

Wingspan FilmFest Opens At The Loft This Week

TUCSON - Grrls and bois. Kings and queens. Men and womyn. Young and old. The 2003 Wingspan FilmFest holds something for everyone. This year, the festival showcases more than 50 films that cut across social, cultural, religious and political lines. For the first year, all films and programs will take place in one central venue: The Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway Blvd.

"We want the festival to help strengthen the LGBT community. By having all of the events at one location, we hope to create an exciting, Gay-positive atmosphere for people to gather, have fun, and see diverse images of what it means to be LGBT today," said Kent Burbank, Wingspan Executive Director.

Southern Arizona's 8th Annual LGBT Film Festival kicks off this Thursday, March 6th with an opening night "Gayla" starting a 6:30 p.m., followed at 8:00 p.m. by the Tucson premier of "Family Fundamentals," a documentary about three conservative Christian families whose fundamentalist beliefs are at odds with their children's sexuality. Filmmaker Arthur Dong will be available to discuss his film and answer questions.

This year's full-length feature targeting the men's community is "The Trip" (Friday, March 7th at 8:15 p.m.), which tells the story of an 11-year romance between two young men whose lives parallel the political and cultural upheaval of the 70's and early 80's. The women's feature (Saturday, March 8th at 8:30 p.m.) is "A Family Affair." Filmmaker Helen Lesnick and her partner will be in town to discuss their highly acclaimed Lesbian, romantic comedy.

"We wanted this year's festival to showcase a large number of high-quality films that had not been shown before in Southern Arizona. We also wanted to make certain that the films selected represented different perspectives and points of view. I think the FilmFest Steering and Screening Committee's succeed beyond our expectations," reported Liz Burden, FilmFest Coordinator and Executive Director of Pan Left.

This year's festival also includes a large number of films whose themes touch of the topics of religion and gender-identity.

In addition to "Family Fundamentals" (opening night), religious-themed films include "Trembling Before G-d" (Saturday, March 8th at 5:00 p.m.), "Ordinary Sinner" (Saturday, March 8th at 6:45 p.m.), and "Questioning Faith" (Sunday, March 9th at 2:00 p.m.). There will be a free panel discussion on Sunday,

March 9th at 4:00 p.m. to talk about the role of faith in the independent media. Gender roles and gender-identity are explored in numerous films, including the series of short films entitled "Grrls and Bois" (Friday, March 7th at 4:45 p.m.), "Girl King" (Friday, March 7th at 10:30 p.m.), "Leaving Metropolis" (Saturday, March 8th at 12:30 p.m.), a series of short films called "Trans-lation" (Saturday, March 8th at 4:00 p.m.), "By Hook or By Crook" (Sunday, March 9th at 2:30 p.m.) and "Gaudi Afternoon" (Sunday, March 9th at 8:30 p.m.). A panel discussion will be held on Friday, March 7th at 7:15 p.m. to explore the intersection of gender identity and the media arts.

Richard Dyer, who was originally scheduled to speak about Queer Noir on Saturday, March 8th at 3:00 p.m., had to cancel his appearance at the last minute. We feel very fortunate that local film scholar Susan White has agreed to step in and do her own free Queer Noir presentation at 7:00 p.m. (not 3:00 p.m.) on that same Saturday.

Individual film prices range from \$5 to \$7 per person. Festival passes are available for \$35 and \$65. Opening night tickets and passes can be purchased at Wingspan, Antigone Books or on-line. For a complete description of all films, please visit the festival web site at www.wingspanaz.org/FilmFest/.

Eastern Cities Report Resistant Staph Cases

NEW YORK, NY - A virulent strain of the staph bacteria that first showed up in Los Angeles and San Francisco Gay communities earlier this year has started appearing in East Coast cities, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network.

A virulent strain of the Staphylococcus bacteria that first showed up in Los Angeles and San Francisco Gay communities earlier this year has started appearing in East Coast cities.

Five HIV-positive Gay men in the Boston area have been diagnosed with infections caused by Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA. Although all of the men have recovered from their infections, MRSA can be very difficult to treat, since only the strongest, intravenously delivered antibiotics appear to be effective.

A similar number of cases have been reported in Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

MRSA has been around for decades, but has usually popped up in hospi-

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Rio Carnival Attracts Record Number Of Gay Visitors

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil - Undeterred by violence and discrimination, a record number of Gay tourists are descending on Rio de Janeiro to participate in its annual Carnival bash.

Despite the a week-long bout of gang-related violence this week, Rio's tourism authorities expect the five days of bacchanalia to draw a record 388,000 visitors, including 40,000 foreign tourists. More than ever, many of them are Gay. "There are more Gay visitors than ever," said Claudio Nascimento, president of the Rio-based Rainbow Group, a Gay rights organization.

Travel agents in Rio say Gay carnival bookings are up more than 20% following a marketing campaign in the United States by Riotur, the city's official tourist agency, promoting the "marvelous city." One of Brazil's leading Gay and Lesbian travel agencies says international demand for Carnival trips, mainly from the United States, has risen sharply. "The number of foreign homosexuals, mainly North American, taking our Rio carnival package is up 30% this year," said Franco Reinaudo, director of Alibi Turismo.

This year's party has been marred by gang violence that has already claimed at least 10 lives since Monday. To ensure the public's safety, thousands of army troops wearing flack jackets and bearing machine guns have been positioned throughout the city. It is the first time the military has had to help safeguard Carnival. Nascimento of the Rainbow Group says Gays are now more than ever exposed to violence. "We're fighting against increased violence and discrimination against Gays and want increased police protection," he said. Nascimento said Gay parades had been attacked in the past week and there were cases of discrimination against Gays in hotels and restaurants.

But other activists say Carnival's free-for-all atmosphere, where people tend to dress up, drink heavily, and dance the night away, tends to lessen Gay-related crime. "Carnival is for everyone and without discrimination," said Horacio Barros, dep-

Sydney Mardi Gras Celebrates 25th Year

SYDNEY, Australia - After a year of financial hardship threatened cancellation, the Sydney Mardi Gras festivities went ahead as scheduled with an estimated 250,000 participants.

The annual festival, one of the largest Gay Pride celebrations in the world, celebrated its 25th anniversary this year with a parade of 140 floats, the Associated Press reported.

uty editor of the Grito G, a monthly Gay newspaper. Interviewed in a Copacabana sauna club he helps manage, Barros added, "The carnival is essentially fun and a great opportunity to liberate pent-up feelings."

On Saturday the Gay Banda de Ipanema, Rio's oldest carnival street band, will lead thousands of singing and samba-swaying fans through the swinging Rio beachfront district famed for its beautiful girls and bossa nova music. "It's time to forget and enjoy," said Gerhard, a garishly dressed fairy godmother perched in a tree, waving a peace banner last month during the Banda's first parade. After Saturday, it will parade again on Tuesday. The Banda de Ipanema sprang up in the mid 1960s to poke fun at the military dictatorship that then ruled Latin America's largest country. It now criticizes corruption and the warmongering of democratic governments. "For the past 10 years I've climbed the same tree in Ipanema to spread peace," added Gerhard, a fashion designer, who migrated to Rio from the Amazon.

The Banda's parade traditionally starts when a mini-skirted policeman clears traffic, bystanders, and hoards of street vendors blocking the main street with a piercing whistle. Backed by tubas, trombones, and trumpets, drag queens and transvestites prance toward the sea promenade, wearing little more than perilously high platform shoes, net stockings, G-strings, masses of makeup, and turquoise feathered hairdos. Samba-swaying fans in flip-flops and tight trunks follow behind.

Gay groups, which also include the Banda de Carmem Miranda, Banda das Quengas, and Banda das Piranhas, compete to be the most colorful and outrageous among the dozens of street processions that attract huge numbers as the carnival returns to its street party roots. Along Copacabana's ritzy seafont, the Banda da Carmem Miranda, Rio's largest Gay procession, earlier oozed through a thick crowd of admirers rippling their glittering bodies on a series of floats. "It's awesome, there's nothing like it," said green-masked Igor, alias Frankenstein Gay, sporting a Japanese topknot.

Several of the floats displayed political themes, such as a lime green tank with female dancers sporting Saddam Hussein-inspired mustaches. The float was called "Madam Saddam and her Weapons of Mass Seduction." Parade officials also wore T-shirts that read: "We're here, we're queer and we vote."

The event capped a year of strug-

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UPDATE

Two Community Forums To Be Held March 11-12

TUCSON - "Moving Closer to Equality: A conversation about Transgender politics" will be held at Wingspan, 300 E. Sixth St., Tuesday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m..

Two national Transgender leaders are leading the conversation to discuss victories, challenges, and priorities from Arizona to the U.S. Congress. Mara Keisling, founding Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality will present the results of the Human Rights Campaign's recent public opinion survey on attitudes toward Transgender people and their civil rights. Lisa Mottet, Legislative Lawyer for the Transgender Civil Rights Project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will provide an update on federal legislation and efforts across the country to reach Transgender equality.

For more information contact Lisa Mottet of NGLTF at (202) 498-0851 or Lmottet@nglftf.org ...

In recognition of the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Wingspan is hosting a forum, Wednesday, March 12, 7 to 9:00 p.m., on reproductive technologies.

While most people think of reproductive rights and freedoms as only relevant to heterosexuals, LGBT people also engage in reproductive decision-making and are affected by the controversies surrounding reproductive rights. This forum will describe the various reproductive technologies available to aspiring LGBT parents, explore the ethical and political implications of using these technologies, and present stories from LGBT parents in our community.

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

Peace Through Pride' Theme For Tucson Pride

TUCSON - The International Pride theme for 2003 is "Peace Through Pride." Tucson Pride has also elected to use this theme for Pride events in Tucson during 2003.

Tucson Pride announces an art contest for a logo illustrating this theme. The art contest will run from Jan. 15 until March 7th. The TPI board will select the winning artwork on March 11. TPI will award \$150.00 to the winning artist.

