Observing Tucson And
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THE WEEKLY OBSERVER | MAY 29, 2002 | ISSUE 932

Republican House Leader Kills 9/11 Bill For G/L Survivors

WASHINGTON, DC (GFN) - The Republican majority leader in the U.S House killed a bill that would have extended death benefits to the survivors of Gay New York chaplain Mychal Judge and nine other public safety officers who died during the terrorist attacks on September 11.

The bill had cleared the House Judiciary Committee but was pulled from consideration by the full House by majority leader Dick Armey of Texas.

Sources on Capital Hill told the New York Post that the legislation was pulled because lawmakers were uncomfortable extending recognition to same-sex domestic partners.

George Burke of the International Association of Firefighters called Armey's move outrageous.

"It's a shame that politics are injecting themselves into something that was meant to be benevolent," he said.

Current law allows these federal benefits, which amount to $250,000 per victim, to go only to parents, spouses, or children of the victim. The proposal, which had already passed the Senate unanimously, would have extended those benefits to the siblings or domestic partners of these 10 victims, who had no "legal" beneficiaries.

Armey's move is in sharp contrast to New York Governor George Pataki, who had signed into law new provisions for The September 11 Victims and Families Relief Act, which included specific language for the families and partners of Gay and Lesbian victims, to help them recover financial losses. It is the first New York state law to include domestic partners in any context whatsoever.

The new provisions in the September 11 Victims and Families Relief Act amend several statutes, including workers' compensation, estate, trust, and tax laws, to avoid delays or rejection of claims because of conflicts with regulations of the federal Victim Compensation Fund.

It is intended that the new provision will help give Kenneth Feinberg, the "Special Master" named to oversee the federal victims' money, an additional basis in law to distribute federal fund awards to surviving same-sex partners living in New York state.

An estimated two dozen Gay men and Lesbians were killed in the Sept. 11 attacks, according to the Empire State Pride Agenda, New York's Lesbian and Gay civil rights advocacy organization, who negotiated the language of the bill with both the attorney general's and the governor's office in the weeks leading up to the bill's introduction on May 2.

New York state leaders demonstrated support for Gay partners as far back as last January, when during the "public comment" period for the September 11 Fund Victim Compensation Fund, Pataki, a Republican, and New York state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, a Democrat, filed a joint written objection to the government's Fund, saying they believed the Fund left surviving same-sex partners vulnerable to inadequate compensation.

"The September 11 Victims and Families Relief Act will make it easier for the families of victims to get the help and support they need and deserve," Pataki said.

Egypt Releases Suspected Gay Prisoners

CAIRO, Egypt - On Sunday, May 26, the Egyptian government ordered the release of 21 men convicted of "debauchery" in a crackdown on suspected Gays.

In an order signed by President Hosni Mubarak, the men will be freed while awaiting a new trial. Last week Mubarak ordered a retrial for the men, convicted after a raid on a Gay club in a Nile riverboat, 365Gay.com reported.

The government also said that it has abandoned plans to retry 29 other men found not guilty.

The 21 in prison have been subjected to physical exams to determine whether they had engaged in anal sex. They were also allegedly tortured.

A bail hearing will be scheduled by the prosecutor's office. The prosecutor will also determine if there is sufficient new evidence to conduct a second trial.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) welcomed news that those found not guilty would not be subjected to a new trial, but called on Mubarak to call off the retrials of those already convicted, calling the original trial "a sham."

"We are cautiously optimistic at news that guilty verdicts in the case have actually been canceled," said Scott Long, IGLHRC's Program Director, who has been following the case closely since the beginning.

"But renewed prosecution would be renewed persecution. These trials must

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Supreme Court Refuses To Hear HIV Disability Case

WASHINGTON, DC - The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday, May 28, declined to review the case of an Atlanta dental hygienist who was demoted to a low-paying administrative position when his employer discovered he was HIV-positive.

Spencer Waddell sued Valley Forge Dental Associates under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but his suit was dismissed by a federal district judge in 1999. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit backed that ruling last December, and Waddell appealed to the high court 90 days later, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

According to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, attorneys for Waddell, the court's rejection appears to leave a conflict in ADA law unresolved. In 1998, the Supreme Court ruled that a dentist may not refuse to treat a patient with HIV, writing that "little in life is risk-free" and that the mere existence of risk does not automatically constitute a "direct threat" to others.

Yet the reasoning of the federal judge and the appellate court justified Waddell's demotion based on the theoretical chance that he could transmit HIV to patients. Under an exception to the ADA, employers may discriminate if a disability poses a threat to other people. It was through this loophole that Valley Forge extracted itself from Waddell's suit.

In a statement last March, Lambda noted that the supervising dentist had no knowledge of AIDS and HIV, and thought that the virus could be transmitted through sweat. Although no case of a dental hygienist infecting a patient has ever been reported, the two courts nonetheless concluded that Waddell was a potential menace.

"In effect," wrote Lambda, "the Court of Appeals standard requires that, to even make it to trial, Waddell must first prove that something that has never happened in the past cannot possibly happen in the future, an impossible burden for any plaintiff." By virtue of this logic, said Lambda in legal briefs, "a host of imaginable disasters could be hypothesized to exclude virtually any individual with a disability."

Dentists and hygienists who adhere to standard precautions mandated by the dental industry run virtually zero risk of transmitting the virus. The several "friends of the court" on Waddell's side of the case included the American Dental Association and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

GLBT Seniors To Get Affordable Housing

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - While affordable housing has always been difficult for seniors, it's especially complicated for those in the GLBT community. But a new non-profit group hopes to change that.

Many senior housing developments don't allow unmarried couples to live together. Others don't recognize the unique family configurations that are often central to the community which bring friends, lovers and ex-lovers together. And some simply aren't welcoming to the GLBT community.

While there are a handful of for-profit senior housing facilities aimed specifically at the GLBT community, there are none that target those with low to moderate incomes. Now, a San Francisco non-profit organization is hoping to build the first "affordable" senior housing development for the GLBT community, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

"We have surveyed over 1,100 people and what they don't want to do is go to an area where they feel they can't be open about who they are," said Jim Mitulski, executive director of Rainbow Adult Community Housing (RACH). "We are committed to providing a way to preserve the ability of people with all incomes to live together," he told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network.

RACH is well on its way. It has received a $250,000 grant from the state of California and $45,000 from the city of San Francisco for feasibility studies and predevelopment work. In addition, it has drawn up plans for a 244-unit assisted care facility, complete with café, theater, wellness center and retail stores. RACH is hoping to build it on soon to be vacant state-owned land near the city's Castro District. One third of the units would be subsidized for those with incomes of $40,000 or less. The remainder of the units would be set at market rate.

"I am excited about this. I can see myself living in such a place," said Matile Rothschild, a member of San Francisco's GLBT senior community and a member of the Rainbow Adult Community Housing board.

"People need to be together and know there's a place that they can be taken care of, where they aren't isolated; if

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In their motion, Hale called the April 9, 2002 decision by ADHS to revoke Opela's EMT certification, overturning an initial ruling by an Administrative Law Judge, "a mockery" and "should be reversed because it is wrong." Eric Bryant, the judge assigned to hear the case, had ruled that ADHS could not revoke Opela's certification because he was on probation, for which the state agency overruled Bryant on April 9.

Hale goes after ADHS in the motion, stating further in the brief that the "law prohibits the ADHS from 'interpreting' its rules to mean things they do not say, no matter how 'reasonable' the ADHS deems that interpretation, and no matter how many times the ADHS has gotten away with doing so in other cases." He goes on to state that "the unbiased Administrative Law Judge had found Mr. Opela's position was legally correct and soundly rejected the ADHS' contrary arguments."

"The issue is now simple," Hale concludes, "The ADHS should reconsider its legally untenable position. If it does not do so, Mr. Opela will appeal to the Superior Court, where the superior court judge, in all likelihood will agree with the Administrative Law Judge's conclusion that the ADHS' dogmatic effort to repeal Mr. Opela's EMT certificate is unfounded."

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Michael Murphy, Communications Director for ADHS, said the agency has 15 days to render a decision on the matter, or by Friday, June 7. If the decision to revoke Opela's certification is upheld at ADHS, Todd Hale stated in their motion, that they will appeal it to Superior Court and seek compensation.

Opela was convicted of misdemeanor assault in July 2001, of an openly Gay man outside the Risky Business Restaurant in February 2000, and currently is serving a year's probation for the offense.

Phoenix Gay Bar Owner Murdered

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Johnson, who was married and had three children, also owned Harley's Too and Cruisin' Central. He also once owned Millennium 2001, a Gay dance club in nearby Tempe. Those who gathered at the murder scene to mourn Johnson called him "a socially conscious person" and an "all-around great guy."

