Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

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14th International Conference On AIDS Taking Place

BARCELONA, Spain - The Fourteenth International Conference on AIDS, a biannual global gathering of AIDS researchers, health care providers, policy makers, activists, and HIV-positive people, began July 7 in Barcelona. The event, which is expected to draw more than 10,000 attendees, will include dozens of workshops and seminars and run through July 12.

Former president Bill Clinton and former South African president Nelson Mandela will speak at the conference's closing ceremony. Clinton, who now serves as the advisory board chairman of the International AIDS Trust, will deliver a speech titled "Action Against AIDS: For the Global Good," while Mandela will give a talk titled "Care, Support, and Destigmatization."

Other notable speakers at the conference will include Bernhard Schwartlander of the World Health Organization, Helene Gayle of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Anthony Fauci of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Zackie Ahmat of South Africa's Treatment Access Campaign. So far in the conference, as of press time, the following news, announcements and events have taken place:

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study presented shows that more than 75% of young urban Gays in the United States who are infected with HIV are unaware that they carry the virus, MSNBC.com reports. Among HIV-positive African-American Gay youth the statistics are even more sobering--more than 90% are unaware that they are infected.

The figures unveiled by the study of nearly 6,000 Gay and Bisexual men conducted in Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Seattle, from 1994-2000, showed that ignorance of HIV status was more than three times higher than previous studies had estimated. Specifically, the study found that 91% of HIV-positive black Gay and Bisexual men, 70% of Latino Gay and Bisexual men, and about 60% of white Gay and Bisexual men were unaware that they were infected. About half of all the men surveyed said they did not use condoms during anal sex because they did not believe they were at risk for HIV.

"The study may help explain why many young Gay and Bisexual men in the United States are becoming infected," said the CDC's Duncan MacKellar, who led the study. Hundreds of thousands of Gays are going untreated for HIV and may be spreading it unknowingly through unprotected sex, he said. Ronald Valdiserri, deputy director of HIV, Sexually Transmitted Disease, and TB Prevention at the CDC said the study's findings signal a need to revive the urgency with which Americans confronted the AIDS epidemic and HIV prevention efforts in the 1980s and early 1990s. ...

Without the launch of significant HIV prevention and treatment programs around the world, 45 million more people will be infected with HIV by the year 2010, according to two new reports. That figure could be slashed by two-thirds--resulting in the prevention of 29 million HIV infections--by spending about $27 billion on comprehensive prevention and treatment programs, particularly in developing nations, say AIDS experts. "Devastation is not inevitable," Helene Gayle, HIV chief at the Gates Foundation, told MSNBC.com. But delaying action by even just one year will result in five million additional HIV infections; a three-year delay would cut potential gains in half, the reports indicate. "We failed to act decisively in the early stages of the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, and now we are paying the price," said David Serwadda of Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. "But we still have an opportunity to save the next generation in Africa from AIDS, and to prevent runaway epidemics in India, Russia, and China."

AIDS experts say global programs should focus on HIV education and prevention, including making condoms universally available. They also say prevention and treatment efforts should be based on successful programs already underway in Uganda, Brazil, Zambia, and Cambodia, among other nations.

The projections come from two reports, one from the Global HIV Prevention Working Group and another by experts at the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the U.S. Census Bureau, and Futures Group International. ...

AIDS experts announced that HIV is rapidly evolving ways to circumvent anti-HIV medications, even the protease inhibitors that revolutionized HIV treatment in the mid 1990s. Researchers at San Francisco General Hospital found in a five-year study of 225 HIV-positive patients who were recently infected with HIV that 16% of new infections in 2001 were caused by a strain of virus resistant to at least one anti-HIV drug. As a result of this resistance, it takes at least three times as long to bring infections under control through drug treatment, and more complicated drug regimens are usually required, said lead researcher Frederick Hecht, MD.

Resistance to nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors climbed from zero in 1996 to 13.2% in 2001. Resistance to protease inhibitors climbed more than 5% during the study period, from 2.5% of patients in 1996 to 7.7% in 2001. The worst

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Bush Insider Trading Past Resurfaces

NEW YORK, NY - Martha's in hot water for selling about $228,000 worth of ImClone stock (NYSE: IMCL), allegedly on the basis of inside information. It's the story that won't go away. She's not just nobody, after all – she's Martha Stewart!

Well; thus far, George W.'s not in much hot water for selling $828,000 worth of Harken Oil (AMEX: HEC) stock on what would also appear to have been the basis of inside information. It's the story that won't make Page One. And yet he's not nobody, either – he's president of the United States!

I think the story may finally be gaining traction, as it should, because insider trading undermines public confidence in our capital markets.

George W. got a complete pass on this as a candidate for president, because, as he told reporters, this had all been hashed out before and he had been exonerated. (Not sure if he wagged his finger when he said that, but he said it.)

Well, but no, it turns out he was not exonerated, reported gfn.com.

Here are some things to know about the case:

W. was clearly an insider -- he was on Harken's Board of Directors. He was on Harken's three-man audit committee. He was on a special "restructuring" committee. As U.S. News reported in 1992:

"Bush sold [his entire] $828,560 worth of Harken stock just one week before the company posted unusually poor quarterly earnings and Harken stock plunged sharply. Shares lost more than 60 percent of their value over six months. When Bush sold his shares, he was a member of a company committee studying the effect of Harken's restructuring, a move to appease anxious creditors.

"According to documents on file with the SEC, his position on the Harken committee gave Bush detailed knowledge of the company's deteriorating financial condition. The SEC received word of Bush's trade eight months late. Bush has said he filed the notice but that it was lost."

According to Paul Krugman in the New York Times, "another member of both committees, E. Stuart Watson, assured reporters that he and Mr. Bush were constantly made aware of the company's finances."

If so, Mr. Bush clearly knew inside information about the impending bad news that the public did not know when he sold his stock. Trading on inside information, especially by a company officer, is considered a fairly serious white-collar crime.

It gets worse.

Apparently, according to Krugman, Harken kept its stock up "just long enough for Mr. Bush to sell most of his stake at a large profit – with an accounting trick identical to one of the main ploys used by Enron a decade later." (Yes, Arthur Andersen was the accountant.)

The trick involved setting up a seemingly independent entity to buy a Harken subsidiary for a much-inflated price, thereby to boost Harken's reported profits (or in this case, reduce its reported losses). And where did the money come from to make that purchase? It was borrowed from Harken itself. Accounting fraud, if that's what this was, is considered a fairly serious white-collar crime. Any director who was aware of it, I would think, would bear some complicity.

Mr. Bush neglected to report this insider trade to the SEC as required by law until something like 34 weeks past the deadline (at first saying he had filed but that it had gotten lost at the SEC, later saying, well, no, it was his lawyer's fault).

Perhaps if this had been just one of dozens of small sales Mr. Bush had made his failure to report it could have been just something that, well, got lost in the shuffle – a more or less trivial transaction that he might not have given two thoughts about. But if I've been reading the press reports right, this sale was the largest score of his life up to that time. So failure to report the highly suspect insider sale properly may not be all that trivial and was perhaps even intentional.

Matt Miller's July 3 column argues for the legitimacy of our looking into all of this. Among other things, it recaps some tidbits from a long February, 2000, Harper's article by Joe Conason. It seems that, yes, the SEC looked into the Harken matter, but that, no, Mr. Bush wasn't exonerated. Rather, the investigation was simply dropped.

According to Conason, says Miller, the "investigation" (Miller puts "investigation" in what an early editor of mine used to refer to as "snicker quotes") was conducted "by an SEC headed by a pal of Bush's father whom dad appointed to his job." And the SEC's general counsel at the time was none other than the Texas attorney who had handled the sale of the Texas Rangers for W. and his partners in 1989.

Concludes Miller: "In the third world, given such circumstances, we'd say the fix was in. Anyone for an independent look this time?" I am.

UPDATE

Richard Heakin Memorial Fund Update

TUCSON (ON) - What a difference a few words can make, especially in a campaign like this!

Bob Ellis, owner, editor/publisher of the Observer went to a meeting of the Tucson Knight Owls (TKO), held Friday, July 5, spoke to the organization about the ongoing effort, and received a check from them for $200!

Ellis expressed his surprise and delight over the decision. With this check, and so far in the fund raising campaign, a total of $2,170 in donations had been raised.

The Richard Heakin Memorial Fund Committee, a loosely based organized group, who had began meeting in May of this year, wants to make sure there is a permanent physical and virtual memorial for Heakin, a young Gay college student brutally murdered outside the Stonewall Tavern, 2921 N. First Avenue, June 6, 1976.

After the installation of the physical memorial, a concrete or marble bench at Sunset Park, north of City Hall, with an engraved marble pedestal in front of the bench, the committee will disband but one or two people will maintain the Web site. She added that the goal of the effort is to raise $5,000 to cover the costs of the pedestal, bench, and Web site set up/maintenance.

The committee wants to have the monies raised, and the pedestal and bench done by OUToberFest, being held October 12 this year - the anniversary date of Matthew Shepard's death and the day before Heakin's birthday.

Contributions can be made out to "Tucson Pride Inc," (the committee's fiscal agent), and must be clearly designated for the "Heakin Memorial." None of the monies raised will be donated to Tucson Pride, Inc. Checks and money orders can be sent to Tucson Pride, Inc., P.O. Box 40301, Tucson, AZ 85717.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place, Saturday, July 13, 10:00 a.m., at the Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse, 606 North Fourth Avenue.

Position Available At TIHAN

TUCSON (ON) - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) has an opening on their staff, due to the retirement of Jim Valiton, the longtime administrative assistant, which takes effect, August 31.

TIHAN hopes to find a qualified individual to succeed Jim, and also have Valiton train his successor to the post, for which the Administrative Assistant: oversees the daily operations and office volunteer staff for a smaller not-for-profit organization; reports to the Executive Director, and serves as the administrative support coordinator for the paid and volunteer staff in providing quality services to TIHAN CarePartners, volunteers, donors, and the general public by utilizing and coordinating volunteers to the greatest extent possible, and by being responsible for the areas listed below.

The Administrative Assistant position is a full-time position. AA/EOE. Annual salary is up to $21,840 depending on experience, plus benefits. To receive a copy of the job description, contact TIHAN, (520) 299-6647 or employment@tihan.org. To apply, submit resume and contact information for three professional references to TIHAN, 492 North Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona 85711, or via email to employment@tihan.org.