Artwork may be presented in any media and must be mailed to Tucson Pride, P.O. Box 40301, Tucson AZ 85717. Sender must put "Attention: Logo Contest" somewhere on the envelope. Artwork received by email will not be considered. The artist must include their name, address and a contact number or email address on the back side of the artwork. The artist may include the theme and/or OUTOBERFEST 2003 in their presentation but it is not required. Entries will not be returned. Artists need to take into consideration that the logo will be used for advertising in both black and white and color ads, posters, flyers, Pride Guides, etc. Artwork may include up to 6 colors.

For additional information, call the PrideLine at (520) 622-3200 or send email to pride@tucsonpride.com. The TPI web site is www.tucsonpride.com.

Book Reading At Antigone's March 14

TUCSON - Antigone Books, 411 N. Fourth Avenue, will be hosting a book reading of "This Bridge We Call Home," Friday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation, edited by Gloria Anzaldúa and Analouse Keating (Routledge, \$24.95), is an exciting new anthology in the tradition of the groundbreaking feminist work, This Bridge Called My Back. Offering a bold vision of women-of-color consciousness for the 21st century, This Bridge is a collection of 80 new writings. Contributor Shafiq Milczek-Desai, an American-born daughter of Indian parents, will discuss the book and read her essay, an exploration of the crossroads of culture, tradition, and feminist identity in her life.

The reading will be followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served.

ERS - LETTERS - LETTERS - LETTERS - LETTER

Dear Members of the Tucson GLBT Community,

I want to express my thanks to the owners, staff, and patrons of November Bar & Grill for their donation in support of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) and those we serve.

Recently I was at November, the newest addition to the list of Tucson's GLBT clubs, and I was approached by the owner, who very graciously gave me a donation of \$100 in support of TIHAN's programs and services. She also expressed her willingness to offer her establishment to support us in any way possible.

Tucson has a long history of generous clubs that take an active role in giving back to the community they serve, and it's a pleasure to add November Bar & Grill to that esteemed list. Thank you for your support, and for your active participation in our community!

Scott Blades
Executive Director
Tucson Interfaith
HIV/AIDS Network
Tucson, Arizona

Farewell Stan Stevens 1940-2003

By Paul S. Lotsof

TUCSON - I believe it was in 1981 that I was sharing an apartment with a young man named Jerry. One evening, Jerry walked over to a nearby bar called Joshua Tree which was a Gay mecca on North First Avenue. When Jerry returned, he had a new friend with him and a conversation ensued. Stan turned out to be a resident of Benson which also happened to be the location of a new business that I was in the process of constructing. The icing on the cake was the fact that Stan was an electrician and his skills were exactly what we needed. Later I found out that Stan and I had another common interest in that we both were avid record collectors who specialized in rock oldies.

Stan's main place of employment at the time was the Cypress Johnson Copper Mine which was located between Benson and Willcox. One time there was a massive power outage that left the whole Town of Benson in the dark. With a grin on his face, Stan admitted to me that he caused the power failure. I promised that I wouldn't tell anyone.

When the copper mine shut down, Stan moved to Reno where he did electrical work for one of the casinos. Then his health began to fail and he strongly suspected that he had AIDS but luckily that wasn't the case. The diagnosis was Lupus Disease which is mostly a skin disorder. Being unable to work, Stan moved back to Benson. One evening a couple years ago, we got together and Stan talked about the dozen or so medicines he had to take daily. But he was glad to be alive even though he could barely walk.

Oddly enough, it wasn't Lupus that killed Stan. It was cancer that was diagnosed shortly before Stan's death on February 18th.

One of Stan's closest companions was his sister, Ruth, who was with him much of the time. Many people thought they were husband and wife, something that Stan found amusing. He didn't have to explain his sexual orientation as people figured that he was straight.

Stan made quite a few friends in Tucson and I'm sure that many of them will lament his passing.



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The Observer

Say You Saw It In The



Parried By America by Cathy Busha

Who would have thought that me, a pro-choice, beer-drinking, anti-school voucher, R-movie-watching, sex-positive, motorcycle-riding, feminist, butch dyke, would ever be in agreement with Focus on the Family's Dr. James Dobson? For those of you unfamiliar with Focus on the Family, they're a right-wing conservative group who sponsored the "Love Won Out" conference that descended upon Phoenix last year. The conference was geared at "promoting the truth that homosexuality is preventable and treatable — and that individuals don't have to be Gay."

Anyway, it seems Dr. Dobson and I both have apprehensions about the upcoming reality TV series on Fox, "Married by America."

The new weekly series, which begins in March, will feature ten strangers—five men and five women—who are tired of the dating scene and open to the idea of having a marriage arranged for them by TV viewers. Allegedly, these men and women and their potential spouses are successful in every aspect of their lives, except at finding a mate. Their friends and families will interview a bevy of marriage material contestants and whittle down the pool to two potential finalists for each love-lorn single. The third show will let the viewers call in and decide who should tie the knot and will end with a proposal between two people who have never met. After the votes are tallied, the couples have to propose - or be proposed to - without ever seeing each other. That's right: You match. You vote. They marry. On a positive note, as far as I can tell, contestants don't have to eat kitten eyeballs, chocolate covered roaches, or anything gross like on

"Fear Factor."

The women will get their rings from an anonymous beau by showing their hands through a curtain. Fox hopes love (and viewership) will ensue as the newly engaged couples get to know each other in the next episodes, which lead up to a live televised wedding finale.

Focus on (your own damn) Family (please) has described the show as a "corrupted version of a bedrock truth about marriage — which is not emotion, which is not this warm euphoric love feeling; it's commitment. It's willful commitment, that I am going to commit myself to this other person."

I actually like that "warm, euphoric love feeling" I have with girlfriend. My concern about "Married by America", however, is that while it is completely legal for two heterosexuals strangers to walk down the aisle in holy matrimony, it is not legal for two same-sex people who have loved each other with "willful commitment" for twenty years to tie the legal knot.

Now, not only is it a bit strange for me to be agreeing with Dr. Dobson, it's also strange for me to be advocating for marriage. As Mae West once said, "Marriage is an institution. I'm not ready for an institution." Thanks to the work of feminists, we all know about marriage's tarnished history: women as property passed from father to husband; monogamy as the simplest way to assure paternity and thus produce "legitimate" children; a husband's legal entitlement to his wife's domestic and sexual services. Sometimes I wonder why anyone, straight or Gay, would want to take part in

such a retro, potentially oppressive, bigotedly exclusive institution (though registering for gifts at The Pottery Barn sometimes tempts me to switch teams and become a "hasbian"). In fact, I question why any legal rights for couples are tied to the institution of marriage at all.

But, cynical as I am, it's true that marriage is a powerful legal, social, and historical institution that provides its participants with a set of special rights, privileges, and benefits—and that marriage is here to stay. According to the Arizona Human Rights Fund, there are over 800 uses of the term "marriage", "spouse," "husband" and/or "wife" in Arizona statutes, all of which exclude same-sex couples. Without the legal right to marry, same-sex couples do not enjoy privileges like family health coverage, medical and bereavement leave, child custody, tax benefits and pension plans. Those who can marry often take these rights for granted, but for Gay men and Lesbians, these benefits are forever denied.

Same-sex couples are currently denied the right to legally marry anywhere in the United States (the Hawaii initiative did not happen). In Vermont, same-sex couples can have civil unions, which confer many of the legal state benefits of marriage to couples who are residents. However, these unions do not award any of the federal rights or benefits of marriage, are not recognized outside of Vermont (and I'm not moving to Vermont—it's too damn cold!) In 1996, the "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA) was passed, limiting the federal definition of marriage to exclude same-sex couples. In 1996, on the state level, Arizona also passed such legislation that specified marriage between people of the same sex as

"illegal," and prohibited the recognition of lawful same-sex marriages performed in other states. Ironically, the bill was passed by Senate and signed by Governor Fife "Fraud" Symington.

Quite simply, the government's refusal to recognize same-sex marriage is legal discrimination masquerading as popular morality. The U.S. Supreme Court has declared marriage a fundamental right under the Constitution. Tradition and majority-culture discomfort shouldn't justify discrimination. Not that long ago in the United States, marriage was limited to members of the same race and religion. Keep in mind, civil and religious marriages are two separate institutions—civil marriage binds a couple in a legal contract consisting of obligations and benefits. While some religions provide ceremonial services for same-sex couples, these unions do not receive legal recognition. Legalizing same-sex civil marriage will not require any religion to perform or recognize these marriages.

So, I'll keep on euphorically loving my girlfriend with willful commitment, riding my motorcycle, and flipping around the channels on my TV, waiting for the next reality TV series that Dr. Dobson and I will probably not agree on: "Liberation Island: Equal Rights for all US Americans."

[Cathy Busha is the Program Director for the Wingspan Domestic Violence Project in Tucson, Arizona.]



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Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Hello readers! Last week's passing of television pioneer Fred Rogers gave many an opportunity to remember a time that in their eyes was more at ease. There were various tributes from those in the media and the working class alike. They talked about the impact of watching Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood and what it meant to them. They gave claim to using the songs and themes on their own children later in life. I myself am a product of watching Mr. Rogers for many years.

in the neighborhood, only neighbors we have not met yet.

Fred Rogers found time to accomplish many tasks in his 75 years on this plane. Besides the television show that bears his name, he was an ordained minister, held a master's degree, and played both classical and jazz piano. All of the episodes of his Public Television venture were written by him, that includes the music too. He truly fits the mold of the term we use too often, American Icon.

Critics found it easy to argue that the picture portrayed by Mister Rogers was not a real one. They scoffed at the idea of a show that did not present issues that you would see on the evening news. They even parodied the manner by which Mr. Rogers found it easy to get along with everyone. I for one do not think this was an act, but an example we could all live with and try to mirror in our lives. The show was as much for adults as it was for children only because of the fact that the answers were there for us to comprehend.

