Gays, it was just so disgusting," Connolly said. "I was sorry to be there."

Connolly, 32, told the newspaper he was abused as a child in Dublin by a married man with five kids. He vowed yesterday that in response to Msgr. Clark's comments, he would never again sing in the choir of the city's most hallowed cathedral.

"Homosexuality has absolutely nothing to do with child abuse," Connolly said. "I love St. Patrick's. I love the choir. I love the people there. But this was mind-blowing."

Estate Rights Clear First California Hurdle

SACRAMENTO, CA - Registered Gay and Lesbian domestic partners in California are one step closer to being given inheritance rights if one of the partners dies without a will, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

Assembly Bill 2216, authored by Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz, seeks to provide registered domestic partners with the right to claim a deceased partner's property if he or she dies without a will. If passed, partners will have the right to claim one-third to all of their partner's property, depending on whether other surviving family members, such as children, parents or siblings, can also make a claim.

AB 2216 passed by an 8-3 vote in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Now, the bill must go through a number of committees before it makes its way to the Senate and ultimately to the governor's office, according to David van der Griff, legislative assistant to Speaker Pro Tem Keeley.

"Our intent is to move the bill as quickly as possible," van der Griff said. "It might be mid-June before it makes it to the governor's desk." He explained that if the governor signs the bill this June, it would not become effective until July 1, 2003. This is so the secretary of state's office can inform all registered domestic partners of the change in the law. Domestic partners who do not have a will in place will be given the opportunity to evaluate their estate plan and decide if they want to remain registered as domestic partners.

By passing AB 2216, people like Keith Bradkowski, who lost his partner of 11 years in the Sept. 11 attacks, would be protected under California law. Even though the couple shared many parts of their

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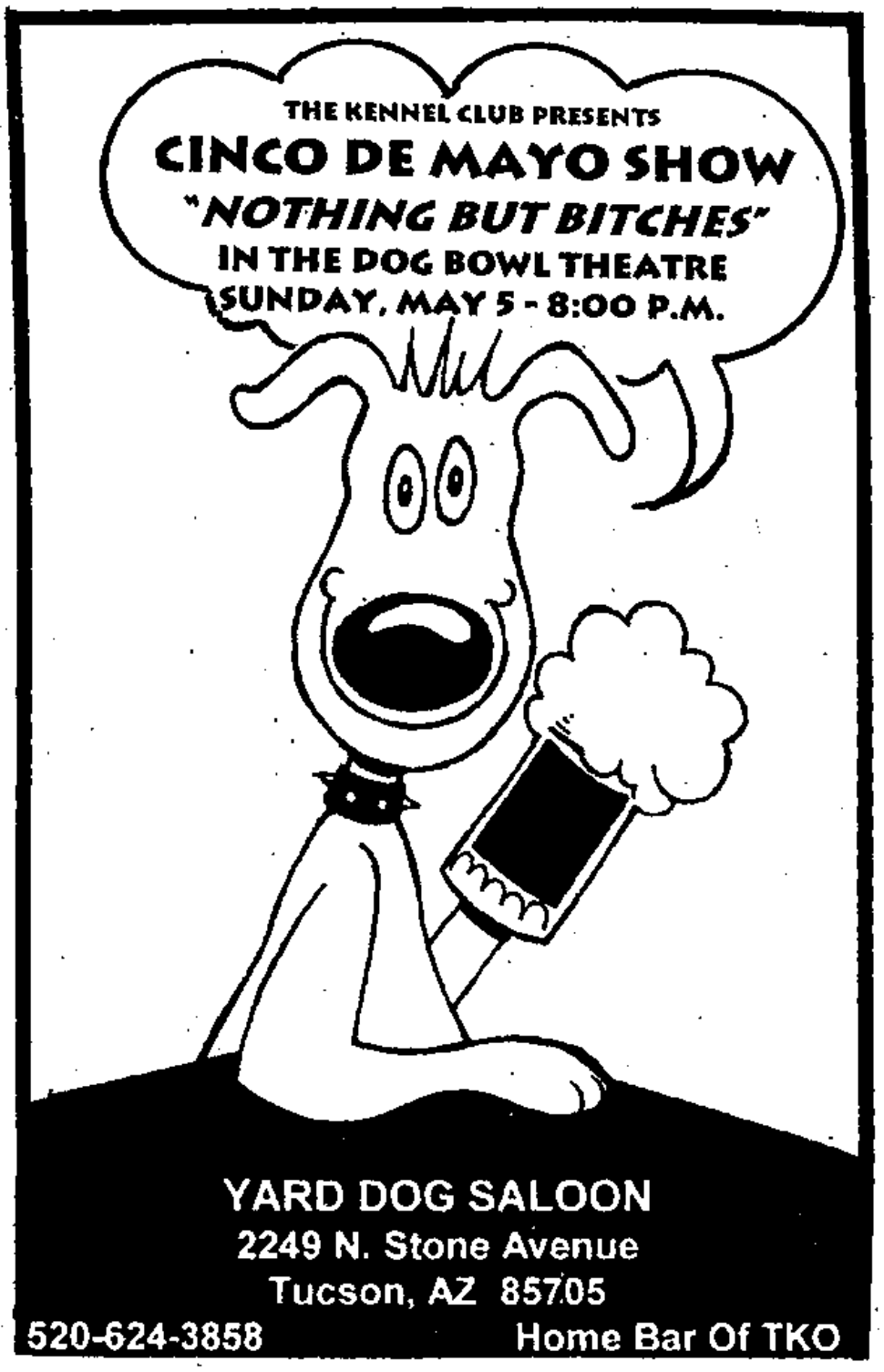

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Prom King & Queen Announced

TUCSON - The Yard Dog held its first Prom Night last Saturday and it was quite a success. Many folks came in tuxedos and formal wear, lots of corsages and lots of gaiety! Pictured above are the winners of King and Queen of this year's Prom - Trisha J. Witt and Richard Mainz. More photos on page eight as well as on the Observer website.

What Are The Proper Procedures?

TUCSON (ON) - In March of this year, an incident took place outside a Gay bar on Fourth Avenue where a patron leaving the establishment and trying to get into their car, was allegedly assaulted by another individual.

Yet another "bar fight" to report isn't the reason for this story but what happened afterwards, the alleged "response" by Tucson's police and fire department paramedics is the gist of this story.