Pride In The Pines Returns June 15

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IN MEMORIAM

ANDREW SILIAR BROOKS
7/23/67 - 5/26/02

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Andrew was an accomplished writer and displayed his skill as a reviewer for Llewellyn Books and as a regular contributor to both Circle Network News and Dragon's Chronicle in London, England. He also was a skilled herbalist and wrote the weekly article, "Go in Good Health" for the Tucson Observer.

Andrew was also an animal lover and leaves behind four blessed and beloved rabbits. For those of you who did not get to know this wonderful, generous man, his Web page is still active act: http://www.geocities.com/paganbear30/.

For memorial service information, please contact Brad at (520) 887-7348, between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and leave a message with your name and phone number.

Pet Watch Yard Sale Saturday, June 8

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So far the funds were able to handle the load of sick pets but lately the project is in a financial bind. V-N owner Jim Dondson said one pet recently had a vet bill of over $1,500, for instance.

To help with this financial problem, Venture-N is hosting a Yard Sale on the patio Saturday, June 8 from 7:00 a.m. until Noon.

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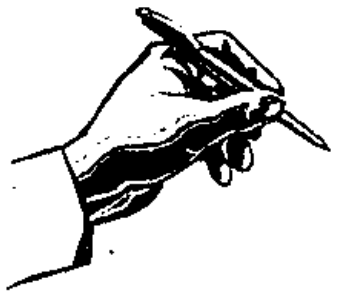

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Radical Right Attacks Ford For Commercials

NEW YORK, NY (GFN) - Religious fundamentalists are demanding that Ford Motor Co. (NYSE: F) stop advertising on the "Will & Grace" television show for promoting the "Gay agenda."

In a recent "action alert" from the American Family Association, or AFA, an anti-Gay religious organization, followers of the group are urged to take part in a letter writing campaign against Ford, described on their Web site as a company that "values a lifestyle which is harmful to so many, and leads to an early death."

In response, Ford affirmed its continued commitment to the popular television show and to diversity in general.

"Ford...values diversity," wrote the carmaker in its email response to AFA letter writers. "We treat our purchase of commercial time in Will & Grace as we do any other prime time, mainstream television program...an optimized attempt to reach our many customers through award-winning television programming."

Last December, AFA mounted a similar write-in campaign against Bridgestone/Firestone, the first tire company to test a Gay-specific Internet marketing campaign. AFA complained that the company was recruiting customers solely through "bedroom behavior" in their ads on Gay Web sites.

"Bridgestone is selectively recruiting customers based solely on bedroom behavior -- men who have sex with men, women who have sex with women, and those who aren't sure what sex they are," wrote AFA President Don Wildmon.

AFA followers were encouraged to send complaints to Bridgestone/Firestone President John Lampe to cease "full-blown support to homosexual activists."

In response, Bridgestone/Firestone affirmed their company's support of the Gay community, saying they were "committed to communicating with our diverse customer base."

Bridgestone/Firestone also discovered the click-through rate in the Gay media was among the best performing of any of its banner ads anywhere, and expanded its diversity marketing efforts.

AFA's latest campaign warns readers about "Will & Grace's" plan to advance the Gay agenda.

"NBC's sitcom "Will & Grace" debuted in 1998 with a promise to advance the agenda of homosexual activists. April was a typical month, with its typical homosexual humor, promotion of promiscuous sex and jokes about alcohol and substance abuse."

Among other perceived offenses, AFA complains about actress Glenn Close's appearance on the show (Close guest-starred as a Bisexual who kisses both Will and Grace), and chides NBC for repeatedly airing the actors' passionate kisses in its promos.

"NBC knows that the more the audience sees of homosexual activity, the more familiar and thus less repulsive it becomes."

AFA's email/letter-writing campaign, urges followers to threaten Ford chairman William Clay Ford, Jr. with the promise that they won't buy a Ford automobile unless they cease support of the "Will & Grace" television show. The suggested text of the letter reads, in part:

"I'm writing to let you know that I disapprove of your sponsoring the program Will and Grace. The program is an open promotion of the homosexual lifestyle. I respectfully ask that you discontinue supporting this program with your commercials.

"I am hopeful for a positive response. Your decision to continue placing your commercials on the program or remove them will have a definite influence on my decision to purchase a Ford product when next I decide to purchase a new automobile."

Ford Motor Co. responded to AFAs letter-writing campaign with unequivocal support for the award-winning television show, and a commitment to the diversity of the show's fan base. Their reply reads:

"We appreciate your input regarding our advertising. Ford Motor Company is a global company of significant size which values the diversity of its customers and employees worldwide.

"By buying commercial time on top-rated shows like "Will & Grace", we are not making judgment on the specific content of the show but simply making an optimized attempt to reach our many customers through award-winning television programming."

Angered by Ford's refusal to stop advertising on "Will & Grace", AFA sent out a new action alert, with further warnings about the television show, Ford and the Gay "lifestyle."

"It is tragic that Ford 'values' a lifestyle which is harmful to so many, and leads to an early death. The average lifetime for a practicing homosexual is in the lower 40's. Ford equates homosexual relationships with marriage."

[Note: The warning of "early death" refers to a "study" on the AFA Web site (based on the finds of a doctor who is no longer allowed to practice medicine), which concluded that Gay men have a shorter life expectancy, based on the doctor's research conducted by reading obituaries in Gay newspapers in the 1980s.]

Ford Motor Co., which offers domestic-partnership benefits to their Gay employees (as do all of the Big 3), announced a management overhaul that includes bringing back retired executive Allan Gilmour to reprise his role as the company's chief financial officer. Gilmour's return to Ford makes him the highest-ranking American executive who is openly Gay.

There is no word yet from AFA on Gilmour's return to Ford.

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G/L Teens Taunted At School Face High Health Risks

NEW YORK, NY - Just how well Gay and Lesbian teens avoid problems like risky sex or drug abuse may have to do with how picked-on they are at school, according to new research, Reuters Health reported.

A survey of US high school students finds that Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual teenagers who are routinely taunted in and out of the classroom are at high risk of taking drugs, having unsafe sex or attempting suicide, while Gay teens who don't face this type of abuse are no more likely to engage in these risky behaviors than their straight peers.

"There is a certain percentage of kids experiencing high victimization and they are at high health-risk status," said researcher Daniel E. Bontempo of Pennsylvania State University in University Park. He and co-author Dr. Anthony R. D'Augelli published their findings in the May issue of the Journal of Adolescent Health.

Previous research has detected high levels of risky health behavior among Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual youth. Recent studies have also shown that Gay teens are more likely to be picked on or bullied at school than heterosexual students.

To see how the victimization at school influences the kinds of health risks Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual youths face, Bontempo and D'Augelli examined the results of a 1995 survey of more than 9,000 high school students in Vermont and Massachusetts.

As expected, Gay and Lesbian students were much more likely to report being picked on or bullied at school. Twenty-eight percent of teens who identified as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or who were questioning their sexuality reported high levels of victimization at school, compared with just 7% of heterosexual students.

The survey showed that Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual youths who were frequently victimized at school were more likely to use alcohol and drugs, to attempt suicide and to have risky sex. Health risks varied somewhat among Gay and Lesbian youths, however. For example, boys were significantly more likely to use marijuana or cocaine or to attempt suicide than girls.

But not all Gay teens were more likely to put their health at risk, the report indicates. The rates of risky behavior were similar in all students, Gay or straight, who reported low levels of victimization at school. "Further research should explore why some Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youths are victimized but others are not," the researchers conclude.

The findings come as "no surprise" to Christopher Rodriguez, assistant executive director of the New York-based Hetrick Martin Institute, which has been providing counseling and education to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and "questioning" youth for over 20 years.

"This kind of victimization is well known to school-based professionals working with adolescents everywhere in the US," Rodriguez told Reuters Health. But, he said, "Most school-based personnel do not have sufficient education and training to address the problem successfully." Educating teachers and parents about issues surrounding sexual orientation is key to helping kids struggling through an often hostile school environment, reported Reuters Health.

Teens themselves have more resources than ever to turn to, he added. Many cities have community centers designed to help counsel youth with sexual identity issues, he noted, and "even if they live in the middle of nowhere they can go to the library or look up resources in another area and call hotlines or write a letter to connect with someone that can offer guidance. They are not alone."

ERSLETTERSLETTERSLE TTERSLETTERSLETTERS

TO ALL OUR LOVING FRIENDS:

We deeply appreciate your thoughtful expression of sympathy which was of the greatest comfort to us in our sorry following Mom's passing.