Without being preachy, protesting anything to any degree, or placing blame, Mr. Rogers was able to give an entire nation advice. He was truly television's first psychiatrist and we did not even know it. Everyone who now uses the media as a platform for help has Mr. Rogers to thank. Children of all ages and many adults could heed the words of the simple songs to aid in relations with each other.

Those of us blessed with children find the world harder and harder to bear for them. We are all for protecting our youngsters in a world that truly has a dark cloud hanging over it. Sometimes the answers we give them are not enough to give them assurance that everything is going to be fine. Mr. Rogers gave us small samples of what to say and do. It is up to us of course to follow through with what he asks of us. It is though nice to have someone there who knows what we are dealing with.

That ideology that allowed Mr. Rogers Neighborhood to exist longer than any other show on PBS, was born of a time resembling ours all too much. There was the fear of the Cold War, race relations in this country at a fever pitch, and economic uncertainty. Fred Rogers took those topics and let the young people of America know where they stood on those topics. He made it simple and made it the duty of the adults to resolve. He proclaimed that the problems of the world are not the fault of the children, but with their behavior, adults could see a path to resolution.

The magic of television will allow us to see Mr. Rogers for as long as we want. If our nation's leaders really want to resolve all that is causing fear in this country, they might take the time to view a couple of episodes of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood. What they will find might give them a perspective that they were not aware of. His words will ring true forever as long as there are different people in the world. His mixture of song and rhyme could make the hardest situations simple. We could all benefit from learning the words to "There Is Only One You".

Fred Rogers took his teachings primarily from his source of faith. He did something a little different with the words of the bible though. He made them acceptable to all forms of people. You never heard him mention God, or religion in any of his shows. You did however learn about how different people have different faiths all over the world. There was never an enemy

We can only hope that the current situation ends in something of a peaceful solution. No one wants war, death and destruction to come to any doorstep. The lessons we learn will hopefully keep the same thing from happening again. No matter what side we are on with the issues, hope is our true common link. We can only hope. Mr. Rogers taught me that. Have a good week!

[Write Jerry D. at Calabazamusic@yahoo.com.]

As I See It

by Clark

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Judge Slashes Award In Helmsley Verdict

NEW YORK, NY - The \$11.17 million that a jury awarded to the ex-manager of Manhattan's pricey Park Lane Hotel after finding that hotel owner Leona Helmsley fired him because he is Gay was reduced Tuesday, March 4, to \$554,000.

A judge said Helmsley is not a multibillion-dollar pinata "to poke a stick at in the hopes of hitting the jackpot." New York supreme court justice Walter Tolub reduced the award after finding that Charles Bell, the former manager, was not entitled to \$1.1 million in economic damages and that the \$10 million in punitive damages he was awarded was excessive. The judge speculated that the awards resulted from Helmsley's "belligerence" on the witness stand and her "accompanying sneer," which annoyed the jury and succeeded "in keeping the specter of the 'Queen of Mean' alive in the courtroom."

On February 4 a Manhattan jury of four women and two men found that Helmsley, 82, had subjected Bell, 48, to an abusive and hostile work environment at the 600-room Park Lane, where she lives, and then fired him after learning that he is Gay. The judge said the award of \$321,000 for lost past earnings and benefits and \$800,000 for lost future earnings and benefits was unsupported by evidence and contrary to the jury's own findings. He also noted that Bell had run the hotel for only about four months. The judge said Bell's refusal of Helmsley's offer of a hotel management job a month before any settlement talks began—and which would have paid \$15,000 more than the \$110,000 a year he made before she fired him—means he is not entitled to economic damages. And the jury's finding that Helmsley would have fired Bell anyway after learning he had lied about his work history and that he used illegal recreational drugs was inconsistent with the award of future lost wages and benefits, the judge wrote.

The judge said punitive damages are meant to punish and discourage others from similar behavior. There are no precise guidelines for amounts that should be awarded, he said, but they should be limited by reasonableness and constitutional con-

siderations. "Punitive damages are not a game of Lotto," he wrote, "and more particularly to the matter at hand, Mrs. Helmsley is not a \$4 billion pinata for every John, Patrick, or Charlie to poke a stick at in the hopes of hitting the jackpot."

Bell's lawyers did not respond immediately to requests for comment. A lawyer for Helmsley said the judge "did the right thing."

In his 16-page decision, the judge said the punitive damages award "was excessive and actuated by passion." He speculated that "Helmsley's brief [21 minutes by some estimates], belligerent, confused, agitated, and insensitive presentation only resulted in inflaming the jury." He commented on her response to a question about Bell's giving out free rooms at the Park Lane Hotel by noting that she said "in a gratuitous, acerbic gibe, 'It made him a big shot in the Gay group, I guess.' That and Mrs. Helmsley's accompanying sneer made a very distinct impression on the jury. Moreover, on cross-examination, her belligerence and evasiveness did little to further her cause." He said the statements, "coupled with testimony relating to Mrs. Helmsley's high living, prior tax evasion, and insensitivity to those around her, succeeded in keeping the specter of the 'Queen of Mean' alive in the courtroom." The judge said the resulting \$10 million could not under any circumstances be sustained as reasonable.

Besides dropping the punitive award to \$500,000, the judge let stand awards of \$30,000 for past pain, suffering, and emotional distress and \$24,000 for future pain, suffering, and emotional distress over the next two years.

Helmsley's lawyer, Steven G. Eckhaus, said, "We are grateful that Judge Tolub did the right thing in throwing out the award for economic damages. We are confident that on appeal the entire judgment will be thrown out." He said he stands by his prediction "that Mr. Bell will never see a penny from this verdict." He added that he has not spoken to Helmsley but said "she has been steadfast in her belief that she did nothing wrong."

Reveille's De Colores Concert A Big Hit

By Renata Tebaldi

next year.

TUCSON - Applause, applause and more applause filled Grace St. Paul's Church as Reveille Gay Men's Chorus ended a stunning concert with its tour de force signature encore, "Seize the Day". From the opening number - "Let All Men Sing" - to the very end, Reveille made music to remember, and it was clear that audience and singers were enjoying themselves together.

Dios mio! From the ethereal French classic, "Dirait-on", to the chaotically funny "Johnny Schmoker", the men of Reveille displayed the results of many weeks of hard work under the direction of Linus Lerner, Reveille's talented, charismatic and well endowed artistic director.

While the chorus's ensemble singing has never been better, there were extra cheers for the concert's two solos, one as part of "Over the Rainbow", sung by Reveille's own Judy Garland, Terry Long, and "Only You", sung by the last of The Platters, Ray Vetter. "De Colores" was first presented a week earlier in Hermosillo, Sonora, as a benefit for Sonora's leading community HIV/AIDS outreach and prevention organization, ACCSIDA. The Hermosillo concert was such a success that Reveille has already been invited to return

As Reveille begins rehearsals for its next major concert in May, the chorus welcomes new singers. Any man who loves to sing, is willing to learn how to sing well and does not require prima donna treatment will be greeted with open arms by those sweet, sweet Reveillettes. You don't have to be able to read music, and you don't have to be a trained musician. It does help if you can carry a tune. Call the Reveille number, (520) 617-3100, to arrange a very simple audition with Linus Lerner.

Sydney Mardi Gras

Continued from Page One

gles. Last year the festival incurred massive debts, blamed partly on a dropoff in international tourism after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The financial losses threatened to cancel the 2003 parade, but a group of financial backers came forward last summer to save the event.

Formerly known as the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, officials changed the name last December, amid some controversy. Organizers said the name change reflects that festival's broad appeal and diversity, while some Gay activists said the change betrayed the true purpose of the annual event.

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POLITICS 2003

By Mark R. Kerr

POLITICS 2002: By Mark R. Kerr

Recently, Arizona's new Governor, Democrat Janet Napolitano, and Republican legislative leaders reached a consensus on the state's \$300-million budget deficit for the current fiscal year.

It is expected for this week (ending March 7) that Napolitano will call a special session of Arizona's Legislature to ratify the agreement.

With the deal, the question arises about what programs face budget cuts, like the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) or other HIV/AIDS programs, in the new deal to balance the books for this year?

According to Kris Mayes, Napolitano's Communications Director, said that both programs won't lose any funding under the new agreement but next year may be another story.

Mayes said that under Napolitano's proposed budget for fiscal year 2004, there would be no cuts in state funding for ADAP, \$1-million under the Department of Health Services budget and \$1.3-million for an HIV/AIDS program for people to purchase the life-saving drugs who don't qualify under Arizona's indigent care program.

On the other hand, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, under the auspices of the Republican leadership in the state legislature, propose eliminating all funding. Something Mayes said was "fool hearted, to say the least."

Call (800) 352-8404 and leave a message with your legislator, urging them to support Governor Napolitano's budget and humane approach to solving the state's fiscal programs. ...

In other legislative news, lawmakers said on Tuesday, March 4 using and individuals credit rating based on their sex, race, religion or even where they live to determine insurance premiums would be illegal but its okay to discriminate against a potential policy holder because of their sexual orientation.

HB 2032 would limit the practice by many insurance companies of figuring out how much to charge for automobile and homeowner insurance based on the applicant's credit record or the above mentioned parameters.

According to state Rep. Linda Lopez, D-Tucson, the list should include sexual orientation.

"My daughter is gay, my brother is gay," Lopez said during the debate, adding that it is totally unfair to let insurance companies use the factor of someone's sexual orientation to determine insurance premiums - even if it is only indirectly through their credit scores.

Lopez' amendment to HB 2032 was defeated by a 38-19 vote and the bill was approved in the House of Committee of the Whole and awaits third reading and a final vote.

On Monday, March 3, the Arizona House of Representatives showed a lack of character, to the surprise of no one, when that august body considered HB 2278, dealing with Arizona's public schools and character education.

HB 2278 would establish a criteria for school districts and charter schools that choose to implement a charter education program, allowing districts to develop its own course, using six of a list of a dozen character traits and would be eligible for a state-matching grant of up to \$1,500 annually.