The alleged victim in this incident, who wishes to remain anonymous, filed a complaint with Tucson Police Chief, Richard Miranda, Tucson Fire Chief, Dan Newburn and the City of Tucson Equal Opportunity Office (EOO), getting responses back from Miranda's office and from Newburn and is awaiting the final results from the EOO office. "The system is set up to work, but sometimes it doesn't," stated the alleged victim, who added that they won't be pursuing the matter further.

What allegedly happened afterwards raises the question of what is the proper procedure when a person needs police assistance or is injured in an accident or in this case, an alleged assault.

According to the Tucson Police Department's General Order, #2420 (Revised in April of this year), Incident Command: "The responsibilities of members to respond to incidents include, but are not limited to the safe response to the incident and the deployment of additional units as necessary. Members arriving on the scene of a crime or other police incident are responsible for: Security of the scene; prevention of further injury or loss of life, to include the application of first aid/CPR as appropriate; apprehension of violators; and, the conduct of a thorough investigation."

The Order goes on to state that a case officer will be "designated for all arrests and major incidents," and is responsible for: "Documenting the circumstances and details of the incident; the probable cause for arrest, if applicable; the names and payroll numbers of other members involved, and a brief synopsis of witness involvement; any statements or admissions by the defendant; and, a witness list and synopsis of their involvement."

If an individual is involved in an incident and needs medical care, Ralph Franklin, R.N. and Clinical Practitioner, said that paramedics will: identify the victim; check vitals, do an assessment, (a neurological one if necessary), and establish the ABC's (airway, breathing and circulation) of the patient. Franklin said that if CPR is not required, the paramedics should provide first aid services to the victim if they want treatment, since the paramedics can't force medical care or a trip to the hospital to a person who doesn't want it.

If the victim needs ER treatment, and is in a major, life-threatening situation, the City of Tucson will provide transport, Franklin said. He went on to state that in other cases where the victim is not in a major, life-threatening situation, they will assist the victim in finding transport to the nearest, appropriate emergency facility.

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COMMENTARY

Editorial Gets Replies!

[Editor's Note: The following is a series of letters the Observer received in response to the editorial in Issue #926, "Second Chances Shouldn't Be Wasted," for which this publication will respond to the letters in next week's print and online editions.]

EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the editorial in last week's (Wednesday, April 17th) of the Observer. The editorial states that Wingspan failed to take action concerning the incident involving the Tucson Firefighter, Franchot Opela, who assaulted a Gay man outside a bar on February 9, 2000.

Wingspan did respond to this incident. In fact, although we have no staff member dedicated to addressing these types of issues, every staff member and many volunteers took time out of their regular responsibilities to organize a community response. Here are a few of the actions that Wingspan took:

1. Set up an online and print petition for community members to request that the Mayor and City Council investigate the incident and take appropriate action.

2. Sent out over 50 letters to other organizations in Tucson, asking for them to join Wingspan and the LGBT community in pressuring Mayor and City Council to investigate and possibly terminate Opela. Staff also followed up with personal phone calls.

3. Helped organize a group of Tucson activists and Phoenix activists to attend Opela's licensing hearing in Phoenix. Five Wingspan staff members attended the hearing in Phoenix.

4. Sent letters and emails to the Arizona Department of Health Services (who licenses EMT's and firefighters), asking ADHS to revoke Opela's license.

5. Wingspan staff attended every GLBT Commission meeting that focused on the firefighter issue.

6. Met with community leaders to discuss strategies for handling the incident in an effort to support and strengthen the work of the GLBT Commission.

7. Wrote several letters to the Mayor and City Council Members asking them to investigate the incident and to take appropriate disciplinary action against those members of the department who were involved in the incident.

8. Appeared on TV and in the newspaper many times, demanding that Opela and those involved in the incident receive appropriate disciplinary action. Wingspan 'went out on a limb' with these demands given that we receive significant funding from the City of Tucson.

The focus of Wingspan's work has been in providing services to community members in the areas of domestic violence services, youth outreach and support, information and referral about community businesses and resources, including our lending library and cyber center for community use. In addition, we put on monthly community forums and the annual Film Festival for community enrichment and discussion. While we do not have any current programs or staff dedicated to political action, these issues are nonetheless of concern to us. We try very hard to respond as best we can, given our limited resources.

We are pleased that the editorial mentioned that we are in the process of gathering community input as we begin planning for our future. We welcome the community's comments and feedback. Please do write, call or email us and let us know what direction you would like Wingspan to take in the future. (300 East Sixth Street, 85705; 624-1779; wingspan@wingspanaz.org.)

Tucson is a small city, and our only hope for a bright and safe future for our community is to work together.

Kent Burbank
Executive Director
Wingspan

[Ed. Note: A similar letter was received by the Observer from a volunteer with the organization.]

EDITOR:

I was flabbergasted when I read the editorial claiming a complete lack of response from the GLBT populace, groups and organizations regarding the firefighter incident. As a GLBT community member, a Wingspan volunteer, and one of the contingent that drove to Phoenix for the Franchot Opela hearing, – I beg to differ. Wingspan was on the forefront in organizing a community response, setting up an on-line and print petition requesting that the Mayor and City Council investigate and take appropriate action; sending out letters to other Tucson organizations to collaborate in this effort; organizing a group to attend the the hearing – as well as sending five of its staff to attend; sending letters and e-mails to ADHS who ultimately – perhaps influenced by this action? – chose to recommend revocation of Opela's EMT license. Every time I read an article about the incident, I saw Kent Burbank or another Wingspan spokesperson being quoted.

To say that Wingspan has "lost its focus on its purpose and commitment" is preposterous. From its work with domestic violence victims, the opening of the youth drop-in center and the new CyberCenter, the monthly community forums Wingspan sponsors to educate and involve all sectors of the community -- just to name a few of its programs and services -- Wingspan has shown leadership and vision.

If Wingspan doesn't meet your needs, drop by, call or e-mail your suggestions for improvement -- and to get involved to make things better. Only by working together will we be able to make a difference in our community, to make it safer and better place to live.

Bryan G. Scott.

