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Sen. Santorum Becomes Major Donor to New York Gay Rights Organization

Fund Set Up By Broadway Entertainer

NEW YORK, NY - Today, the Empire State Pride Agenda (Pride Agenda), New York State's Lesbian and Gay civil tights advocacy organization released a copy of a letter it sent to U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) informing the Senator that he had just become one of its major donors.

Senator Santorum's major donor status with the Pride Agenda was made possible by Emmy nominee and Broadway entertainer Seth Rudetsky, who recently set up the Senator Rick Santorum Education Fund (Fund), through which 5% of all ticket sales from his Off-Broadway comedy, "Rhapsody in Seth", are being donated every week to the Pride Agenda in his name. Rudetsky made the decision to set up the Fund after Santorum compared homosexuality to bigamy, polygamy, incest and adultery in an interview he gave to the Associated Press in April

Asked what he thought about having Santorum as a major donor, Pride Agenda Executive Director Alan Van Capelle said, "We do not discriminate based upon sexual orientation We welcome Senator Santorum to the Pride Agenda and are ready work with him so that he can better understand what it means to grow up as a second class citizen in this country." Van Capelle added, "We also want to thank Seth Rudetsky for his generosity in setting up the Fund and for the theatre-goers at "Rhapsody in Seth" for making the Senator a larger donor with every week that goes by."

Reacting to this latest development, Seth Rudetsky said, "This is a great honor for Senator Santorum, and let me tell you, he has really earned it! Every night at 'Rhapsody' the crowd goes nuts when I mention his name and announce our donation to the Fund in his honor. He must come to the show - he'll get a standing ovation for all he's done to remind people of the importance of equal rights for all - and afterwards he and Mrs. S can come out for coffee with me and my boyfriend! Yay Rick!"

Following is the letter from Pride Agenda to Senator Santorum:

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23 May 2003

Honorable Rick Santorum
511 Dirksen SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Santorum:

It is my pleasure to inform you that you have just become a major donor to Empire State Pride Agenda, New York State's Lesbian and Gay civil rights advocacy organization.

As you may have heard, Emmy nominee and Broadway entertainer Seth Rudetsky earlier this month decided to set up the Senator Rick Santorum Education Fund, through which 5% of every ticket sale from his current Off-Broadway comedy, "Rhapsody in Seth", is being donated to Empire State Pride Agenda (Pride Agenda) in your name.

I want you to know that these finds will be well spent. The Pride Agenda has one of the best records in the country fighting to end discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians, a class of people you recently said are acceptable to you in theory but not in reality.

Over the past 5 years, the Pride Agenda has won 32 victories - new laws, administrative actions by government agencies, policy revisions by public and private sector entities, and a stream of state-funded grants - that have helped Lesbians, Gay men, bisexuals and transgender people in New York State obtain a few of the many rights and protections you currently enjoy as a U.S. citizen. You can read about these accomplishments by visiting our website at www.prideagenda.org and clicking on the tab "Accomplishments."

As a major donor, you are now a member of the Pride Agenda's Empire Club. This entitles you to a regular-priced ticket to any of our events this year and acknowledgment in Empire Club listings. As contributions in your name to the Senator Rick Santorum Education Fund grow, you will receive additional tickets and access to the VIP portions of those events.

Thank you for helping the Pride Agenda continue its fight for complete equality under the law for Gay men and Lesbians.

Sincerely
Alan Van Capelle
Executive Director

P.S. If you are not able to make one of our events this year, we do hope you will find time to stop by and see us in 2004 when you are in town for your Party's convention.

Bush Censorship Condemned

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association announced that it will send a letter to President Bush, Health and Human Services secretary Tommy Thompson, and the heads of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protest widespread reports of censorship and monitoring of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender health research by government funding agencies.

Recent reports in The New York Times and several medical and scientific journals, including Science, have indicated that some conservative lawmakers and other right-wing groups have been screening grant applications for words like "Gay men," "men who have sex with men," "Transgender," and "homosexual" in order to protest funding of the research. Officials at the NIH, HHS, and CDC have even reportedly warned researchers to avoid using those words in grant proposals as much as possible to avoid undue scrutiny of their work.

GLMA has created an online letter that can be signed by health providers, researchers, and teachers before being forwarded to Bush, Thompson, and the other officials. The letter says: "I join with my colleagues in urging the Bush administration to take steps to immediately address the reports in The New York Times and other major media outlets that research focused on LGBT communities is being targeted for special review. After two decades of tremendous strides and successes, the chilling effect of these moves could be devastating and threatens the very process of Peer Review, which has been the cornerstone of American biomedical science for decades."

"We urge everyone in health care to sign on to this letter," said GLMA president Kenneth Haller, MD. "Over the coming days we hope to gather over 1,000 signatures to deliver to the Administration. We cannot allow the integrity of health research and the health of LGBT persons to become victims of political ideology."

The letter can be accessed through the GLMA Web site at www.glma.org and on the GayHealth.com Web site, which is partnering with GLMA to collect signatures on the letter, at www.Gayhealth.com.

Former Employer Backs Lesbian In Law Suit

RICHMOND, VA - In an unusual move, the former employer of a Lesbian who was denied unemployment benefits after she left her job in Rochester, N.Y., to relocate with her life partner filed a brief in support of her American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit against the state for equal treatment of same-sex couples.

"Jeanne Newland was a model employee, and her relationship was treated by her supervisors and colleagues at Element K with the same respect and welcoming attitude it has toward any other employee's family members," said Lance D'Amico, vice president of Element K, the educational technology company Newland worked for until leaving Rochester. D'Amico added, "We simply feel she deserves the same treatment from the department of labor that any other person gets when forced to relocate with a spouse."

The state of New York has a history of recognizing the significance of long-term relationships between partners who aren't married, the ACLU says. More than 10 years ago, the highest court in the state found such relationships to be deserving of protection under New York City's housing regulations. More recently Gov. George Pataki signed an executive order granting crime-victim benefits to same-sex partners of September 11 victims, and shortly thereafter the New York State Crime Victims Board extended similar recognition to all surviving same-sex partners of crime victims.

"New York State has made great strides in recognizing same-sex relationships, but this is classic discrimination," said ACLU attorney Romana Mancini, who represents Newland. "Jeanne Newland's former employer clearly thinks she deserves these benefits, but the state is denying them because she's a Lesbian. The state treats same-sex couples with the equality and understanding they deserve in other contexts, and it should do so here too."

Newland worked as a technical support representative for Element K for a year before moving in November 2000 to be with her partner, who had taken a higher-paying job in Virginia. After the couple moved, Newland looked aggressively for employment but had no luck. After nine months of searching, she was urged by the local unemployment office to file for benefits from the state of New York, which regularly grants such benefits to married couples and occasionally to engaged couples. When Newland applied for benefits, however, she was denied because she is not married to her partner.

The ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project began its appeal on Newland's behalf over a year ago, but so far the denial of benefits has been upheld. In its current appeal, the ACLU argues that the New York department of labor unnecessarily imposed a marriage requirement in violation of state case law and public policy.

UPDATE

Gill Foundation Awards Grant To Wingspan

TUCSON - The Gill Foundation, an Denver, Colorado based organization committed to securing equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, recently granted more than $500,000 to 44 organizations or programs supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) initiatives and HIV/AIDS programs.

Wingspan was one of more than 40 organizations in 30 states to receive a grant of more than $5,500, for which officials with the Foundation expressed their appreciation for their work and are glad to assist with the funding in "fostering the LGBT movement across the country."

For more information about the grants or the Foundation, go online to gillfoundation.org.

It's Time For 'On With The Show'

By Renata Tebaldi

TUCSON - A perfect night out: beautiful music, great eye candy, friends, strangers, men, women, an exquisite handmade quilt to be raffled, and all this at the classic Temple of Music and Art – it's 'On with the Show!', Reveille Gay Men's Chorus's final concert of the year, May 30-31.

Linus Iemer, the Brazilian Firecracker and UA Medici Scholar, will be leading the chorus in many of your favorites, from Showboat to Les Miz, Cats, Ragtime and The Lion King. And there will be pop classics like Georgia on My Mind, Misty, I Get Around – yes, the Beach Boys will be there, of course, and, for good measure, Billy Joel's Lullaby (Goodnight, My Angel) will be sung by the (reformed) Reveillettes. There's still more in store for you, but you simply must be there to see and hear it all. Take it from a true diva, you'll have a foot-tapping, Gay, feel good night at 'On with the Show!

Be there or . . . you know, next Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31, at 8 p.m. Tickets are $18 in advance from any chorus member, at Antigone's, Wingspan or Desert Pride. Tickets will be $20 at the door.

Tucson Bowler Strikes It Rich At IGBO

TUCSON (ON) - Bowlers from across the country, Canada and the world, converged on Phoenix on Memorial Day Weekend for the annual International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) tournament and one Tucson bowler struck it rich during the event.

Keith Dommer won the IGBO Scratch Masters tournament held in conjunction with the regular tournament.

Qualifying consisted of the nine games of bowling in the three regular events, singles, doubles and team, with Dommer finishing second with a 2087. Eight games of match play follow, Dommer finished in second with a 6-2 record, moving on to the step-ladder finals where he defeated two other bowlers to claim the top prize.

Dommer said he had finished in the runner-up's in the event last year.

Man Claims He Was Fired Over HIV Status

SCOTTSDALE - A man has filed a complaint with the Arizona attorney general's office and the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission claiming that he was fired from his job with the Scottsdale Unified School District because he is HIV-positive, The [Phoenix] Arizona Republic reports.

The employee, who wishes to remain anonymous because he fears he won't be able to find a new job if his serostatus becomes widely known, was told on April 10 that his position in the district's technology department was being eliminated on June 30 due to budget cuts.

But the man claims he was removed from his position in October and given other duties just days after he informed a school district official that he is infected with HIV. He also says his superiors illegally told other staff members in the school district of his HIV status. An attorney for the school district said the employee's claims are being investigated.

New Support Group Forming

TUCSON - Are you the victim/survivor of recent or past abuse, harassment, discrimination, and/or violence? Are you close to someone who has been victimized? Are you Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and/or Transgender? Wingspan is Launching a New Support/Discussion Group.

One of the most vital resources for survivors of violence and abuse is having a safe place to tell their stories, share information, and offer and receive support. For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people, finding a safe space to talk about these issues can be difficult.