Stonewall Democrats Meet At New Headquarters July 15

TUCSON (ON) - For the July meeting of the Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats, taking place Monday, July 15, 7:00 p.m., a first will take place for the organization - meeting at the new Pima County Democratic Party headquarters, 4639 E. 1st Street (south of Speedway, west of Swan).

Primary endorsements, political campaigns and the new district maps are just many of the topics expected to be discussed at the July meeting.

For more information, E-mail to: tucsonstonewall@aol.com.

GLBT Commission Meeting July 16

TUCSON (ON) - Tuesday, July 16, 5:30 p.m., the City of Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Commission will hold their monthly meeting at 100 North Stone in the EOO Conference room.

Several subjects are expected to be covered at the meeting, from the sensitivity training for the city's fire and police department, to the viewing of a new video made by the local chapter of GLSEN.

For more information, call the City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213

Nominations For Godat Award Being Accepted

TUCSON - Nominations for the annual Godat Award, which honors the person who has given a lifetime of outstanding contributions to Tucson's LGBT community, are being accepted until July 15.

The recipient is chosen from the nominations provided by LGBT Tucsonans. So take a moment to nominate the person, in a letter, who you feel best exemplifies the spirit of this award. Nominations are due July 15 and should be sent to Godat Award Selection Committee at: Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St., Tucson, AZ 85705

This year's recipient will be chosen by a new committee, including: Linda Brawner, Mae Krueger, Mark Rosenbaum, Arnette Miller, Alison Davison, Tim Konski and past award recipients Jean Baker, Colette Barajas, Bertie Lozano.

For more information, visit the Wingspan Web site, at wingspanaz.org.

Mixed Messages On Gays and Lesbians

For the second consecutive year, President Bush rejected a request from a government employee group to issue a proclamation recognizing June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. A White House spokeswoman said Mr. Bush believes every person should be treated with dignity and respect, but that he doesn't believe in "politicizing people's sexual orientation."

That's a fine line Mr. Bush is attempting to walk. Surely he doesn't believe in politicizing people's gender, age, race or ethnicity. But in the past six months, the president has issued proclamations designating February as National African American History Month; March as Irish-American Heritage Month and Women's History Month; and May as Older Americans Month and Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

Although monthly proclamations may seem frivolous and unworthy of the president's time and attention, they're highly symbolic and generate pride for the group being recognized.

Mr. Bush has a mixed record when it comes to according dignity and respect to Gays and Lesbians. During the third presidential debate in 2000, he implied that, while governor of Texas, he played a role in the passage of a hate-crimes bill. In fact, he helped bottle up a meaningful bill in a legislative committee because the protected groups included homosexuals.

Mr. Bush now has a chance to clear away any ambiguity on this subject. He can - and should - throw his considerable weight behind a bill in the Senate that would make a federal crime of violent attacks prompted by victims' disabilities or sexual orientation. The bill would allow federal prosecutors to pursue a hate-crime case if local authorities refuse to intercede.

But the measure stalled last month when Senate Republicans refused to go along with efforts to limit debate and schedule a vote. Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott suggested that members of Congress should focus on the "hate crime of terrorism against America."

Attacking someone because of his or her sexual orientation qualifies as a hate crime of terrorism against Americans.

[This was an editorial which ran in the July 5, 2002 edition of the Hartford (CT) Courant newspaper.]

SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

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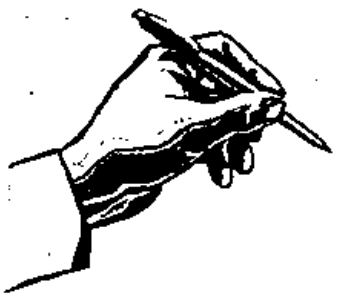

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Arkansas Sodomy Law Struck Down

LITTLE ROCK, AR - Gay civil rights advocates cheered the Arkansas Supreme Court ruling that branded a law prohibiting sexual relations between same-sex couples an unconstitutional invasion of privacy.

"It is satisfying that we are no longer considered criminals," Randy McCain told the Associated Press on Friday."I'm sure all of us would rather have not brought a part of our intimate lives to the public, but we felt we had to because of fear of this law being enforced."

The lawsuit was presented to the court by Lambda Legal representing McCain and six other Lesbian and Gay residents of Arkansas. It openly challenged the state's same-sex-only sodomy law on equal protection and privacy grounds.

"The men and women standing up in the Arkansas Supreme Court today are upstanding citizens of the state," said Lambda's Susan Sommer. "They live with the threat of arrest every day. The stigma that hangs over them with this unfair law on the books fuels an atmosphere that condones discrimination, Gay-bashing and hate."

The court sided with Lambda. "We agree that the police power may not be used to enforce a majority morality on persons whose conduct does not harm others," read the ruling. "A fundamental right to privacy is implicit in the Arkansas constitution," said the court, and the state has a tradition of protecting that right.

In 2001, a superior court judge ruled the Arkansas law was unconstitutional, but the state appealed. The attorney general's office argued the Legislature should be allowed to consider moral judgments when creating laws.

Though the law carried a penalty of a $1,000 fine and up to a year in jail, a dissenting opinion by two justices said the court should not act because there was no criminal case brought under the law. The plaintiffs, said the minority justices, failed to show an "actual threat of prosecution or harm" from the law's existence

Arkansas was one of six states that criminalized Gay and Lesbian sexual conduct involving consenting adults. The others are Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah.

Two Pro Athletes Come Out

NEW YORK, NY - In a rare development for professional sports, two pro athletes have come out publicly in recent weeks: basketball star Sue Wicks and track champ Déric Peterson.

Wicks, a 6-foot-3 forward for the WNBA's New York Liberty, discussed her orientation in the May 30 issue of Time Out New York.

After answering affirmatively when the reporter asked if she was a Lesbian, Wicks added: "I think it's important that if you are Gay, you not be afraid to say who you are."

Wicks was honored last season with the league's Perrot Sportsmanship Award. Announcing the honor, WNBA President Val Ackerman said Wicks "embodies everything good about the players in our league."

Déric Peterson, the 2001 U.S. indoor champion in the 800-meter event, revealed he is "definitely not heterosexual" during an interview for this month's Genre magazine. He is the only male active pro athlete who is also an openly Gay or Bisexual African American, the magazine reports.

Peterson told Genre he was concerned about losing his sponsorship deal with Adidas before he came out, but the sporting goods company reportedly reaffirmed its support for him after learning about the magazine article.

Wicks' interview hit newsstands just after a gossip item in the New York Post hinted that one of the New York Mets might be Gay. The item spawned a media frenzy and prompted Mets' star Mike Piazza to tell reporters he's not Gay, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Cathy Renna, news media director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and a Liberty season ticket-holder, noted that the two stories received very different attention in the media.

"The stereotypes about Gays and Lesbians tend to play out in sports," she told the New York Times. "You can't have a macho-type be Gay and playing sports because guys are supposed to be tough. It's not the same with women's sports. The assumption is that all women athletes must be Lesbians."

There has been widespread speculation that many professional female basketball players are Gay, but very few players have publicly acknowledged their homosexuality. In recent years, several teams in the league have become more open about marketing to Lesbian fans.

Right Abandons Maine Anti-DP Drive

PORTLAND, ME - The Christian Civic League of Maine has dropped its attempt to overturn a law that would have scrapped health insurance benefits for the domestic partners of state employees, the Portland Press Herald reports.

"We couldn't get the signatures," said the league's Michael Heath. "People were not signing the petitions."

The League in conjunction with the Christian Coalition of Maine were trying to force a vote that would forbid the state and municipalities from providing domestic partner benefits. 42,000 signatures were needed by June to place a question on the 2003 ballot overturning Portland's domestic partner registry and ending DP health benefits.

"The issue we heard the most about... was the issue of health care... and the perception that what we were doing was trying to deny people the opportunity to have health insurance, and that did not sit well with anybody," Heath said.

"We are objecting to the creation of a legal and social structure with respect to health insurance that takes into account nonmarried relationships between man and woman or man and man or woman and woman," he said. "We don't see laws created that are going to provide rights, legal rights, on the basis of immoral activity."

Democratic state Rep. Ben Dudley sponsored the law the League and the Christian Coalition wanted scrapped. The Herald reports Dudley's law, which passed

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE

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10:00 am - 4:00 pm
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Recovery Bar
$1.50 Bloody Marys,
Screwdrivers & Mimosas

4:30 pm- 7:30 pm
Karaoke
With Billy Dee

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Sunday
Bar-B-Que
BeerBust
to Benefit
IBT's &
Flex GYM
Softball Teams

Sunday July 14th 8:00 PM
Special Fundraising Show For
Lucas Tellezs' Family
Hosted by Bunny Fufu
Starring Lucinda Holliday Apa Simone Janee Starr Veronica Hallwell
Terr-Aki Angelique Houston and Lady Ashley

Check Out Our
FridayNight
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SaturdayNightCameosby
JaneeStarr
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9 tillClose

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"Diva-Licious"
Wednesdays at 9 PM
Hosted by
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Samantha White
JaneeStarr
&BunnyFufu

ThursdaysRetro80's
With JohnnyDJ
9 till Close
$1 Bud/Bud Light
$2 Fat Tire
Pint Drafts

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Friday Nights
6PM - 9PM with
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JULY 12 & 26TH
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NOBODY'S BIZNESS

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GAY PRIDE BENEFIT FEATURING:
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TKO Elects New Officers

TUCSON - TKO - Tucson Knight Owls elected it's officers for 2002-2003 last Saturday at their home bar, The Yard Dog. New officers are pictured above (l to r), re-elected President Merlin Cummins; Vice-President, Ron Farrah; Tommy Marlin, Treasurer; Mark Little, Run Captain and Doc Hayes, Secretary. Congratulations to the new officers and a big thanks for their generous gift to the Richard Heakin Memorial Fund.

Lesbians Love 'Camp Real Girls' For Fun, Friendship and Romance

Pictured above are Camp Real Girls Co-Directors, Robin Greenspan (l) and Lacie Harmon. See related story below.

LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA. - Camp Real Girls, a Lesbian-owned, weekend getaway camp for women in Lake Arrowhead, California has hit on something really big.