EDITOR:

I am writing in responce [sic] to the recent editoridal [sic] that said that wingspan did noting [sic] in support for the GBLT community concerning the issue the fire fighter issue. I disagree with the stament [sic]. Wingspan contacted me several times, I then made the phone calls I need to. I was not available to travle [sic] to the hearing, but I know wingspan invited me. I think it was wrong to run this editorial. There is no other group in town that

CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN

supports the community the way wingspan does. Please let me know what postive [sic] impact you feel your paper has on the community and why the paper is not more supportive of wingspan. Even if what your paper said was true (in my opion [sic] it is not), why run a negative story? Why not focus on the positive aspsects [sic] of wingspan....Queervoice, DV project, etc.

Patrick Powers

EDITOR:

It has come to my attention that there was an article in the Observer that was critical of Wingspan's response to the hate crime committed by the off-duty Tucson firefighter, Franchot Opela, on February 9, 2000

Although I am not directly involved with Wingspan, I am a member of the Tucson PFLAG board of directors and the reconciling committee at St Francis in the Foothills UMC. Both PFLAG and the members of St Francis hold Wingspan in high regard. I personally learned of the incident from Wingspan staff and was encouraged by a communication from the director to express my outrage to the Fire Department and the City of Tucson.

Since that time I have been kept up to date by Wingspan Volunteers as well as the Mayor's Commission on LGBT Affairs.

I believe that Wingspan acted very responsibly in dealing with this matter. A case can surely be made for more aggressive action in light of the lack of action by the Fire Department management. However, the actions and statement of Wingspan staff and the Mayor's Commission members have made it clear to anyone paying attention that justice was not done

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX

in this case and that the Tucson Fire Department has been placed on probation by the community as a whole.

Maybe it's time for us all to pull together to make sure our community knows that we are united against anti-Gay bigotry. There isn't a lot of point in pointing fingers at each other.

Scott Morris

EDITOR:

I am writing in regard to the recent editorial written in the Tucson Observer titled "Second chances shouldn't be wasted." I would like to share with you a very different perspective of Wingspan and the work they do.

I am a community member with many connections to Wingspan. I have visited the center on several occasions, most recently for a Community Forum in January. As a matter of fact, I was involved in the planning of this forum which addressed issues of disability in the LGBT community.

The idea for this forum was brought to my attention by a Wingspan staff member who knew of my interest in disability issues. Not only did this person seek me out with the proposition of this forum, this staff member also showed an interest in finding out what the Community Center needed to do to be more accessible to people with disabilities. This person is not the director of outreach, nor where they even the coordinator the forum series. This was simply a person who showed a sincere interest in bringing in a community that is not being served by Wingspan at this time. It was a person who did not think twice about going above and beyond their job duties. This person could have easily ignored the issue and waited until I brought it up. I think the way in which Wingspans has acted in attempting to serve undeserved members of our community should be commended.

As to the organization loosing [sic] its focus, I strongly disagree. I believe that the recent effort of Wingspan to organize community members to participate in a protest against the Christian Right's movement "Love One Out" conference in Phoenix is evident of how incorrect your assumption is. Earlier this month, a group of activists organized by a staff member at Wingspan protested outside of the conference site of a national "Love One Out" Conference. This staff person again was not given a directive by anyone else but community members to respond to this offensive conference. Many in this community who participated both in body and spirit (I being one of them) where able to begin to end the misery experienced by those who suffered Christian fundamental brain washing thanks to the leadership of Wingspan.

It is the behind the scenes work that happens at Wingspan that both you and I are not privileged in seeing that makes this Community Center truly open and responsive to the needs of our community. I too feel the frustration of the Franchot Opela situation. I too want to feel I am safe in Tucson. But I do not believe that pointing fingers to and fro brings us any closer to that end. Uninformed and inflammatory editorials like this will bring the end of the GLBT rights movement in Tucson. Divide us and we are conquered.

Nancy Franklin

EDITOR:

I am writing to you regarding these comments made in the Observer:

"Wingspan, which purports to be "Tucson's GLBT Community Center," failed as well in the matter of the Tucson firefighter, seeming to get more television sound-bites and quotes in the newspapers than getting a "community" response, such as a march, protest, or a massive letter writing and phone calling campaign, something which high ranking officials in Wingspan had stated they intended on doing, in both the mainstream press and this publication. Their response on this and purported claims of their programs, "community" involvement and overall successes, made by the organization prior, raises serious questions of the intent and purpose of Wingspan, and whether the organization is focused on its purpose and commitment but a second chance is being offered to this organization, something which GLBT Tucsonans can help with."

I am shocked and angry that the Observer would attack a community-based organization in this way. Whether or not these allegations are true - and I know they are not because I participated in many activities Wingspan did to protest the firefighter situation - I don't believe its appropriate for you to attack the organization like this. Wingspan is a small grassroots orga-

CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN

Looks like nothing else,

HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

It's time to change gears friends as both the Sun and Mercury move from feisty Aries to steady Taurus. Where are you headed? Scrutinize your atlas and go where your heart leads you; Next month at this time Saturn forms an exact opposition to Pluto. Your life's goals are pinned on a dissecting tray and examined down to their toenails. Make sure that they are clean.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

As you finish writing out that tax check, thank your lucky stars that the Sun and Mercury have decided to make a move into dependable Taurus. Fiscal opportunities multiply and you feel in the pink financially. Is it a pink elephant, though? Do your homework, ask (and follow) the right advice and you will have more than peanuts to feed you in your golden years.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Queer Bulls are the center of attention as both the Sun and Mercury trot into their own sign. How do you like the limelight, cousin? Prepare for your imminent debut by sprucing up your wardrobe and overall appearance. Mercury has you requesting a personal stylist to get things looking bullish. Perhaps it's time to retire that paisley qiana shirt collection. Or perhaps not.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Feel the spark of inspiration as the Sun and Mercury move into Taurus. Gay Twins divine the dark recesses of their universe and find that there is illumination. Carry your torch proudly compadre and shed a little light on others on your way. Your insights help you overcome hidden enemies and thwart their nasty plans. What will you do with them once you've caught them?

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

You social calendar opens up when the Sun and Mercury dance into Taurus now. Friends and certain special cliques demand your presence and participation. Don't disappoint them. You have some great ideas and Mercury helps you find the right audience. Choose your events wisely and don't fall into that pink Crab habit of holing up in your shell.... alone.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

If you have been feeling ignored and under-appreciated at work, worry no longer, proud Lion. The professional strobe points in your direction and you can make or break your image and career path. Have you been putting in the effort? If not get your tail in motion. Both the Sun and Mercury enter Taurus and deliver cosmic just desserts. Hey is that a cherry on top?