Starting in June, Wingspan will offer a free, biweekly group for LGBT survivors of:

Relationship or domestic violence (including physical, economic, psychological abuse, etc); Hate/bias crimes; Emotional abuse; Stalking; Sexual assault/rape; Childhood sexual abuse; School, home, or work place harassment; and, Other forms of violence, harassment, discrimination, stalking, and abuse. Secondary victims (friends and family) are also encouraged to attend the group.

In addition to peer support, group participants will receive information on issues such as the effects of violence, identifying healthy support systems, the criminal justice system, and other educational topics. Groups may be supplemented with videos and handouts. This is not a therapy group, but instead a participant-focused, discussion/educational/support group.

For more information or to join the free and confidential group: Call Wingspan, (520) 624-1779 or email wdvp@wingspan.org.

HIV Up Among Gay Couples

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands - The vast majority of HIV infections in the Netherlands among Gay men are occurring between partners in long-term relationships rather than via casual sex, a Dutch epidemiologist has found, Positive Nation reported.

The safer-sex message seems to have endured better in the Netherlands than in the United Kingdom. Whereas 45 percent of British Gay men reported having at least one experience of unprotected sex last year, in Holland the figure was only 25 percent.

However, the prevention messages were aimed squarely at encouraging condom use in casual sex. As a result, the vast majority of new HIV cases among Gay men in Amsterdam are now occurring within steady, committed relationships.

Dr. Maria Xiridou of the Amsterdam Municipal Health Service found that no less than 86 percent of new HIV infections in the city were occurring within long-term relationships.

"Risk-taking with steady partners remains at high levels, and infection from steady partners is now the dominant mode of transmission," she told the Reuters Health press agency.

She added: "Different prevention measures may have to be developed in targeting high-risk behavior with each type of partner, such as counseling HIV-positive men and their steady partners." She also advocated that more attention be given to HIV testing for HIV-negative men who are in monogamous relationships with positive partners.

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G/L Boomers Late Starters For Saving

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL - Only a few years ago, Tom Shelton didn't give much thought to saving for retirement.

A single Gay man living, he was busy building a successful real estate business. He was paying a mortgage. He was traveling. He enjoyed expensive hobbies, like keeping horses, reported gfn.com.

"What I've spent on my horse's upkeep over the last 10 years, I could have sent myself to Harvard. Twice," quips Shelter.

"It really hit me when I turned 40," he said. "I was getting older, and I had almost no savings. Besides my house, I had no cushion. I knew I didn't want to show houses forever. Being old and having to work was depressing."

According to retirement experts, Shelton's situation is the norm, rather than the exception. Many baby boomers haven't yet come to terms with their retirement needs and have a lot of catch-up saving to do.

A poll by Maritz Research found that one in four Americans aged 35 to 54 has saved less than $5,000 for retirement.

Many Lesbians and Gay men entering middle age have found themselves in the position of needing to reevaluate how they're living their lives -- and spending their money.

Tommy sought professional advice to get his retirement funds going, including a 401(k) and a Roth IRA. He found a financial planner, filled out a questionnaire about his goals and got on track.

Now, at 52, he can consider quitting real estate one day.

"I didn't want to become one of those strange Gay uncles, who visits relatives and then stays for months. Besides, who would take me and my horse?"

Scott Bordelon, a financial planner in Covington, La., believes that the problem for many Americans is that they procrastinate when it comes to retirement saving.

"People say, once I pay off my credit card debt, once I get the house paid off, then I'll start saving for retirement," he said. "That's not a good strategy. You need to allocate something to all your goals."

He also is an advocate of the "pay yourself first" philosophy.

"A lot of people say they'll save whatever is left over at the end of the month. Well, there's never going to be anything left over. You have to save first, then spend what's left."

The first account to fund is a company-sponsored 401(k) retirement account, said Bob D. Scharin, editor of the RIA's Practical Tax Strategies. With 401(k)s, each dollar you contribute is deducted from your taxable income, and your savings grow tax-deferred.

"If your employer offers matching money, you should definitely be trying to contribute at least to the maximum you'll get matched on," he said.

What if your employer doesn't offer a retirement savings program?

Workers then can set up their own Individual Retirement Accounts, Scharin said. Savers can put aside up to $3,000 a year in pretax money, or $3,500 if they're 50 and over.

Ellen Hoffman, author of "The Retirement Catch-Up Guide," notes that there are alternatives for boomers who feel they haven't saved enough.

"If you're 30, you skip a meal a week in a restaurant and put that into savings and you've got a good start," Hoffman said. "If you're 50, you face tough decisions - and there aren't easy answers."

One possibility is to try to earn more, either by pushing for a raise or by changing to a job that pays more and has better benefits, she said. Another is to consider working two or three years longer than you intended to keep money coming in and to boost pension benefits.

"Or get a part-time job now. Moonlight. Consult. And save every penny you can," she said.

Hoffman also suggests that boomers start "downsizing" to reduce their money needs now and in the future. That could include moving to a smaller house with lower utility, insurance and maintenance costs. And lower taxes.

Gretchen Oster, 41, recently bought a house in New Jersey just one town away from the area she initially wanted, because property taxes were so much lower.

Says Oster, "A few years ago, I wouldn't have thought about it. We're still only 30 minutes to New York City and I'm saving a bundle in property taxes. And that's money I can use elsewhere.

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Gay Pride In Flagstaff June 13 - 15

FLAGSTAFF - Northern Arizona Pride Association (NAPA) is busy preparing for the Seventh annual Pride in the Pines event, Northern Arizona's annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Cultural festival and celebration, June 13-15, 2003 with the festival on June 14th at Wheeler Park.

The Board of Directors of NAPA have chosen the theme: Freedom - Family - Friends for this year's event. "The theme: Freedom - Family - Friends speaks to the very heart of the event. People attend the festival to celebrate the cultural uniqueness and the sense of family that the GLBT community shares. People celebrate themselves and their individual identities while embracing the collective identity of the community. The family like atmosphere encourages you to be yourself and enjoy the uniqueness of others," said David Fiss, NAPA President.

Grammy Award winner Thelma Houston (Don't Leave me this Way), International Dance Diva Pepper MaShay (Dive in the Pool and I got my Pride), 80's female funk bank Klymaxx (Meeting in the Ladies Room and I miss you) and acclaimed singer Mark Weigle are all scheduled to perform on the main stage. In addition, making its first appearance at the daylong event will be "Off Our Tongues: The Progressive Stage" featuring spoken word, music, poetry, performance and drag-kings.

NAPA is currently recruiting volunteers to assist with the production of the festival and related activities. Volunteering at Pride in the Pines is a fun and exciting way to give back to the community and meet new people. NAPA provides free admission to the festival and some of its related events for volunteers plus much more.

In the seven-year history of Pride in the Pines the NAPA board of directors have managed to keep improving the event and serving the community while charging just $5 for admission to the festival. This year in an effort to ensure long-term feasibility of the event, NAPA is offering $5 pre-sale admission to the festival and $7 day of. Typically NAPA fund raises close to\60% of their annual budget through activities other than the Pride in the Pines festival.

NAPA has launched a new web site to serve as an information hub with a free public online calendar as part of our continued commitment to the Northern Arizona GLBT community. Presale tickets are available at: Gopher Sounds, 6 West Route 66, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 and Unique On Central, 4700 N. Central Avenue Suite 105, Phoenix, AZ 85012. For more information on the event please call (928) 213-1900 or visit www.flagstaffpride.org or email at info@flagstaffpride.org.

Scalia Attends Anti-Gay Group's Dinner

PHILADELPHIA, PA - U.S. Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia attended a $150-a-plate dinner hosted by the Urban Family Council, a group whose founder is suing to stop Philadelphia from recognizing same-sex partnerships.

The council said the dinner was not a fund-raiser and that the ticket price would cover only the cost of the banquet, held in honor of Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, head of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Federal judges are barred from raising money for political, charitable, or civic organizations or permitting the use of the prestige of their office for that purpose.

"We just thought, What better way to honor Cardinal Bevilacqua than to have a sitting Supreme Court justice up to speak?" said the council's founder, William Devlin. "It's nice to be able to say you have a friend like Justice Scalia." About 125 guests were expected at the dinner at the highbrow Union League of Philadelphia. The event was closed to reporters.

The Urban Family Council opposes abortion, advocates abstinence from sex before marriage, and seeks to promote two-parent families by offering training programs for young fathers. Devlin is battling to overturn a Philadelphia ordinance allowing same-sex couples to register as "life partners." City officials said the law's primary purpose is to allow the partners of Gay city employees to qualify for health benefits. A state appeals court ruled in Devlin's favor last year, saying the city had usurped the state's power to regulate marriage. The city appealed to the state supreme court, which hasn't yet indicated whether it will take the case.

The Urban Family Council maintains on its Web site that homosexuality is an immoral lifestyle choice, not a genetic predisposition, and that Gays should be encouraged to repent and seek help to become straight.

College Offers Transgender Dorm

MIDDLETOWN, CT - This fall Wesleyan University will become the first American college to offer Transgender students specialized housing.

A number of universities already have Gay and Lesbian housing, but it is believed this is the first time Transgender students will be given their own space.

Transgender students in the freshman class will have the option of living in the new "gender-blind" facility, one floor of a dormitory for students who don't want to be categorized as one gender or another.

The university has adopted a new mission statement that says freshmen who choose to live in the gender-blind area "will be assigned a roommate without the consideration of gender."

Mike Whaley, dean of student services, said the move came at the urging of students who feel the university needed to do more to accommodate the living needs of Transgender students.

Whaley estimates there are 12 to 15 Transgender students on campus. He said in the past some students who are transitioning have been placed with roommates that resulted in "uncomfortable situations" for the Transgender student.

Capacity of the gender-blind hall was kept to 12 because there's no way to tell how many students are going to opt for it. Whaley said it would be expanded as the need arose.

Wesleyan has a reputation for liberal attitudes in both the way it treats its students and the courses it offers. It annually holds a Gay prom, and its syllabus offers a course on pornography.

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G/L Basics:
Partner Medical Rights Documentation

BALTIMORE, MD - Earlier this year a Baltimore jury sided with a hospital who prevented a Gay man from visiting his dying lover for four hours because the man, the patient's longtime partner, was not considered "family."