Described as a "year-round weekend "summer" camp for women," Camp Real Girls offers everything you remember about camp as a kid - campfires, s'mores, archery, arts & crafts - and a few things you may not: beer and wine welcome party, hot-tubbing and of course, Lesbians.

"The response has been overwhelming," say Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, lovers and co-owners of the camp, which expects 200 campers at its upcoming September 13th -15th weekend. "Every day we get calls and e-mails from women saying, "What a great idea! Why didn't someone think of this sooner? Sign me up!'"

Writers and performers, Greenspan (Comedy Central's "Out There in Hollywood", Showtime's "In Thru the Out Door") and Harmon (HBO's "Arliss", Rising Star Records' "Best of Lesbian Comedy " CD), who gained popularity in the Los Angeles Lesbian community with their smash-hit stage show, "Real Girls," got the idea for Camp on a lark while vacationing at Harmon's cousin's cabin in the mountains. They soon came to realize it was a service much needed in the community. Says Greenspan, "Something about spending the weekend together eating, bunking and playing allows you to let your guard down fast and really get comfortable with people you may not have the nerve or opportunity to get to know at home."

And women certainly have been getting to know each other, according to Harmon and Greenspan who note that they've seen several campers fall in love right before their eyes. Says Harmon, "Anyone who's been to summer camp remembers the crushes. What's great about Camp Real Girls is that this time, the girl you have a crush on, just may have a c[illegible] on you."

The Lesbian News has already dubbed Camp Real Girls a "HotSpot" and the women who've attended seem to agree. Word of mouth has spread quickly and attendance increases every month. "We couldn't be more pleased with the reaction, " says Harmon. "What's most fulfilling to us is watching the friendships form and seeing how, at the end of the weekend, the women have become so attached to each other that they don't want to leave." Just like summer camp when you were a kid.

For additional information about Camp Real Girls or to sign up, visit their website at www.camprealgirls.com, email robinandlacie@camprealgirls.com or call (818) 985-8885.

Politics 2002

'Nothing Much Ado About'

As the world returned from the extended Fourth of July holiday, the political world continued onward, upward, downward and every-other word with numerous court hearings on candidacies, the filing of signatures for initiatives for the November general election ballot, endorsements - and the non-story written about it, and a questionable thank you from a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) rights organization.

Jessica Funkhouser, Election's Director for the Arizona Secretary of State's office was a busy person this past week, since it was the deadline to accept petitions for initiatives for the November general election ballot but it was the court hearings, more than dozen, on whether certain individuals would continue their bids for political office, so no long weekend was in the plans.

One of the numerous court hearings involved former state Representative Debora Norris, D-Sells, who had made a to-do about running for Congress from the new Congressional District 1 - resigning her seat and starting her quest in a district, with more than ten other candidates and not even close to Pima County and her former legislative district - filing 870 signatures to qualify for the very-crowded Democratic Congressional primary ballot.

In Congressional District 1, the minimum to file for the Democratic primary was 706 - so a challenge was inevitable. For political campaigns, the rule is to file 150% of the minimum number of signatures required to avert a challenge and in this case, a total of 1,059 was the magic number.

In the court hearing, held Tuesday, July 3, Norris' bid was ended as she was removed from the ballot, according to Funkhouser, since the review of her petitions showed Norris didn't have enough valid signatures, with only a little more than 600, ending her bid just like current Congressional District 7 candidate Jaime Gutierrez did in 1992. At that time, Gutierrez was running for Pima County Justice of the Peace and was removed from that ballot, for the same reasons as Norris, for which he now says in his Congressional campaign material that he wanted to be with his family and nary a mention of his so-called bid to become a judge. ...

During the travel to the courts, Arizona's Secretary of State Election's Division had to open the office on July 4, to accept petitions for initiatives to go on the November general election ballot. A total of four measures, three dealing with Indian gaming, and one dealing with the subject of medical marijuana, filed their required signatures - for which it will take a month to verify whether they've qualified for the ballot, to be along the many referendums put on the ballot by Arizona's Legislature.

At the June meeting, the Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats, the GLBT organization - a part of the Democratic party, announced their endorsements for the upcoming September primary elections for the U.S. House in Congressional Districts 7 and 8 - encompassing Pima County and Southern Arizona. In CD-7, both Elaine Richardson and Raul Grijalva were endorsed in the Democratic primary and Mary Judge Ryan, the only Democratic candidate, who happens to be solid on GLBT issues, received the nod in Congressional District 8 primary but that's not the whole story on this.

In the Tuesday, July 9 edition of Tucson's morning rag - the Arizona Daily Star, one of their political reporters, Rhonda Bodfield, wrote in their "Political Notebook," a piece, entitled "Kolbe Stonewalled" - making a story out of a non-story, playing up the fact the picked a straight woman over the Gay Republican incumbent - as if they had considered him, for which they didn't since he's not a member of the party. It would be as if the Log Cabin Republicans, the GLBT GOP group had endorsed Bill Clinton - something that wouldn't be done but tell that to Bodfield, according to members of Stonewall's board, was told this fact and still writing the non-story and ignoring the Norris saga, a real story. ...

Recently the Arizona Human Rights Fund, the Phoenix-based GLBT rights group held their annual fund raising event, raking in more than $192,000 for their efforts. After the event, the organization sent out a thank you to those who shelled out the moolah, got dolled up and drove to Phoenix for the shindig. Fine enough, but some of the correspondence received, required postage due. Huh? ...

In the guess who, don't sue department: A political group had their grand time recently, opening a new office, claiming ownership while the records show otherwise - something that may not be so grand when the details are revealed.

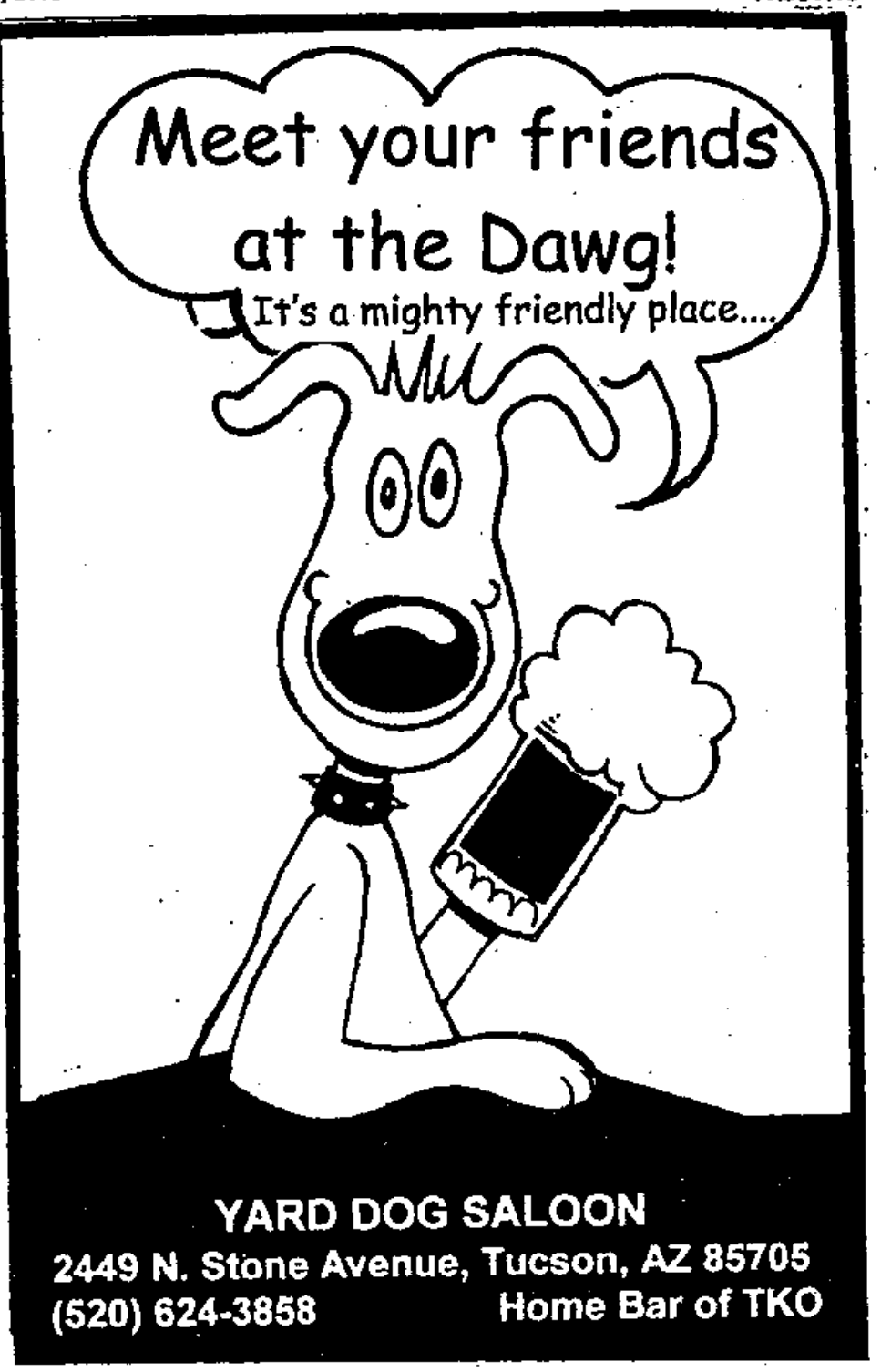
Right Abandons Maine Anti-DP Drive

Continued from Page Three

with strong bipartisan support in Maine, requires health insurance companies to offer domestic partner benefits if they offer coverage to the spouses of plan members.

"The Christian Civic League, if they were to go forward with a repeal, would be taking away people's health insurance, so I would imagine they'd be very reluctant to do that," Dudley said.

"I'm not surprised that they were having difficulty finding interest - they were aligning themselves with the HMOs on this one."



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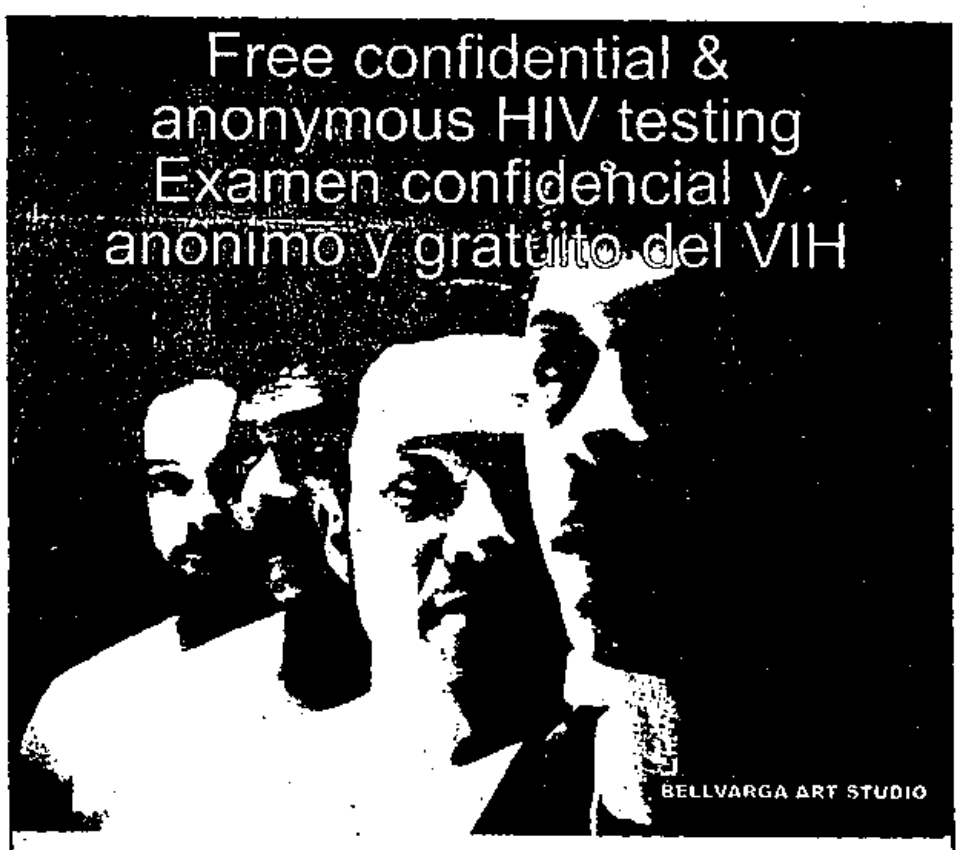

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Gay Men's Health Project

LETTERS

EDITOR:

When the window in between Wingspan and Desert Pride was broken last week, I attended the rally. In actuality the window is Desert Pride's not Wingspan's. After the window was replaced, I cleaned it and put up my signs and notices. In producing the signs on the Desert Pride window, I felt it necessary to exercise my freedom of speech and tell the entire community, straight and Gay alike how I felt about the occurence. I invited the people who call me faggot, break our windows and grafitti my business to stop being cowards and come into the store and make their remarks to me face to face.

I also put "my" meaning of fagbashers and Queerhaters on a sign and indicated that such people are persons who cannot accept their own sexuality and cannot handle people who can. Much to my chagrin I was approached by a Wingspan employee who was sent over to the store to ask me to remove the signs I put on my window. I informed the representative that the signs will remain and that if they are taken down, I would contact our lawyer. I then printed a sign stating that these were my views alone, and that I refused Wingspan's request to remove the signs. Exercising our freedom of speech is one of our "sacred" inalienable rights in this country.

A Wingspan board member also approached me about the mural on the side of our building. She said we should have painted Wingspan's vision there. The side of the building on the south side of the street on 5th avenue is part of Desert Prides's store. How dare them for thinking they can dictate what an independent store owner can or cannot do to decorate their building.

I see the attendance at Gaywest and OctoberFest, in a park surrounded behind fences. Where was the GLBT community when we marched down the street in view of everyone? "We deserve our rights now and we won't get them behind the walls of our bars and behind the fences of our pride celebrations. We donated a beautiful mantel clock for Wingspan's auction, but I refuse to be silent. Michael and I proudly fly the American and Pride flags outside the front of our home. It would be very appropriate for "OUT" GLBT persons to fly the pride flag outside their businesses, rather than being fearful of offending straight clients. Such an action would be as liberating as coming out of the closet. DO NOT BE AFRAID. People are more tolerant than you might expect. At present Desert Pride is the only business that proudly flies the pride flag. We all need to be more visible or we will never see the rights we deserve as American Citizens.

We do support Wingspan and clean up after them. We refuse, however, to have Wingspan dictate how we run our business or decorate our building.

By the way, where were all the Gay businesses at the Gay Pride parade last Sunday? We were the only business represented. Tucson Pride Inc., should also be more visible as representatives of our community. We need to have our "GLBT" services organized and cooperative, and put an end to bickering, and political infighting, which only hurts us all.

Steven A. L. Galbert
Owner, Desert Pride
Tucson, AZ

EDITOR:

On behalf of Wingspan, I want to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to everyone who participated in the rally and press conference that was held Friday, June 28, in front of Wingspan, in response to the two incidents of vandalism that were recently committed on your community center during LGBT Pride Week.

Thank you to the people who spoke on behalf of our community: Sharon Bronson (Pima County Board of Supervisors), Bob Bowers (Tucson Pride, Inc.), Richard Elias (Board of Supervisors, District 5), Rev. Carol Chandler (St. Francis in the Foothills), Raul Grijalva (candidate for Congress), Steve Leal (City Council, Ward 5), Noel Matkin and Nancy Robinett (City of Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Commission), Fred Ronstadt (City Council, Ward 6), Mary Judge Ryan (Chief Deputy County Attorney), Leyla Sarah (Mayor's office), Craig Snow, and Rabbi Joe Weisenbaum (Congregation Ner Tamid).

Thank you to the estimated two hundred people who were in attendance, including representatives from the various hard-working LGBT and LGBT-supportive groups in Tucson that I saw at the rally, including: City of Tucson GLBT Commission, Desert Voices, Lesbian Avengers, Metropolitan Community Church, OUTrage, QueerVoice, Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA), Stonewall Democrats, T-squares, and Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN).

We also want to thank those of you who were not able to attend, but were there in spirit, and who helped get the word out via uncounted last-minute emails and phone calls to friends, families, supporters, and allies. Thanks to you, the event was a huge success!

This rally was extremely important, not only for Wingspan, but for the entire community. When we let acts of vandalism like this go unchallenged and we do not take time to publicly register our outrage, we undermine our sense of self-worth and pride as a community. Not only did press coverage of the rally by newspapers and local television stations insure that our message went out to the community at large, but City officials came away from the rally reminded that the LGBT community does have a voice and a presence and will assert itself when necessary.

Thank you so much to all of the people and organizations that helped us make this rally happen. People like you make Wingspan such a vital and dynamic organization. Our community is a better place because of all of you.

With much pride,
Mark English,
on behalf of the Staff,
Volunteers, and Board
of Wingspan
Tucson, AZ

EDITOR:

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of Wingspan, I wanted to thank IBT's for donating the proceeds of the B-B-Q and Beer Bust from July 7th to help us replace the rainbow banners that were stolen a few

CONTINUED ON PAGE SIXTEEN

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

'The Poetry Scene'

Tucson is more than idiot politicians, corrupt officials and felonious law enforcement thugs. Tucson is, and has been for decades, a mecca for poets.

We attract poets of all stripes – famous, infamous, academic, avant-garde, poetry society poets, street poets, jailbird poets. One of our famous poets said of Tucson that "there's a poet under every bush and lots of them are good." He said it 20 years ago and it's just as true today.

Our famous poets are usually professors at the university. Given that there's often a substantial clutch of these worthies in residence, it's kind of curious that the university's academic programs in poetry have never risen above the mediocre.

One small miracle that the university has produced, a gem that's not standard issue for state schools, is the Poetry Center at 1216 N. Cherry. It's a tiny house so full of poetry books that one more edition might cause it to explode. The Center is a physically interesting space. If you're there alone and someone else enters, it's almost feels like you're sharing a hot tub.

The more important thing is that the Center has lots of works donated by local poets who were so obscure that their works are literally rare, the rare and undiluted Tucson product quietly awaiting a hip literati of the future.

And the Center is a good place to find out about local poetry events, the grandest of which is a yearly spring poetry festival run for many years by a private group and nationally recognized as a pretty big deal.

Tucson has plenty of poetry clubs, the oldest and largest being the Arizona State Poetry Society. Two nice things about ASPS: It's mostly made up of ladies in their eighties, so if you don't happen to be in that category they make a big fuss over you and you feel like a celebrity. Two: They publish a juried poetry quarterly. Whereas academic poetry publications work under the you-publish-me-and-I'll-publish-you system, it's nice to have a journal where work is submitted anonymously to a different judge each month who is never a member of the club.

Speaking of publications, Tucson sprouts a ton of obscure poetry zines that flourish for five minutes and disappear, flickering signs of life in the desert and signs of its fragility.

And then there are the largely invisible and uncountable avant-garde poets who sometimes appear at café readings and whose work is more likely to appear in publications based in other cities than it is to appear here.

But what does it matter, this persistent sea of Tucson poets? Without economic importance it's hard to know what sort of significance to assign to the phenomenon.

A Chinese poet named Li Po has been read for 1300 years. He would have laughed at the idea of an economic significance of poetry. He made no money from it. His publishers over the centuries probably lost more often than made money. But 1300 years is a long time for anything to be read, proving perhaps that poetry both defies economics and has no impact on it.

Along with not being an economic force, the Tucson poets aren't a social force. The groups don't generally know each other. Perhaps they need a bar that caters to poets, but, short of giving free drinks, how would one cater to poets? Herding cats would be a lot easier.

There is one free, open-to-all poetry workshop that's been meeting weekly for decades where every type of poet has been seen on occasion. This, of course, is an anomaly that can't last forever.

Why do they come to Tucson and what does it matter? It's probably because for much of the year in Tucson it's warm enough to sleep outdoors. As for significance, if you're making love in the bushes, please be careful that you don't roll over and squash a poet.

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

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Waste

By C. Orrin Harvey

A boy I never knew and never will,
For now he's gone the way of migrant birds
To someplace distant. Can I find the words
To fill this hole I desperately need to fill?
I see him lying in the alley still,
Beaten and left for dead beside the turds
Of recently walked dogs. One of the herds
Of hated homos someone longs to kill.