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Great tidal movements can come from small waves. Now, as Sun and Mercury dip into Taurus, queer Virgins grab their surfboards and hang eleven... er... ten. Seize the opportunity to voice your opinions. Whether that means sending missives electronically from home or setting sail for distant lands is up to you. The most important thing is to expand your Outreach.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

The animal magnetism of Sun and Mercury in Taurus sends your sexuality in overdrive. Lucky pink Libras should make good use of time to corral and brand their steer. But Taurus energy can also be lethargic. You are tempted to stretch out in the sun and smell the flowers. Put out a bit of energy now to insure that next month you won't be stretching it out alone.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Cinderella met her match at the grand ball. Why shouldn't you? Gay Scorps are in for a treat when Sun and Mercury move into Taurus. Relationships heat up which can mean a recharging or revamping of current partnerships or a completely new face to wake up to each morning. The secret is to know who you are looking for. If it's Bin Laden, take a breather and try again.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

The moral of the story is "Never put off until tomorrow what you can snap your fingers and do today". When Sun and Mercury shift into placid Taurus, the temptation is to defer all unpleasant tasks until some time in the distant future. Bad idea, proud Archer; these miserable things have a tendency to pile up quickly and can bury you. Get Out from under... or maybe not.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Rainbow Caps become party animals when both the Sun and Mercury enter Taurus. There is the temptation to reprioritize all your work projects and simply enjoy life for the next month. And why not? Life is too darn short. Join the conga line and kick up your heels. Also use this wonderful time to wake up and stir your creative Gay juices. Nap time over! Time to squeeze!

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Turn your attention homeward when both the Sun and Mercury amble into Taurus. Aqueerians can create a special personal space for themselves and for loved ones. Redecorate, refurbish or remove. The planets provide energy, inspiration and even the gumption to deal with family issues. When it comes to points of discussion, let's do a little spring cleaning, shall we?

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Even laconic rainbow Fish become sparkling conversationalists when the expansive Sun and thoughtful Mercury enter Taurus. The planets give you a rare opportunity to reach the multitudes... or at least the immediate neighborhood with your bon mots. Guppies find that they can express themselves and get what they want by just asking. So why not just ask?

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POLITICS 2002
by Mark R. Kerr

'A Bill Dies And Is Replanted In 1700 West Washington'

As previously reported in this column last week, yet another effort to end the censorship by the radical right on HIV/-AIDS education in Arizona's schools, so that accurate information about the dreaded disease can be disseminated briefly saw "the legislative light of day," as a strike-everything amendment on SB 1425, before it was quashed by the state House GOP leadership.

It was the third try for proponents, with one bill, HB 2438, never receiving a committee hearing and the Senate companion measure, SB 1157, which received a hearing before the Senate Health Committee, garnering approval but since the bill had been assigned to two committees, and was shot down by state Senator Ken Bennett, R-Prescott, the chair of the Senate Education Committee for which SB 1157 had been assigned, who refused to give the bill a hearing.

As they say in 1700 West Washington, home of the Arizona Legislature, nothing is over until "Sine Die," the Latin phrase which ends the session and was the case for proponents of the HIV education measure, at the least for the moment, when it was resurrected, replanted again.

At the weekly hearing, Tuesday, April 16, of the Senate Health Committee, the chair of the committee, state Senator Sue Gerard, R-Phoenix, offered a strike-everything amendment to HB 2249, changing the bill to the latest reincarnation of the HIV education proposal. After testimony and discussion, the Senate Health Committee approved HB 2249 by a 7-0 vote.

David Hoover, President of the Board of the Arizona AIDS Policy Alliance (AZAPA), expressed his pleasure over the revival of the proposal again for this legislative session. "Our lobbyist, Joe Abate, has done a wonderful job of coordinating the efforts of Planned Parenthood, the Arizona Human Rights Fund and legislators to keep this alive," Hoover added.

HB 2249 went to the Senate Rules Committee, on its next stop in the legislative process, Monday, April 22, where the measure was declared to be constitutional and valid and was subsequently approved by voice vote, which sent HB 2249 went to the Senate Caucus, for which the Democratic caucus gave their approval on HB 2249 and the Senate Republicans delayed action on the bill since Senator Sue Gerard was out ill. ...

Without dissent but with plenty of cheers and a few high-pitched screams, the Arizona House agreed, by a 55-0 margin, to ease signature-gathering requirements for legislative candidates on Monday, April 22, with a strike-everything amendment on SB 1032.

A pending lawsuit has left lawmakers unsure whether a court will allow the new district lines crafted by a special commission to take effect for the September primary. Since a state judge is not expected to rule until late May, with the case then appealed to the Arizona Supreme Court, which might not decide the issue until after the June 12 deadline to file petitions, so with that, the new and improved SB 1032 allows candidates to file signatures using either the new district lines adopted by the commission or the lines from the districts that were used since the 1990 census.

SB 1032 now goes back to the Arizona Senate for a concurrence vote, and the inevitable howls of glee. If approved, since the odds of it being voted down, with a pending court trial and time running out on those petition signatures are next to nothing, the bill would then go to the governor's desk for action.

Commentary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

nization with a very tight budget and overworked staff. By "high ranking officials" I assume you mean Kent Burbank and the board members. Kent is a highly dedicated nonprofit worker who works very hard for the GLBT community with little or no recognition, not enough pay, and a lot of grief from people like you. The board is a very committed group of volunteers who give up their time and resources to serve the GLBT community every day. The Observer should be supporting Wingspan, not attacking it.

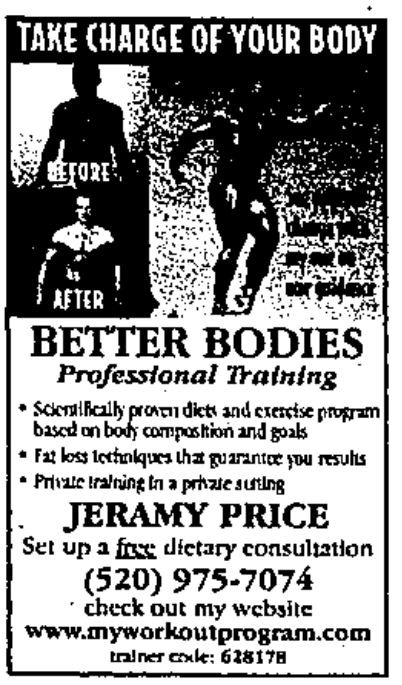
Laura Alexander
Executive Director
Women's Foundation
of Southern Arizona
Investing in the Lives
of Women & Girls.
Today & Tomorrow.