Rep. Leah Landrum-Taylor, D-Phoenix, the only African-American in Arizona's Legislature, had wanted to add "tolerance" to the list but her amendment was defeated by a 36-19 vote. So why was Taylor's amendment shot down? According to the House Republican leadership, "tolerance" was too vague a term to add to the bill.

In HB 2278, The list of a dozen also include the following: truthfulness, respect, attentiveness, obedience, orderliness, forgiveness and virtue, something Arizona's Legislature is definitely vague on for all the list. ...

The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), the statewide Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender rights group will be hosting a "Family Education Day" at the State Capitol in Phoenix, to show that families come in all types.

Dilia Loe, the executive director of AHRF, said the rally will take place Monday, March 10, 12:30 to 4 p.m. Loe went on to state that the Rally's emphasis will be on the diversity by the term "family," to show that families come in all types, through pictures and having the families meet with their legislators to show that they do exist.

According to Kathie Gummere, legislative lobbyist for AHRF, people who wish to participate but will not be able to attend the event, can log on to their Web site, www.ahrf.org, and submit a "family" picture on a preprinted postcard and have it automatically E-mailed to their legislator. She added that the postcards all have the message, "I have a family and I vote."

AHRF is also seeking photos of partners, children, parents, pets or anyone that is considered a part of your family for the photo exhibit for the event. For more information about submitting pictures, call AHRF at (602) 650-0900 or visit their Web site.

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Column Header

Patriotism and the Flag

NOW with Bill Moyers (2/28/03)

official's desk, omnipresent and unread.

I put the flag in my lapel tonight. First time. Until now I haven't thought it necessary to display a little metallic icon of patriotism for everyone to see. It was enough to vote, pay my taxes, perform my civic duties, speak my mind, and do my best to raise our kids to be good Americans. Sometimes I would offer a small prayer of gratitude that I had been born in a country whose institutions sustained me, whose armed forces protected me, and whose ideals inspired me; I offered my heart's affections in return. It no more occurred to me to flaunt the flag on my chest than it did to pin my mother's picture on my lapel to prove her son's love. Mother knew where I stood; so does my country. I even tuck a valentine in my tax returns on April 15.

But more galling than anything are all those moralistic ideologues in Washington sporting the flag in their lapels while writing books and running Web sites and publishing magazines attacking dissenters as un-American. They are people whose ardor for war grows disproportionately to their distance from the fighting. They're in the same league as those swarms of corporate lobbyists wearing flags and prowling Capitol Hill for tax breaks even as they call for more spending on war.

So what's this flag doing here? Well, I put it on to take it back. The flag's been hijacked and turned into a logo - the trademark of a monopoly on patriotism. On those Sunday morning talk shows, official chests appear adorned with the flag as if it is the Good Housekeeping seal of approval. And during the State of the Union, did you notice Bush and Cheney wearing the flag? How come? No administration's patriotism is ever in doubt, only its policies. And the flag bestows no immunity from error. When I see flags sprouting on official lapels, I think of the time in China when I saw Mao's Little Red Book on every

So I put this on as a modest riposte to men with flags in their lapels who shoot missiles from the safety of Washington think tanks, or argue that sacrifice is good as long as they don't have to make it, or approve of bribing governments to join the coalition of the willing (after they first stash the cash). I put it on to remind myself that not every patriot thinks we should do to the people of Baghdad what bin Laden did to us. The flag belongs to the country, not to the government. And it reminds me that it's not un-American to think that war -- except in self-defense -- is a failure of moral imagination, political nerve, and diplomatic skill. Come to think of it, standing up to your government can mean standing up for your country.

What do you think?

La Conexión Latina
Salud es Poder

Despertando a la Realidad

La semana pasada recibí una llamada telefónica poco después de las seis de la mañana. Me pregunté quién sería el que me estaba llamando a esa hora ya que el número no aparecía en el identificador de llamadas. Total que contesté el teléfono y lo primero que escuché fue un "¿cómo estás?" Al cual yo le respondí que "muy bien". Automáticamente preguntó "¿y tú?". Era un amigo de Los Angeles que siempre es medio exagerado ya que me respondió "ay pues yo aquí me estoy muriendo, síjate que he tenido diarrea por una semana y he perdido como 40 libras, fui al doctor y me dio unas pastillas pero no se me quita". La noticia me sorprendió ya que solo tres días antes había hablado con él y no me comentó nada. Debido a que estoy más o menos informado y sé cuales son los síntomas del SIDA le pregunté que si se había hecho la prueba del VIH alguna vez, él me respondió con un categórico ¡no, nunca!

La mejor arma para prevenir la infección del VIH es la educación sobre como evitar o disminuir las practicas de riesgo. En Salud es Poder tenemos los instrumentos para educar a nuestra comunidad latina Gay. Otra de las armas para combatir al VIH es lograr que la gente con conductas de alto riesgo se haga la prueba del VIH. Una detección temprana del VIH ayudará a la persona a tomar el control de su vida y especialmente de su salud, educarse sobre todo lo relacionado al virus para así llevar una vida sana y finalmente cuidar a los demás practicando sexo seguro siempre. Tal vez haya cosas en la vida que no podemos controlar, y más cuando es cuestión de terceras personas. Sin embargo, si podemos tomar el control de las dificultades que se presentan en nuestras vidas, específicamente en el área de salud. Y para empezar con este control es necesario que nos comprometamos nosotros mismos a tomar el timón de nuestra vida. Un buen paso para comenzar, es comprometernos con las necesidades de nuestra comunidad. Para hacer este compromiso existe Salud es Poder en donde juntos, contigo, necesitamos hacer la diferencia en nuestra comunidad.

Esa llamada que me despertó tan temprano y que de cierta forma me alarmo debido a que esta persona es uno de mis mejores amigos, me hizo despertar a la realidad. Hasta hace unos días, solo un amigo del que yo no sabía nada de su estatus me sorprendió con una llamada similar pocos días después de haber salido del hospital y diciéndome que había sido diagnosticado con SIDA. La llamada de la semana pasada me hizo recordar que desgraciadamente, la comunidad Gay sigue siendo uno de los blancos más importantes de las nuevas infecciones de VIH y/o diagnósticos de SIDA. Aún no sé que pasó con mi amigo ya que no se ha hecho la prueba del VIH y tal vez su diarrea y pérdida de peso pueden ser la causa de una infección en el estomago o algo así. Pero la sola idea que él puede ser VIH positivo me hace pensar que nuestra comunidad esta muy lejos de estar inmune a esta epidemia que nos está matando lentamente.

Para cursos en prevención, ser voluntario o hacerte la prueba anónima del VIH entre otras cosas, hablemos a Ernie Pérez, Rafael Vega, o José Muñoz al teléfono (520) 628-7223. También lo puedes hacer por correo electrónico a: salud@saaf.org



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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Wake Up Arizona!

My neighbor got a certified letter a few days ago saying that his state-subsidized insurance was no longer going to pay for the drug that's been keeping him alive the last few years. No big deal: it's just \$24,000 a year.

The only slight problem is that he doesn't happen to have \$24,000 a year to spare. That's why he bought health insurance in the first place. At least that's why he thought he bought health insurance.

I asked him what he's going to do now.

He said, "Maybe I won't need the drug anymore."

When are ordinary American people going to get fed up with the health insurance industry? When are ordinary Arizonans going to get fed up with our State government, a government that is currently contemplating ending its subsidy to health insurance for small businesses and the self-employed?

If Arizona ends this subsidy, one that thousands of its citizens have relied on for years, it will be signing the death warrant for severely chronically ill people who are now productive members of society because they can get medical care, people who already pay substantial health insurance premiums, commonly over \$300 per month.

The chronically ill people I speak of, many of them cancer patients, will not die just because they won't be able to afford higher insurance rates when the rates aren't subsidized. They will die because no insurance company will insure them for any amount of money.

That's right folks. If you're young and healthy you may not know this. We've not only got over 40 million people who are uninsured in this country; we've got God only knows how many people who are uninsurable. No insurance at any price. Contemplate it.

What happens to you if you are self-employed, if you've been on state-subsidized insurance for years, if you've got cancer or a similarly chronic condition that's been successfully treated for years, if that treatment has enabled you to work and live a fairly normal life, what happens if the State of Arizona pulls the plug on your insurance?

It's very simple: you get sick and then you die.

Why isn't the emergency room the answer? The know-nothings are fond of saying that "nobody goes without medical care in the United States. Emergency rooms are required to take everyone."

While it's true that emergency rooms are commonly misused as a treatment facility of last resort for the uninsured, a practice that results in higher taxes for everyone and higher profits for the insurance industry, emergency rooms do not give you your routine medications or care for your severe chronic conditions by providing periodic CAT scans and the like.

If you've got a cancer that requires you to get a CAT scan every four months to determine what the next treatment should be, an emergency room is not going to help you one bit. Come back when you're in

your death agony and they'll give you a pain pill.

For decades the insurance industry has been paying politicians to keep affordable health care from sick Americans. If that sounds like radical political rhetoric to you, you just haven't been paying attention to the painfully obvious facts.

The Democrats are just as guilty as the Republicans. For the situation to have gotten this bad, there had to be ample complicity on both sides. If the Republicans have collectively taken in more money from the industry, chalk it up to their being better businessmen and driving a harder bargain. The only remaining political question is, "When are average citizens going to wake up?"

Words of wisdom for the young and healthy: By the time you're fifty, you or your partner or someone else that you're financially responsible for is going to get sick. If things don't change drastically between now and then, that sickness is going to break you financially. What's worse, treatment for deadly but manageable illnesses is going to be out of reach for all but the luckiest Americans.