William Robert Flanigan Jr., the domestic partner and executor of the estate of Robert Daniel, accused the Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical System of discrimination, for not letting him see his partner until after Daniel slipped into unconsciousness because the men were a Gay couple, reported gfn.com.

In court testimony, chief physician at Shock Trauma, Dr. Thomas Scalea, said that Flanigan was barred because doctors were too busy trying to save Daniel's life to allow visitors. Flanigan was finally permitted to see his partner but only after Daniel's mother and sister arrived hours later. By that time, Daniel was no longer conscious, his eyes were taped shut, and he subsequently died without being able to say goodbye to his partner.

Before reading the verdict which rejected Flanigan's suit, the jury said it felt sorry for Flanigan's loss and thought the University of Maryland Medical System could have "communicated better" with him.

"Tragically, Gay and Lesbian partners too often have to argue their right to hospital visitation with ill loved ones, even in the middle of a family crisis," said David Buckel, Lambda Legal's senior attorney who represented Flanigan in the suit.

"The question may be, under similar circumstances, would a medical team have prevented a heterosexual man from visiting his critically ill wife in what might have been her final moments, asks Russ E. Sommers, a Bay Area attorney who works with Gay families. "One suspects the hospital might have found a way to allow the 'married' couple to have a moment together."

Because nontraditional long-term relationships have no legal status, says Sommers, disastrous consequences can result when one partner becomes incapacitated or disabled.

Sometimes called a Durable Health Care Power of Attorney, Family LLC, a Gay and Lesbian partners legal rights Web site, says this type of documentation is vital to legally empower same-sex couples to visit each other in the hospital and become the primary decision maker in critical medical situations.

The most basic of documents a Gay or Lesbian couple should have should be one that provides that partners:

Have first priority for visitation in hospitals. Receive information about their condition. Authorize medical treatment if incapacitated. Authorize the release of remains from a hospital. Make provisions for services and last requests.

Called a Partner Medical Rights package by Family LCC, the package can be purchased online.

If someone becomes incapacitated and has not appointed in advance a decision maker, under the law of most states some member of his or her biological family will be appointed to manage his or her affairs – and to make decisions, irrespective of the ill person's wishes, says Sommers.

"The reality is, the preference imposed by the law does not consider long-term non-heterosexual relationships." Having current documentation in place is critical, Sommers says – at least until Gay marriage becomes the law of the land.

Gay Iraqi Blogger Re-Surfaces

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Salam Pax, the anonymous twentysomething Iraqi Internet writer whose blog attracted readers interested in learning about life under the government of Saddam Hussein, is back online after remaining silent during the worst days of the war, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

"Let me tell you one thing first," Salam Pax wrote in his first posting since the fall of the Saddam government. "War sucks big time. Don't let yourself ever be talked into having one waged in the name of your freedom. Somehow when the bombs start dropping or you hear the sound of machine guns at the end of your street you don't think about your 'imminent liberation' anymore."

The writer, a 28- or 29-year-old Gay architect who spent part of his life in Europe, went offline on March 24 after power went down in Iraq's capital city, and the silence heightened anxiety among readers about his safety. For months Salam Pax had written about the buildup to the war and the first days of coalition bombing.

Fellow blogger Diana Moon received a call from Salam Pax's cousin on May 6, telling her to call a satellite phone number. "Salam sounds fine," she wrote on May 7, which coincided with his first installments since March. "We discussed as many things as we could in a short amount of time."

A secular Muslim, Salam Pax (a pseudonym that means peace in Arabic and Latin) gained readers from around the world as he ridiculed the Saddam Hussein regime while also criticizing the Bush administration's approach to the dictator. Some readers of his blog have speculated Salam Pax was a hoax, since he wouldn't include his phone number or other personal information about himself. But his detailed accounts of life in Baghdad convinced most he was legitimately writing about the besieged country from the inside.

"American civil administration in Iraq is having a shortage of bright ideas," he wrote in his May 9 installment. "I keep wondering what happened to the months of 'preparation' for a 'post-Saddam' Iraq. What's with the juggling of people and ideas about how to form that 'interim government'? Why does it feel like they are using the (let's-try-this-let's-try-that) strategy? Trial and error on a whole country?"

Despite his frustration with the chaos of the coalition takeover of Iraq, Salam Pax wrote he was glad to see Saddam Hussein out of power.

"The truth is, if it weren't for intervention this would never have happened," he wrote. "When we were watching the Saddam statue being pulled down, one of my aunts was saying that she never thought she would see this day during her lifetime."

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POLITICS 2003

by Mark R. Kerr

'To Be Remembered'

Throngs of "lemmings" have returned to their "commercial existence" while a few practiced the actual intent of this time, Memorial Day - remembering those we've lost.

Unlike what the cable news network and corporate media whores would have you believe, the holiday wasn't set aside as a Dubya political photo-op or to solely pay tribute to took part in the unilateral occupation of a country, Operation Iraqi Liberation (OIL) for no apparent reason (Remember those weapons of mass destruction?), but to remember all those who have sacrificed their lives for the betterment of others.

Indeed, remembering Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered (GLBT) individuals who served our country; those who served us, leading the Stonewall Riots on the national level to getting Tucson's anti-discrimination ordinance passed and people who've lost their fight with AIDS as well as those continuing their fight with the dreaded disease, should happen, even for a brief moment and not just during a self prescribed time.

Many things have occurred during our lifetime to remember, express gratitude, mourn and reflect but the question arises of what will we be remembered for in GLBT history, even for our little "state of mind," the City of Tucson in Arizona, that we call home.

An opportunity, thanks to the hard work of a few individuals has presented itself for us all to advance the cause of GLBT rights.

Tucson's Mayor and Council will soon be considering a proposal, drafted by their Commission on GLBT Issues, creating a domestic partner's registry for same-sex couples.

Basic rights dealing with hospital visitation, medical decision making, access to city programs as a family are some of the benefits provided for if approved.

This proposal does not provide insurance for the domestic partners or grant a "marriage license" (state law prevents such an occurrence - for the moment) but it will have a government on record, officially recognizing a loving, committed same-sex relationship.

That's the important point, getting government, local, county or state, to recognize these relationships, affording it benefits, provided for by law, so that perhaps one day, maybe not during our lifetimes, full recognition, by the federal government, of committed, same-sex relationships with equal benefits given to "married" opposite-sex couples are granted and considered a common place.

Some GLBT Tucsonans, even those with partners and lovers, feel otherwise, that perhaps this public record could lead to problems for these couples and that their relationships should be kept behind closed doors.

Hogwash! To have the right to have a committed relationship officially recognized by government, affording it benefits, should be the right of all citizens who are able to do so. Fear should not be dictated to the masses, rights and opportunities is the opiate in this case for citizens of Tucson and Pima County, who would have the right to go and register their relationship if they so chose and since the proposal is not limited solely to city residents.

So speak up and out so that one day, those looking back at this period of time can remember the accomplishments achieved.

For more information about the domestic partners proposal, go online to wingspanaz.org and follow the links. If you have any questions, E-mail: kfelan@ahrf.org or call the Arizona Human Rights Fund - Tucson Chapter, (520) 990-3714.

School, ACLU Prepare For Trial

LOUISVILLE, KY - Lawyers representing the Boyd County, Ky., school district will meet with their counterparts at the American Civil Liberties Union in an ongoing effort to settle a lawsuit over the formation of a Gay-straight alliance (GSA).

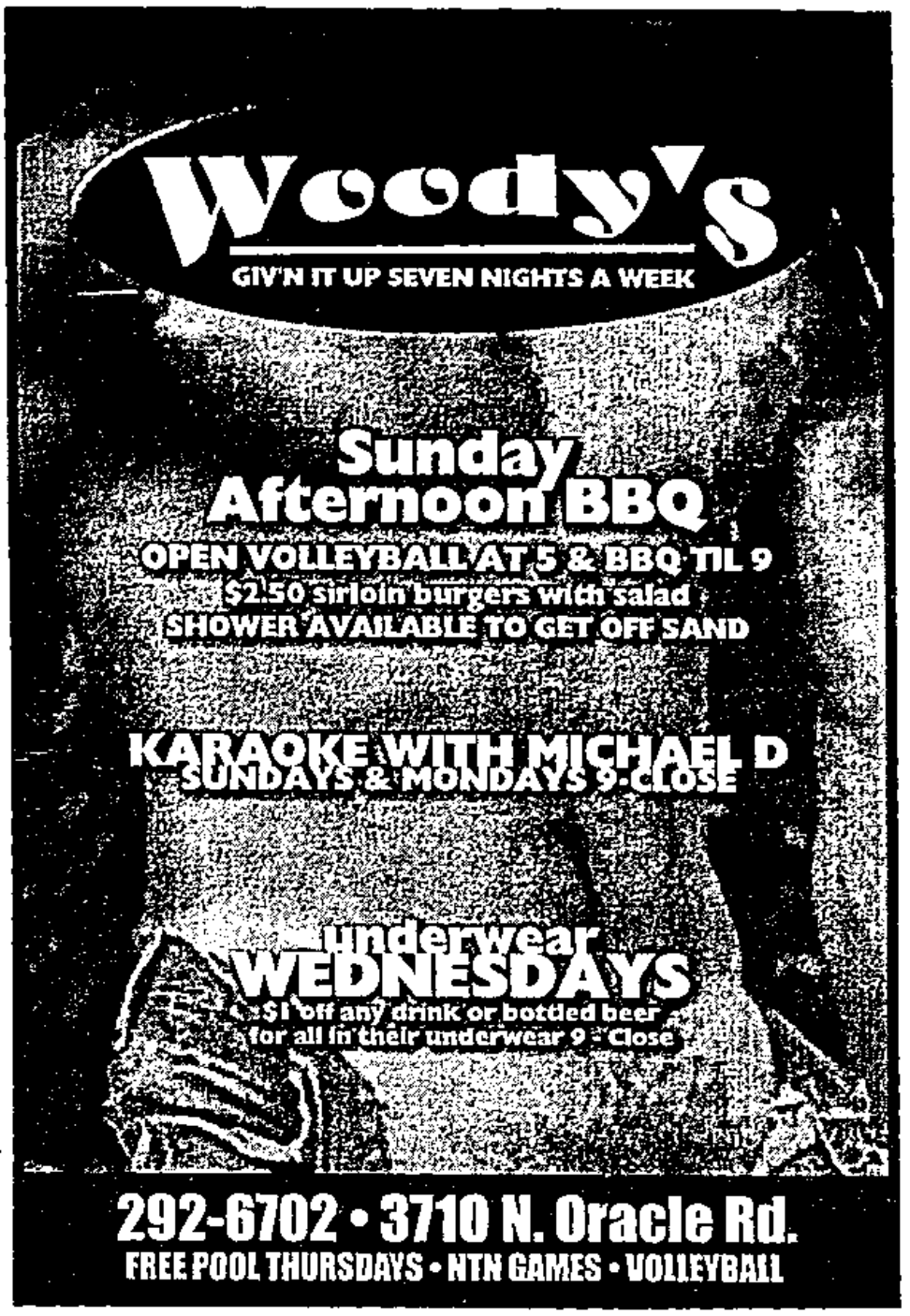
According to the Louisville Courier Journal, the conference with Judge David Bunning was scheduled to set a trial date and to discuss the status of settlement talks. Paul Cates, the spokesman for the ACLU's Gay and Lesbian rights project, said the talks were continuing, but offered no comment on their content.