EDITOR:

I find your comments regarding Wingspan highly offensive and untrue. What in the world prompted you to attack such a great organization and their volunteers and staff who are doing so much good for so many in our community? I am sure there must be something going on here that I don't have a clue about because I have been volunteering the past few months with this active group and have found it to be quite active and effective in domestic violence counseling, supporting youth, and in general human rights education. Your article serves only to put down a wonderful local activist group and that is a real shame.

Please take another look, apologize, or at the very least let me know what this is all REALLY about.

Susan Thorpe



A View From The Rock

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

We had a sermon on pride last week and it got me to thinking. Pride is a strange and rather unique thing. We have pride in ourselves, pride in our country, even pride in our work and in those cases, pride seems like a good thing. Who doesn't enjoy being on the receiving end when someone takes pride in his/her work and then geste to reap the benefits?

But the message on pride was one of warning. You see there is a dark, ugly side to pride. It so easily enters our lives and can almost instantly turn a caring, loving person into an arrogant, mean-spirited being. Think about the last time you felt proud of yourself. If you felt pride in something you accomplished, that's a positive thing. If you felt as though you were a better person than someone else because of what you accomplished, than the pride was negative. See how easily those two can become mixed up.

God tells us in the Bible that he hates pride. We also read that pride will only lead to a fall and ultimately, destruction. Pretty harsh words but oh so true. We are each called by God to live humbly and to offer love to others. Yet if pride be our leader, than each one of us will fall under God's expectations. Pride will keep us from giving to others and can keep us from receiving all that God wants to bless us with.

Pride is definitely something we each need to be aware of and keep in check. Remember, you can't be prideful and humble at the same time. You can't be generous or encouraging while tearing someone down. And we can't praise God while we're busy making ourselves seem important.

If anyone had the right to be prideful it was Jesus. But he never was. In fact, his only description of his own character was, "I am gentle and humble of heart." I know that I'm going to take my cue from Jesus ... how about you?

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

'When Is It Terrorism?'

Now that "terrorism" has become an international buzzword, it might be worth the effort to see if there's actually a useful concept behind it.

The dictionary definition – systematic use of terror, especially as a means of coercion – doesn't seem very promising, problem being the vagueness of the word "terror."

Before 9-11, there was a colloquial use of the word "terrorism" that was fairly definite and descriptive, a use that political expediency is currently distorting beyond all recognition.

Back then, pre 9-11, everyone could agree that, if an IRA car bomb blew up in a busy street, that was terrorism. Now the politicians are putting all kinds of qualifications on the term that really muddy the water and may soon render the word completely useless.

Take, for example, the notion that what would have been an act of terrorism may not be if the act is sponsored by Yasir Arafat. Or take the notion that killing civilians, whether intentional or accidental, is always terrorism. Or the notion that military occupation that is humiliating to a civilian population is terrorism.

The fact about language, regardless of who's using it or what term is involved, is that when a word starts to mean anything you want it to it stops meaning anything at all.

The word "terrorism" once did mean something, and what it meant specific enough for it to be a useful linguistic tool.

The reason that we once all agreed that a car bomb going off in a busy street was terrorism was because the intended target of a military operation was civilians. Wouldn't that be a good working definition to go back to? Terrorism: military operations directed against civilians.

The heart of this definition is the distinction between accidentally killing civilians in a military operation directed against another military and intentionally killing or harming civilians. It seems a useful distinction both in terms of common sense and in terms of ethical considerations. After all, negative accidental occurrences generally carry less culpability than negative intended occurrences.

If we've come up with a workable definition, we ought to be able to apply it to any factual situation with a high degree of agreement, no matter what our political biases may be. That's the acid test: terminology that can be used in the same way by political opponents.

Let's try it out: The car bomb in the marketplace. Terrorism. No problem.

Suicide bombing of civilians. Terrorism.

Suicide bombing of a military base, Surprise! Not terrorism.

Civilians accidentally killed when a military target is bombed. Not terrorism.

The military occupation of a town, as part of a larger military campaign, that results in heavy civilian casualties. Not terrorism.

The Nazi bombing of London to put pressure on the British government to surrender. Terrorism.

Our bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to put pressure on the Japanese government to surrender. Terrorism.

Our bombing of Dresden because the war was winding down and we had lots of bombs left over. Terrorism.

Looks like we may have a pretty precise term here. Let's give it a really tough test: a military occupation of a town that (1) does not advance a larger military operation and that (2) is intended to make living conditions in the town so unpleasant that civilians will voluntarily leave the area.

You make the call.

[Thorn welcomes comment Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754.]

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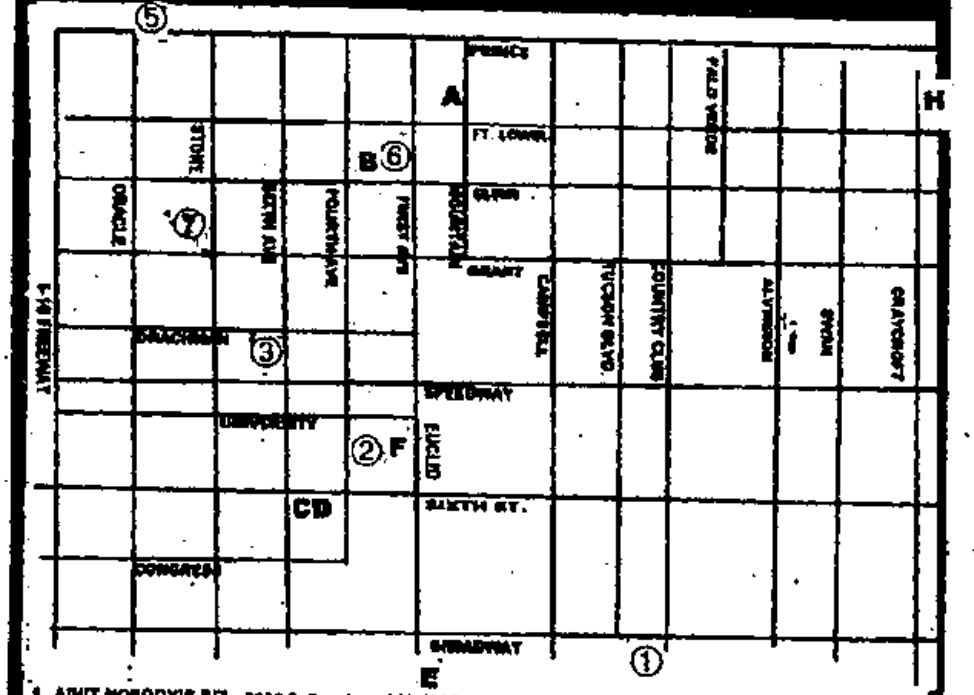

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DESERT COYOTES LEAGUE STANDINGS

	W	L
Bernadette's Peter	43.0	13.0
2 PP's & A HooHoo	36.0	20.0
Mama's Boys	34.0	22.0
Gutter Snipes	33.0	23.0
Free Your Balls	32.0	24.0
Gay Divorcees	32.0	24.0
One Is-Two Ain't	30.0	26.0
Hardwhere?	29.0	27.0
Big Ballers	27.0	29.0
Beat Around The Bush	25.0	31.0
Tres Amigos	25.0	31.0
Erratica 6	21.0	35.0
Sleaze Bearz	14.0	42.0
Even-Stevens	11.0	45.0

SEASON ACHIEVEMENTS

High Average: Bernadette's Peter, 595; JoAnn S., 177; 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.

Shakespeare

Continued from Page One

ture is of Southampton, although he argued that the man was not necessarily affecting a female appearance, as a modern observer may assume.

"This is a man but he is not a cross-dresser," Laing said.

"He is not wearing lipstick – some pigments just stand the passage of time better than others, giving this appearance. It is dangerous to assume anything about this man's character from this portrait."

British newspapers have played up the significance of the discovery, with the mass circulation tabloid Sun headlining its story "Shakesqueer."

But even if the discovery of the portrait is much ado about nothing, it has proved effective publicity for the painting, which is now on show at Cobbe's stately home at Hatchlands Park in southern England.

Estate Rights

Continued from Page Three

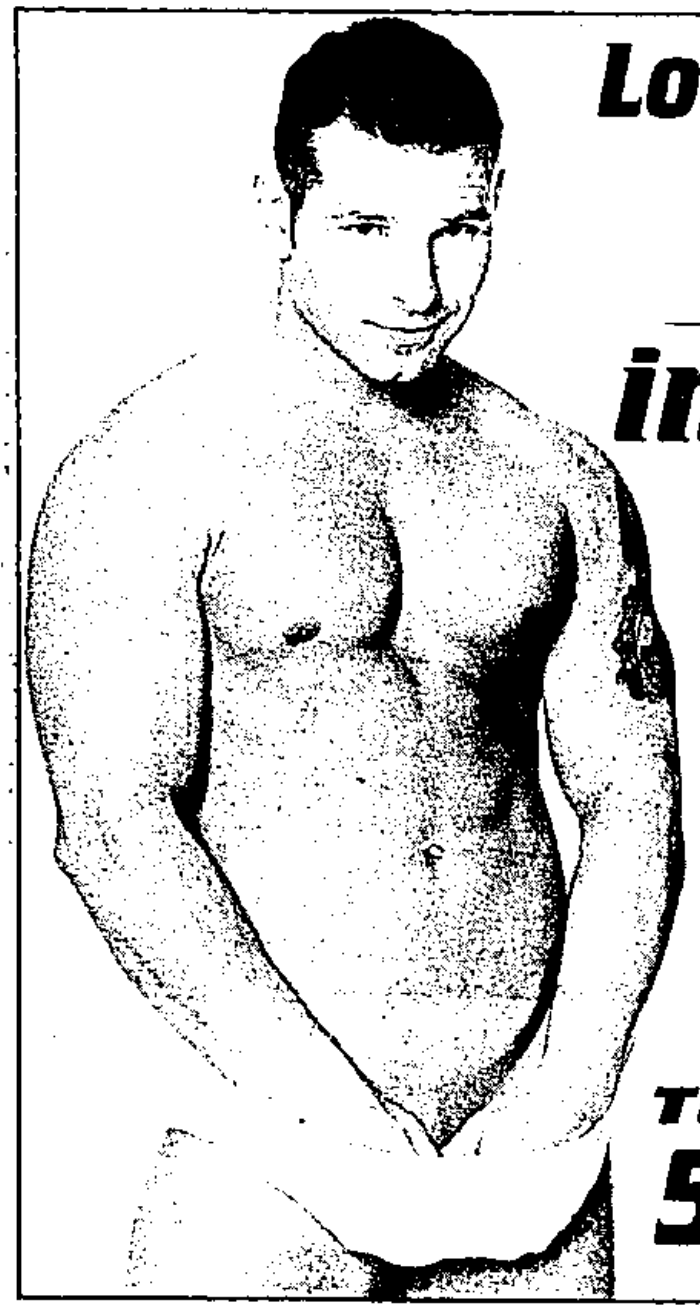
lives, including health insurance benefits, Bradkowski was not given a $25,000 compensation package after losing his partner, Jeff Collman, who worked for American Airlines. The money instead went to Collman's next of kin, his parents from whom he was estranged for many years, according to Jean Harris, executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE).

Harris strongly urges all Gay and Lesbian couples to register with the state – or at least to put a will together. "People have to understand they have to have that piece of paper. It's now become a serious document to produce when these things come up," Harris said. "There are people out there who will stand in the way of the benefits we're getting now. Even straight people who are married should have a will in hand. A statutory will is taken much more seriously."

The case of inheritance rights was initially included in AB 25, which was sponsored by Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, and passed last year, giving Gay and Lesbian couples expanded domestic partner rights that married couples currently receive, including hospital visitation rights, the right to recover wrongful death damages, co-parent adoption rights and the right to take sick leave to care for an ailing partner.

However, the inheritance rights portion of AB 25 was removed in the final hours before the bill passed in June of last year. AB 2216 would be added to the current list of rights domestic partners currently enjoy.

XOXO
Hug a PWA today!
XOXO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Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

7-9:30 p.m. Men's Interactive Relationships & Tantra video. Have more passion in your life and improve relationships. Call Marc at 881-4582 for more information

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Tucson Prime Timers Pia Mine Tour- 11:00 a.m. Limited to twenty (20) persons - meet at Pia Mine for the 11:00 A.M. tour. Cost $4.00 per person. We will lunch at the Agave Restaurant, Desert Diamond Casino at 1:00 P.m. Both are accessible from I-19 Exit 80. The Pia Mine is to the West and the Casino is to the East. Phone: Don 622-1835 for reservations for the mine tour and lunch.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

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.