[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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2 Dicks No Peter	5.0	2.0
ToledoDeJaneiro	5.0	2.0
Public Trough	5.0	2.0
Aces Over Queens	5.0	2.0
Sofa King Sleazy	2.0	5.0
One Is Two Ain't	2.0	5.0
3-4 Buddocks Luv	2.0	5.0
Itchy Balls	2.0	5.0
Team Sux	2.0	5.0
The Nutz	0.0	7.0

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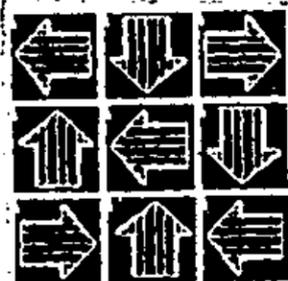
High Average - Erick J., 208; JoAnn S., 169; ToledoDeJaneiro, 573.

High Series Scratch - Erick J., 749; JoAnn S., 609; ToledoDeJaneiro, 1842.

High Game Scratch - Erick J., 300; Heather H., 229; ToledoDeJaneiro, 674.

High Series Handicap - Jason B., 782; JoAnn S., 753; Sofa King Sleazy, 2143.

High Game Handicap - Michael H., 312; Heather H., 283; Mama's Boys, 788.



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March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb? Heck no! March is one loud, proud month, my friends. As Uranus makes its way into Pisces on the 10th and the Sun ambling into uncompromising Aries on the 22th, the only lamb I see is steaming hot and roasted. Let us welcome roasty, toasty March this week.

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Gay Rams are hot to trot this March when a rush of planets make their mark in your social sector. Venus turns on the charm from the 4th to the 28th and pais can't get enough of you. Ah, but Uranus and Swi have a better idea; Before the 22nd you will explore your inner wilde side and after that you are sent forth seek your fortune in greener pastures. Err, better make that pink!

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Don't stay home and hide this March - the planets encourage you to spread your good Gay cheer in any and all possible ways. The Sun gives you personality plus through mid-month while Venus helps you charm all corporate snakes. After the 22nd, though, you are content to contemplate your navel. So how about contemplating a compadre's navel instead, queer Bull?

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Expecting a surprise or two in your career? Of course not, Gay Twin! But as Uranus moves into Pisces, all your professional cherry bombs explode. Sometimes you have to shake things up to move things forward. These eruptions have away of clearing a path. That is, until the 22nd when Sun whips up your social cream to a froth. Where is a cherry bomb when you need it?

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

If you are itching to travel, March is the month to scratch away. There is a rush of planets globalizing your village and pink Crabs are able to expand their influence with all sorts of exotic strangers. Good timing, comrade; the Sun enters robust Aries on the 22nd and you are well prepared to swim with the corporate sharks. So is shark fin soup on the menu or boiled Crab?

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Proud Lions are roaring to make changes in their partnerships this March as zesty Uranus sparks a series of reappraisals. How much of an overhaul do you really need? The temperature is rising and you sizzle while lovers burn. You hold a tiger by the tail mid-month when Uranus shifts and Sun enters robust Aries. That may be the only tail you get for the rest of the month!

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

Hardworking queer Virgins are in their element early in March as a plethora of planets sharpens your pencil and pushes your paperclip. Clear off your desk and accomplish all you can before Uranus enters foggy Pisces and focuses your efforts on shaking up relationships. Your mind will be on mergers and acquisitions so seek a well endowed benefactor. Ahem.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Achieve perfection in early March while the Sun highlights exercise and general wellness. Charming and attractive pink Libras will be ready, willing and able to

cash in on the benefits of all this buffing and preening when the Sun spills into randy Aries on the 22nd. Single Scales tip over for a heavy weight while married ones achieve greater balance.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

How much fun can a Gay Scorp have this March? A pride parade of planets posits in your party playpen so don't poop out. Enjoy every dissipated moment while it lasts, comrade. By the 22nd, the Sun enters hard working Aries and turns your attention to the job. Not a moment too soon; retro Pluto will put a crimp in your bank book. Get off your assets and get to work.

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Queer Centaurs are apt to put their hoof in mouth this March as Uranus goads you to say one more thing one last time. Thank goodness the old sod moves into Pisces on the 10th and unleashes your uncontrollable tongue behind closed doors. Life re-engages after the 22nd when the Sun trots into Aries and trots you Out into the general melee. Enjoy it while it lasts cowpoke.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Calculating Gay Caps are eager for Uranus to move out of their money sector where the old loon has wreaked havoc over your finances. Be careful of what you wish cousin; after the 10th, you are more apt to create an international brouhaha. The Sun suggests that you beat a hasty retreat after the 22nd and content yourself with a domestic agenda. How about partnership benefits?

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

March is a good time to plant a few good seeds for future projects. Aqueerians are awash with great new ideas and people to help make them realities. But make your moves while Uranus provides the impetus and the Sun provides the financial grease. By the 22nd all bets are off; Uranus spends to the hilt and the Sun prefers talk to action. Sigh! Ain't that the way it usually is?

PISCES

FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Guppies are pushed Out into the limelight this March while Uranus provides the propellant. You are catapulted up the alphabet to the A list. Hang on tight compadre; it is time to make a big splash. By the 22nd, the Sun will increase your fortune and turn your attention to the bottom line. Money may not buy happiness but it can certainly buy enough champagne to float your dingy.

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A View From The Rock

By Joy L. Childress

A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

On The Controlling Christian

Most Christians can be divided up into three groups (and non-Christians can be also): One group who needs to control the spiritual life of other Christians; another group has the need to be controlled; and then there is the third group who follow Jesus and are controlled by Him. Some ministers fall into the first group. I have seen it happen in churches where the responsibility of shepherding the flock of members turned into a manipulating and controlling power-trip for the pastor. And in the need to control his/her congregation, games were being played between the pastor and his parishioners and between the members themselves. And then there is the group of Christians who need to be manipulated and told what to do or not to do, because it is easier to be duped into believing anything than it is to search the Bible and to develop a belief system based on the life, teaching, and ministry of Jesus. I know that many GLBT people have come from churches where these things have happened. And because most of us have come from a very legalistic and controlling churches, we told that homosexuality is a sin. I was in a church during my teenage years where the pastor condemned some of us who went on a camping trip for the weekend instead of going to church. He put, (tried to, anyway) a guilt trip on us. His motivation really wasn't to instruct us or to edify us. He was really showing that he had power over us. Power like that can make people arrogant. A lot of churches are set up with a system of checks and balances between the pastor and his board member. However, some are not. And when a pastor has no checks and balances to reign him in, he feels free to harass and condemn church members who do not do what he says. If he says that being GLBT is a sin, and if the GLBT person doesn't change, this gives that pastor more power when he excommunicates that person. Would Jesus do that? I know He wouldn't. The only time He drove anyone out of the temple was when he say the merchants buying and

selling in the temple. God's house was a place of prayer and not of marketing. Is any wonder, then, why a lot of GLBT's do not have any desire to go to church? What's the use in going to church, just to hear condemning, arrogant words from a person who needs to control others? We all know this is not right, but it happens. The third group of Christians are people who live by Jesus' teachings and by His example, and they don't let other teachings or ministries deter them from the teachings of Jesus. They are well-grounded in Jesus Christ and His love for them.

If you have doubts about whether being GLBT is sinful or not, then I have two suggestion that all of us could follow: (1) Read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - the four gospels in the New Testament. Read them to see if Jesus was arrogant and/or on a power trip in His ministry. Also, read the four gospels carefully to see if Jesus condemned GLBT people. (2) Think for yourselves after you have read the four gospels and answer this question for yourself: Based on Jesus and His ministry, did He ever condemn GLBT people? That is the question you must decide for yourself. For me, I have found that my Jesus is to loving to condemn me as a Lesbian. I would rather be controlled by Jesus instead of being controlled by manipulating ministers who keep GLBT people in bondage by telling them that they are not worthy to go to church and worship God. Jesus tells us the gospel of Matthew: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for you souls. For My yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus did not say, "Come to me, all but GLBT people. They are excluded." No, He sail all people!!

Jesus loves you, no matter who or what you are. The invitation is for you; come to Him.

GENDER WORLD

BY JONI K. ROJE

This weekend is the Film Fest. Be sure to catch the Transgender forum Friday at 7 p.m., and the "Trans-lation" film series Saturday at 4 p.m. "By Hook or by Crook" shows Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday evening you'll want to head over to IBT's for the Gender-Bender benefit for SAAF's Gay Men's Health Project. It starts at 5 p.m. on the patio with a benefit barbecue, while the karaoke's in full swing. Then at 8 p.m. the kings and queens take the stage. Scottasia says people will be in drag both ways, the opposite of their usual gender: butches and bears dressed as femmes, and vice versa. Reportedly that includes the Executive Director Her-Kenny-ness.

It really is about time. You've seen the ads in this paper. There's the Diva-licious show at IBT's every Wednesday night, and sometimes on weekends. Every Saturday night Salud Es Poder does a benefit Travesti performance for SAAF at the November Bar and Grill. Plus every Thursday night at the Escandalo, 4696 South Twelfth Avenue. But have I missed something? There are queens galore; but Sunday's Gender-Bender will also include the first drag-king performance I've heard of in Tucson in three months.

Every dollar you put in Sunday, from buying hamburgers to stuffing the

performers' G-strings, goes to SAAF for AIDS prevention. Particularly it goes toward these packaged condoms you see around town. You never know where they'll turn up; here are two on my desk.

Speaking of condoms, Joni wants to know what people have against these cuties. Taking a shower in your socks, my foot! If you're in a gym where people may have athlete's foot, is that a bad idea? They're 95% safe and effective, and think what a better world we'd have if everyone used one. Our unselected White-Elephant House telling people all over the world not to use them--that's as obscene as bombing Iraq!

Condoms are nonsexist. They work just as well on artificial phalli as flesh and blood (Now, had did Joni learn that?). In a pinch you can cut one open and use it as a dental dam (though there are sometimes a few of those floating around too). The female version is on the market, and I've heard you don't have to be female to use one, either.