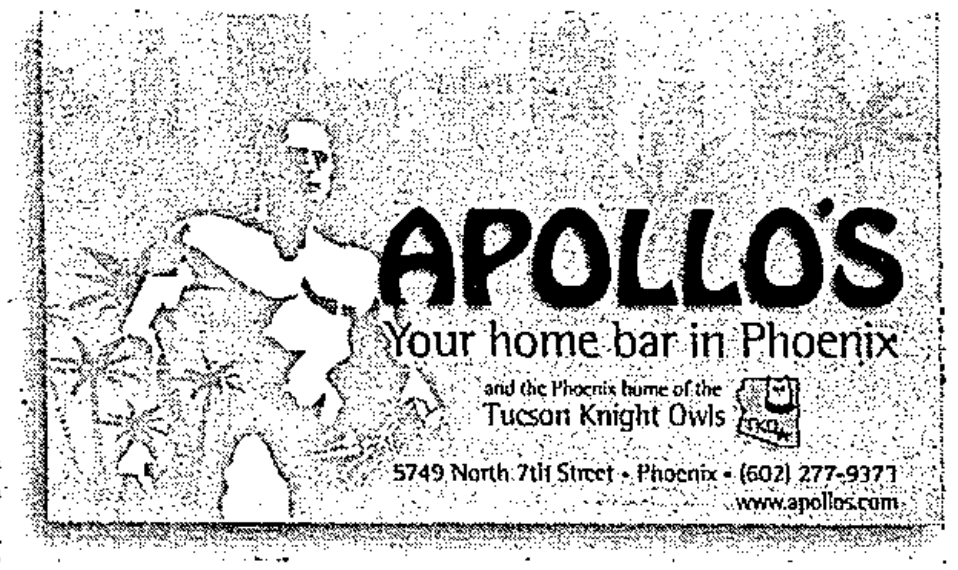
The dispute began last year, when officials at Boyd County High School dragged their feet over an application for a GSA. The ACLU wrote a letter explaining that the federal Equal Access Act forbids public schools from discriminating between extracurricular clubs based on viewpoint. In October, a school governing council voted 3-2 to allow the GSA, but the school board overruled the decision. In December, the board suspended all non-curricular clubs in order to circumvent the federal act, and the ACLU sued the district last January.

The rural school district is the first in several years to stage a major fight against the formation of a Gay-straight alliance, and only the second in history to suspend all clubs to avoid a charge of discrimination. But the ACLU insists that several extracurricular clubs have continued to meet on campus, and that the district is therefore in violation of the law. Last month, Judge Bunning agreed, issuing a temporary injunction against the school and reinstating the GSA while the lawsuit is continuing.

In siding with the ACLU, Bunning also stated that, as a matter of law, the ACLU was likely to win the case on the merits. He also ordered settlement talks between the two sides.

On May 8, the school district filed its response to the lawsuit, urging the case be dismissed. The response, submitted on the deadline for action, was a procedural requirement for the defendants, the ACLU's Cates said, and does not indicate whether the settlement talks are going well or badly.





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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Shortchanging The Poor

Last month an indigent defendant in Tucson City Court asked for a court-appointed attorney and got turned down because the judge thought that jail time for her offense was unlikely.

As an indignant taxpayer, I wrote a letter to the Presiding Magistrate to tell him that one of his judges was making up the rules as he went along and thereby depriving the most vulnerable defendants of their rights.

I reminded the chief judge that Crim Rule 6.1 says, "A defendant shall be entitled to be represented by counsel in any criminal proceedings, except in those petty offenses such as traffic violations where there is no prospect of imprisonment or confinement after a judgment of guilty." I respectfully suggested that, regarding incarceration, the difference between "no prospect" of it and its being "unlikely" is enormous, rather like the difference between playing Russian roulette with no bullets and playing it with just one.

The Presiding Magistrate very kindly and promptly replied that "Tucson City Court does not appoint a Public Defender in cases where the State is not seeking jail."

But Crim 6.1 makes no reference to what the State seeks and judges aren't limited in their sentencing by State recommendations. A judge can impose a jail sentence whether the State seeks it or not. This being the case, if the offense permits jail time there is always SOME prospect of it. Under 6.1 you're supposed to get a lawyer unless there is NO prospect.

If we look closely at 6.1, the key phrase turns out to be "petty offenses." "Traffic violations where there is no prospect of imprisonment or confinement" is given only as a "such as," one possible example of the petty offenses they're talking about. In the case at hand, the indigent defendant who was refused counsel could have gotten six months in jail and a $2500 fine. Forgetting about the jail time for a moment, would an indigent defendant regard a crime for which she could be fined $2500 as something "petty"?

So let's say that the prosecutor doesn't want to be bothered with a pesky old opposing counsel. He can just take jail time off the table and say to the defendant, "I know that $2500 might be a little steep for you, but because I'm a nice guy I'll let you plead guilty and fine you *$50.*" If giving an unopposed prosecutor that kind of bargaining power over an indigent defendant strikes you as fair, there may be a seat with your name on it at the Tucson City Court bench.

Of course it's extremely convenient for the prosecutor to have the power to determine when he's going to have to face opposing counsel. It's a little less clear why the Court should go along with this sad scheme. It does save work. Disposing of cases by shuffling some paper is a lot easier than having trials.

But there are at least three good reasons why the Court should comply with the clear intent of Crim Rule 6.1 and provide indigent defendants in non-petty cases with counsel.

First, City Court appointments are still based on political patronage instead of merit. Patronage appointments do not confer a great deal of credibility. For the sake of its own institutional standing, the Court should be doing everything it can to enhance its credibility. Circumventing 6.1 and denying indigent defendants counsel does not do anything positive for the Court's image.

Second, if the prosecutors and the judges had to try cases where indigent defendants were vigorously represented by skillful advocates, those prosecutors and judges couldn't help but learn some law. Even if they get their jobs through their political affiliations, having to listen to opposing arguments concerning both facts and law would necessarily be a learning experience. There's a lot to be said for on-the-job training.

And the third and best reason for not cheating indigent defendants out of the representation that they're entitled to – being able to look yourself in the face when you shave in the morning.

[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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Catholic Prelate Offends Graduates & Faculty

WASHINGTON, DC - A prominent Roman Catholic cardinal spoke against Gays last Saturday, May 17, during a commencement speech at Georgetown University, prompting some students and faculty to leave in protest.

Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria had been invited to speak at the Washington, D.C.-based school about Christian-Muslim relations, but he talked about how religious faith and traditional family values are threatened in society.

"In many parts of the world, the family is under siege," he said, according to a transcript of the speech. "It is opposed by an anti-life mentality as is seen in contraception, abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. It is scorned and banalized by pornography, desecrated by fornication and adultery, mocked by homosexuality, sabotaged by irregular unions and cut in two by divorce."

A theology professor and several students walked out during the speech, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported. About 70 faculty members also signed a letter of protest, which was delivered on Wednesday to Jane McAuliffe, dean of the university's school of arts and sciences.

A few faculty members told the newspaper that while the remarks may be in line with Catholic doctrine, they were inappropriate for a graduation ceremony.

"I personally was rather offended by it," said Tommaso Astarita, a professor of history. "I thought it was divisive and inappropriate."

Francis DeBernardo, executive director of Washington-based News Ways Ministry, which serves GLBT Catholics, also found the remarks offensive.

"Family life may have its challenges and social pressures, but it is irresponsible and ill-informed to list homosexuality as one of them," DeBernardo told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "Since so many Catholics in the pews are now familiar with and accepting of Lesbian/Gay people, they will recognize such a remark as ignorant."

Cardinal Arinze, 70, has been mentioned as a possible successor to John Paul II, which would make him the first

CONTINUED ON PAGE ELEVEN

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HOROSCOPES

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The Sun shines in a new corner of your life when it ambles into cheerful Gemini this week and conjuncts powerful Saturn. Life is good and suddenly you feel like shouting it Out to the world. Pack a megaphone, comrades!

ARIES
MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Gay Rams express themselves when the Sun moves from taciturn Taurus to chatty Gemini. And you say it with force when the Sun conjuncts Saturn. Consolidate and build on your successes while the Sun gives you optimism and Saturn gives you clearer perspective. It is time to reap your just desserts, cousin. Will there be a cherry on top? Only if you add a little sauce....

TAURUS
APRIL 21 - MAY 21

The Sun leaves your sign this week and enters Gemini. Thoughts turn to money ... and more money ... as rainbow Bulls manage to cash in their buffalo chips for hard cash. There are millions to be made as the Sun then conjuncts Saturn and all your fiscal know-how gets applied to the bottom line. Get off your assets compadre and start planning for (early) retirement!

GEMINI
MAY 22 - JUNE 21

The Sun enters your own sign and casts a flattering pink light on all your best moves. Sociable pink Twins increase their popularity quotient tenfold and win over even the most unwinnable folks. But don't rest on your laurels, you charmer you; as the Sun conjuncts Saturn you are encouraged to put words into action. Don't be a blowhard unless you-know-who likes it that way.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

If you begin to feel a bit more psychic, pull out your crystal ball and give it a rubadub. The Sun probes Gemini and pink Crabs get a intuitive nudge that lets them know in no uncertain terms that life is about to change. Good vibes emanate from unexpected sources and, when the Sun conjuncts Saturn, your karmic rewards hit the jackpot. Are that you deserving??