3:30 - 6:00 p.m. Tantra Workshop for men. This workshop will make you a better lover for yourself and your partner. This is a spiritual/erotic connection to create more harmony in your life. Fee. Call Marc 881-4582 in advance.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 1:00 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1600 N. Stone Ave., S. of Grant Rd. Phone: 622-1835

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, APRIL 30

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.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

15TH Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jello Wrestling fundraiser for SAAF. Woody's., 3710 N. Oracle, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. No one under age 21 admitted.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Bridge Night will meet at Perry's house this month. If you're a beginner or an old pro, this is the place to meet for an evening of bridge for fun. For reservations and directions, please call Perry at 321-4367.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 a.m. Join Rich and Gene for a birding expedition to Madera Canyon. For details, please call Gene at 625-8109.

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

#3. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Potluck and Social Gathering where we invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. For directions, please call Jerry at 690-9665.

MONDAY, MAY 6

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, MAY 7

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Joe for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For directions or more info, please call Joe at 733-9494.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Carl hosts the Tucson Stockmen-an investment club spun off from MSN. If you'd like to know more, please call Carl at 331-4236.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join David for a fun Dinner Out at Athens on 4th Avenue. Try some of Tucson's best Greek food, and get to know the guys of MSN. For details, please call David at 409-4183.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry and Les for the latest installment of the 2nd season of "Queer As Folk". For directions and reservations, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9665.

BAR CALENDAR

OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. "Diva Licious" Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Faith Michaels, Tori Steele and Janee Starr.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Drag Show benefit for Kyra Starr (Miss Gay Arizona USA 2002) and hosted by Tori Steele (Miss Gay Arizona USA 2001) with guests Candi Cole', Cache and Ebonae Shane. No Cover. Latin music after the show.

IBT'S - Party line-up includes Dennis and Mike's Recovery Bar from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. $1.50 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to IBT's Arizona Angels softball team. Then at 8:30 a special fundraiser Show for the Arizona Angels Softball Team, starring Ajia Simone, Deora Le Blanc, Janee Starr, Stella Virgin and Tori Steele. Team members of the Arizona Angels will be auctioning themselves off for their trip to the Gay Softball World Series.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. "Diva Licious" show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Samantha White, Ajia Simone and Faith Michaels.

FRI-SAT-SUN, MAY 3-4-5 CINCO DE MAYO

VENTURE-N - Cig celebration here all three days plus there will be food by Caramen and Charles! Stop on by and Ole!

SUNDAY, MAY 5

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Cinco de Mayo celebration inside and out here from 2:00 p.m. to closing. Latin music from 7:00 to close. Adrienne's fry bread 6:00 p.m. Drink specials.

WOODY'S - 15TH Annual Reno Gannon Jello Wrestling benefit for SAAF. Watch for more details. And sign up now to participate.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 a.m. Join Jack for a morning of tennis. For directions, please call Jack at 881-5733.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Marv will host Pinochle & Pizza beginning with a chance to share some pizza and meet and greet the other players over pizza ($5), followed by Pinochle at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

MONDAY, MAY 13

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, MAY 14

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 733-9494.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Bridge Night will meet at Perry's house this month. If you're a beginner or an old pro, this is the place to meet for an evening of bridge for fun. For reservations and directions, please call Perry at 321-4367.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry & Les for Game Night. All kinds of board games and card games are available for playing-and you're encouraged to bring your own favorite game as well. For reservations and directions, please contact Jerry at 690-9665.

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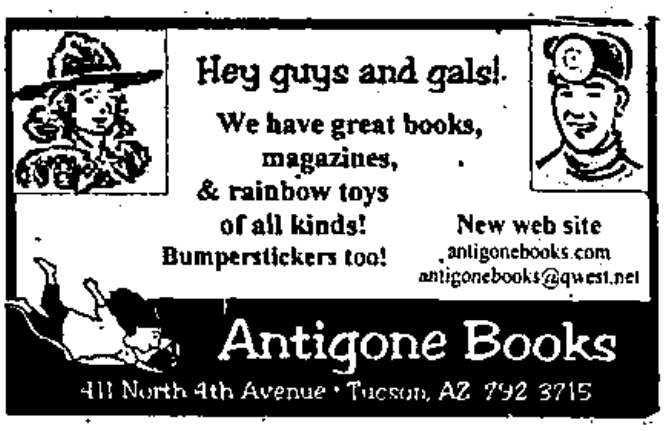

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 5-10, $1.25 pitchers. Latin Music with DJ Hill 8:30 to close. Shot specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-6pm $1.50 Bloodys, Screws or Mimosas. Benefit B-B-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, $1.75 Well 11am-7pm. Free Buffet @4pm. Drink Specials 11-3.

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, screwdrivers, Mimosas; $@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 sirloin burger or chicken 5-9pm. Karaoke with Billy Dee 9pm

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

Monday

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. New hot dance with DJ Panter. New Monday bartenders Jay and Chris. Queer As Folk shown beginning at 8pm. Drink specials starting at 9pm. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily. $1.75 Well 11am-7pm. Free pizza & $1.75 domestic beer 8-11

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well ordomestic beer til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm, $11.75 well or domestic Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close.

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

Tuesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm. $3 entry, pot matched. $1.50 longnecks for pool players. $2 Bottle Bud products. 8-close. Country music with DJs. 8:30-1

IBT's - 9am-4pm, $2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour$1.75 well & domestic beer 4-9pm. Tea'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, $1.75 Well 11am-7pm. Pool tourney 8pm ($3 entry). $1.75 beer during tourney. College nite in dance room (25¢ can beer and well with $5 admission)

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, Mai Tai's.

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

Wednesday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour 2-4-1 from 2-7. Beer Bash $1.25 Pitchers Bud/Bud Light 8-close. Dance music 9-close.

IBT's - 9am to 4pm, $2.00 domestic beer & well. Happy Hour $1.75 well & domestics 4-9pm. 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HiNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily. $1.75 Well 11am-7pm. Techno Nite with DJ Kurre 9-1

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 domestics. Volleyball games start 7pm. Underwear- fetish- leather nite with Michael $1 off your favorite drink. Chili dogs or bowls $1.

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

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS -Karaoke w/Stephanie 9-close. $2 Kamikazees and $1 Hot Sex.

IBT's - 9am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour$1.75 Well & domestic 4-9. Retro 80s Dance w/Jonathan Hi NRG glancing 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, $1.75 Well 11am-7pm. Techno Nite with DJ Kurre w/drink specials.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Pool Tournament 7pm. 3 entry. (Special prices for players).

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm $1.75 well or domestics.. Trivia Thursday 8pm-close plus 50¢ off all Big Ass drinks. Top scores on NTN game wins special prizes. Volley-ball Court is Open. See bartender.

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

Friday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Happy Hour Two-For-One 2-7. Free food at 5:30pm. Dance music 8:30-1 w/DJ Hill. Drink specials all night.

IBT's - 9am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-10. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. 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. Free hot dogs & $1.75 domestic beer 11-7. High voltage dance w/DJ Kurre 9-1.

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

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

Saturday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm $3 entry. Pot matched. $2 pitchers for pool players. Dance music w/DJ Hill 8:30-close.

IBT's - 9am-4pm $2.00 domestic beer and well. Happy Hour $1.75 well & domestic beer 4-10pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

JAKE'S - Open 11am daily, Free hot dogs & $1.75 Well 11am-7pm. 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. Til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm. $1.75 well or domestics. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Filet Mignon or Swordfish BBQ with all the trimmings $5.

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

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NOTICES

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

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

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 11am. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian Easty, facilitator, 882-7723

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8680 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

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

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 529-9344, leave name and phone number.

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

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

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 299-6647.

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 615-6436 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 622-3200or 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 6 weeks. 694-7063.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7895 or go to our web site http://www.tgsasoftball.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 CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

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

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

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.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Confidential individual or group support for Gay, Bisexual or Trans men who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. For more information call 624-0348 (24-hour line)

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Have any history/ experience singing? Join us!! Call 617-3100 for more info.

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

SENIORRAP, a discussion group for older LGSTs, 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 Tuesdy of each month at Wingspan. 7-9pm. Call 760-6714 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, 2817 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 Ernie Slaight 721-2003.

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 792-4607, Ext.398

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet woman 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. Desert Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert Boyz meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. of every month. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779 for more info. SAGAEmail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagaemail

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6624.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4605.

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

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4600.

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 299-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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

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

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

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

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

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 578-9020

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO – a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

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

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 968-2384.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PERSONALS

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SC School District Pulls Novel About Homophobia

CHARLESTON, SC (GFN) - A book that deals with the role of religion in Gay persecution has been removed from eight schools in Horry County, S.C., while district officials review it and determine its appropriateness for children.

"The Drowning of Stephan Jones," by Bette Greene, was removed after a parent complained about its content.

In a letter sent to school superintendent Gerrita Postlewait and members of the Horry County board of education outlining his objections to the book, parent Eugene Carroll Craig complained that the book promotes homosexuality.

"I did not feel that the book should be afforded the dignity of a review board," Craig wrote. "I looked upon it as a rattlesnake that had crawled into the living rooms of everybody's home in Horry County and needed to be killed right then and right there."

Pending a decision by a panel of educators, the book was removed from the eight schools until its fate has been determined.

The American Library Association lists the 1991 "The Drowning of Stephan Jones" number 96 as one of the most frequently challenged books of the 1990s.

Iowa Student Challenges School's Harassment Policy

GILBERT, IA - High school student Jerryn Johnston had heard the slurs—"fag," "queer"--but when his car's tires were slashed on the day of his first wrestling practice, he feared he was being targeted because he is openly Gay. Johnston sought help from the local school board, asking that sexual orientation be added as a characteristic covered by the district's discrimination and harassment policies.

At an April 1 school board meeting, a nearly equal number of parents spoke both in support of and against changing the current policies. Such policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, disability, nationality, religion, and marital status.

Several parents said that specifically adding sexual orientation would squelch the free speech rights of those who believe homosexuality is immoral. "Parents would lose the right to 'protect' students from homosexuality being taught in the schools," Cathy Anderson said.

Johnston, a senior at Gilbert Junior-Senior High, with an enrollment of 465 students, said the anti discrimination policy doesn't address right and wrong. "It's not promoting anything or against anything," he said. "The issue is about safety, it's not about values or morals or beliefs."

Missouri Prosecutor Brings Sodomy Charges

HILLSBORO, MO - In the hopes of pressing charges against several adult video store patrons who were caught having sex on the premises during a police raid, authorities in Missouri have charged six Gay men with sodomy violations, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports.

Under Missouri sodomy statutes, "deviate sexual intercourse with another person of the same sex" is a class B misdemeanor. Jefferson County prosecutor Bob Wilkins said that he was hesitant to use the controversial statute, but that its use in this case was necessary.

"It is not my intention to judge the conduct of consenting adults," Wilkins told the newspaper on Monday. He said prosecution on the statute was being used only to combat what he called "open and notorious" sexual activity at the video store.

"This is not about throwing homosexuals in jail," Wilkins said.

The men were arrested earlier this month in a raid on Award Video just outside of St. Louis. Those patrons who were arrested for having sex were in the pornographic theater area of the store at the time of the raid.

Suspected Egyptian Gays Cleared On Appeal

CAIRO, Egypt - Five men who were sentenced last month to three-year prison terms for suspected homosexual activity had their sentences overturned in an Egyptian appeals court, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

The ruling took place in Damanhour, the capital of Al-Beheira province. The men, jailed since Jan. 15, have not yet been released, according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC).

"We are gratified that the Egyptian government is beginning to recognize its human rights obligations," said Scott Long, program director for IGLHRC. "Unfortunately, an unknown number of innocent people remain in prison because of their suspected homosexuality. We must continue the pressure until they are all released."

The men had been convicted on March 11 of habitual "debauchery" – a broad charge that includes consensual Gay sex. Their sentences of three years with hard labor continued a punitive trend that has alarmed activists worldwide for its harsh treatment of suspected homosexuals.

Last November, 23 of a total 52 suspected Gay defendants received similar sentences after a 4-month trial that received widespread media attention.

Reports of brutality and torture of the jailed men have prompted activists and officials to repeatedly denounce Egypt for human rights abuses directed at homosexuals

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