Carrying one in your pocket or purse doesn't necessarily mean you're cruising. It can be just a precaution (Even if you're a teen-ager). People of all genders can use condoms. Especially our young sisters on the street, some of whom may do what they have to do to pay their bills. If

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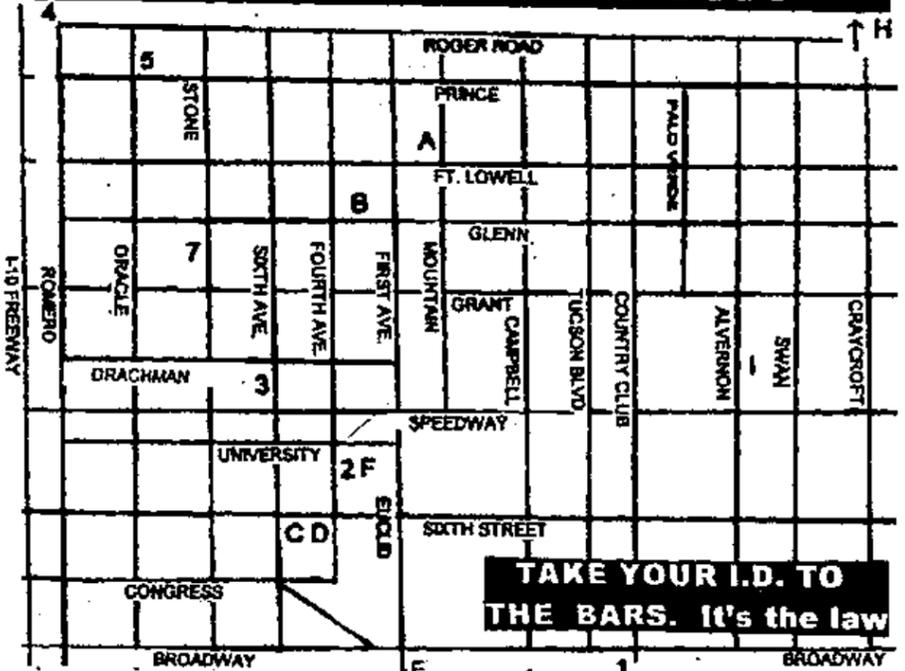
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you disapprove of their line of work, then pay their tuition at Pima (which keeps going up) so they can study to be secretaries or programmers instead.

Meanwhile let everyone have their condoms. Remember, Sweetie, real people use artificial rubber! See you at the Bender! Write me at desertwordsmith@yahoo.com.



Police Arrest 13 Suspected Gay Men

CAIRO, Egypt - Police Cairo arrested 13 men in an apartment last week for alleged homosexual activities, an anonymous security official told the Associated Press.

The suspects have been jailed pending further investigation. Prosecutors will decide whether to extend their detention or formally charge them with debauchery and homosexuality.

Opposition newspaper Wafd said that the arrested men included university students and hotel employees. The detainees did not deny that they are homosexuals, the report said.

While homosexuality is not explicitly referred to in Egyptian law, the laws covering obscenity, prostitution and debauchery are used in the prosecution of Gay men. In the last two years, dozens of suspected homosexuals have been detained and convicted.

In the largest case, 52 suspected Gay men were arrested from a floating nightclub on the Nile River in November 2001. The country's emergency court sentenced 23 of the defendants to two years in prison, and the two suspected leaders were sentenced to three and five years in prison. The other 29 were acquitted. Later, the government tossed out all of the verdicts, except for the two leaders, and the 50 men are currently on retrial.

"Around the world, innocent men and women live in fear of persecution at the hands of their governments on the basis of their real or perceived sexual identity." "In Afghanistan, men convicted of sodomy are buried alive. In Pakistan, homosexuals are flogged. In Iran, Gay men are summarily executed..... We cannot stand idly by as foreign governments condone or commit such acts of state-sanctioned persecution." - Amnesty International USA

Bloomberg Marches In Gay-Inclusive St. Pat's Day Parade

NEW YORK, NY - Mayor Michael Bloomberg marched Sunday, March 2, in a Gay-inclusive St. Patrick's Day parade, delighting organizers who have protested the exclusion of openly Gay groups from the much larger Irish celebration on Fifth Avenue.

"I'm glad everyone's here marching," said Bloomberg, who walked at the front of a group of several hundred participants in the 15-block parade through a heavily Irish section of Queens. "I wish all parades could be that way."

"People have said they could never imagine a St. Patrick's Day parade that was open to all, and yet here we are," said parade organizer Brendan Fay.

Bloomberg also plans to take part in the March 17 parade down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. Gay groups are barred from marching under their own banners in that parade. A small group of antiGay demonstrators at Sunday's parade held signs that read "Shame" and "Sacrilege." Bloomberg skipped the Columbus Day parade last year after organizers banned two actors he had invited from the HBO series *The Sopranos*, saying the show negatively portrays Italian-Americans.

Eastern Cities Report Resistant Staph Cases

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

tals and nursing homes, where doctors believed the infection was contracted through damaged skin or during surgery. The most recent MRSA sufferers appear to have gotten the illness despite the fact that they all had healthy skin.

"Having MRSA is very concerning to us," Dr. Scott Fridkin, a medical epidemiologist at the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention told the Gay.com/Planet-Out.com Network. "I suspect we will continue to see more infections among these populations and others as well."

Since the late 1990's health officials around the country have been seeing MRSA appear in populations without established risk factors, including sports teams and among children in nursery schools. As in San Francisco and Los Angeles, doctors on the East Coast first started seeing a few Gay patients with severe abscesses and boils in the fall of 2002. Last month, CDC officials began informing Gay health organizations in major cities about the rise in MRSA-related cases.

So far, the city with the biggest Gay population, New York, has not reported any cases of MRSA.

"We've done some checking around with doctors and the City Department of Health, and we haven't heard of any cases," said Ronald Johnson of Gay Men's Health Crisis. He added, "It warrants continuing observation. We are taking it seriously in terms of monitoring it."

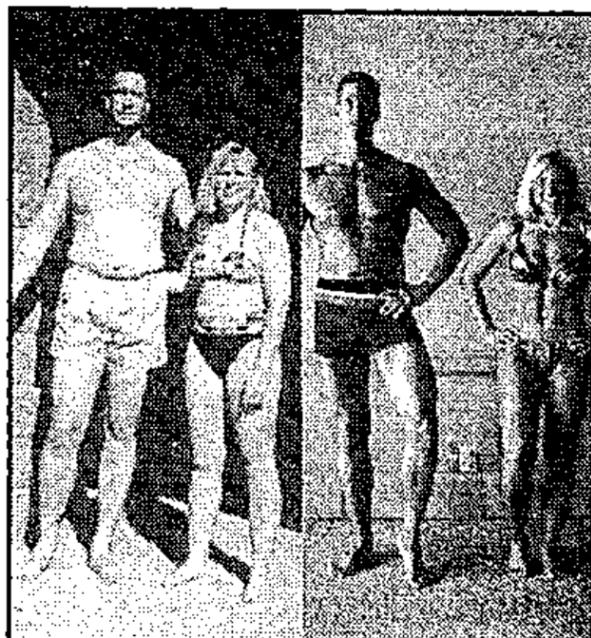
Staph is a relatively common bacterium, and is carried by approximately 1 in 5 people at any given time. Although it is still unclear where the men picked up the more rare MRSA bacteria, some doctors believe bathhouses, sex clubs and even gyms could be amplifiers for the spread of infection. MRSA is not airborne, but it can be spread by touch or through contact with towels and exercise equipment.

To date, the CDC has not required doctors to report the number of cases they see of MRSA infection, but that could change soon.

According to Fridkin, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), a network of state-level epidemiologists experts throughout North America, may push for more comprehensive MRSA reporting.

"I know currently one state will be submitting a resolution to CSTE," said Fridkin. "We support Michigan in putting these resolutions forward."

To help provide more information on MRSA, the CDC has created an information page about the infection on its Web site at www.cdc.gov.



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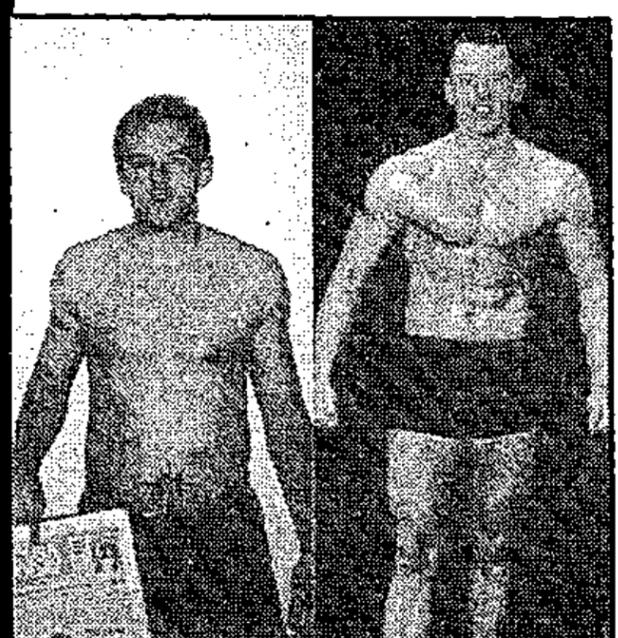
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- LR

Renaissance Fair Celebrates Diversity

By Jerry D.

PHOENIX - Diversity Day at the Arizona Renaissance Festival was indeed one to behold.

The festival, which is continuing through March, set a day for Arizona's BLGT community and was hosted by one of Phoenix's GLBT publications. Those who normally attend the annual event found the same food, games and shows as any other day. The added tent for the luncheon, and the costume contest were added to the fold for celebration of diversity with our communities.

The weather appeared to be the only enemy of the day when the festival got underway. Clouds threatened the skies and rain seemed likely. The festival king proclaimed it a "no rain day", and that along with the spirits of the crowd did the trick as the skies stayed dry throughout the day. The crowd was not as large as last year's gather-

ing, but still had enough of a turn out to show the union of our communities.