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Proud Lions give out a jolly roar when the Sun leaps into Gemini. Friends gravitate to you and you are surrounded by adoring admirers. How long can you hog the limelight before Saturn demands that you do something more meaningful with all this attention? Not too long, buster. Publicity hogs are relegated to the pigpen in no time. Be the cock of the walk instead.

VIRGO
AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

If you have felt hamstrung in your attempts to climb the corporate ladder, Sun in Gemini will offer you an easy ride up. Queer Virgos can experience increased professional opportunities now and should use this time to solidify and consolidate their gotten gains. When the Sun conjuncts Saturn, all your hard work will really pay off. You have been working hard, haven't you?

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

If life has been getting you down, think of Sun in Gemini as a great escape from stresses and strains. Whether you pack up your troubles and cart them off to Paris or decide to hang close to home and cruise the net, Gay Libras expand their Outreach and lower their personal temperature. Leave it to Saturn to provide a little oomph so you don't become too mellow....

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Your personal charm turns on full throttle when the Sun shines in flirty squirty Gemini now. Proud Scorps are infused with a sexual thirst that needs to be quaffed. Before you dive head first into something (or someone...) over your head, wait until Saturn conjuncts the Sun and provides you with greater reserve. On second thought, forge ahead! Damn the torpedoes... and the dam.

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Sun in Gemini highlights relationships. Queer Archers who ache for a significant other will have a choice of potential partners. Those already in a relationship can improve on perfection. But don't expect it to come without effort cousin; when the Sun conjuncts Saturn you will be expected to put out a bit of effort for your domestic bliss. You just can't phone it in... or can you?

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Pink Caps are even more efficient than usual when the Sun shines in Gemini. Use this useful energy to clear off your desk and get a few nit picky things out of the way. And, as the Sun conjuncts Saturn, you can turn that excess girth into attractive grist. Saturn rewards those who put in the effort in exercise and their overall health regime. Work hard now to play hard later.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

How playful do you feel when the Sun enters Gemini? Aqueerians are tempted into all sorts of wilde activities that expand their imagination and tickle their Gay muse. Allow yourself to be tempted! When Saturn conjuncts the Sun you will turn your inspiration into reality. Let's hope that reality nibbles and doesn't bite... unless that is your thing of course.....

PISCES
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

Guppies are at home at home when the Sun ambles into Gemini. Make your surroundings comfortable and in sync with who you are. This is also a good time to attend to certain family issues. The planetary energy enables you to smooth out the rough edges and build bridges. Say what you have to say. Sun conjunct Saturn makes you sound wise and balanced... for a change!

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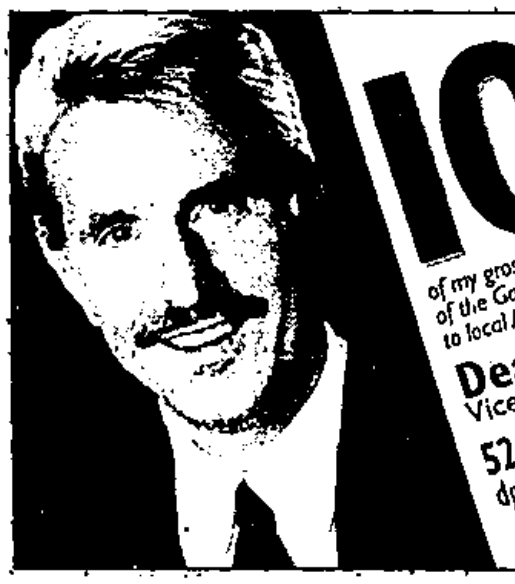

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What Makes Our Town Tick?

Calabazamusic@yahoo.com By Jerry D.

Happy Birthday, Bob!

Hello readers! Tucked into the usual Memorial Day television lineup, there was a special that brought back memories on both a familiar and a personal level. NBC paid tribute to the one and only Bob Hope, who will be turning 100 years old next week. The special showed the entire life of the nation's ambassador of comedy, and some interviews held by Hope in a college lecture level. His is truly a life that has been lived, no matter what your definition of that word may be.

I was a civilian working for the Navy back in 1988 when I was sent to Rota, Spain to sell electronic equipment in the Navy Exchange. We were taught about this new gadget called a compact disc player that was going to be all the rage. In my spare time I was fortunate enough to land a volunteer position with the base newspaper, The Jack Tar. I was the sports reporter and was called in from time to time to cover special events with the rest of the staff of the periodical.

The Sunday after Christmas day, I woke up to a call from my editor. She informed me that I should get over to the base airport and see if I could get in on what was going on. There was word that a USO plane had landed on the base due to bad weather. The planes original destination was the Azores Islands, but high winds and rain caused it to take the detour to our little base on the southern cost of Spain.

When I arrived to the airstrip there were the usual crew members who greet and fuel any aircraft. As I approached the waiting lounge though, I knew that the passengers were no ordinary military folks. Surrounded by enough brass to melt into a marching band was Bob Hope himself. I had only remembered him from his television specials, so it took me a while to understand who was being pampered by the welcome party. He was already frail at that time, using a golf club to keep his hand steady while he spoke. In his eyes there was nothing but history to be seen.

Hope was clearly upset with the detour and was talking to the control tower staff that was on duty. He wanted to know when the plane could take off again, but was totally determined to assure his ride be a safe one. The look in his eyes when he was informed of the time of the layover was amazing. He went from disappointment, to deep thought, to the look of the light bulb we all have seen in a matter of seconds. He was suddenly the admiral in charge of a crew ready to perform whatever task he asked of them.

In no less than two hours, Hope and his crew joined the base morale committee, as well as a group of construction battalion sailors and prepared an entire show for my little base. The movie theater was the only suitable space to have the event, but the stage had to be altered to accommodate the large crew that makes a USO show possible. I was privileged enough to follow the crew along their journey to the theater and watch them set up. I had never seen that movie house look so good.

The show included Hope, Lee Greenwood, Connie Stevens and Barbara Eden (she will always be Jeanie to me). The jokes had to be altered from Air Force to Navy understanding, and the band was squeezed in such a space it made for an extra set of jokes. The end of the event had the entire audience singing Silent Night and not a dry eye in the house.

So thanks to a stroke of bad weather, and my sense to be in the right place thanks to my editor, I was lucky enough to not only meet Bob Hope, but see him in his best element, improvisation. I will treasure that moment forever and tell that tale whenever I am around service members. Happy Birthday Bob Hope, you are an American treasure who will never be equaled. Happy Memorial Day to all, have a great week!

Bravo Starts New Gay Bachelor Show

NEW YORK, NY - NBC-owned Bravo will offer viewers a fresh take on shows like "The Bachelor" and "Joe Millionaire when it airs the first primetime Gay-themed reality dating series.

Shot in Palm Springs, Calif., in May, "Boy Meets Boy" will follow a handsome 32-year-old Gay man as he chooses a "soulmate" from 15 potential suitors via group and one-on-one dates. The guy's best female friend will, naturally, help him in narrowing the field, until one "winner" remains.

Since marriage between Gay men isn't legal anywhere in the U.S., a marriage proposal will not cap off the final episode, as has been the tradition on "The Bachelor."

However, offering a Gay dating show will not be the only twist Bravo gives the established TV dating format.

Both viewers – and the bachelor – will be surprised when it is revealed that a few suitors are actually straight, a fact that will be exposed midway through the series. The straight boys were paid by the program to pretend to be Gay, in an effort to "appeal to a broader audience," says series executive producer and co-creator Douglas Ross.

"Several of the straight men have very intense experiences," Ross told the Hollywood Reporter, without elaborating. "We anticipate a lot of both Gay and straight viewers will have their assumptions challenged about what it means to be Gay and what it means to be straight."

Mr. Ross did not say whether the broader target audience he hoped to find included under represented Bisexual viewers, on-the-fence Gay men, or Gay men who have always hoped to seduce a straight man posing as a Gay man for pay. The numbers could be huge, say insiders.

The Reporter also said sexual intimacy beyond kissing was strictly prohibited on "Boy Meets Boy." The Hollywood Reporter did not say whether this was a nod to TV censors or part of the contractual agreement signed by the "straight-playing-Gay" boys on the show.

The six-episode "Boy" will premiere on Bravo in July at a date and time yet to be announced.

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SCeNe Out

A View From The Rock

by Joy L. Childress - A Commentary From Cornerstone Fellowship

On Bereavement

If you would have told me 27 years ago that I would be in a long-term relationship, I would have said, "Not me. I tried marriage for three years. That didn't work, so I'm not cut out for a long-term relationship."

Yes, that is exactly what I told everybody. I felt that I just wasn't good marriage material. The background that I was raised in just did not teach me those kinds of skills. But, then, something happened. God allowed me to cross paths with another woman who also had been married and divorced. We fell in love and began a relationship together that lasted 26 years. And, now, my love has died, and I am in deepening grief.

Do I regret those 26 years as a part of a Lesbian couple? Absolutely not!! I wouldn't trade those years for anything. She taught me to love and to be loved. I am grieving a lost love--not lost through divorce, but lost through death. I am finding out that bereavement is a process, and this process is all new to me. When my parents died, I never cried or grieved. The abuse that they heaped upon me stifled any kind of love that I may have had for them. I did not love them, nor did they love me. Hence, there was no grieving upon their deaths. But, now, I am experiencing something that is shattering the core of my being. I never knew that true, real grief could be so very painful.

You might say to me right now, "Well, didn't you ever grieve over losing a job, or a pet, or a friend?" The answer would be, "No, I never have grieved over any loss like I am grieving now." Half of my living years were spent on automatic--automatically doing things that I had to do and really not experiencing the depth of living that was there for me to experience. My partner's death is teaching me many things, and one of them is that I am not on automatic, anymore, but that I am fully living at a level where I have never been before. Yes, I am terribly afraid of what this grieving will do to me in the way of creating more stress than I can bear. Yes, I miss my partner so very much. Yes, I am very lonely. Yes, I would like to follow her in death just to be with her again. Yes, I am angry that God did not heal her, but took her home to be with Him instead. The depth of all of these thoughts and feelings go way beyond anything I have ever known.

This is truly an earth-shattering time in my life. My whole life has changed! But there is something that has not changed--my relationship with Jesus Christ. He is still the grounding force that enables me to go on. He is my Comfort, my Strength. Every day, I falter and stumble around, trying to find my way in my new life. If I didn't have Jesus, I know that I would definitely fold under all the stress. But He lives in me, constantly touching my heart, constantly reminding me that He is here with me. Does He make all the pain go away? No! But He gives me the compassion, the understanding, and the comfort that I need. He, also, has given me many friends who are helping me, and He has given me a church where I have found that God truly loves me. Above all, He is giving me of Himself, and this is what is encouraging me to go on. Jesus has done so much for me in the past several months; He has become my Rock, my Center, my Fortress, my Comforter, and my Foundation on which I can stand more firmly, with His promise that I will some day be like Him and that some day I will be with Him.

"We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. We, also, rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us." - Romans 5:2-5

"Cast your cares on the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." - Psalm 56:22

Gay Couple Withdraw Surrogacy Bid

AUCKLAND, New Zealand - A Gay couple who sought approval to become surrogate parents says the deck is stacked against them, 365Gay.com reported.

The men, whose names have been withheld, had been waiting for approval from a medical ethics committee. They said they are outraged at the prejudice against them. As a result, they have withdrawn their application.

Many Gay couples have children with men or women friends without seeking ethical approval, but the couple's lawyer said her clients wanted to do everything by the book.

Their attempts to work through the correct channels and within the system had worked against them, they said, and the committee had not approached the application in the way they expected.

"We have been hindered by delays, costs and prejudice, which we didn't expect to find in New Zealand," the men said. "A single woman can get pregnant with the assistance of a fertility clinic and use the donor of her choice. Even a Lesbian couple is not subject to such scrutiny."

The men hoped to have a child through the artificial insemination of the sister of one of them.

The Catholic Church has publicly opposed the plan, saying it would be wrong to deprive the child of its mother. But the men said they always intended the surrogate mother to play a significant role in the child's life.

Catholic Prelate

Continued from Page Seven

African pope in church history.

In other news, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis withdrew an award for a religious education coordinator because she is a Lesbian.

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, about 200 people demonstrated in support of Kathy Itzin, who works at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. They held signs that read "Hate is not a Catholic value" outside a dinner that honored 17 recipients of the award she was supposed to receive.

Rev. George Wertin, pastor of St. Joan's, disputed the archbishop's decision. "To withdraw (the award) simply because of her sexual orientation is offensive to all Gays and Lesbians and to all of us in her community," he said.

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John 3:16

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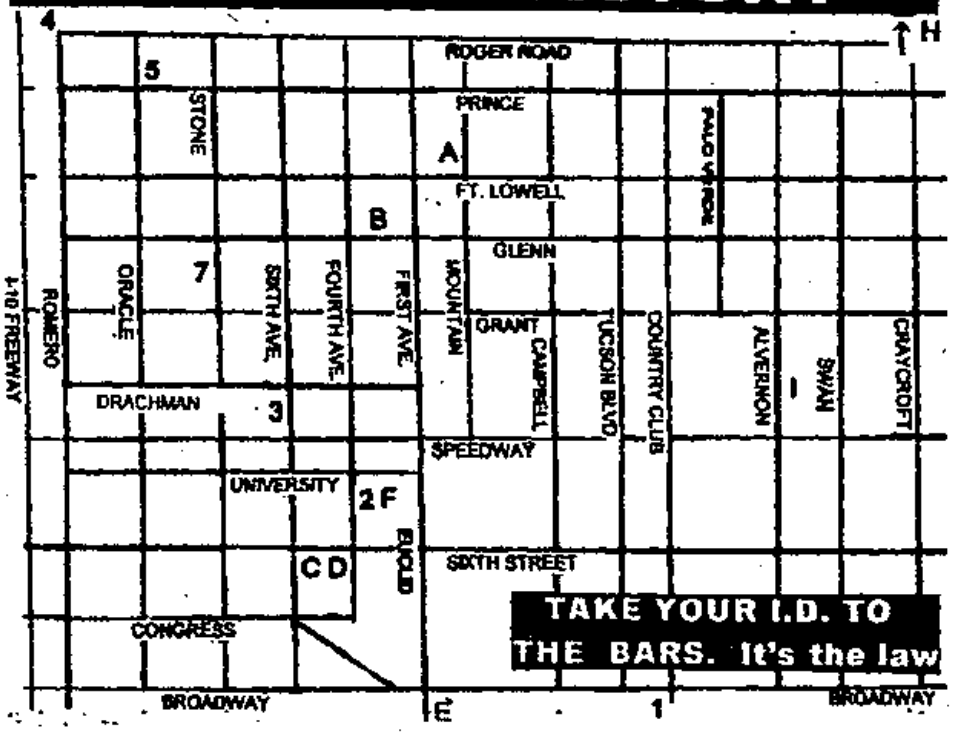

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GENDER WORLD

BY JONI K. ROSE

Did you see the AP story, "When Mark becomes Maggie," in the business section of Monday's STAR? It was like an overview of gender transitioning on the job. Watch for SAGA Executive Director Michael Woodward's reply in the Wednesday or Thursday paper. SAGA has another ATWORK seminar for employers on June 14, by the way.

Twenty-some years ago I wrote a song called "Tomboy," about a big woman who lifts weights, wears boots and jeans, and speaks her mind. In those days the music industry wasn't ready for lyrics like that. Perhaps now it is.

While I've derided others for presuming that a feminine male like me is only interested in men sexually, on some level I've long presumed that a woman over 25 who's still a tomboy must be a dyke. That's not necessarily true, as I've learned in recent years. Maybe some hetero tomboys have stayed in the closet to avoid scaring off men, but that's changing. Like any gender category, masculine women can be any sexual orientation.

Tristan Booth, one of the leaders of Transgender Harmony in Tempe, is, I believe, a female-to-male crossdresser who's male-oriented. Tristan will be speaking at the monthly meeting of the SouthernArizona Gender Alliance on Monday, June 2, at 7 p.m. at Wingspan. As always, you don't need to be a SAGA member to attend. If I'm still in town this will be my last SAGA meeting.

That means I'll undoubtedly miss Patrick Califia, the well-known Bisexual transman and former tomboy who will be speaking at the main library downstairs conference room on June 18 at 6:30 p.m.. Don't you miss him! His latest book, Speaking Sex to Power is available at Antigone. I'll also miss "Falsettoland;" but could someone tell me how it got its name?

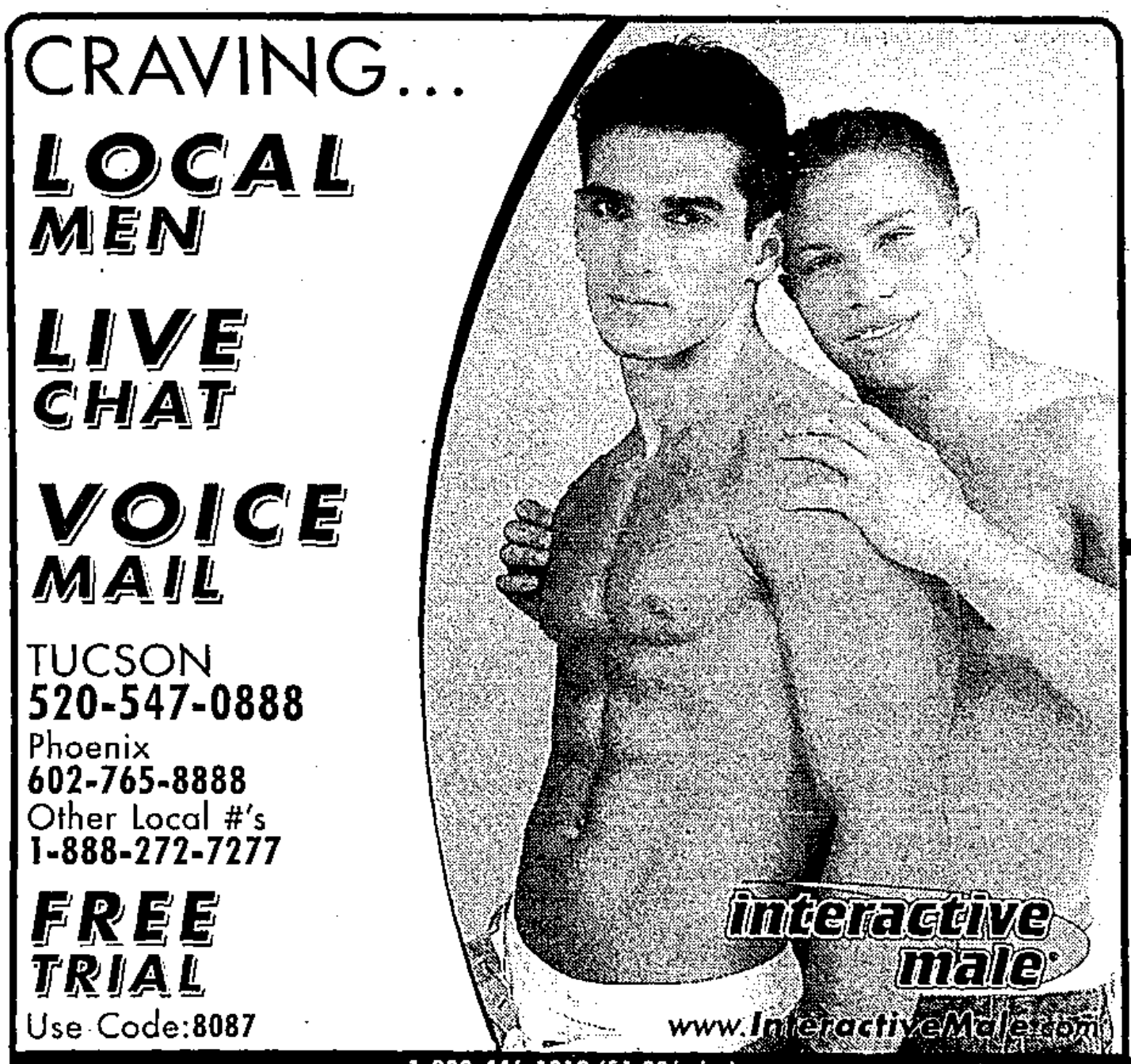
Speaking of falsetto, now that I have one foot out the door I've finally found a singing coach who's reasonable and experienced in working with that vocal range. Write me if you'd like her number. Turns out her home is in a quiet off-campus neighborhood I've visited many times before with no problems. Plenty of parking; at least there used to be. While I was inside having my singing lesson, a representative of the City placed a parking ticket on my windshield. Seems the city "leaders," who love to create new traffic and parking problems where there were none before, decided to restrict parking on that street for no apparently reason. So if I had any doubts about leaving Tucson, that's it; I'm out of here. June 11 will be my last column.

I'm looking for more case histories for my upcoming book on gender. Also photos, digital if possible. I'd especially welcome "before" and "after" shots. Or "onstage/offstage" in the case of drag artists. No, you don't necessarily have to be Transgendered. Just be able to tell honestly how you found your true gender identity. You can E-mail them to me at any time. If I decide to use your story or picture you get a free book when it comes out next year.

The going-away party will be on Friday, May 30, at 5:30 p.m., at the home of two dear friends of mine. It's a potluck, so bring food or nonalcoholic beverages to share. Try to get there early, as we'll start eating at 6.

I'd like to make the theme "Come as your real self!" If you can, of course. I know some of you will be coming directly from work and may not be able to; unless you decide to make Friday your Coming-Out-at-Work Day. They've had dress-down Fridays for years, so why not a dress-up Friday? Seriously, though, we'll be happy to see you in any mode, Sweetie!

After dinner, around seven we'll tune up the guitars. In addition to "Tomboy" and "Sissy Blues" I hope to perform for the first time a song called "Jason." And there will be lots of old favorites we can all join in on. Call (520) 795-7001 for directions to the party, or write Joni at desertwordsmith@yahoo.com, or (sparingly, if you must) call my cell phone at (520) 260-0974. See you there, Sweetie!



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NON-BAR CALENDAR
GROUPS / CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Canasta Club meets to play this fun card game. If you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. For directions and reservations, please call Mary at 745-0304.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620 .

THURSDAY, MAY 29
7:00 to 10:00 p.m. The Men's Relationship Group meets. It includes a video on tantra. A great way to meet new men. Fee. Call Marc, 881-4582, to reserve a place at the Man-to-Man Club.

FRIDAY, MAY 30
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Join the guys of MSN for Hearts Night-a fun card game (and we teach if you don't know how to play). For directions and reservations, please call Jim at 749-1142.

SATURDAY, MAY 31
#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Bill 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 Bill at 297-3569.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks – 5:00 p.m. Woody 's, 3710 N Oracle Rd.

Tantra Workshop 3:0 to 6:00 p.m. A new approach to sex. Discover a safe/better sex approach for fun and relationships. Call M+M 881-4582

SUNDAY, JUNE 1
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. T. Jay invites you to join him for music under the stars as the Tucson Pops play a series of free summer concerts at Reid Park. For more information, please call T.Jay at 881-7919.

MONDAY, JUNE 2
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 — 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave. Phone: 740-0620.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3
#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. Carl for the Investment Club. For directions and reservations, please call Carl at 331-4238.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
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 Marty at 722-8531

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the guys for a Dinner Out at the Eclectic Café. For directions and reservations, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 9:00 a.m. Join Jack for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Jack at 881-5733.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Potluck and Social Gathering where we invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. For directions, please call Jerry at 690-9565.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch — 11:30 a.m. Molinas Casa del Norte, 3001 Campbell Ave. (between Blacklidge and Ft. Lowell)

MONDAY, JUNE 9
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch — 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11
Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, JUNE 16
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 1:00 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Bar Calendar of Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, MAY 31
NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Latino Night. Latino Men's Health Project Fiestas de Mayo presents Fiesta Primavera. Food, dancing, door prizes, raffles and variety shows.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1
IBT'S - Party line-up includes Troy's Recovery Bar from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. $1.75 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 weeks proceeds go to TIHAN. 8:30 p.m. it's a special Benefit Show for Bunny FuFu, candidate for Miss Copper State-America. Show stars Bunny with Janee Starr, Teri Akki, Veronica Halliwell, Miss Saigon and Lady Ashley.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
IBT'S - 9:00 p.m., The 'DivaLicious' Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Chantelle Douglas, Nikki Knolls and Lady Ashley.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
YARD DOG - 'Graduate Family Reunion'. Wear a Grad T-Shirt for drink special. Present a Grad Diploma for free drink. Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) Beer Bust. Special drinks for non-drinkers. PLUS a Grad-style drag show at 9:00 p.m.

Arts & Entertainment

NOW SHOWING THRU JULY 6
The UofA Center for Creative Photography (CCP) will present a major historical exhibition, "The Drama of Pictures: Aaron Siskind's Photography". Aaron Siskind was one of the most important and influential practitioners of modern photography in America. This exhibition honors the artist's 100th birthday. CCP is home to the Aaron Siskind Archive and is one of numerous sites participating in a national Aaron Siskind centennial celebration. Call 621-7968 for more information.

NOW SHOWING THRU MAY 31
Gallery 410 will be exhibiting "Portraits" by Bob Bergier, Vincent Green, Mike Keller, Donald Kimon Lightner, Judith Mariner, Darin Schoeny, Bob Varga and Richard Zelens. Gallery Hours 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 410 E. Ft. Lowell. For more information call 740-1947.

NOW PLAYING THRU JUNE 8
Live Theatre Workshop presents Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker"
at the Live Theatre Workshop, 5317 E. Speedway. Beautiful period costumes, an all-star cast of lovable characters and stylized staging make this fast and furious farce the not-to-be-missed theatrical event of the season. Show times are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tickets range from $14 - $12. There will be two preview performances, Thursday and Friday May 8 & 9 only $9.00. Call 327-4242 for reservations.

NOW PLAYING THRU JUNE 8
Invisible Theatre presents "Knock 'Em Dead", an interactive comedy/murder mystery by Tom Oldendick and Will Roberson. Invisible Theatre, 1400 N. First Ave. (At. Drachman). The play is all fun and pure entertainment. It's the final night of competition in the Annual Talent Search at Vinnie's Belly Laugh Club, and the five outrageous contestants gather to compete for the big prize - $1,000 and four weeks headlining at the club. When it's curtains for Vinnie, everyone's a suspect and the audience will love playing detective and finally fingering the murderer. 882-9721 Tues.-Fri., 10am-4pm for times and tickets, reservations, etc.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
Crosby, Stills & Nash roll into town on their 2003 concert tour stopping tonight at Casino Del Sol. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. with Gates opening at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at Casino Del Sol and through Ticketmaster, 321-1000.

JUNE 8 - JULY 18
Live Theatre Workshop presents "Desdemona - a play about a handkerchief". Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, Paula Vogel reconstructs Shakespeare's Othello, while aligning tongue-in-cheek humor raising serious questions as to the role of women through the ages. A compelling story of power, manipulation and trust. Live Theatre Workshop. 5317 E. Speedway. Tickets $12 - $14. 327-4242 for info and reservations.

JUNE 14 THRU JULY 13
Live Theatre Workshop presents 'Desdemona - a play about a handkerchief,' a Pulitzer-Prize-winner, by Paula Vogel. Forget everything you have heard about Shakespeare's women! Paul Vogel skillfully reconstructs the story of Othello, while aligning tongue-in-cheek humor rising serious questions as to the role of women then and now through dialogue that is hilarious and poignant. Performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. And Sundays at 3:00 p.m. only. Tickets $14.00. Call 327-4242 for reservations and information.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18
Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 p.m. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch/Meeting - Noon, Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd. (N. of River Rd.). 5:00 p.m. Food & Drinks, Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, JUNE 23
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch — 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday
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.

IBT's - 10am-6pm $1.75 Bloodys, 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 'T.C. Wildman'. 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Bar opens at noon.10 oz Miller draft 75¢ all day. From 12-6 Bloody Marys $1.50 or Domestic beers $1.75. From 6-10 $1 kamikazes and $1.50 Jellos & Mimosas. 9pm Latino Dance with DJ Rafael + Show.

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.

Monday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZ - Open 2pm. Happy Hour Two-For-One domestics and well 2-7pm. Free pool 6-10pm. 50¢ cups draft Bud & Bud Light 8pm to close.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 4-9pm. Undie Mondie-Happy Hour prices for those in their undies 9pm-close. Queer As Folk shown beginning at 8pm. Hot Dancing follows with Johnny DJ. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Happy Hour until 9:00 p.m. $1.75 Domestic Beer or $1.50 Bloody Marys. Free Pool 8pm to close. $1.50 Jellos & Mimosas 6pm to close..

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm. 4-8 $2.25 Martinis

WOODY'S - Open Noon $2 well or domestic beer til 8pm Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

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

Tuesday
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 9pm to close. $2 bottled Bud products 8 to close.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 4-9pm. Tee's & Tattoo Nite, wear an IBT's T-shirt or IBT tattoo get happy hour prices 9 to close, or buy an IBT's T-shirt for $5 and get a complimentary drink. House Hi-Nergy Dance 9pm to close W/DJ-Q

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Bar Opens noon. Happy Hour noon to 9pm. $1.75 domestic beers & $2 all wells.. Fried Chicken Dinner $4.99 5-8pm. Ladies Night 9-close $1 Kamakazi, Jellos. 70s/80s music

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio 5pm. Daily specials til 7pm. Spaghetti Nite 6-8

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic til 8pm. Tropical drink specials 8 to close. $3 zombies, Jungle Juice, Mai Tai's .

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

Wednesday
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 8-1.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HiNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon-1am Happy Hour noon to 6pm plus drink specials. Shrimp Fry Dinner 5-8pm $5.99. Karaoke 8pm-close.

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

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Volleyball games start 7pm. Underwear- fetish- leather nite w/Michael $1 off your favorite drink. Chili dogs or bowls $1.

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

Thursday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS -Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Karaoke 9-close. $2 Kamikazees and $1 Hot Sex..

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-6pm, $2 domestic beer and well. 4-9. HI NRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open noon. Grill open noon-6pm. Happy Hour noon-6pm. 10oz Sirloin Steak w/potato & salad 5:30-8pm, $6.99. Hi NRG dance music with DJ Raynman 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Pool Tournament 7pm. $3 entry. (Special prices for players). Steak Nite 6-8 pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Trivia Thursday 8pm-close plus 50¢ off all Big Ass drinks. Top scores on NTN game wins special prizes. Free Pool 6 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

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

Friday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open 2pm. Happy Hour 2-7pm with 2-4-1 domestic beer and well. Music with DJ Hill 9pm - close. Shot and drink specials all night. No cover.

IBT's - Open 11am. Happy Hours 11am-8pm, $2 domestic beer and well. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 6-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. Dance Party with Dj 'T.C. Wildman' 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 10:30am-1am. Happy Hour noon-6pm. Fish or Shrimp Dinner $5.99 11am-8pm. Country Western Dance with Libby 8pm-closing.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 5pm. Daily special til 7pm. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. $2 well or domestic beer til 8pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's $2.00 all day Call Martinis $3 from 4pm to close. Volleyball Court is Open. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

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

Saturday
AIN'T NOBODY'S BIZNESS - Open at 2pm. Pool Tournament 6:30pm $3 entry. Bar matches pot. $2 pitchers for pool players. DJ Hill 9pm-close. Drink & Shot Specials all night.

IBT's - 10am-5pm $4 Martinis and Daquaris.10am-8pm $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-1am. Margaritas $3 6pm-close. Latino Nite. Drag Show 1st/3rd Sat. 10:30. Free SAAF HIV testing

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

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD $5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED NO PHONE ADS

NOTICES

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

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

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabeli 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 838-3975.

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

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Sunday from 7-8 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

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. Dezert Girlz (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Dezert Boyz meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. of every month. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779 for more info. SAGAEmail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagaemail

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.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 739 N. 4th Ave. All alcoholics welcome.

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

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

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contract 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 628-7223.

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

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the 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.

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9.00 am to 10.00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8.00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6.00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

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

NOTICES

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

DESERT DOMINION, whose focus is providing information and education for people interested in the BDSM lifestyle, meets monthly for group discussion and social events. Visit our web site http://www.desertdominion.org or call (520)792-6424

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 Mirlo Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

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

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

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6624.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520) 745-0775 for current information.

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

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

RAINBOW SUPPORT GROUP. LGBT and supportive friends meet for open discussions in a loving, supportive atmosphere. Support meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 7:30 to 9.00 pm at St. Francis in the Foothills Church, Swan and River Road, Room 42. The 3rd Thursdays of the month, the group will meet at 7:30pm at Rainbow Planet Coffeehouse (606 North 4th Ave.) as a social outing. For more information call the church at 299-9063 and ask for a contact person.

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

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

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave message. 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 85652.

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

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

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

TGNetAnzona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-variant communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tgnetarizona.org - e-mail address: aigoodrum@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 85733-4045

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

NOTICES

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4628.

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

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

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian 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 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

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

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

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 690-4613, leave name and phone number.

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

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

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

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

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

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6768.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9.00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9466 or Ray at 749-5247.

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

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

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

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Want to join? E-mail: www.desertvoices.org or call 791-9662.

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

GLBT Buddhist meditation group meets Sundays from 9.30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Wingspan annex space, 739 N. 4th Ave. Please be willing to sit for two twenty minute sessions in silence. All are welcome.

THE MAN-TO-MAN SOCIAL/EROTIC CLUB is the latino men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities, and safe sex & sex education. Improve your relationships. Marc 881-4582.

PERSONALS

FREE CATS. Two beautiful 3 year old cats need a new home immediately. They're neutered, playful and smart. You won't be disappointed. A caring home only please. Call 882-0788 and leave message. Thanks 987

GWM Needs J/O Partner. N/S, N/D. 731-6152 986

TO APPROVED HOME. LOVING 1 YR OLD DOBIE-MIX MALE DOG. Gets along w/in other dogs. Very active and playful. Cannot keep. Neutered and licensed. Comes with food bowls and toys. If interested call 745-3865 / 991-6750

HOME ALONE? Would you like an intimate friend? Call Marc 881-4582 for details. Join the Man-to-Man Club now. 983

HOUSING/FOR RENT

EAST SIDE - TOWN HOUSE - Immaculate 1,056 sf. Secure, Quiet. Detached laundry rm/stge, carport. Wash/Dryer, all appl. Water paid, Comm. Pool. $725 - 6 Month lease reqrd., 1 mo. Rent in adv. + refundable $500 security deposit. 520-275-7436 984

DO YOU LIKE THE QUIET AND SERENITY OF THE COUNTRY? Then the room we have for rent might be the place for you. $375/mo includes a furnished room, laundry, electricity, gas and many other extras. If interested please call Charles or Brian at 982-4023 or 861-3051. 984

2 ROOMS/PLUS IN WONDERFUL CREATIVE COMPOUND. Centrally located. Share kitchen, bath. Utilities and cable included. Mature, responsible man sought. NA. $375/mo. Call Richard: 740-1947. 984.

EMPLOYMENT

OLDER MAN NEEDS ASSISTANCE with household cleaning and upkeep in a large house. 6 to 10 hours per month. References requested. 318-9265 p.m. only. 987

SEEKING PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT.
Can work weekday evenings 6-12. Can perform labor as well as administrative tasks. Please call Jerry Diaz @ 390-4825, or e mail at calabazamusic@yahoo.com

FOR SALE

SEWING MACHINE - Commercial Singer Model 95-80, attachments. Works and looks great. 888-7264 988

SERVICES

COMMUNITY FRIENDLY: FAST, RELIABLE, PROFESSIONALS to clean your residential and commercial areas. Try professional cleaning. Thank you. 272-0555 984

RELAXING, THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE by certified body worker. Experience the mind-body connection. $40/hr. Call Dale at 546-5803 965

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Try the rest. Compare the value! 7 days. $30/hour. 327-3135. 988

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! 988

EXPERIENCE A TOTALLY RELAXING or deep-tissue massage by a trained, caring male therapist. In-home, hotel or resort. Often at a moments notice (520)730-7966. 986

END BACK PAIN. The back solution, massage and bodywork. 15 years experience. Tension Erasure - Stress Reduction - Relax for Health. Abe 294-4810 982.

ENJOY A NICE TOUCH. Attractive man offers a sensuous, relaxing massage. 10am - 6p.m. 745-0231 or 891-7859 987

FULL BODY ORIENTAL MASSAGE. Experience the difference. By Appointment only. 10:00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Call Danny Chong (520)270-8288 979.

LET ME PAMPER YOU! With a Full Body Swedish Massage in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. $35 for a full hour. Ralph (520) 883-7496 995

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. (520)271-3660 days, evenings. 986

HAVE AN EXPERT SENSUAL TANTRIC MASSAGE. Treat yourself to true bliss. Feel better/ more alive. 21 years of quality experience. Marc - 881-4582 Licensed. 984

HEAVEN SENT ME. Experience a massage steeped in rich tradition combining ancient, sacred and intimate healing techniques. Strong, yet gentle hands work with your complete comfort in mind. In & Out, Days & Evenings, sometimes at a moment's notice. Call Glen, CMT (520)907-2551 for the touch you so richly deserve. Experienced, professional, and kind ... not bad looking either! 988

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS
Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 994

Gay Student Says Teacher's Aide Beat Him

HOUSTON, TX - The police are investigating the alleged classroom assault of a Gay high school student by a teacher's aide, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network reported.

The student, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the man serving as the aide had been harassing him because of his sexuality throughout the school year, but had not physically assaulted him.

"He would say negative, Gay things about me," the student, who attends Westbury High School, told the Houston television station KPRC.

In regards to the assault, the student told the station, "He proceeded to wrap some plastic around his hand and wrapped it around my neck and pulled me up out of my desk and slammed me to the floor. I'm terrified of that man."

In the station's report, eight classmates confirmed the student's story.

X-ray examinations revealed two hairline fractures in the student's arm. He is recovering at home.

"I feel like no teacher should ever do that to anybody's child," the student's mother said. "If my son would have hit that teacher, they would have (dragged) him out by his heels."

According to Adriana Villarreal, spokeswoman for the Houston Independent School District, the teacher's aide has been with the school for approximately one year.

"We are concerned for the student," she told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network, "and we have reassigned the teacher's assistant to an administrative position," away from students and the school. The aide also worked as an assistant coach at the school.

The student said that he would file charges.

"He should work in no other school, with no children," he said.

As for the continuing investigation, Villarreal said, "The district's police department is making it a top priority."

She added that if the aide were found guilty, he would be fired immediately. "Without a doubt, we do not tolerate that," she said.

U.S.Rep. Mark Foley Calls Gay Rumor A Democratic Smear Campaign

MIAMI, FL - U.S. representative Mark Foley of Florida, who is seeking the Republican nomination for a U.S. Senate seat, held a press conference, denouncing what he says are rumors being spread by his political opponents that he is Gay. Foley, a five-term congressman, refused to answer questions concerning his sexual orientation, saying that it has no bearing on his duties as a lawmaker.

"That is the kind of question that I do think is highly inappropriate," Foley told reporters during a conference call. "The fact that I am not married has allowed many people to speculate. I don't care what they conclude. People can draw whatever conclusions they want."

Foley accused Democratic activists of trying to derail his candidacy for the Senate. "In recent weeks a number of Democratic activists have taken it upon themselves to push rumors about me," Foley said. "It is becoming apparent to me these Democratic activists have only one motive: They don't want me to run or have to run against me." Foley said he was responding to a column that ran earlier this month in an alternative Florida weekly newspaper and because he feared a major Florida daily was preparing to publish a story on Friday about the matter. Foley is seeking the GOP nomination for the seat currently held by Democratic presidential candidate Bob Graham, who hasn't said whether he will seek a fourth term.

State Democratic Party chairman Scott Maddox criticized Foley for responding to one inappropriate accusation with another by blaming Democrats. "When we talk about a candidate for public office, we talk about their record of leadership and their ability to serve," Maddox said. "We do not fire off accusations about their private life." Foley said he should be evaluated by voters on his legislative record. He said everyone deserves some privacy, even public officials. "Some people may think that's old-fashioned, but I firmly believe it's a good rule to live by," he said. Several GOP colleagues in Congress, including House majority leader Tom DeLay of Texas, expressed support for Foley. "Mark has been an invaluable member of this conference," DeLay said in a statement.

Chuck Wolfe, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which backs openly Gay candidates, reacted swiftly to the news of Foley's telephone conversation with reporters. "We believe that all Americans have a fundamental right to privacy and, therefore, a right to choose not to discuss their personal lives," Wolfe said, adding that "at those junctures where Congressman Foley does reference either his personal life or homosexuality, we call on him to be factual and truthful, so as to respect the decision of millions of Gay Americans to live open, honest lives."

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