The Moores Family

DEAR OBSERVER:

I just wanted to write and congratulate SAGA (Southern Arizona Gender Alliance) on the wonderful TRANSforming Community Conference held on May 18th.

This conference brought together service providers, professionals, allies and people wanting to strengthen and understand the issues facing the Transgendered and Transsexual community. They came from as far away as New York as well as right here in Arizona.

SAGA has grown tremendously over the last couple of years and is now an invaluable resource to the community, as demonstrated through this excellent conference. Wingspan stands behind you and congratulates your accomplishments.

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Dogs Get Bitten By Insurance

NEW YORK, NY (GFN) - For many Lesbians and Gay men, our dogs are like our children. We love them, spoil them and even insure them. But many dog owners don't know that just owning a dog, even a gentle, loving one, may affect their homeowner's insurance premiums.

In an effort to implement rules aimed at limiting their exposure to dog-bite claims, underwriting rules are being changed. And in a move that amounts to the worst kind of discrimination against dog lovers, some insurance companies have started offering discounted homeowner's insurance for people that don't own a dog at all.

It would appear insurers are not dog's best friend.

Given the profit margin insurers live for, the shift is not entirely surprising. Recent headlines have brought the issue of dog bites right into the insurer's radar.

The tragic story of San Francisco Lesbian Diane Whipple, mauled to death by her neighbor's dog, made gruesome reading because of the sensational nature of the killing (Whipple was bitten an estimated 77 times), and because of the remorseless of the people accused of knowingly owning a dangerous animal.

Beyond Whipple's sad case, insurers claim dog bites have become an ongoing claim problem that totals $310 million annually and accounts for about one-third of liability losses on homeowners insurance. With those numbers, it's no wonder insurers are not supportive of our having dogs as pets.

The one bit of good news for dog lovers is that some insurers are looking at breed when determining coverage. When insurers look at dog-attack statistics, certain breeds present a significantly increased risk of death or injury to people and other animals.

Columbus, Ohio-based Nationwide Mutual Insurance will not insure households that have Rottweilers, Doberman pinschers, pit bulls, presa canarios, chows or breeds that are part wolf. The dog that killed Diane Whipple was a presa canario (the owners actually had two presa canarios, but only one of them was involved in the attack).

Rather than looking at a specific breed, some insurers are looking at individual dogs. This is reassuring for people like my best friend, who owned a pit bull, notorious for its viciousness, that would sooner have licked you to death than bite you.

When doing their underwriting, State Farm Insurance asks if there are dogs in the house, and most importantly, if there has been a history of bites.

Of course, that supposes a dog owner is honest – or objective – enough to answer the question accurately. The couple that owned the presa canario that mauled Whipple maintained throughout the trial that their dog(s) were harmless, docile pets; their assertion was refuted by some 30 witnesses who testified that the dogs were aggressive and difficult to control.

Farmers has a no-tolerance policy for bites. Given a biting history, they would either exclude the pet from the policy – or not write it at all. The company also won't take new business from people who have had dog-bite claims in the last three years, even if the family no longer owns the pet.

You will find very different underwriting rules as you look for an insurer.

Different insurers may: Charge higher premiums for owning a dog. Suggest that the homeowner get rid of the pet. Exclude the dog from coverage once a dog has shown a propensity to bite. Cover a pet if the homeowner takes the dog to classes aimed at modifying its behavior (doggie anger management) Cover the animal if the dog is restrained with a muzzle, chain or cage.

But the message to dog-loving homo-homeowners is clear: Pay attention to your pet or be ready to pay.

New Criminal Charges Derail G/L Bank Plan

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL (GFN) - The founder of the defunct G&L Bank – the first Internet bank created with the Gay and Lesbian market in mind – has abandoned plans for a second banking venture.

Steve Dunlap's new banking venture was to be called "g bank," with offices planned for Ft. Lauderdale and Pensacola, Fla. Like G&L, it would have been marketed as a Gay-friendly banking institution.

But Dunlap's legal entanglements – an arrest earlier this month on wiretapping charges and an ongoing lawsuit with former G&L bank officials – convinced Dunlap and the directors of the proposed bank to halt the application process and return investor's seed money.

G bank investor Martin Culbreth, of McLean, Va., agreed with the decision to call off the new venture.

"With this cloud, it's probably a good idea to fold our tent and hold till a later date," told the Pensacola News Journal.

But Culbreth still believes a brick-and-mortar bank disposed to lend to Gay and Lesbian borrowers would be marketable, especially to Gay start-up businesses.

According to the Pensacola News Journal, the criminal charges against Dunlap are connected to a bitter dispute and two-year-old lawsuit between Dunlap and G&L officers, including president Kay Griffith.

Dunlap was arrested May 8 for allegedly taping telephone conversations with four directors of the bank in July 2000 without their knowledge, violating state law. The allegations surfaced during depositions in the civil case.

Dunlap contends that he was forced out and bank officers stole his bank concept, business methods and trade secrets, and that the new charges are designed to foil his plans for a new bank.

G&L Bank stopped taking deposits April 15. But the symbolic ending came Saturday, May 25, when an auction was held of furnishings and fixtures.

But the beginning of the end may have happened last October, when the bank filed an application with the Office of Thrift Supervision to dissolve itself. At that point, it had been open two years amid great expectations.

Banking industry experts had predicted good things for the Pensacola, Fla., thrift, which sought to serve same-sex couples and other people who might feel uncomfortable approaching a traditional institution.

The thrift has attracted more than

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

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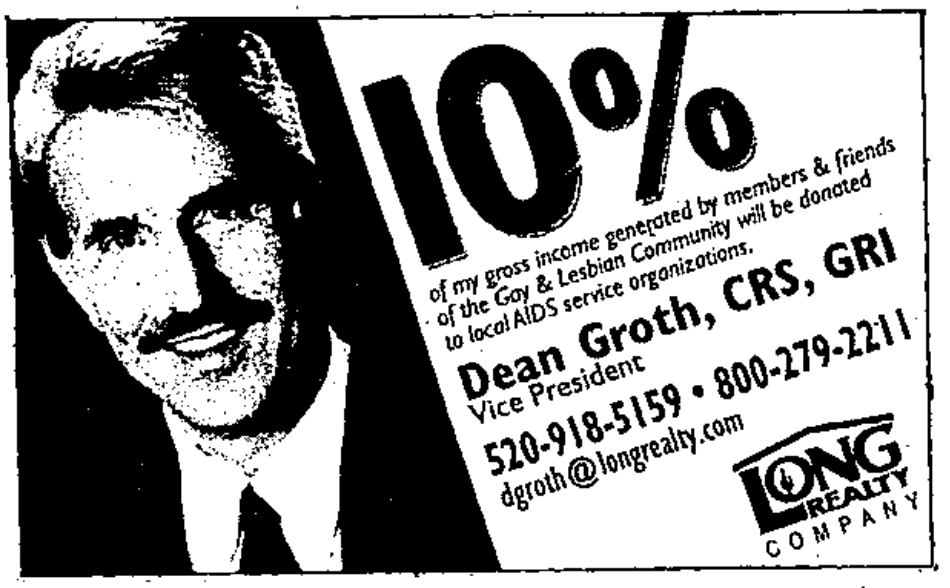

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
by Lee Thorn

'Oh Pioneer!'

If you want to spend a depressing afternoon, go to the Arizona Historical Society at Park and Second and ask for their Pioneer Hotel fire file. Then sit down and read article after article after article that all refer to "circumstantial evidence" in the case but fail to say what the evidence is or, more importantly, why it's thought to be evidence.

The fire, a 1970s case of arson that took many lives, is one of the most famous crimes in Tucson's history. Given how angry the community was at the time, it's not surprising that the defendant was convicted without evidence. Given the social realities of the '70s, it's not surprising that the defendant was a 15-year-old black kid with an IQ of 80.

What is surprising, and depressing, is that the reporters covering the trial kept on writing about "circumstantial evidence" when there wasn't any circumstantial evidence. One reporter got so carried away that he claimed there was a wall of circumstantial evidence," and that's when my curiosity boiled over.

I wrote the "wall of evidence" guy a note telling him that I couldn't find any evidence and asking him what the biggest brick in his wall had been. He very kindly wrote back and said that after all these years he couldn't remember. Bear in mind that this is one of the biggest crime stories in Tucson history.

I'm guessing since the reporters don't say so explicitly – that the biggest imaginary brick in the imaginary wall of evidence was the fact that the defendant was at the scene of the crime helping firemen evacuate the building. To dispose of this brick fairly, one has to step back and consider what circumstantial evidence is.