The festival is laid out with numerous stores selling wares that resemble items from the renaissance time. Most of the items are hand made and crafted with wood, leather, and metals. Shopping is definitely a staple of the fair as items for sale are the large percentage of the booths and stores. At regular intervals, there are stages set up for various entertainment acts. Following the theme of the fair, minstrel musicians, comedy troops and plays are set up to resemble entertainment long before there was T.V. and radio.

The most talked about attractions still seem to be the food. The crowd is in a dining utopia as meals resembling the feasts of the time (and some modern dishes too) line two food courts on either side of the fair grounds. You can walk around with a turkey leg in the true spirit of King Henry, as well as sample ales and mead. Unlike the

larger theme parks, authenticity is highly followed with all aspects of the event.

Working the booths, as well as walking around the grounds to assist you, the employees of the fair are cleverly woven into the layout of the grounds. There is a court with king and queen and their subjects. Constables and guards patrol the area assuring safety of all aspects. Artists and comedians stroll the area with their works and include the crowd into every bit of their acts.

The first diversity event was held near one of the food courts. There was a tent reserved, which allowed all visiting to get together for lunch. There were visitors from all over the state. Most asked claimed to come to the annual fair on both the diversity day and regular days as well. The majority seemed to be fans of the renaissance days and loved the mix of one of their hobbies with a diversity day to allow them to be comfortable with their loved ones. Lunch was like a family picnic with folks meeting

for the first time as well as old friends.

The other main event of the day reserved for us was the costume contest. There were 19 participants who entered, although in the crowd numerous members of the audience decided to come in costume also. Contestants introduced themselves and talked about their costumes to the panel of judges. The fair furnished prizes and everyone was a winner with an entry prize along with the grand prizes for the top three as per the voting.

With the fair grounds basically being one big circle, most of the day's crowd ran into each other more than once. The overall view of most was well received for the day and most took the time to visit the Echo Magazine booth set up outside the main gate to thank them for sponsoring the event, something they plan to make an annual affair and with weather permitting, a large turn out could make this a staple in Arizona's BLGT community.



First Place Winner in the Costume Contest



Second Place in the Costume Contest



Third Place in the Costume Contest



Members of the Renaissance staff wandering through the crowds in their authentic costumes.



Dressed to the nines, these members of the royal staff posed for the camera looking really royale.

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"YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?"
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"DR. X HAS ANSWERS."

I recently received several letters in response to my answer to hothungboiintucson. All the letters were very interesting and were either for or against what I had to say. Enjoy!

Dear Dr. X,

This is not really a question but a "thank you" for your response to the hothungboiintucson guy. I encounter these types of guys A LOT! And, I have never had the chance to say to them what you said to him. I am a nice looking guy, average size, and my eyes are a beautiful blue. I am hoping to meet someone eventually but where? There must be places other than the bars, parks and health clubs. Where are the men that like to rent a good, scary movie and hold each other for comfort? Men, who will go see a "chick flick" and not be afraid to cry together, or the guy that just likes to go out to eat or window shop in the malls (shop for merchandise-not men)? I enjoy these things very much and don't believe those men are out there, at least not in Tucson. I am not hung like a horse, skinny, or the Gay equivalent to Tom Cruise, but I am fun to be with, willing and able to commit, and I can appreciate a person for who they are no matter what. Soooooooo, where are these guys? Once more, thanks for the response to hothungboiintucson!

Dear Dr. X,

You recently slammed "hothungboiintucson" as conceited and self-absorbed. Your perception and reaction say it all about our super-model

problems. You said this hot guy should start talking to folks and listening to them, find common interests etc.... That's all well and good, my dear doctor, but you haven't paid attention to all the symptoms being reported. How many "men" have you compared to pandering dogs in heat as they react to a "hot babe" or stud? It's easy to start a conversation if you happen to be good looking. I'm 41, and at least twice last month I was told I look no more than 28 or 30. I have good stature and naturally blonde hair. I am "all American." It's now called "Abercrombie," but your looks can distract the person you're trying to get to know, and your looks can encourage them to venture off into unintended territories. It is man's most basic desire and intent to pursue "happiness" whether appropriate or not. Doubtless, the male species will ever cheat upon his (current) mate. Shame on you for casting stones. Give the guy a break; he's not asking for more sex partners. He simply said he wants a relationship. Don't call him names. Tell him to add a preface to his getting to know people. Tell him to ask for respect based upon what he offers those that eventually turn to grab his dick. (Been there, still get it and trying to get more of it, but out of common interest).

[Send your questions to Dr. X at gmhp@saaf.org or mail them to SAAF/GMHP, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719. You can also check out Dr. X online at www.gmhp.org.]

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- ▼ Web & Digital Directory: www.ns4b.com/cba
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Check us out! Membership & Meeting Information: 615-6436

Two Positions Open At Wingspan

TUCSON - Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, is hiring for two open staff positions.

The first is for an Advocate/Educator (30 hours/week, \$9.50-10.30/hr, DOE), to provide crisis intervention and advocacy services to LGBT victims/survivors of violence, as well as outreach and education about violence within and against the LGBT community. Some evenings, weekends, and travel required.

Please send cover letter, résumé, and list of three references to: Wingspan Domestic Violence Project, 300 E. 6th Street, Tucson, AZ 85705, or fax to 520-624-0364, or email to wdvp@wingspanaz.org. Closing Date: Friday, February 21, 2003. AA/EOE. No phone calls or email questions please.

The second position is for Development Associate (full time, health benefits, \$24,000-\$28,000, DOE), to coordinate and implement aspects of Wingspan's development plan in conjunction with the Executive Director, Board Members, and other volunteers. Duties include grant writing and reporting, as well as researching, developing, and implementing grant opportunities, corporate sponsorships, major donor and direct mail campaigns, and fund raising events.

Submit letter of interest, résumé with dates of employment, and names, addresses, and phone numbers of three references to: Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street, Tucson, AZ 85705, or fax to (520) 624-0364, or email to wingspan@wingspanaz.org. Open until filled. AA/EOE. For more detailed information about both positions, visit Wingspan's website: wingspanaz.org.

CRAVING...
LOCAL MEN
LIVE CHAT
VOICE MAIL

TUCSON
 520-547-0888
 Phoenix
 602-765-8888
 Other Local #'s
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www.interactivemale.com

1-900-446-1212 (\$1.99/min.)

GET RELIEF! 99¢/min. 1-888-883-8388

NON-BAR CALENDAR

GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Richard for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Richard at 579-7291.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. We head for Dinner Out at the Rose Garden. Great Chinese food, and good company. For details and directions, please call Alan at 603-5726.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night — 7 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

A Fellowship group starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Water of Life MCC. All are invited to come and expand your relationship with God. You need not be a church member to participate. For more information call (520)292-9151.

THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY, March 6-9

The Wingspan FilmFest screens an ambitious program of ground breaking films at the Loft Cinema over the four day period. (3233 E. Speedway). Simultaneous screenings will take place in both theaters of The Loft to show the best new queer film and video. See story n page one of this issue of Observer or check out the list of films in the Wingspan ad in the Observer or call 624-1779 for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Steve will host Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Steve at 664-2076.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks — 5 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

8:00 a.m., Tucson Pride is hosting a hike in Sabino Canyon. Meet in the parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Picnic brunch after. Bring "Sack Lunch". Call 822-3200 for further info, or visit the web site at www.tucsonpride.com

MONDAY, MARCH 10

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

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch at 12:30 p.m. Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Chris 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 Chris at 304-5814.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Willie for Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, the guys are willing to teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Willie at 297-8756.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Bruce for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Bruce at 743-3890.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch — 12:00 Guillemos Double L Restaurant, 1830 S 4th Avenue. (& 29th St.)

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night — 7 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:30 p.m. Join Karol for an afternoon of miniature golf. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

A Fellowship group starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Water of Life MCC. All are invited to come and expand your relationship with God. You need not be a church member to participate. For more information call (520)292-9151.

The Men's Relationship Group meets and includes a video on tantra. A great way to meet new men and make friends. Fee. Call Marc 881-4582 to reserve a space.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join the guys of MSN for a great Lunch Out at Maria Bonita, a place for great Mexican food. For directions and reservations, please call Paul at 293-1238.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

#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 681-5733.

NON-BAR CALENDAR

OF UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. the "DivaLicious Show" hosted by Lucinda Holiday and starring Bunny FuFu, Tabatha LaVoll, and Samantha White.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

IBTS - Gay Men's Health Project "Gender Bender" Fund Raiser. Party line-up includes Dennis' Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ... Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. Karaoke Party with Michael D. 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 week's proceeds go to Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP) 9:00 p.m. it's a special Benefit Show for GMHP: "A Special Gender Bender Fundraiser". Hosted by Scottasia Dahlink and Lucinda Holiday. The show stars John Revolta, Olivia Newton-Bomb, Sasha Valentine, Wafia Chiffon, Kenny and Dolly, Lily Loverly, Aubergine, Felopita Tublotia, Jackie OhNo and Special Guests. Sounds outrageous and it is!!!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

IBTS - 9:00 p.m. the "DivaLicious Show" hosted by Lucinda Holiday and starring Janee Starr, Lady Ashley and Faith Michaels.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

YARD DOG SALOON - Celebrate a Roman Holiday here starting with Breakfast by Kenny Ann served from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Proceeds go to the Balboa Neighborhood Community Center. Then a "Toga Party" begins at 7:00 p.m. with a \$100 first place prize for Best Toga! (In Case of a tie, prize will be split).

MONDAY, MARCH 17 - St. Patrick's Day

IBTS - St. Patrick's Day Party with Rodger's famous Corned Beef.
NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - St. Patrick's Day Celebration with BeBe's fabulous Corned Beef and Cabbage. Also there will be a Hawaiian Luau with Bar-B-Que Chicken or Luau Pig plus Beach Boy Music. Come on down.

VENTURE-N - Food will be served beginning at 6:00 pm. Drink specials and a door prize courtesy of Heraldry of Tucson

WOODY'S - St. Patrick's Day Party. Mark your calendars!