I cannot fathom hatred such as this-
Such that an unknown innocent should die.
I'd like to send him homeward with a kiss
Instead of thinking "better he than I",
And somehow let his life not slowly fade
While shivering as my heart turns into jade.

[C. Orrin Harvey is a local poet, who wrote this in memory of the young Gay men murdered in Tucson.]

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HOROSCOPES

BY C. LICHTENSTEIN

It's not every day that a little ray of sunshine casts it's spell on our little squalid corner. Pack your shades this week friends, as mighty Aphrodite wends its way into earthy Virgo. Venus makes those of us hell bent on destructive tendencies too mellow to yellow. Why ask why comrades? Simply lie back and enjoy it.

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Gay Rams know the value of a good days work when Venus traverses no-nonsense Virgo. All projects, no matter how onerous, go more smoothly and the rewards seem more palpable. Other things may be brewing on the job aside from a cup of coffee; Lovely Venus can awaken the carnal desires of even the lowliest of drones. Push your pencil in the right direction, buddy.

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Party hearty proud social Bulls can go well beyond the limit thanks to feisty Venus in energetic Virgo. The temptation will be to try everything, anything and anyone now but show some discretion cousin; the Virgo energy can ignore limitations and you could find yourself a dissipated old relic with sandbox mouth before the transit is over. However, what a way to go!

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Charismatic Venus in Virgo will help queer Twins find common ground with difficult family relations. There is no need for you to feel that you have to compromise, but the planets do insure that you can make your point without rupturing family relationships forever. Venus also enables you to establish comfortable home surroundings for yourself. Heck; you deserve it.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Astute Gay Crabs can charm the stars from the sky when Venus enters Virgo. Use your considerable power of persuasion to take the Gay agenda one giant step out and about and give it clout. Charismatic Venus almost guarantees you a large following of adoring groupies. Are you sure that you can handle diva status? You may have to bag that pocket protector, pal.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Every time it rains it rains pennies from heaven. Well, maybe it's just a case of Venus in Virgo that turns on the golden waterworks. Proud Lions enjoy their fiscal success now but should consider saving for a dry spell. Do your investment homework, consult trusted financial advisors and plan your eventual retirement now. Good things can sprout, and I don't mean hay. Hey, hey.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Delightful Venus in your own sign makes you queen of the ball. Gay Virgins find themselves in the epicenter of all social activities so dive into the pool and expect to get wet. Meet as many new folks as possible now; new beginnings bring fabulous results. But beware of excess, cousin. Jupiter in Cancer makes your dance card a bit heavy-footed. Tango with one partner at a time....

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Venus in Virgo gives proud Libras the inspirational feeling of oneness with the world. Stock up on the karma, kids and dole it out in dollops for good Gay works and charitable community endeavors. Even a small effort has impactful and lucky results now. However, stop everything and take a necessary vacation if you find yourself mumbling the Barney the Dinosaur song.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

They don't call you intimate for nothing. Venus in friendly Virgo now widens and enlivens your social circle. Plot tete a tetes with kindred souls. If you're interested in joining a particularly select group (read: snotty), chances are better than average that you will be accepted. But Gay Scorps are far too independent to hang around those white shoes without eventually scuffing them.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Plan your corporate ascent when Venus enters "go get 'em" Virgo. The sky is the limit, or at least it seems that way. Proud Archers are affable folks and can charm almost anyone. Try your hand with superiors and those in power now with Venus' magic fingers. Then build a corporate Gay mafia. If absolute power corrupts absolutely, try to become absolutely corruptible.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Pink Caps should now envision themselves lolling around in some faraway hot tub or on some faraway island. Venus in earthy Virgo seems to reward even the laziest of the Goat set. Life could be worse, you know. You have approximately three weeks to set sail for your own piece of paradise. After that, Venus moves on and so will your interests and desires. Bon voyage!

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Sexy Venus in sensual Virgo provides the bubbles in your champagne so don't be afraid to pop your cork while the planetary energy is right. You are even more sexually inspired than usual so get creative, cousin. Aqucerians now recognize that life is a bowl of cherries ... or is it a bar full of cherries? Whatever the heck it is, take a few nibbles. And toss those pits!

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Relationships go from the ridiculous to the sublime with delightful Venus in sympathetic Virgo. Guppies now tend to overlook deficiencies and quirks of partners thanks to your innate, somewhat idealistic Piscean influence. But all good things eventually pass so don't allow too many nights to go by with underwear on the lampshade. Some things even a delusional Pisces cannot abide!

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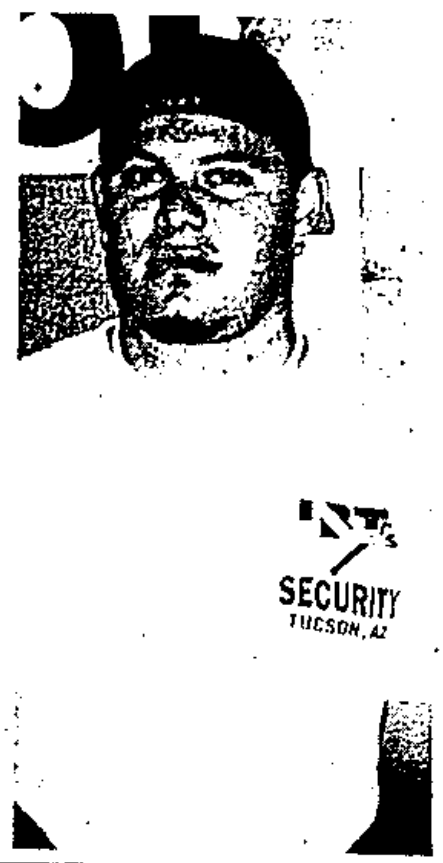

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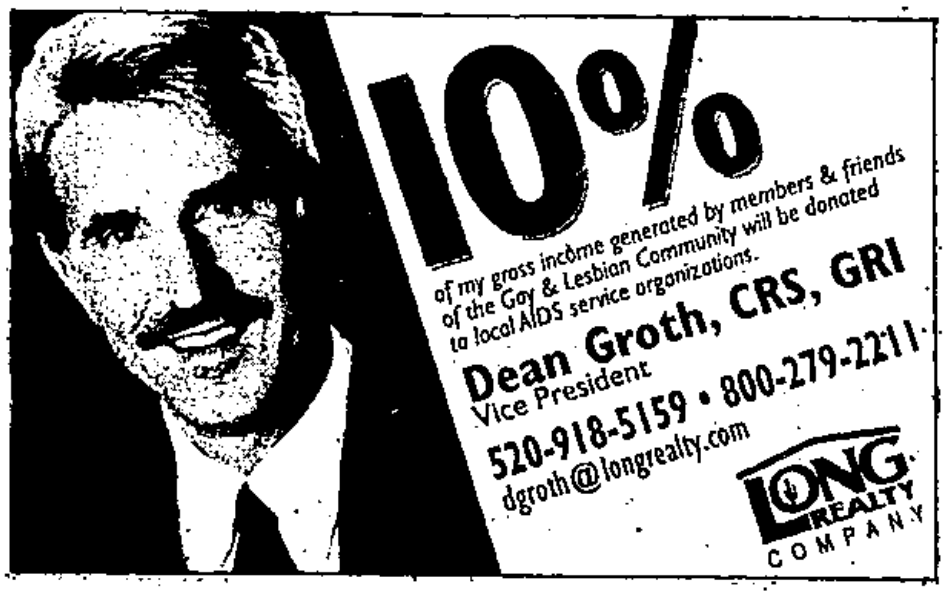

WHAT MAKES OUR TOWN TICK ?

By Jerry D.
(calabazamusic@yahoo.com)

'Independence Day Memories'

This years Independence day will go down in history for what did not happen, as opposed to what did. The decision of the state to cancel all of the fireworks shows was done with a safety-first attitude, one I have not seen the state take in a while. There were plenty of events to take the place of the evening's flashes and booms, but none of course are going to ever be more significant to the meaning of our country's birthday. Needless to say, it was a unique sound to not hear on the evening of July 4th. As I celebrated at the concert held at Tucson Electric Park, I was reminded of what fireworks mean to me.

In 1976, I was a New York pre-teen caught up in the excitement that was to be the biggest party the nation has ever seen. The Bicentennial was in full swing and preparations were being made for my family to catch both the tall ships sailing New York Harbor and the fireworks that evening. We had a bird's-eye view from my grandmother's apartment building on the 17th floor, where we could see all the events and still have the luxury of already being home. A couple of weeks before July 4th, though, tragedy struck my family. My 5 year old cousin passed away in a fire which occurred in that same housing complex where my grandmother lived. The building was designed to allow a fire to be contained in just one apartment without damaging the neighboring ones. He died of smoke inhalation, not the fire itself.

As we gathered at my grandmother's that July 4th, the celebration we looked forward to became more of a wake, with family and friends remembering my young cousin and how much it hurt to see a young life just vanish. The fireworks that night were unbelievable as I stood at the window for most of the exhibition, nearly numb from the grief, but believing inside that my cousin would see his own fireworks in the afterworld he was now a resident of. I did not want to see another fireworks display again, and nearly kept my promise to myself till 1983 came along.

In 1983, the borough of Brooklyn was gearing up for a major celebration of its own. It was the century anniversary of the Brooklyn Bridge and a party was promised of the same magnitude that the Bicentennial was planned at. I was a high school senior who belonged to my school's government, so I was recruited to assist in the events of the big party that night. The evening was going to come to a close with a big fireworks display in front of the bridge. That night was memorable in so many ways, and I was witness - as well as participant - of one of New York's biggest celebrations ever. I got home that night exhausted, but the next morning wore me out faster than the entire evening prior.

My mother informed me that while we were all having the happiest of times, one of my lifelong friends was killed in a botched robbery. He was coming home from the fireworks display when he was confronted and shot over his radio. I remember rage atop fear atop sadness like I have never felt. He was just 19 and one of the most talented persons I have had the pleasure of meeting. Needless to say, my promise to not view another fireworks display was renewed right then and there. I felt that I would never want to see any flashes in the sky unless God himself put them there.

I was able to view a fireworks display once again in 1990. I was older, wiser and learned to cope with the events that were rehashed every time I would watch a light show in the sky forever. The reason for my turn around was more symbolic than any therapy I could have gone through. I was privileged to spend the 4th of July in a different country. When I did not have the luxury of turning down going to a fireworks display, is when I most needed to go to one. I am not a patriot by any stretch of the imagination, but I love my country and know how lucky we are to live here. We may have the problems we do, but we also have the ability to change things we feel are not correct.

I have since seen many a fireworks displays. I have seen them for baseball games, birthdays, weddings, and (of course) July 4th celebrations. Every time I attend a pyrotechnic display, I look up prior to the start, and know that my cousin and my friend are watching somewhere. More importantly though, I think about the men and women who fought, protested and pushed so that I can have the opportunity to see the show. It is for them that I watch the explosions proudly, for they make it possible for me.

Happy Independence Day to all. For whatever reason you want to harbor, always look up to the sky prior to a fireworks display. We should have a big celebration at the end of the monsoon season, for the firefighters who contained all those forests we are going to visit in the coming years. They are our new minutemen, and they compliment all other uniformed persons who help give us freedom, liberty, and the ability to celebrate.

'Til next week, I will see you out there and as always, feel free to write.

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Laugh It Off. . . . . .

By Frieda Goodholm

It's hot. We all know that. This is hardly news. Tucson, Arizona, July: Ask anyone, anywhere in the world the thought these three words conjure up, and any man on the street in New York City or Dubuque, Iowa will probably say something about cooking foods like eggs or bacon or a leg of lamb in non-conventional outdoor methods.

Therefore, it would only stand to reason, if one lives in Tucson and must be outdoors in the summer for more than two seconds, he or she would dress with this thought in mind: the less clothing, the more comfortable the Tucsonan. Now, Miss Goodholm here does not exactly have what one would call a bikini body. But put me in a light flowing rayon batik print summer dress with a scoop neck and some buttercup sleeves (as, in my book, a lady going sleeveless is a privilege, not a right.

The same goes for spandex, (but we'll save that for another column.), give me some huarache sandals and a wide brimmed hat, and I'll gladly go get the mail. Why, shucks, back in my home state of Minnesota, where 75 degrees is hot, we ladies would don such attire in July, and that was just to bring a hot dish to the Lutheran church social or to go catch trout. But again, I digress.

My point, and yes, I do have one, is an article of clothing I'm seeing far too often out here in the desert, and I'm baffled.

Socks.

Why, when it's 110 in the shade, wear socks?

Now of course, even a lady such as me loves some warm woolen socks, several pair, when that arctic wind whips through Duluth and one is out spreading Christmas cheer. But even thinking about them here and now, to be quite frank, makes me sweat like a nun in a dildo factory.

There was a time, some of you might recall, when a lady wasn't fully dressed without hosiery, and would never dream of leaving the house without wearing hose under a skirt or dress. Now, don't get me wrong. Whether I'm going for the naughty Nancy nurse look, complete with opaque white hose, or the dominatrix in fish nets, hose can be fun! But when living in the devil's sauna, just running out to the Safeway (which brings up a question I've often wondered: What would a Spanish speaker say if the Safeway store suddenly grew legs and ran away?) you'll be happy times have changed and stockings are no longer mandatory.

I say just grab that razor or wax or Nair or Nads or epil-plucker or whatever your torture device of choice and a sun dress and go. Make sure it's not a see through dress, and you'll be even cooler, if you know what I mean. Call me tacky, but I'll take comfort. At times like these, FDS can be our best friend.

But it's not just we ladies who can cool off by deep-sexing the hose. Just the other day, while driving down a certain Tucson street with the air conditioner blasting and slurping down a maxi gulp sized squishy, I saw a young man walking along dressed quite appropriately-from the knees up - in shorts and an oversized tee shirt. But the hose. Really. They were white and tight and long and well "over the calf".

He was showing so little knee he would have fit in just beautifully on Coney Island circa 1914 and wouldn't have worried a fig over being arrested for public indecency. Now perhaps the poor dear is a diabetic, and Miss Goodholm is being unkind. Or perhaps he is a recent immigrant to this country from Munich, and still has a penchant toward lederhosen. But barring these two scenarios, the man was the victim of his own fashion crime, and was no doubt paying for it in perspiration.

Now Frieda, you might ask, what about me? I'm a little nellie Gay boy who likes to butch it up with cut off jeans and boots and strategically scrunched socks. Am I committing a fashion crime?

I say, if that's your drag, honey, by all means, go for it, and I hope you fool them down at Venture-N. And if you suddenly feel the urge to climb some rocks or wrestle an alligator like that annoying Australian guy (who, by the way, has his own movie coming out this summer, which I just don't understand. Did this country learn nothing from Paul "Crocodile Dundee" Hogan and his fifteen minutes of fame?), at least you'll be properly dressed.

And one should always be properly dressed for any occasion one might encounter. Let's call that Miss Frieda Goodholm's lesson for the week, shall we?

[Frieda Goodholm welcomes readers' comments at friedagoodholm@hotmail.com.]

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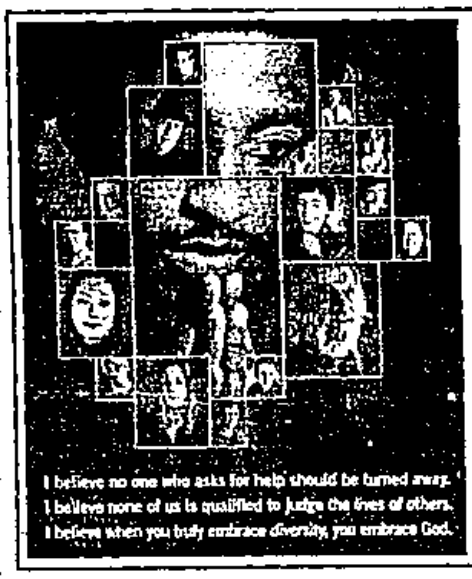

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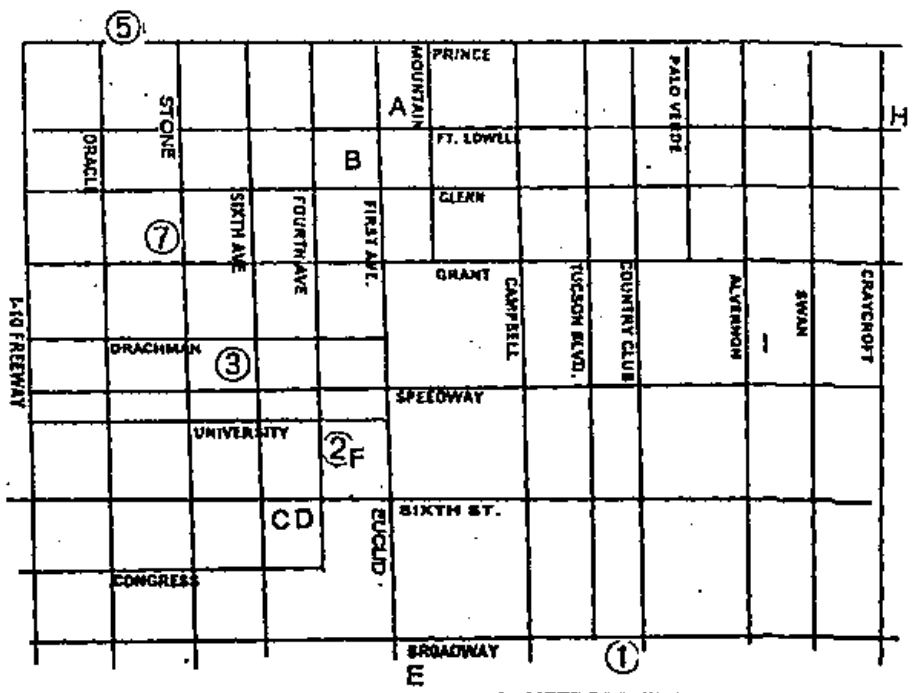

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Dear Dr X,

My partner and I have been together for 9 months and have given up condoms in the last few weeks.

I have been sexually active for, gosh, as long as I can remember, but he's a bit of a newbie. We're both in our mid-30s. I have always been a top in my previous relationships, but as I'm growing older I've been finding myself more willing to bottom. I really enjoy unconventional sexual places, and found that our swimming pool in the back yard offers one of the best places for a little fun.

The problem I have is with lubrication. Most lubes dissolve quickly, and I find Vaseline a little too thick once it hits the cool water. After a few minutes into our aquatic adventures, it gets to painful to go on. Any suggestions?

Aquaman

Dear Aquaman,

Sex in the pool can indeed be a thrilling experience. You raise an interesting point that one's lube tends to wash away in the water. I never recommend Vaseline or other petroleum-based products as lubricants because they cause condom breakage.

Also, as you discovered, Vaseline tends to thicken when it gets cold. After careful consideration, (O.K. I looked on the internet.) I've come up with two possible solutions. (1) Before you decide to get frisky in the pool, insert several glycerin suppositories. Then lube up as you normally do. The suppositories will have a sort of "timed-release" action, keeping you nice and moist from the inside, reducing your need for other lubes to keep your slick. Glycerin suppositories are available over the counter at your neighborhood drug store. Unfortunately, the suppositories may cause dehydration and diarrhea. (2) Many men look for ways to stay lubed for long periods of time. Some of these guys recommend the insertion of an entire tube of vegetable-based lip balm (out of the plastic!) Because the tube is nice and hard, it's easy to push deep inside you, and then it slowly melts as your body heat warms it. I cannot personally vouch for either the lip balm or glycerin suppository methods, but they are something to consider. Enjoy your next swim, and keep working on that backstroke!

Dear Dr X,

Hello I'm a 17-year-old guy who has a question. In January I was really depressed because I felt so alone and had no one to turn to.

Well, I met this guy online and he started chatting with me. He seemed really cool and he helped me through my depression. We just wanted to be friends at first, but by talking on the phone and on-line we both developed feelings for one another. We just met yesterday for the first time. We hit it off big time!

One thing though, I'm 17, and he is much older than I. He's 29! But, he is not into sex or anything like that. I was wondering. Should I tell my family about him? Or not? I would like to know. My friend told me not to tell my family anything. I'm thinking of doing that. What would you suggest?

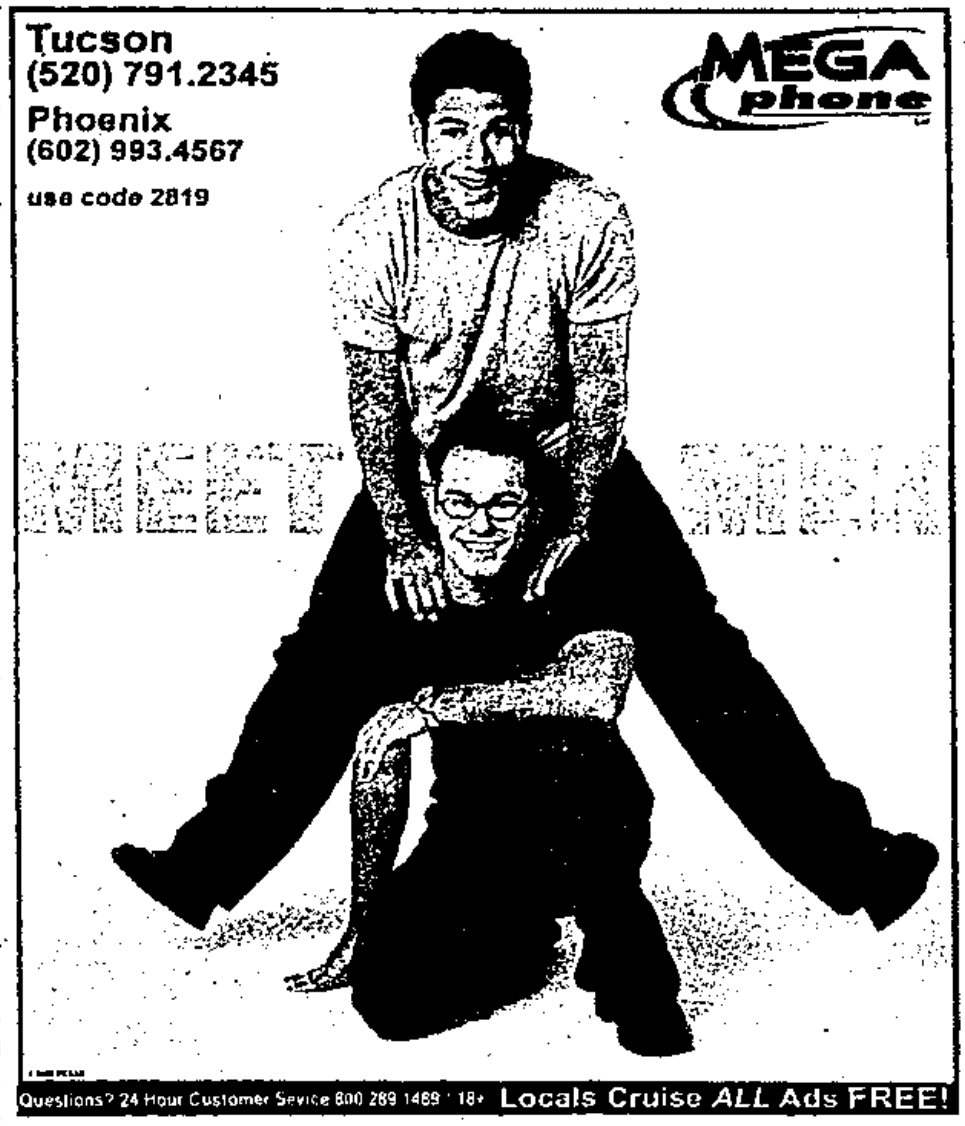
Too Young

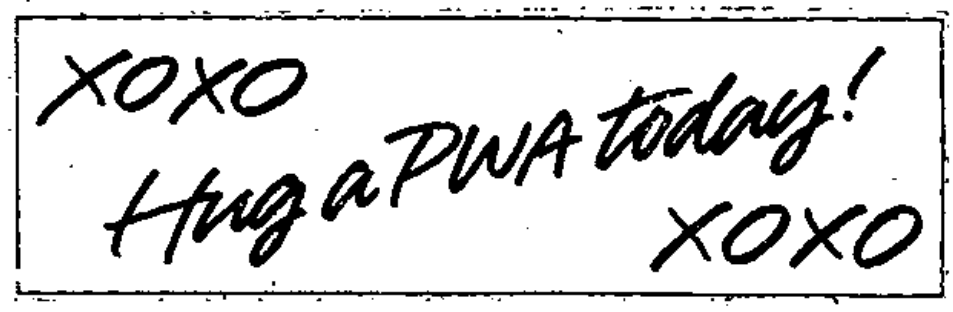
Dear Too Young,

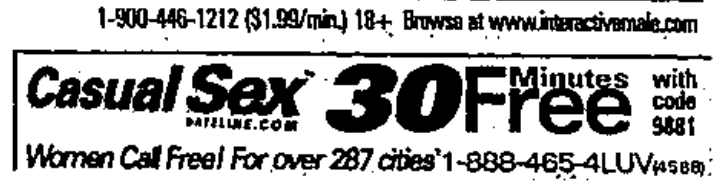
It is good to hear that the man you met is not interested in having sex with you. He obviously knows how dangerous it would be to be involved with a minor. However, I can almost guarantee that your family will not share your faith in this man's integrity.

It is neither easy nor fun to keep relationships secret; especially when you want to share your happiness with loved ones. But until you are of legal age, it would be best not to involve others who might not understand that your friendship with this man is platonic. Keep up your phone calls and chats but I would refrain from meetings and outings for a while. You don't want to put this man in a position of being wrongfully accused of molesting you. When you turn 18, whether your friendship with this man becomes one of love and intimacy or whether you simply remain buddies, then you might consider letting your family meet him. On a side note, please don't let yourself be talked into doing anything you do not want to do. Try to remember that you are 17 and have a lot of living left to do.

[Questions for Dr. X can be sent to gmhpoutreach@saaf.org or: SAAF/GMHP, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719. Check out Dr. X on the web at www.gmhp.org.]







Non-Bar Calendar

Groups / Clubs / Organizations

THURSDAY, JULY 11

The Men's Relationship Group - a Man to Man activity 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Call 881-4582.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry & Les for the premiere of "Six Feet Under". We start at the beginning for this addictive, well written, comedy-drama about a dysfunctional family who owns a funeral home. Seating is limited. For reservations and directions, please contact Jerry at 690-9565.

7:00 to 9:00 p.m. It's 'Sex Chat' time again. Sex Chat is an open, drop in discussion group for anyone who's interested in sex and who wants to hear what other folks are doing. Think, learning. Wrongspan,, 300 E. 6th St.. Only $5 and for adults (18+) of all genders and sexual orientations are welcome.Merryl Sloane facilitates.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 5:00 a.m. A Birding Expedition to the Chiricahua Mountains is planned for today. For meeting time and place, 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 tennis. For directions, please call Jack at 881-5733.

#3. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. Marv 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 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

MONDAY, JULY 15

#1. 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, JULY 16

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 7339494.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jerry & Les as they host Pizza Night. For only $5, you get pizza, salad, drinks and desserts. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

#1. 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.

#2. 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 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call Bill at 297-3569.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 3:00 p.m. Art & Jeff host a movie with dinner. They'll provide the main dish, and you bring a side dish or dessert. The movie will be "Speedway Junky", with Jonathan Taylor Thomas starring as a bisexual hustler. Seating is limited. For reservations and directions, please call Art or Jeff at 762-9135.

MONDAY, JULY 22

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, JULY 23

#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. Bridge Night will meet at Michael'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 Michael at 326-3555.

THURSDAY, JULY25

The Men's Relationship Group - a Man to Man activity 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Call 881-4582.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

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

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:00 p.m. Join us for a night of Retro TV as we show episodes of "Friends", "Roseanne", and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show". For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

BAR CALENDAR

OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. "DivaLicious" Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Ajia Simone, Adrienne Alexander and Veronica Lake.

SUNDAY, JULY 14

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - A big drag show here! A Gay Pride Benefit featuring Diana Flaire (Miss Carousel 2002). The show starts at 9:30 p.m. and also performing Tori Steele, Alexia, Jasmine Bouvier and special guests. Plus $1.25 pitchers of Bud or Bud Light from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Latin music following the show.

IBT'S - Party line-up includes Dennis and Mike's Recovery Bar from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. $1.75 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 / FLEX Softball teams. Then at 8:00 p.m., a special show for Lucas Tellez's family Burial Fund. Hosted by Bunny FuFu and starring Lucinda Holliday, Ajia Simone, Janee Starr, Veronica Halliwell, Terri-Aki, Angelique Houston and Lady Ashley.

MONDAY, JULY 15

IBT'S - Something new here, "Undie Mundies" with Jay. Get Happy Hour Prices for just losing your pants from 9:00 until closing!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

IBT'S - The "DivaLicious" Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Samantha White, Janee Starr and Bunny FuFu.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

VENTURE-N - All you Cancerians out there, belly up to the V-N and PARTY! It's your birthday time!!!!

SATURDAY, JULY 27

#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 Night 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.

#3. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Bill hosts the continuing saga of the Fisher family in "Six Feet Under". For reservations and directions, please call Bill at 546-7539.

MONDAY, JULY 29

#1. 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, JULY 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 733-9494.

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Daily Bar Calendar

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

IBT's - 10am-6pm $1.75 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; Happy Hour 11am-8pm $2 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 - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 4-9pm. New hot dance with DJ Panter, Undie Mondie with Jay. Happy Hour prices for those in their undies 9-1pm-close. Queer As Folk shown beginning at 8pm. 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 or domestic beer til 8pm. Karaoke w/Billy Dee 9pm to close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 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 - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 4-9pm. Tee's & Tattoo Nite, wear an IBT's T-shirt or IBT tattoo get happy hour prices 8 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 8pm. Tropical drink specials 8 to close. $3 zombies, Jungle Juice, Mai Tai's.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 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 - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 9pm "DivaLicious" 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 8pm. Volleyball games start 7pm. Underwear- fetish- leather nite with Michael $1 off your favorite drink. Chili dogs or bowls $1.

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

Thursday

AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Karaoke w/Stephanie 8-close. $2 Kamikazees and $1 Hot Sex.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 4-9. Retro 80s Dance w/Jonathan Hi NRG dancing 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. Dail special til 7pm. Pool Tournament 7pm. 3 entry. (Special prices for players).

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Trivia Thursday 8pm-close plus 50¢ off all Big Ass drinks. Top scores on NTN game wins special prizes. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball 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 - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party with DJ Rayman 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 8pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's $2.00 all day. Call Martinis $3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

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

Saturday

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 - 10am-6pm $2 domestic beer and well. 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 8pm. 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 8am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, $2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

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NOTICES

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication 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 575-8860 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.

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. 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 886-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-6850 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 624-8788.

NOTICES

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 323-7843.

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, 3681 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 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 299-8847.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info.

TUCSON 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 OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the website www.tucsonpride.com

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

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7695 or go to our web site http://www.tgasasoftball.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 325-6678 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 791-7678.

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 Anabell at 325-0892

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 hyan@theriver.com and request guidelines.

NOTICES

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 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

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

LUTHERANS CONCERNED -- Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 4th Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6809 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

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

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

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

SENIORRAP, a discussion group for older LGBTs, meets from 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

PASSAGES MENTALK - Discussion group and more. For men in their 30s, 40s and late 20s. A great way to meet people... Meeting 3rd Tuesday of each month at Wingspan 7-9pm. Call 760-8714 for more information.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR RECOVERING ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS. Group meets every Saturday 7-8pm in Cornerstone Fellowship hall, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4628 or 750-6404.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA STONEWALL DEMOCRATS meet 3rd Monday of each month 7pm at 4639 E. First Street. 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.

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

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

DESERT DOMINION TUCSON'S 100% CONSENSUAL, Pan-Fetish, Pan-Sexual, Informational, Educational, Safe Space for the B&D, S&M, D&S and TV community. For more info call (520)792-8424 or http://www.desertdominion.org

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

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

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

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

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.

PERSONALS

MAN TO MAN social/erotic education CLUB. We are the tantric men's club that offers passionate friendships and fun activities. Marc 881-4582.
938

FOR SALE

CHECK US OUT
Purple sofa and chair and a half, other sofas, living room chairs, bedroom furniture entertainment centers, wall units, coffee and end tables, dining room sets, china cabinets, aromatic candles, clocks, paperweights, boxes, lots of other things. We are now carrying factory liquidations plus other new pieces. Everything to make your house a home. Jean's Furniture, 2404 E. Grant Road., 325-9494
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House for sale by owner, Fabulous city & mountain views. Closse proximity to downtown and the UofA, Pima College campus. Location "A" Mountain area. 3bd/2ba - 2 ca garage. Approx ½ acre lot & much more. It's a must see. Call (520)884-0375. Asking $229,000.
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EXPERIENCE A TOTALLY RELAXING or deep-tissue massage by a trained, caring male therapist. In-home, hotel or resort. Ask about college student special. (520)730-7966.
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ENJOY A NICE TOUCH. Attractive man offers a sensuous, relaxing massage. 10am - 8p,. 584-9243.
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PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICES. Who wants to clean bathrooms and make beds, not to mention that kitchen! I do! I'll do the chores no one else want to. Price by size of home. Call Jason (520)808-5113. Windows? Who knows..
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COMPUTER INSTRUCTIONS / TUTORING. I have a degree in Computer Information Services, and have taught at Pima Community College. I am available late afternoons and evenings for tutoring and computer problems and troubleshooting. Call Scott at (520)548-1210.
937.

HI-TEC PARALEGAL SERVICE: Bankruptcy $155 ● Divorce $155 ● Wills $75 ● Living Trusts $390 ● House Calls. (520)304-9796. Pager: 218-0218
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FRACTURED BY FRACTIONS? NEED MATH HELP? Summer School gotcha down? Certified teacher can help at all levels up through calculus. $20/75 minutes. Ha! (520)319-0248
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FULL BODY massage for men seven days a week. One full hour: $25. By appointment Call (520)327-3135.
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LET ME PAMPER YOU! With a Full Body Swedish massage in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. $35 for a full hour. Ralph,(520)883-7496.
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DR. BOB'S QUALITY TOUCH. Sensitive and skillful. Nurturing gliding hands, magical muscle release, and energy healing by fit professional. True tantric work available for regular clients. Treat yourself today! (520)318-1919.
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A MAN'S FULL BODY MASSAGE: Relax with an unhurried session of skilled bodywork. Peaceful, private studio. Discreet. 1 hour $45; 1 ½ hr. $55. Call Rick, (520)299-1792.
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A SPECIAL TOUCH. Full body massage with complete relaxation. Young and professional. In/out calls. 7 days. New Location Call Joe, CMT,(520) 293-1776
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MASSAGE FOR MEN: Swedish full body. One hour of complete pleasure. Discreet. Marvin (520)299-9651.
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FULL BODY ORIENTAL MASSAGE. Experience the difference. By Appointment only. 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call Danny Chong (520)270-8288
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COME BACK TO BLISS. Experience a massage steeped in rich tradition combining ancient, sacred and intimate healing techniques. Strong, yet gentle hands work with your complete comfort in mind. In & Out, Days & Evenings, sometimes at a moment's notice. Call Glen, CMT (520)907-2351 for the touch you so richly deserve. Experienced, professional, and kind ... not bad looking either!
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ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS
Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)886-7284 in Tucson.
940

14th International Conference On AIDS Taking Place

Continued from Page One

resistance was seen among nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, the oldest anti-HIV drug class that includes AZT, the first anti-HIV medication. Resistance to these drugs climbed from 7% in 1998 to 21% in 2001. "I think we are going to see continued increases [in resistance] over the next two years," warned Hecht.

The scientists blamed at least part of the problem on complacency among members of groups at high risk for HIV infection, including Gay and Bisexual men, who are engaging in unprotected sex more frequently and spreading drug-resistant strains of HIV to those newly infected. Hecht also said the resistance problem is being fueled by a growing misconception that currently available anti-HIV medications can easily control HIV infection. 'That idea needs to be called into question because some people are becoming infected with (a strain of) virus that is going to be much more difficult to treat," Hecht said. ...

Extremely promising results from late-stage trials on a new class of anti-HIV drugs have generated great excitement among delegates.

The lead drug in what scientists hope will be a potent new group of drugs to the anti-AIDS arsenal, is called T-20 or enfurvitide. The drugs have been broadly classified as fusion inhibitors, as they prevent HIV from "fusing"and infecting healthy cells, greatly inhibiting the ability of the virus to make new copies of itself. T-20 is a synthetic version of a peptide protein. Whereas traditional anti-HIV drugs inhibit viral reproduction inside infected cells, T-20 prevents HIV from latching onto healthy cells and reprogramming it to produce more HIV.

In patients who had shown marked resistance to standard anti-HIV medications, injections of T-20 dramatically reduced levels of HIV in the blood. In one study presented Monday, July 8,the amount of HIV in the blood stream fell to within recommended levels in 121 out of 326 patients (37 percent). In another study 95 out of 335 (28 percent) experienced similar results. ...

Nearly 50 protesters shouted and jeered to drown out a speech by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson.

Wearing T-shirts with the ACT UP slogan "Silence=Death" and carrying signs that read, "Wanted: Bush and Thompson for murder and neglect of people with AIDS," the activists in the auditorium kept the noise going during the entire speech.

Thompson, surrounded by security guards, halted his speech for several minutes until the protesters retreated from the stage, reported the New York Times. When he resumed speaking, however, the whistles and shouts of "Shame!" continued, and attendees could not hear the secretary's address.

Phill Wilson, executive director of the African American AIDS Policy and Training Institute in Southern California, participated in the protest and said it was about a "general lack of leadership in the U.S. administration on HIV /AIDS."

Groups participating in the action included ACT UP, Gay Men's Health Crisis and AIDS Project Los Angeles.

"We were demanding that the administration change its terrible policy on needle exchange, HIV travel restrictions and contribution to the global fund," Wilson told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network via e-mail. ...

A California-based biotechnology company says its AIDS vaccine could be available by 2005, but a host of experts argue that any such announcement is premature and only part of the solution to solving the rapidly expanding world health crisis. VaxGen, which describes itself as the only company in Phase III clinical trials for an HIV/AIDS vaccine, that trials using chimpanzees had been promising and that results of its human trials were coming next.

"We expect to see in humans what we have seen in animal studies," said Donald Francis, VaxGen's president and co-founder. "If all goes well it (the vaccine) could be available by end of 2004 or early 2005."

Almost immediately, AIDS experts expressed skepticism for VaxGen's claims. "All developments in the fight against HIV are welcomed," said Andrew Ridley, of the Terrence Higgins Trust, a London-based AIDS charity. "However, this potential vaccine still has a long way to go before its effectiveness can be proved." Few experts believe the first vaccine will be 100 percent effective. But even partial effectiveness of as low as 30 percent would save lives and provide poorer countries with a powerful weapon in staving off new infections.

"We believe it is unlikely the vaccine will show positive results in Phase III," said Marty Algaze, communications director for the New York-based Gay Men's Health Crisis. "We thought the results in Phase I and II were very disappointing. We don't think it is the answer everyone is waiting for."

Although the development of a vaccine is one of the more exciting areas of research for AIDS experts, it would do little to help the 40 million people currently living with HIV/AIDS. Questions surrounding when a vaccine should be administered, the logistics of worldwide vaccination, and the cost involved in such an undertaking are still unresolved. Other vaccines are also in development. A Thai/U.S. vaccine trial using a vaccine from French company Aventis Pasteur, along with a booster from VaxGen, starts human trials this year in Bangkok.

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weeks ago. The B-B-Q and Beer Bust was a huge success, raising almost $400!

Another thanks to the Observer for advertising the event, and to Roger for working the hot grill all night. Thanks also to everyone who stopped by to eat, drink, and sing Karaoke! Finally, thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped us staff the event, including Eric and Fred, Joni, Arnette and Barb, Julie, Kristen, Glenn, Bryan, and Meredith.

If you haven't been by Wingspan lately, please do stop by and enjoy "your" Community Center! Our newly expanded hours are Monday through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are closed Sundays. We've got cool air conditioning and water, a cybercenter with free internet, free condoms and lube, and a large lending library, including some videos and DVD's.

Thank you so much
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Cathy Busha
Program Director, Wingspan
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