Circumstantial evidence, to give a non-technical definition, is any circumstance that indicates a fact not directly observed that's relevant to the crime. A turtle on a fence pole is circumstantial evidence that somebody put it there, even if there was no witness to testify to the dastardly deed and no surveillance film of the pole to document it.

There's nothing but his own prudence to keep a prosecutor from claiming that any circumstance is evidence of anything. If he says that the fact that the crime occurred on a Wednesday is circumstantial evidence that the criminal was left-handed, he's not going to jail for being illogical. It's up to the defense, the court, the jury and the press to see through such nonsense.

Forget everything you know about law, especially if you're a lawyer, and imagine that you're a gambler being offered this bet: Here's a coffee can filled with two hundred marbles. Every marble has a different number written on it. If you choose the marble with the correct number, you win a million dollars. If you choose any of the other 199 marbles, you go to jail for life. You can have five minutes to examine the marbles.

If you'd decline that bet, you'll probably conclude that the defendant being at the scene of the crime with hundreds of other people is no evidence that he was the one that set the fire.

A prosecutor would point out that circumstantial evidence can be cumulative, that pieces of it can add up. The reporters in this case should have taken it upon themselves to add it up: Zero plus zero plus zero, for as long as you want to take it, equals zero.

When one of the jurors was asked why she voted to convict, she gave two reasons: "I couldn't find anything to prove that he wasn't guilty" and "They couldn't come up with anyone else to accuse." Leaving aside the fact that the statement amounts to a confession of juror misconduct, or perhaps total incomprehension of what she was supposed to be doing, it certainly doesn't refer to any evidence, circumstantial or otherwise.

Whether the defendant set the fire or not, in our system we're theoretically not supposed to convict folks without evidence. Unfortunately, when we do exactly that, it doesn't seem to be anyone's job to correct the injustice.

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

Ancient Transgender Body Found

LONDON, UK - Archeologists in Yorkshire have discovered the remains of a cross-dressing eunuch that dates back to the 4th century A.D., reported Gay.com UK

The male skeleton was found dressed in women's robes and jewelry in his grave at Bainesse, a farm near Catterick. Archeologists say it is the first such find ever discovered in Britain.

It is believed that the man was a castrated priest who would have worshipped the Eastern goddess Cybele. Pete Wilson, senior archeologist at English Heritage, said, "In life he would have been regarded as a transvestite and was probably a gallus, one of the followers of the goddess Cybele who castrated themselves in her honor.

"The find demonstrates how cosmopolitan the north of England was."

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POLITICS 2002

by Mark R. Kerr

'Sine Die My Darling!'

After 130 grueling, tortuous days, all is silent at 1700 West Washington, as the immortal words "Sine Die" were uttered and 90 cars carrying state legislators sped away, taking them to points across the Grand Canyon State, mercifully ending the second session of Arizona's 45th Legislature.

Thanks to the alternate fuel fiasco brought on by former Arizona House Speaker, Jeff Groscost, R-Mesa, a biennial budget full of optimism with little reality, and the recession which hit the country, Arizona's government had a budget deficit of close to one billion dollars.

During this session, yet another special session (the fourth for this Legislature) was held (during the same time) to eliminate the deficit, since the state government, unlike the federal government, cannot operate in the red. So with smoke, mirrors, a lot of bandages, and some tears shed, a budget deal to no ones liking was hammered out and approved.

Arizona's budget crunch left little time was left for other legislative proposals, especially those of concern to Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) constituents but some progress was made on the "legislative battlefield" for future skirmishes:

Hearings and consideration were finally given, after years of attempts, to ending the censorship in Arizona's schools about sexually transmitted diseases, so that accurate information could be distributed to students about HIV/AIDS and other diseases. One version of the proposal received a committee hearing, getting unanimous approval and another being considered by the Senate Committee of the Whole.

Two companion bills that would have set up a statewide domestic partner's registry, granting rights to those couples in the area of property and medical decisions, made it pass the committee hearings to be considered by the House Committee of the Whole, usually the place in the legislative process such measures are put on the shelf to gather dust.

Of course, last but most, was the hate crimes measure to expand the law to cover misdemeanors, and despite would you made have read in an incorrect E-mail sent out, it was researched and written by this reporter, and sponsored by Representatives: Ed Poelstra, R-Tucson; James Kraft, R-Phoenix; Linda Lopez, D-Tucson; Carmine Cardamone, D-Tucson; Gabrielle Giffords, D-Tucson; Senators Ruth Solomon, D-Tucson, and Ramon Valadez, D-Tucson, made it the furthest during this session of Arizona's Legislature, (and this reporter personally thanks them, for sponsoring the bill, getting the issue "into play," and the other legislators who voted in favor of the measure, as the third amendment on SB 1141).

This "ugly duckling" bill, for which so many marked it with disdain, almost turned into a Swan but that is a victory that is a dream deferred but more was gained with this measure in the first form and as the subsequent amendment on SB 1141 with the wonderful contacts made with legislators, some of whom will be moving to the state Senate in the pending campaign, and those returning to the House in 2003, so the measures mentioned, plus the proposal to enact a statewide, employment nondiscrimination ordinance, protecting the rights of GLBT workers in the state, will get further consideration and the odds for passage of these ideas have increased.

So the second regular session of the 45th Arizona Legislature is for the books, but the next chapter, which can be read in January 2003, looks brighter than this novel has for a long, long time. ...

With the utterance of "Sine Die," another era ended at 1700 West Washington but much more important that a bunch of replaceable elected officials leaving.

Kay Dennis, who worked for and most importantly, with openly Gay state Representative Ken Cheuvront, D-Phoenix, since 1994, and several other important legislators' prior, starting in the middle 1970's, has called it a day, heading out to play more golf.

This reporter has worked with Kay since Cheuvront's election in 1994, and she helped me out: to learn the tricks of Arizona's Legislative trade; in whom to talk to and not talk to; helping to keep me up on the measures of note and possible parliamentary maneuvers on bills; on what lobbying on legislation, either pro or con is going on and too many other things to list in this column.

Trying to coin one phrase to describe Kay wouldn't do her and all she has accomplished, justice. She's a great individual, the "Grande Dame" of the Arizona Legislature, with that charming voice, legs like "buttah" which make women jealous and drag queens envious, and you will be sorely missed, not just by this reporter but by all the people and constituents you helped. Enjoy yourself since you've climbed out of the "political fish bowl." ...

Lastly, openly Gay state House candidate, Democrat Jesse George is gearing up for his bid in the westside district but is short of the required $5 contributions needed to qualify for "Clean Election's" funding.

As of press time, George is 40 contributions short (200 is required) and has a week to go in collecting the funds before the deadline to file and it is time for Tucson's GLBT populace, especially those on the westside, to help out so that we have more representation in Arizona's Legislature.

For more information about donating or other political matters, call Jesse George's campaign, (520) 743-4320 or E-mail him directly at george_jesse@juno.com.

FREEDOM

FREEDOM (frē'dəm)

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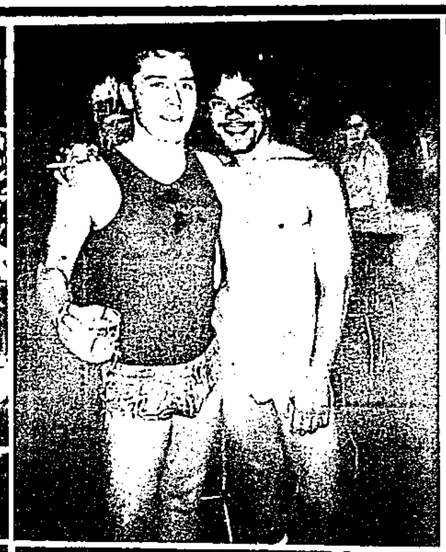

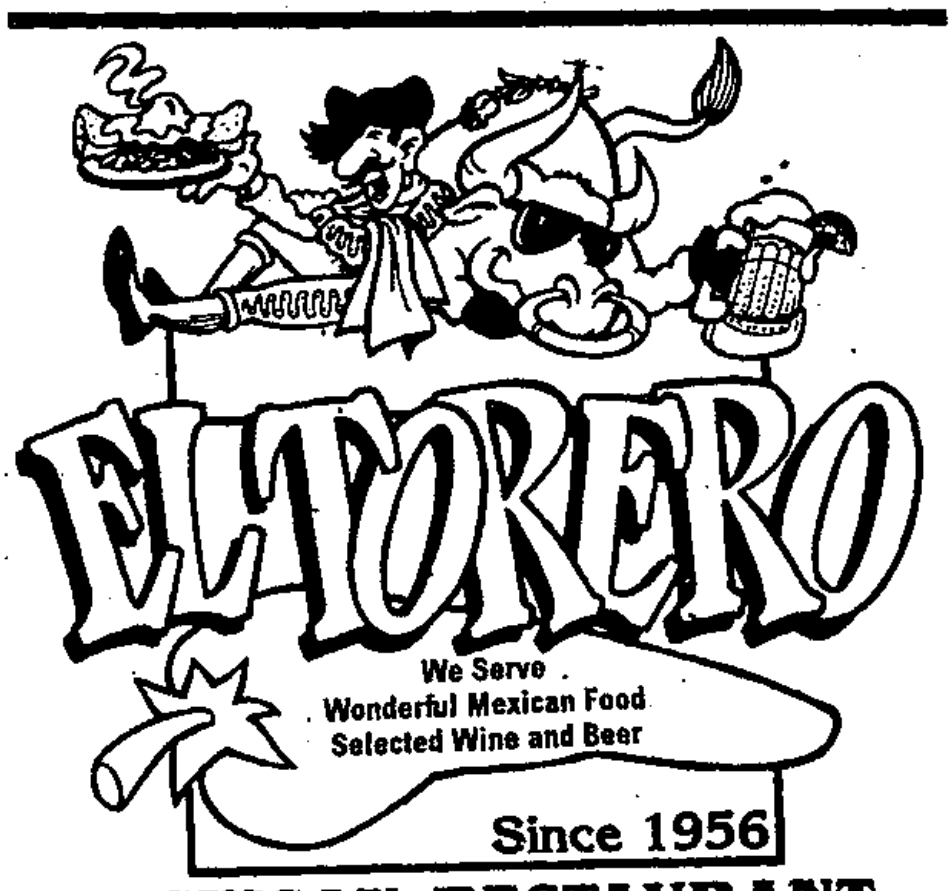

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HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

The Sun advances into chatty Gemini as Venus and Mars glide into sensitive, inspiring Cancer. Almost overnight our personal missions take on mind-expanding possibilities and our flights of fancy reach new emotional heights. There ain't nothing like being tickled pink by the planets, friends.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Proud Rams are too comfortable hanging around the house when both Venus and Mars hover in cocooning Cancer. Home entertaining is high on your list of priorities and why not? You're quite a Martha Stewart when you set your mind to it. Add a pinch of Sun in Gemini which heightens your schmooze ability and you have the recipe for a delicious time.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Ask and you shall receive. Queer Bulls suddenly are all mouth as both Venus and Mars joust in Cancer. Your banter canters. Express yourself and get the word Out. The Sun may even send a little filthy lucre your way as it transits Gemini. If finances have been squeaky and scratchy, this solar surge may lubricate with a little cooking oil. Turn up the heat, cousin, and sizzle.

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

The Sun in your own sign give you an extra dash of personal oomph so make the most of it, charmer. Charisma becomes your middle name; It's an opportune time to set new projects in motion or meet new influential folks. Shine, shine, shine. Ultimately, pink Twins can make it all pay off with Venus and energetic Mars in Cancer. Invest now to retire sooner than later.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Venus and Mars enter your own sign this week and give all Gay Crabs the opportunity to command the center of attention. Strut and fret your time on stage and gather in the accolades. Cancers ache for intimacy and you can receive it now from many outposts. Sun in Gemini suggests that you hide nothing from your adoring public except those cotton daisy bloomers.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Rip roaring proud Lions suddenly feel mystical and other worldly when both Venus and Mars glide into Cancer. Fasten your turban and gaze into a crystal ball (no names please...) to decipher the secret of a happy and affirmed life. You'll see that the answer is to volunteer for a good Gay cause and, according to Sun in Gemini, to surround yourself with good Gay camaraderie.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

The planets are well placed for queer Virgins who need people - scads and scads of people. Personable Sun in gregarious Gemini as well as Venus and Mars in mothering Cancer bring down-to-earth friends and lofty acquaintances into your social orbit. Make your mark at work or at the corner bar. Fact is friend, you are in the running for office.... the corner office.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Career prospects take off like a shot for all Gay Libras with a strategic game plan. Allow charming Venus and feisty Mars to throw a spotlight into the darker corners of the political maelstrom and then make your move. Thankfully, Sun in Gemini puts everything in perspective. Sometimes taking one step back and retreating to the sidelines is the surest way to succeed.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

The world is served to you on a silver platter when Venus and Mars make their move into Cancer. Stuff yourself with exotic delicacies, dear queer Scorp and explore international opportunities. Sun in flirty Gemini provides a sexual zetz giving you charm and sophistication. What a change! Get to the ball quickly before you turn back into a pumpkin.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Gay Archers feel a tingly flash with Venus and Mars in Cancer. Sexual conquest is in the stars so unleash your id and pack your sack. Funny how the planets find the harmony in life; the Sun makes you especially attractive to partners now and vice versa. Perhaps you should versa your vice in more familiar territory? The grass may look greener in another backyard, but it isn't.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Sometimes pink Caps need their space. Now when Venus and Mars enter Cancer, you may find that having a particular someone around may not be too restricting after all. If you are in the market, start shopping. If you are currently engaged, tie the knot a little tighter. Sun in Gemini helps you perfect your outer package if you are willing to exercise it a bit. Buff your duff.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Aqueerians may be faced with a quandary; should they spend their time working or shirking? The brilliant Sun in flirtatious Gemini tempts you to party hearty while self-motivating Mars and charming Venus in Cancer make your day to day job go suspiciously smoothly. We live in a democracy cousin. This month it's your choice. Next month, who the heck knows?

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Let those creative juices flow and overflow Guppie. Creative Venus and busy Mars give you the paints and brushes to create masterpieces (at least you'll think so). Remember that genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. Thinking about it just won't make the grade cousin. Dive in and shake your gills. Sun in Gemini keeps your best laid plans close to home.

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COMMENTARY

AN OPEN LETTER TO RICH TAFEL,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS

Rich Tafel
Executive Director
Log Cabin Republicans
Washington, D.C.

Dear Rich:

I am writing to respond to your baffling and irresponsible statements made about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

While groups like the National Stonewall Democrats have labored to make workplace protection a bipartisan issue, your comments work against this goal when you falsely state that Democrats will welcome defeat of ENDA in order to make it a campaign issue. While a candidate's position on workplace discrimination should always be examined, Democrats wish to make workplace protection the law, and that is why there will be a vote on ENDA this year in the Democratically-controlled Senate.

Although your organization still officially supports ENDA, I am more than disappointed that you have personally sought to jeopardize bipartisan support for this legislation for more than a year. In an interview with The Advocate in March of 2001, you downplayed ENDA by stating that Gay Republicans who lose their jobs will simply "go work someplace else," while dismissing hate crimes legislation as merely "symbolic." More recently, your own writings suggest that workplace discrimination is largely a thing of the past, as you seldom hear from people who have been fired because of their sexual orientation. The harsh truth is that hundreds of thousands of Lesbian and Gay workers remain closeted and ashamed for legitimate fear of losing their jobs and professional advancement.

Furthermore, your ill-advised comments have been swiftly and warmly embraced by anti-Gay organizations who have construed your statements as complete opposition to ENDA in lobbying Republican lawmakers who are wavering on the issue. These adversaries have thereby made your comments even more dangerous, as you have unwittingly become their mouthpiece.

Unfortunately, the truth is that ENDA remains a partisan hurdle. While the majority of Congressional Democrats have co-sponsored this civil rights legislation – including every single Democratic member of the committees that control ENDA's fate – it has received support by only a handful of Republicans – none of whom sit on these critical committees. And your comments have not served to advance ENDA's chances in a bipartisan fashion.

So I search for some logical reason for your comments, in light of your organization's official support for ENDA. I cannot find the logic. I do know that your own goal to elect Republican majorities in 2002 would doom ENDA to two more years of stagnation. That being said, NSD appreciates the courage demonstrated by the few Republicans who have joined the vast majority of Democrats in co-sponsoring this legislation, and we understand their irritation with your comments that undercut ENDA's passage.

Rich, one of our proud Republican leaders, President Eisenhower, once said, "History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid." Join us again to become a leader on ENDA's behalf and make our campaign a bipartisan one that will lead to its passage.

If you cannot, please get out of the way. The rest of us have a great deal of work to finish.

Sincerely,
Chad Johnson
Executive Director
National Stonewall Democrats
Washington, DC

[The National Stonewall Democrats is the national organization of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Democrats. NSD is committed to improving the record of the Democratic Party and educating voters about the vast differences between the two major parties on issues of importance to our communities.]

Star's Drag Stirs Controversy

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Taiwanese actor Chen Chun-sheng has played some tough roles--but none as difficult as the real-life role he has now as a man explaining why police found him in a wig, miniskirt, and high heels at a shopping center.

The incident has been a hot topic in the Taiwanese media, and Taipei city council members weighed in, criticizing the way police handled the case. The soap opera star told reporters he dressed up as a woman and went for a midnight stroll near an upscale Taipei shopping center because he was researching a cross-dressing role. When asked if he is Bisexual or a transvestite, he told reporters, "Absolutely not."

Police stopped Chen after residents reported that there was a strange person in the area. After giving police a fake name, Chen tried to run away but was apprehended by a passerby, police said. He was released later without being charged.

At a news conference, two members of Taipei's city council, Chen Hsiu-hwei and Hsu Fu-nan, held up the pair of black fake Gucci pumps that Chen left behind and criticized police for letting him go so easily. The politicians acknowledged that cross-dressing is legal in Taipei but pointed out that it's illegal to give police a false name and try to flee during questioning. The police said they didn't bother pursuing the case because the actor had no criminal record and was not breaking any laws when they stopped him.

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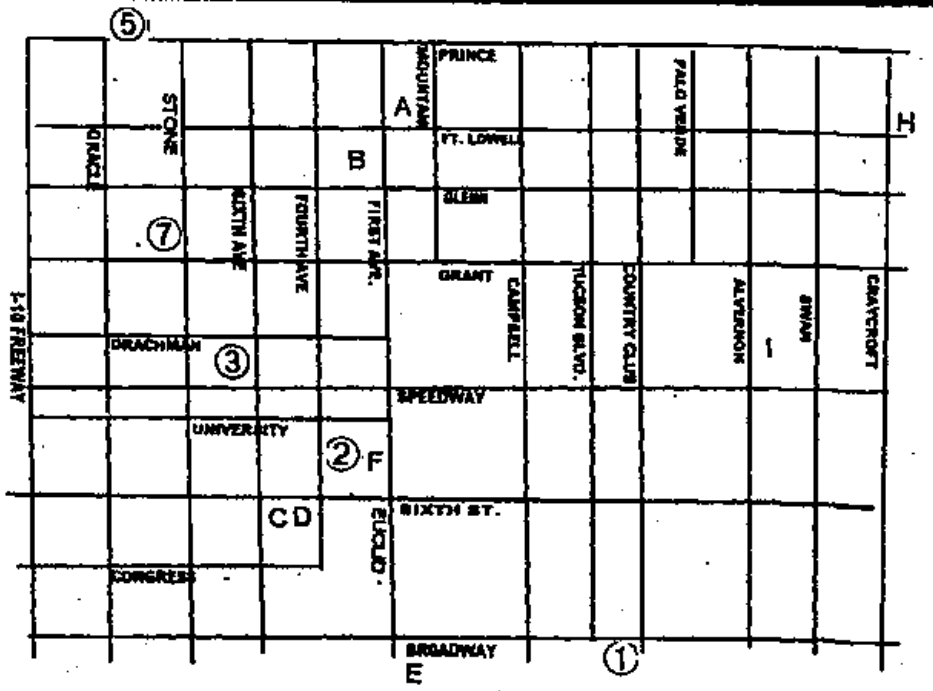

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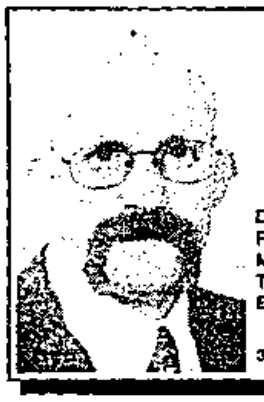
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Rosie Bombarded With Hate Messages After Last Show

NEW YORK, NY (GFN) - After wrapping up six successful years as one of TV's most beloved personalities, Rosie O'Donnell was bombarded Thursday, May 23, with anti-Gay messages posted on an America Online message board.

The message board, set up by American Online, was intended to be used by well-wishers to post farewell comments to the recently out Lesbian but other individuals had other ideas.

"I cannot believe our society would allow Gay couples to adopt little children," read one of the less obscene postings. "This is how you people perpetuate your Gay lifestyles by bringing up children under your misguidance."

Another post read, "I find you to be a hypocrite. What sticks out in my mind the most is one of the times that Britney Spears was on your show and you were all over her for showing her belly button and what kind of message she was sending out to young girls all over the world? What kind of message are you sending out?"

An AOL spokesman says the board was taken down and replaced with a chat-room discussion on the same topic.

Stripper Arrested For Drag Queen's Murder

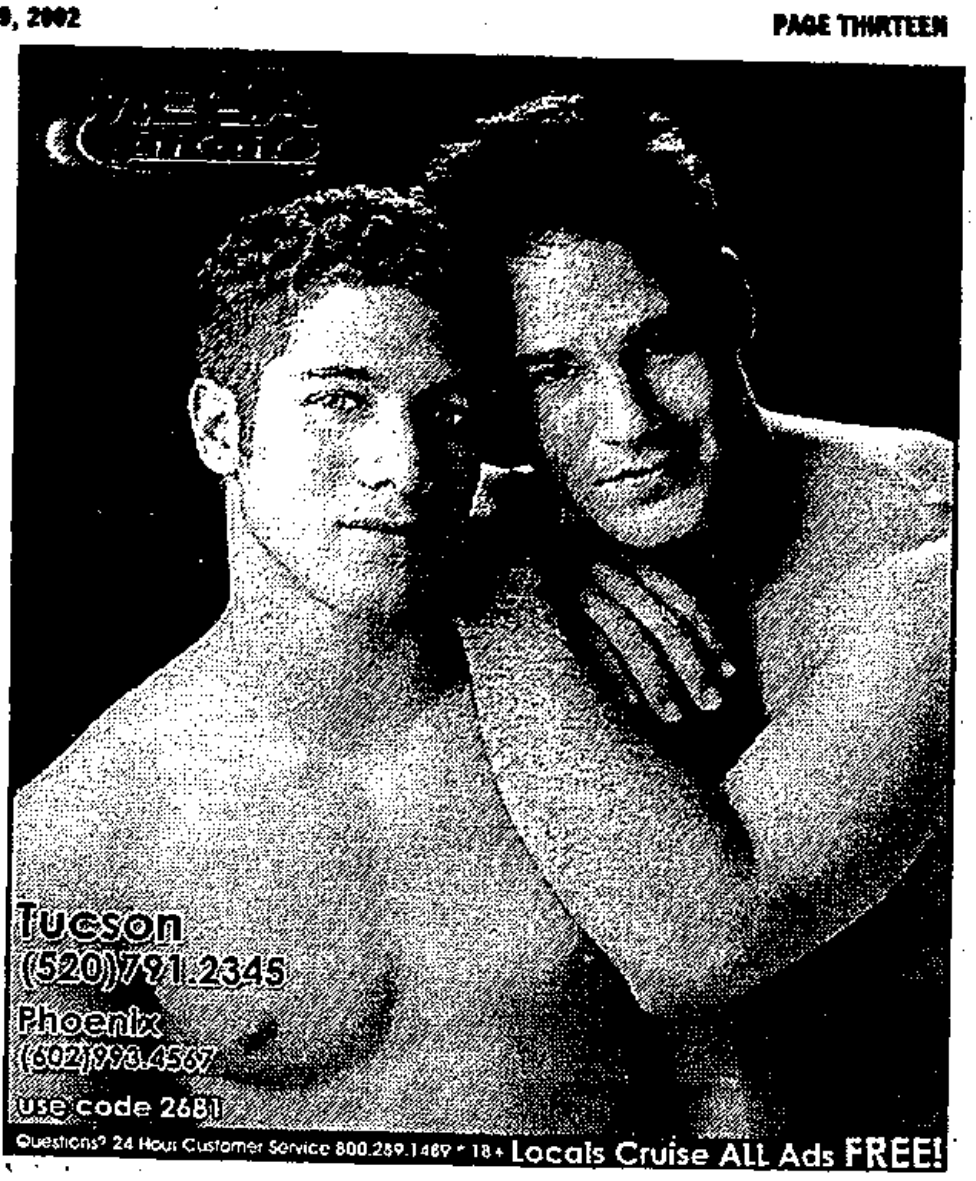
COLUMBUS, OH - A male stripper dressed in black and armed with a samurai sword was arrested in the slashing death of popular drag entertainer Gary McMurtry, a.k.a. "Brazon", according to the Columbus Dispatch.

Police charged Michael Jennings, 30, who goes by the stage name Devon and reportedly performed with McMurtry in Gay clubs, with aggravated murder. Authorities say Jennings broke through the glass of a back door at McMurtry's house around 6:30. McMurtry's roommate, Brian Bass, tried to stop Jennings and was cut on his hands. Bass called 911 and told the operator that an intruder had cut him and McMurtry with a "ninja-like sword."

Bass was released from Riverside Methodist Hospital after receiving treatment for minor cuts. McMurtry also was taken to Riverside, where he was pronounced dead of multiple stab wounds.

As for motive, "I think it was personal between the two of them," Det. Vince Houpe said. "Jennings has denied being there."

McMurtry created the Gay Community People's Choice Awards, an annual benefit for the Columbus AIDS Task Force, in 1997, according to friend and fellow performer Erica O'Hara.



Donations being accepted for the Pet Watch Yard Sale Saturday, June 8

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SPORTS

SUMMER COYOTES START SEASON NEXT WEEK!

TUCSON (ON) - Gay and Lesbian bowling in Tucson resumes next week when the Summer Coyotes start their season Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 p.m.

Tucson's Summer Coyotes will again bowl at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile. Teams will consist of three people. Skill isn't important, averages in the league usually range from 100 to over 200 a game.

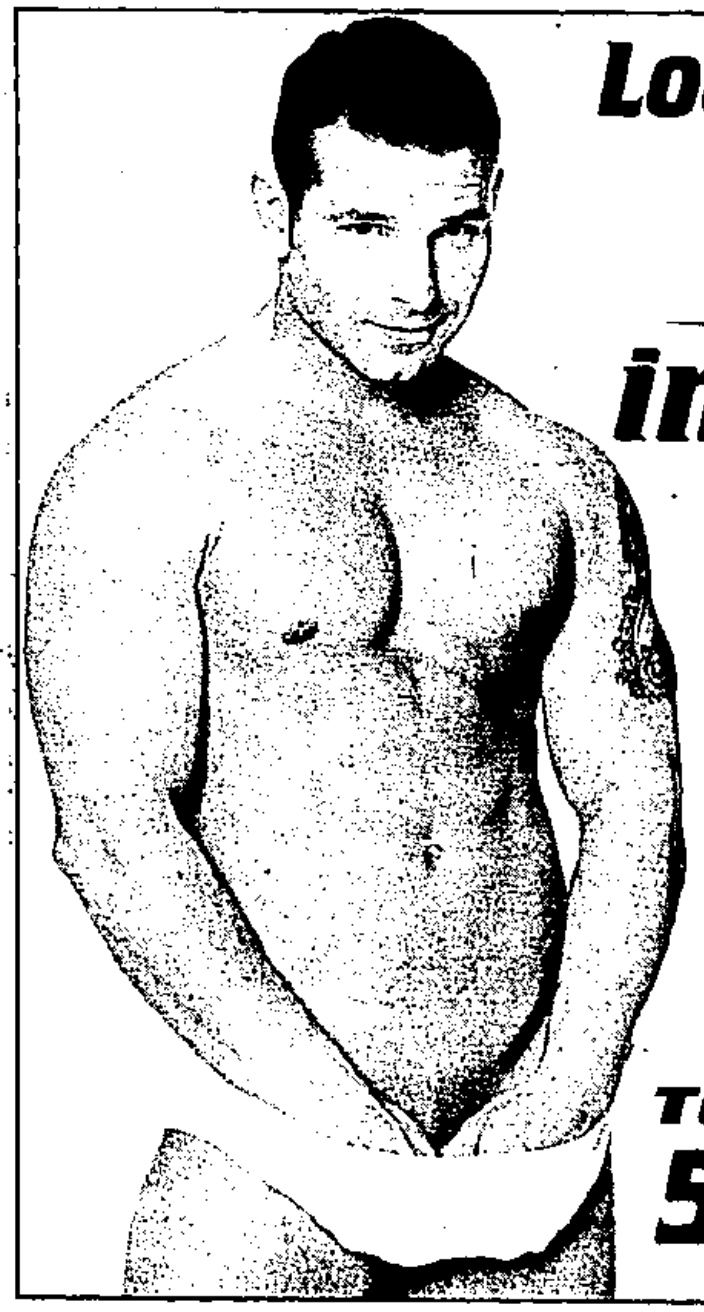
On June 5, a league meeting will take place to go over the rules, finalize the teams and conduct other business. Bowling will start at 8:00 p.m. and commence at that time for the rest of the league schedule.

WHAT: Tucson Summer Coyotes Bowling League.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 p.m. - League Meeting. Bowling starts at 8:00 p.m. and at that time thereafter.

WHERE: Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile.

INFORMATION: Call (520) 323-6449 or (520) 370-3462.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Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0820 - David Eyde

Bears of the Old Pueblo Coffee Night at Coffee Etc., 2830 N. Campbell. All welcome. The boys meet every Wednesday night same time - same place.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

7:30 P.M. The Marilyn Monroe film fest continues at the Rainbow Planet Coffee House with "The Seven Year Itch" playing tonight on the patio..

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Come watch "Queer As Folk" beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Rainbow Planet Coffee House.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

Rainbow Planet Coffee House will be showing "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" this evening at 7:30 on the patio the second in the Marilyn Monroe Series that Rainbow is show each Thursday.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

3:45 - 6:00 P.M., Sunday 4-7 p.m. the Men's Group Massage. A great way to meet new friends. Fee Call Marc 661-4582.

The Arts

NOW PLAYING THRU JULY 7

The Center for creative Photography (CCP) at the University of Arizona will present The Ansel Adams Centennial, a pair of exhibitions. Together they celebrate the 100th birthday of American photography's most recognized and beloved figure through his legendary images and fascinating life. The Ansel Adams Centennial is drawn from the Ansel Adams Archive at CCP, the largest repository of his work in the world.

NOW PLAYING THRU - JUNE 16

Live Theatre Workshop's "Dearly Beloved" is set somewhere below the Mason-Dixon Line" the show centers around the dysfunctional Turpin family, facing the death of father Bud. Bud's relatives are trying to do right by him, and send him out with an appropriate bang, but their quirky southern ways just keep on getting in the way. Showtimes are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 and Sunday matinee at 3:00 and early evening show at 7:00 p.m. Call 327-4242 for ticket reservations or come by the theatre at 5317 E. Speedway during box office hours, Tuesday thru Saturday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for advance ticket sales.

NOW PLAYING THRU JUNE 9

The Invisible Theatre winds up it's 31st season with the longest running off-Broadway musical revue "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change". The revue is delightfully entertaining, charmingly fresh and hopelessly romantic musical joy ride through the jungle of modern love. Call the Invisible Theatre at (520)882-9721, Tuesday thru Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for reservations and ticket information or stop by the office at 1400 N. First Avenue at Drachman.

NOW PLAYING THRU JUNE 2

The Tucson Premiere of the hilarious comedy About Texas :"Greater Tuna" will be playing at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. for one week only. The show features the original New York cast Joe Sears and Jaston Williams. It's the 20th anniversary production! The comedy is about the third smallest town in Texas. . . where the Lion Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies! Call now for tickets (520) 622-2823.

MAY 31 THRU AUGUST 31

Gallery Four Ten will open it's summer season with a group show featuring artists Craig Clements, Lydia D'Amico, Vincent Green, Maurice Grossman, Jim Ru, Darin Schoeny, Jorge Vergeli and gallery director Richard Zelens.. The Gallery will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 or by appointment. 410 E. Ft. Lowell Road, Tucson,, AZ (520) 740-1947

JUNE 12 & 13

Sam Bush and his band with a very special guest appearance by Linda Ronstadt will be in concert at the Berger Performing Arts Center. Both shows begin at 7:30 p.m. and all seats are reserved. $32 and are available at CD City, Antigone Books or call 327-4809

BAR CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

IBT'S - "DivaLicious" show hosted by Lucinda Holliday, featuring Tori Steele, Faith Michaels and Adrienne Alexander.

SUNDAY JUNE 2

IBT'S - Party line-up includes Jeff's Recovery Bar from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. $1.50 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. Karaoke with Billy Dee on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP). Then at 8:30 p.m. a special fundraising show for GMHP starring Janee Star, Veronica Hallwell, Bunny FuFu. Lady Ashley and special guests.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

IBT'S - "Diva-Licious Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday with Ajia Simone, Samantha White and Mr. Kenneth Blake. 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

VENTURE-N - A big Yard Sale held here for Pet Watch, a non-profit organization that takes care of animals when the owner is hospitalized or otherwise unable to do so. A very worthy cause for members of our community. Come on out and support Pet Watch from 7:00 a.m. until Noon by purchasing some of the great buys on display. Donations are still being accepted at the Venture-N.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

IBT'S - PRIDE EVENT: "The Rainbow Party".

YARD DOG SALOON - Get your Grass Skirts ready for Luau #2. Watch for details!!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

WOODY'S - PRIDE EVENT: "The Beach Party".

New Study Says Hepatitis C Could Be Spread Through Household Items

REGENSBURG, Germany - Researchers at the University of Regensburg in Germany report that hepatitis C may be spread through such common household items as razors and toothbrushes, Reuters Health reports.

The scientists studied 30 adults with hepatitis C, and found that the virus was present in 30% of the volunteers' saliva before brushing their teeth, in 38% of their saliva after brushing, and in 40% of the water used to rinse their toothbrushes. Traces of the virus also were found at a high percentage on their toothbrushes after brushing and rinsing.

Study coauthor Claus Hellerbrand said it is not known if the traces of the virus on the toothbrush could infect another individual, but noted that infection wasn't impossible. "This study strengthens the evidence to advise patients with hepatitis C to not share possibly infected household objects," Hellerbrand said. These objects include razors, both those used at home and in such settings as barber shops, the researchers say.

Although hepatitis C is most often transmitted through blood, shared needles, and unprotected sex, between 10% and 40% of all people diagnosed with the disease have no obvious risk factors for infection. The use of contaminated household items, the researchers theorize, could account for some of these unexplained infections.

Uninsured Receive Delayed Diagnoses; More Likely To Die Prematurely, Study Says

WASHINGTON, DC - A study released by researchers at the national Institute of Medicine shows that Americans who do not have health insurance are more likely to receive delayed illness diagnoses, experience life-threatening disease complications, and die prematurely compared to their insured peers, The Washington Post reports.

According to the study, the first comprehensive look at the medical consequences of going without health insurance, about 18,000 Americans die prematurely each year because of a lack of insurance. The researchers estimate that the lack of insurance specifically results in 1,200 to 1,400 deaths each year among adults with AIDS and 360 to 600 premature breast cancer deaths. Uninsured people with breast or colon cancer have a 50% higher risk of death than people with insurance.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Beer Bust 8-10, $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 5:30-6pm. 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.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. Daily special til 7pm. Patio Beer bust 3-7. Burger Bar-B-Que 6-7. (Donation only).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. $1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas; $4well 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 Porter. New Monday bartenders Jay and Chris. Queer As Folk shown beginning at 5pm. Drink specials starting at 9pm. All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well ordomestic beer til 4pm. Happy Hour 4-9pm, $1.75 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

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.

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 dancing 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

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 Axe drinks. Top scores on NTN game wins special prizes. Volley-ball Court is Open. See bartender.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 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 5-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party with DJ Raymman 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

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.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUN

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

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 299-9083 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. 322-5855. 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-Q, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

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

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

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 966-2384.

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

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

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

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

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 Pharnily! For more information call Debbie 579-9627 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 8:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9662.

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

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

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck getherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9585 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 299-9847.

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

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 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 38264, 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 529-9344, 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.

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.

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Emie Sleight 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

A2dykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail lyan@theriver.com and request guidelines.

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

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

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.

NOTICES

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

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4505.

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

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

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS: a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

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

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

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520)570-1225 for current information.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED -- Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 4th Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6509 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: sigoodrum@uswest.net.org

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 Tuesdy of each month at Wingspan. 7-9p.m. 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.

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 PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street at 7pm. Tucson Pride produces Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUTober FEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3700 or visit the website www.tucsonpride.com

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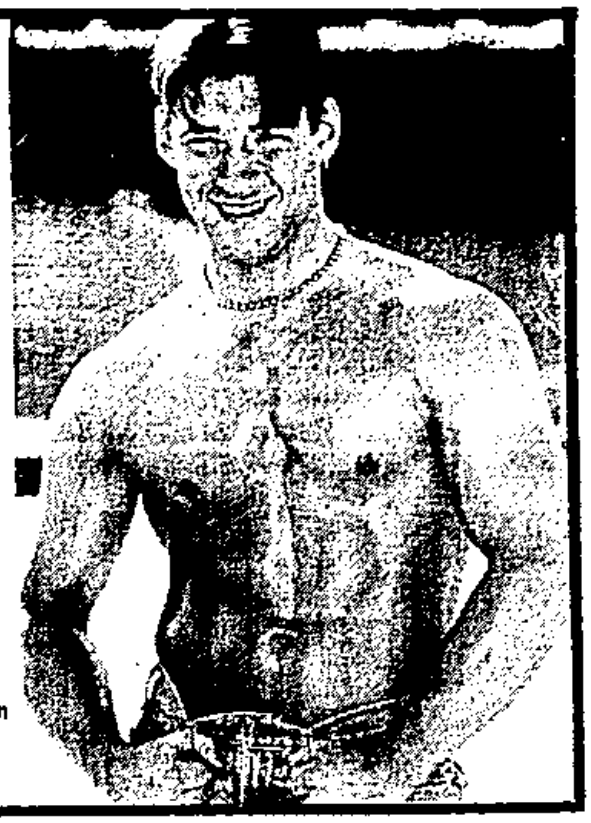

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Church Members Resign From City's Largest Presbyterian Church; Cite Secrecy, Homophobia

TUCSON - Forty-eight members of Tucson's largest Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation resigned their memberships because they say a culture of secrecy and homophobia has taken over their once tight-knit Northwest Side church.

Sixty people have withdrawn from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 750 W. Chapala Drive, during the past year because of the rift, according to Diana Logan, a member for 12 years who is among those who quit the church. The church has about 1,600 members, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

Church leaders say they continue to gain members and are sad about those who have left. Pastor Joe Bettridge was unaware of the departure of the 48 people until they presented their letter. He maintains that the church is not trying to be secretive, nor would it ever discourage a homosexual from worshipping there. "Our one unswerving purpose as a congregation is to proclaim Jesus Christ and his saving love," he said.

But the letter says that St. Andrew's has "ceased to be a Presbyterian Church. . . . In our opinion, the atmosphere at St. Andrew's has become repressive, secretive, homophobic, a place where many no longer feel welcome."

One of the catalysts for those leaving the church was a decision by church elders in June last year to affiliate the church with the national "Confessing Church Movement" - a conservative movement of Presbyterian Church (USA) members who are affirming a ban on elected homosexual church leaders in an era when many denomination members are debating that issue.

Leaders of the confessing movement say they want to return the Presbyterian Church (USA) to its biblical roots during a time when some in the denomination have said that Jesus Christ may be one of many paths to salvation. The confessing movement, which includes about 11 percent of the denomination's churches nationwide, has adopted a doctrine that says Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.

Although the denomination still does not allow for the ordination of Gay and Lesbian elders and ministers, votes on the issue have been getting more narrow in recent years. That has led some to believe Gay and Lesbians may one day be allowed to lead Presbyterian (USA) services. Votes on same-sex commitment ceremonies also have been hotly debated at national Presbyterian (USA) meetings.

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Egypt Releases Suspected Gay Prisoners

Continued from Page One

stop."

The sentences of two men who were called the "ringleaders" will remain intact. Dozens of other suspected Gay men arrested in other locations remain in prison.

Egypt has been under pressure from the European Union, Canada, and a group of U.S. congressmen as well as from human rights groups.

"We must continue to press the Egyptian government to meet its international obligations, not just in a few symbolic cases, but across the board," Long said.

GLBT Seniors To Get Affordable Housing

Continued from Page One

friends move away that you still have a community around you," she said. "In one year, eight people I know moved away. I don't want to leave the Bay Area. So I want to know that I will always have that community when I am 85 or 90," she said.

Purchasing the land could cost as much as $6 million, and construction could total $50 million; but Mitulski is confident a combination of private and public financing could make the facility a reality.

"It's time for us to be providing for our seniors," said Mitulski. "It's a chance for us to put to use what we learned in the AIDS (news - web sites) years, that we can care for each other collectively and demonstrate that old age is a rich and rewarding time when you are part of community that cares about you," he said.

New Criminal Charges Derail G/L Bank Plan

Continued from Page Five

$100 million of assets and struck partnerships with organizations such as Gayhomes.com, a division of USA New Homes Inc. that helps potential homebuyers identify Gay-friendly communities.

But G&L's business model did not propel it to profitability, and it remains unclear what forces were to blame. Other affinity Internet banks, targeting technology enthusiasts, association members, small businesses, and even pet owners, are plugging away.

So far, at least one other besides G&L has derailed. Pointpath.com, intended for married couples, never got off the ground.

"G&L was one of the real last great hopes that a stand-alone Internet bank had to reach a very defined audience," said Ian Rubin, a research director at the IDC research firm in Framingham, Mass.

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