MARCH 21 - 22 - 23

IBTS - 4th Avenue Spring Street Fair

MARCH 28-29-30

VENTURE-N - Hides of March!!!! Plus a Pat Watch Yard Sale on the 29th. Need we say more. Mark the calendar and get there!

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Karol will host Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch/Business Meeting — Noon, Mometown Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drink — 5 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 3:00 p.m. Art & Jeff host dinner and a movie. The film is "Wonderland", a film about 2 boys caught up in a murder at a club. For directions and reservations, please call Art or Jeff at 762-9135.

The Men's Message Group meets. A great way to meet new friends and make friends. Fee. Call Marc 681-4582 for info and to reserve space.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Triangle Tribe is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 318-1650.
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch at 12:30 p.m., Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Chris 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 Chris at 304-5814.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night — 7 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

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

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Jerry & Les show the film "Sordid Lives", which is billed as a black comedy about white trash. The film stars Olivia Newton-John and Delta Burke. For reservations and directions, please call Jerry or Les at 690-9565.

Daily Bar Calendar

AIN'T NOBODY'S
BIZ - Open 2pm. Beer Bust 5-10, \$1.25 pitchers Bud or Bud Light. Latin Music with DJ Hill 9pm to close. Drink & Shot specials all night.
IBTS - 10am-6pm \$1.75 Bloodye, Screws or Mimosas. Sangria Party \$2.50 from 4-1 Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or Hi energy dancing w/DJ Dr. Who. (Call for details). All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 11am. Brunch 11am-2pm. Pool Tourney 3pm Hip Hop 8pm-close 1st/3rd Sundays: "November Girls" 2nd/4th Sundays.
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 Michael D. 9pm.
YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm. Dinner and live Jazz 5-8pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

AIN'T NOBODY'S
BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Karaoke 9-close, with \$2 Kamikazees and \$1 Hot Sex.
IBTS - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, \$2 domestic beer and well. 4-9. HI HRG video dancing with Johnny DJ B-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open 11-8:30pm. Happy Hour 3-5pm. BBQ Steak w/potato Basilad 5:30-8pm, \$8.99. Techno 9pm-close.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Pool Tournament 7pm. 3 entry. (Special prices for players).

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 6pm. 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 6am. 50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

AIN'T NOBODY'S
BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestics and well 2-7pm. Free pool 8-10pm. 50¢ cups draft Bud & Bud Light 6pm to close.
IBTS - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, \$2 domestic beer and well. 4-9pm. Undie Mondie- Happy Hour prices for those in their undies 8pm-close. Queer As Folk show beginning at 8pm. Hot Dancing follows with Johnny DJ. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open 11-8:30pm. Happy Hour 3-5pm. Free Pool 8pm-close.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 6pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9pm to close.
YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

AIN'T NOBODY'S
BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Music with DJ Hill 9pm - close. Shot end drink specials all night. No cover.
IBTS - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, \$2 domestic beer and well. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 8-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10:30am. Grill open 11-8:30pm. Happy Hour 3-5. Fish or Shrimp Dinner \$5.99 11am-8:30pm. Country/Western Dance with Libby 8:30pm-12:30am.
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 6pm. Martini Party - Well Martinis \$2.00 all day. Call Martinis \$3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.
YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

AIN'T NOBODY'S
BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestic beer & well 2-7pm. Pool tourney 7:30pm. \$3 entry, bar matches pot. Country music 8pm to close. \$2 bottled Bud products 8pm to close.
IBTS - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, \$2 domestic beer and well. 4-9pm. Tee's & Tattoo Nite, wear an IBTS T-shirt or IBT tattoo get happy hour prices 9 to close, or buy an IBTS T-shirt for \$5 and get a complimentary drink. House Hi-Energy Dance 9pm to close W/DJ-Q.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 11am. Happy Hour 4-5. Chicken BBQ Dinner \$5.99 - 5:30-8:30pm. Top 40 and Disco dance 8pm-close
VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 6pm. Tropical drink specials 6 to close. \$3 zombies, Jungle Juice, Mel Tai's.
YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

AIN'T NOBODY'S
BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm \$3 entry. Bar matches pot. \$2 pitchers for pool players. DJ Hill 9pm-close. Drink & Shot Specials all night.
IBTS - 10am-6pm \$2 domestic beer and well. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open 11-8:30pm. Latino Nite. Drag Show 1st/3rd Sat. 10:30pm. Free HIV testing by SAAF.
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 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

AIN'T NOBODY'S
BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-4-1 domestic beer and well from 2-7pm. 90s retro music 9pm - close. \$1.25 pitchers of Bud/Bud Light or \$1 Tequila shots 8pm to close.
IBTS - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, \$2 domestic beer and well. 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holiday and guests. HINRG

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NOTICES

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 624-1778.

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 Footbills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 42. The 3rd Thursdays of the month, the group will meet at 7:30pm at Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse (806 North 4th Ave) as a social outing. For more information call the church at 299-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgcc.org or call (602)225-6444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5855. Leave message. TucsonSources@aol.com

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 85852.

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-8020

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 890-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contact TEAMARIZONA 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 626-7223.

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 815-6436 for more info.

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 7pm. Tucson Pride produces Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUTOFEST. 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 TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 694-7063.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saaaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Donan Easty. 882-7723 Facilitator.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-8264. All replies confidential.

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE \$25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

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)790-6776 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.bolop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

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

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 993, 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 824-8768.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 8:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-8488 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 Family! For more information call Debbie 579-8827 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 8:30 to 9:30pm at Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S. 6th Ave. Call 791-9662.

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

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-8:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 822-4520.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 824-8272

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 824-1779 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. 8th Street from 3 to 4:30 p.m. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 824-1779.

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 690-4815, 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 881-1784 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

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 (802)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. Pledter in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-8624.

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

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

NOTICES

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

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

TGNet/Arizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the T.S., T.G., and Gender-varient communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tgneta.org - e-mail address: sigoodrum@uswest.net.org

"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 85733-4845

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TRIAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer Care Teams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-8647.

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 Santa Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1435 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 tyann@theriver.com and request guidelines.

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

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 15th year! (2nd in Tucson).

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

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

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, 808 N. 4th Ave.

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).

LUTHERANS CONCERNED - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6809 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org write: LG, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

THE MAN TO MAN social/erotic education CLUB is the tanzic men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities and sex education. Marc 881-4582

PERSONALS

WOULD JOE COX PLEASE CONTACT 881-4582 to work out the debt. 974

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND. Join the Men to Men Club. Call 881-4582 for details. 974

GWM, MIDDLE-AGE, LOOKING for relationship. 731-6152. 972

CASH FOR YOUR PORN! Buy-Sell-Trade. Private Collector seeks GAY MALE videos (VHS/DVD), Magazines, Books, Art, Toys, Leather Gear, Costumes/Uniforms, Fetish equipment and other items of Gay interest. Free local pickup. Complete discretion. Evenings and weekends by appointment only. Current to Classic - All conditions. Call John at 327-3135. 971.

HOUSING/FOR RENT

Charming, 1933 Adobe house near Univ of AZ. Two bedrooms, large lot, completely renovated, Stikley style fireplace, new kitchen, laundry, landscaped grounds. Private pool, fenced yard, off street parking. Available March 1st. Call 520-647-7965 or 213-890-8068. 971

MIDTOWN, SMALL COMPLEX, CUTE 1 bedroom cottage. Covered front and back porches. Small fenced yard. Pool - BBQ. \$425/mo. + gas and electric 326-1834 972

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COMPUTER GUY. I hold a Bachelors degree in information Technology, and a Masters of Science in Computer Information Systems, and have taught at Pima Community College. I am available late afternoon and evening weekdays for tutoring, troubleshooting and repair. Scott 548-1210. 972

COMPUTERS EXTRAORDINAIRE: Your old system giving you trouble? Upgrade it for a reasonable price, or allow us to tailor make a system just for you. For home or business, we come to you with friendly, quality installation, instruction and service. Call Carl today @ 977-2572 and get a free quote! 975

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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 975

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"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." - Henry David Thoreau

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WINGSPAN

FilmFest

March 06-09

The Loft Cinema

3233 E Speedway Blvd

Tucson, Arizona

wingspanaz.org/FilmFest



Southern Arizona's LGBT Film Festival Highlights:

Family Fundamentals Thursday, 8:00pm

This documentary focuses on three conservative Christian families whose fundamentalist beliefs are at odds with their children's homosexuality. The film examines America's contempt for homosexuality and its effects on family, culture, and the nation's political landscape.

The Trip

Friday, 8:15pm

From polyester to parachute pants, Anita Bryant to Ronald Reagan, the 11-year romance of two young men is at the center of this film. Beginning in 1973 Los Angeles and ending in 1984 Mexico, *The Trip* tells the story of Alan and Tommy, whose lives parallel the political and cultural upheaval of the times.

A Family Affair

Saturday, 8:30pm

Rachel Rosen flees New York City after another breakup with her girlfriend, Reggie. Rachel's parents are adamant to see her settle down with a nice girl. Determined to find "Ms. Rightowitz," Rachel goes on several bad blind dates. Her mother sets her up with Christine; soon Rachel and Christine are a pair. But does Rachel carry a torch for Reggie? The course of true love doesn't always run straight.

Ruthie and Connie:

Every Room in the House

Sunday, 6:00pm

They're Jewish, they're grandmothers, and they're lesbians. Ruth Berman and Connie Kurtz first met in 1959; both were married and raising young children. Then, in 1974, something incredible happened: they fell in love. Struggling with homophobia – society's and their own – Ruth and Connie decided to leave their marriages for each other. This documentary tells their story.

Purchase Passes

Three different passes are available for advance purchase at The Loft Cinema and on line at wingspan.org/FilmFest

\$65 All Festival Pass

(good for all events)

\$35 Feature Pass

(good for all \$7 feature films)

\$15 Opening Night Pass

(good for all opening night events)

Location

All programs are at The Loft Cinema
3233 E Speedway Blvd
Tucson, Arizona

Sponsorship & Support This event is supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts